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Jamaal Bowman vs. "The Police"; Calls Shooting of Jarrell Garris 'Police Brutality' Police Unions Respond, Expose Garris' Criminal History



Rep. Jamaal Bowman, left; APA President Keith Olson, right

By Dan Murphy

The New Rochelle Police shooting death of Jarrell Garris on July 11, continues to spark a discussion about what happened that day. The incident began on July 3 with NR police receiving "a call from a local store regarding a possible theft. The caller gave a description. The responding officers observed the man, in close proximity of the store, walking on Lincoln Avenue near North Avenue. While being placed under arrest, the man physically resisted. He was shot when he grabbed an officer's gun, in an attempt to remove it from the holster. He was taken to a local hospital, and died 8 days later.

Garris continues to walk until he is encircled by the officers. At this point, a struggle ensues, and eventually Garris reaches for an officers gun and the call goes out that Garris has the gun, and he is shot. Earlier in the incident Det. Conn is heard asking for someone to "Taze" Garris, or use a Taser gun to subdue him, but Garris was not tazed before getting shot.

Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman released a statement that includes calling the shooting death of Garris "police brutality."

"I am sending my deepest condolences to the friends and family of Jarrell Garris. He should be alive today and back home in North Carolina with his son. Instead, even though the police knew he experienced schizophrenia, he was shot and killed after police accused him of stealing food from a nearby grocery store. Police brutality has been sickening our country and taking the lives of our loved ones for decades. We must protect the Black bodies that are the most vulnerable and root out the police brutality that has spread to every corner of our country. Let's begin the process of curing America of its anti-Black racism that is so intricately and intentionally woven into the fabric of every American system and institution. It's time to enact and pass federal, state and local legislation that holds law enforcement accountable and takes a public health approach to public safety. Police cannot be the only officials involved when it comes to public safety – we need social workers, community members, doctors, and more to ensure safety for everyone. We cannot lose any more precious lives to senseless police killings."

Bowman's comments elicited a response from The Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester (APA). "On July 3, 2023, a team of New Rochelle police officers once again experienced how there is no such thing as a "routine" arrest, and how the unpredictable actions of one person can instantly elevate a simple arrest to a life and death situation.

"Members of the New Rochelle Police Department received a complaint that an individual now known to be Jarrell Garris had committed a larceny at a local market. Three uniformed members of the New Rochelle Police Department, including Detective Steven Conn, observed Garris and attempted to take him into custody using a minimal amount of force. During this lawful arrest, Garris fought with the officers and resisted arrest. As the officers tried to gain control of Garris, they fell to the ground. Unexpectedly and unpredictably, Garris placed both hands on the grip of an officer's firearm and repeatedly pulled at it in an effort to remove it from its holster. Body worn camera confirms conclusively that Garris intentionally grabbed the officer's gun with both hands and attempted to pull it from its holster. Faced with a split-second life and death decision, and aware that Garris could have full control of the officer's handgun in a heartbeat, Detective Conn justifiably fired one round at Garris, stopping the threat and saving the lives of the officers present.

"Officers immediately used lifesaving techniques in an attempt to save Garris' life and he was quickly transported to Westchester Medical Center. Tragically, hav-

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Soap Opera in the Ossining Police Department?

Ossining Cop Arrested, Charges with Falsifying Threats: Two OPD Cops Sue Chief Sylvester; Sexual Liaison Alleged Between Sylvester and Hirshowitz



Ossining Police Officer Emily Hirshowitz, left, with Chief Kevin Sylvester

By Dan Murphy

Several recent stories, arrests and lawsuits involving the Ossining Police Department could be used for a movie script. One officer was recently arrested, two other former officers have filed lawsuits against the Village and Police Chief Kevin Sylvester, and one of the suits alleges a sexual relationship between Sylvester and another Ossining cop.

The first story surfaced last week, when a criminal complaint was filed against OPD Officer Emily Hershowitz. The complaint was filed by Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah's office, and alleges that Hirshowitz sent herself threatening emails and text messages that she claimed were sent by other members of the OPD.

Hirshowitz, 36, who has been with the OPD since 2016, had filed reports last

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DiNapoli: Tax Cap Set at 2% in 2024 NYS Pension Fund Lost 4% in 2023, Local Governments will have to Foot the Bill

"In 2011, after years of trying to rein in out-of-control property taxes — Govs. George Pataki, Eliot Spitzer and David A. Paterson all tried — we passed the first local property tax cap. The 2 percent property tax cap changed long-term trends and saved New Yorkers billions."

-Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo

Property tax levy growth will be capped at 2% for 2024 for local governments that operate on a calendar-based fiscal year, according to data released today by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. This figure affects tax cap calculations for all counties, towns and fire districts, as well as 44 cities and 13 villages.

"Allowable tax levy growth will be limited to 2% for a third consecutive year," DiNapoli said. "Although the rate of inflation has begun to decrease, it still poses a challenge for local governments and their budgets. As local governments spend down their one-time federal pandemic assistance, officials will need to carefully develop and balance their budgets for the coming year."

In accordance with state law, DiNapoli's office calculated the 2024 inflation factor at 6.26% for those local governments with a calendar fiscal year, well above the 2% allowable levy increase, and indicative of the higher costs facing these localities.

The tax cap, which first applied to local governments and school districts in 2012, limits annual tax levy increases to the lesser of the rate of inflation or 2% with certain exceptions including a provision that allows municipalities to override the tax cap.

On July 6, DiNapoli announced that the New York State Common Retirement Fund's (Fund) investment return was -4.14% for the state fiscal year that ended March 31, 2023. The Fund closed the year valued at \$248.5 billion.

"Recent months have been trying for investors, but thanks to the state pension fund's diverse investments, members, retirees and beneficiaries can rest assured

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

NYAG James Settles "Bullying-Racism" Suit in Mamaroneck Schools-see pg 3.

Play Yorktown Trash Bingo-see pg. 8

Former Harrison Teacher and "Voice of the County Center" Admits to Teenage Sex Crimes



Richard Leaf

Originally Lied and Said it Was a Virus; Faces 14 Years; Latimer and Gashi Want Him Removed from Westchester Sports Hall of Fame

By Dan Murphy

When Richard Leaf was first arrested by the FBI in 2021 for possession of child pornography on computer, he lied and said he was hacked. When we contacted a computer expert last year, he said that he was 99.9% sure that Leaf was lying.

Two years later, in a Federal Courtroom, Leaf admitted to having "engaged in deeply disturbing sexual communications with minors and being in possession of child pornography."

Leaf was busted posing as a teenager on Skype and Chat Avenue, an online chat room. Leaf believed that he was chatting with a 15-year-old, but was chatting with law enforcement, and used multiple accounts to try and find underage victims. He also admitted that he had received child pornography.

When asked to view the contents of his computer by the FBI in 2020, Leaf said yes in an attempt to clear his name. But Federal agents discovered a video of a naked 15-year-old boy and other pornographic images.

Leaf was arrested in February 2021 and court records revealed he had posed as a teenager in the online chat room, Chat Avenue, as well as on Skype. When he allowed FBI agents to view his computer during the investigation in 2020, they discovered multiple pornographic images, including a video of a naked 15-year-old boy who was communicating with Leaf. He was caught sending a video of himself in the shower masturbating to a 15-year-old boy.

Leaf said at the time of his arrest that he didn't know how the pornography had gotten on his computer and suggested he had been hacked. But he acknowledged there was "some truth" to the allegations that he had posed online as a teenager.

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Batteries Latimer -Roll Out Plans to Combat Lithium Ion Battery Fires in Westchester County



Westchester County will create dedicated safe disposal opportunities for the public and fire personnel, point of sale warnings, and work to educate all on the dangers of these increasingly prevalent batteries.

In response to growing concerns over the potential hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries, Westchester County Executive George Latimer and the County's Department of Emergency Services, Department of Environmental Facilities and Department of Consumer Protection have taken proactive measures to ensure the safety of residents.

Westchester County has already experienced lithium-ion battery fires with e-bikes, e-scooters, hover boards, laptops, a lawnmower and a drone. In New York City, there have been several fires which have resulted in fatalities.

Latimer said: "Lithium-ion battery fires can be exceptionally difficult to control. These fires can result in a chemical reaction known as 'thermal runaway' which occurs when heat builds up faster than it can be dissipated. This causes a very rapidly expanding fire, as well as the release of toxic gases, and a possible explosion. In Westchester, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our residents and those who protect from these deadly fires."

Lithium-ion batteries, commonly found in electronic devices and vehicles, pose significant risks if mishandled or improperly disposed of. Even when lithium-ion battery fires appear to be out, the batteries can reignite days later due to the energy that remains trapped inside the damaged battery cells. Recognizing the urgency to address these dangers, Latimer has initiated a comprehensive approach to tackle this issue head-on.

Department of Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Susan Spear said: "Lithium-Ion Batteries are now prevalent in devices we use every day. They are a powerful source of energy, but can also cause great harm if used improperly. Therefore, Westchester County has created a safety program to make sure our residents can benefit from the use of such devices, while knowing how to protect themselves and their families from dangerous fires and toxic gases. This safety program combines legislation, disposal options, education, and firefighter training."

Westchester's new comprehensive Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Program includes:

- Proposed legislation requiring point of sale warnings and safety information,
- Requirements that devices meet UL safety standards, and
- Prohibition on the sale of re-assembled or damaged batteries.

The Program also includes public education, Firefighter training, and disposal options for damaged and old batteries

The City of New Rochelle has had at least five such Lithium-Ion Battery fire events, in locations ranging from the back of a garbage truck, to the loading dock of Home Depot, to multi-family apartment buildings. The worst fire, in a multi-family building two blocks from City Hall, resulted in the residents of the entire building being displaced for weeks.

In a letter written to Latimer, City of New Rochelle Department of Fire Commissioner, Chief of Department and Chair of the County's Fire Advisory Board Andrew J. Sandor said: "I appreciate the County taking action to help prevent Lithium-Ion Battery related fires. The proposed County Legislation, which requires safety standards for e-bike and other mobility devices sold within the County, prohibits the use or sale of reassembled or reconditioned batteries, requires point of sale warning notices, and develops a public education and outreach campaign, will go a long way toward alleviating the fire risk caused by these batteries in our community."

Residents can bring lithium-ion batteries, damaged or otherwise ready for disposal to the H-MRF in Valhalla. (Residents outside the Refuse Disposal District (Bedford, Lewisboro, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge and Somers), may incur a fee associated with handling and/or disposal.) New York State also offers an extended producer responsibility program for non-mobility batteries under 25 lbs. administered by Call2Recycle. Residents can contact Call2 Recycle to find a drop-off location near them.

County Director of Consumer Protection Jim Maisano said: "The Consumer Protection Department will be enforcing this proposed new point-of-sale legislation and when we find violations in stores, a ticket will be written with fines of up to \$1,000 per incident."

Meet Revolutionary War People at Philipse Manor Hall

Loyalist or Patriot?



Saturday, July 29, 2023 | 11 am and 2 pm
in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, Yonkers

Tickets: \$16 per person, \$10 for Friends of Philipse Manor Hall



Whose side are you on?
Westchester County had some of the fiercest fighting between neighbors and families during the American Revolution. Meet seven historical people and learn how and why they decided to stay loyal to the British Crown, or revolt as Patriots. Tickets at the QR code or philipsemanorhall.com

Whose side are you on? During the American Revolution, the Philipse family were staunch Loyalists. The Hudson Valley was the site of fierce fighting between the Patriots and the British during the Revolutionary War, and Westchester County in particular was a contested "neutral zone." How did people decide where their loyalties lay?

Step into the era of the American Revolution with "Loyalist or Patriot?" a one-of-a-kind colonial-style "talk show" on Saturday, July 29th, 2023, at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave. in Yonkers, NY. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, this unique living history presentation introduces seven historical characters on both sides of the Revolutionary War conflict in a "talk show" style setting.

Meet Mary Philipse Morris, portrayed by Sarah Wassberg Johnson; Peka-tawas Makatawai'U or "Black Corn," portrayed by Drew Shuptar-Rayvis; Major John Andre, portrayed by Jim Keyes; Liss, portrayed by Carla Lynne Hall; Lucy Flucker Knox, portrayed by Tiffanie Downs; Captain Gershom Mott, portrayed by Chad Johnson; and David Williams, portrayed by Matt Thorenz, as they tell us who they are and explain why they chose to remain loyal to the Crown or revolt as Patriots. Our program "talk show" host and facilitator between the present and past is Benjamin Thayer, portrayed by Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site Manager Michael Lord. These characters are all based on real historical figures and the historians will be available for Q&A after each presentation.

The program lasts approximately 90 minutes and will take place twice in Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site's air-conditioned Gothic Chamber, once at 11:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$16 per person, \$10 for Friends of Philipse Manor Hall members. Tickets include museum admission. Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seating is limited, so advanced registration is recommended. Tickets are available online at www.friendsofphilipsemanorhall.org.

DiNapoli, continued from pg 1-

"Recent months have been trying for investors, but thanks to the state pension fund's diverse investments, members, retirees and beneficiaries can rest assured their pensions are secure," DiNapoli said. "There is no doubt that challenges lie ahead, with concerns over a recession and potential interest rate increases, but the state pension fund is well positioned to weather these storms."

The Fund's long-term expected rate of return is 5.9%. The last time the NYS Pension Fund lost money was in 2020, 2.6%. Other times over the past twenty years that the fund has lost money was in 2009-26%, and 2003-10%.

Local governments and school districts will now have to make up the difference in the costs to fund the pensions of civil servants, teachers and fire and police officers.

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Westchester Rising

The Game is Over

By Eric W. Schoen



NYAG James Reaches Agreement to Address Discrimination, Bullying, and Harassment in Mamaroneck Schools

Inadequately Responded to Harassment, Bullying, and Discrimination against Students

A first of its kind investigation and settlement related to allegations of student-on-student race-based bullying and harassment was announced on July 18, when New York Attorney General Letitia James announced an agreement with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District (Mamaroneck UFSD) over its failure to respond to instances of race- and gender-based bullying and harassment against students in schools. The settlement resolves the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) investigation, which began in June 2020 following allegations from students and parents that administrators had failed to adequately address confirmed instances of race- and gender-based bullying and harassment. The complaints alleged that the Mamaroneck UFSD’s lack of action led to students being repeatedly degraded and discriminated against by their classmates for months across various schools within the district. The severity of the harassment interfered with students’ ability to learn, socialize, and feel safe within their schooling environment. Through the settlement announced today, Mamaroneck UFSD agrees to implement substantial policy changes, provide student counseling, and engage in data collection and reporting to OAG for its responses to future instances of bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

“With this agreement, the Mamaroneck Union Free School District has committed to take appropriate measures to meet its duty to children and their families and to protect students from bullying, harassment, and discrimination,” said Attorney General James. “My office will continue to do everything in its power to ensure that every child feels safe and respected in the classroom.”

The OAG’s investigation concluded that Mamaroneck UFSD’s failure to address student bullying and harassment constituted a violation of Title VI and Title IX. Black students and other students of color were regularly the targets of racial epithets and sexually offensive harassment. The OAG found that Mamaroneck UFSD, despite promptly investigating these incidents, failed to engage in necessary responses to limit this behavior in the future. Consequently, the inconsistent and ineffective approaches to the misconduct led to students continuing to be subjected to harassment and bullying from their peers. Students who were victims of this behavior experienced physical, mental, and emotional suffering that interfered with their ability to participate in social and educational activities within the classroom.

The Mamaroneck UFSD has agreed to comply with robust reforms to improve its response to future instances of race- and gender-based bullying, harassment, and discrimination, including but not limited to:

Revising Mamaroneck UFSD’s harassment policies to ensure prompt and effective responses to misconduct.

Punishing retaliatory attacks from offenders following a report from a victim.

Providing written reports for each student’s complaint involving bullying, harassment, or discrimination; and Providing school-based counseling services for at-risk students affected by such misconduct.

“I’m pleased that the Mamaroneck UFSD has reached a meaningful agreement with the Office of Attorney General Letitia James to ensure prompt and meaningful responses to complaints of race- and gender-based bullying, harassment, and discrimination,” said State Senator Shelley Mayer. “This agreement will ensure there are real and accountable steps taken to address complaints, and hopefully will in turn reduce the incidence of these kinds of acts, which have no place in our schools. I commend the leadership of the Mamaroneck UFSD for its work to reach an agreement that puts the needs of students and families first. Thank you to the staff of the Attorney General’s office for negotiating such a forward-thinking resolution to this issue.”

“I am very pleased that the Mamaroneck School District and the Attorney General’s office have come to agreement on policies and practices to ensure that all students are treated with respect and are protected in the school environment,” said Assemblymember Steve Otis. “Thank you to Attorney General Letitia James for promoting these values around the state and the office of Attorney General for providing a framework that will be helpful to all institutions.”

“No child should feel intimidated and unwelcome in their learning environment. Hopefully the changes that will be enacted in the settlement will improve how these awful situations are handled in the future,” said Village of Mamaroneck Mayor Tom Murphy.

In March 2019, we wrote the following story with the headline: A WHITE BOY CALLED MY DAUGHTER A ‘N*#@’

Our story came from Mamaroneck resident and educator Dr. David Martin, who wrote,

claim that a white student hurled a racial epithet at his 10-year old daughter’s school, Hommocks Middle School.

The Mamaroneck resident, Dr. David Martin, a veteran education administrator and former principal, claims the school district didn’t respond properly to this incident. On his blog, davidmartin.education/blog, he writes: “Just before Christmas (2018), my wife and I learned that a white boy at my 10-year-old daughter’s middle school called her a ‘nigger.’ Not only did this boy feel comfortable hurling this racial epithet at my daughter and her two black friends (one male, one female), he also Googled the word on his phone and demanded (albeit unsuccessfully) that they read the definition.

“The school did not notify us about this incident when it occurred. When we reached out to the school about the incident our emails initially went unanswered, and then we were stalled and then we were asked to be patient while they investigated. During the investigation, the school threatened my daughter’s black male friend, accusing him of lying and telling him that he had ‘one last chance to tell the truth.’ That experience left him in tears and feeling accused rather than believed and supported. When we followed up with the principal – after waiting a month for them to conclude their investigation – we were asked to speak with the assistant principal. We responded, demanding a meeting with the principal, which was eventually scheduled.

“When we sat down for the meeting with the principal and assistant principal, they both stared at us blankly, as if waiting for us to tell them why we were there. We began by explaining how disappointed and frustrated we were that it had taken so long to schedule a meeting about this incident. The principal then said she was confused about why we wanted this meeting, because she thought this situation had been resolved. As it turns out, according to the principal, the situation had been investigated, a disciplinary response was imposed on the white boy who used the racial slur, and a meeting was had with his parents.

“Evidently, both the principal and assistant principal had already moved on, considering this situation concluded: (1) They never met with the parents of the

Hopefully by the time you read this column Christopher Johnson will no longer be a WESTCHESTER County Legislator. He did so much damage to HIS family, constituents and the residents of Westchester that he deserves punishment.

It’s rare that you will see me write about the same topic 3 weeks in a row, but all of the disgusting things that went on here deserve it. Many of you wrote to me sharing your disgust. In the guise of helping his family he helped himself, all the while trying to make people believe he was helping his constituents.

Let’s be clear here. Johnson does not live in the district he represents. He told this to Journal News reporters David Wilson and Diana Dombrowski. According to the County Charter, ‘A county legislator who ceases to be a resident of such district from which he is elected shall forfeit his office and the same shall be deemed vacant.’ Johnson did this, and as such his seat is vacant. There’s no need for the County Legislature to vote to remove him. No need for pricey investigators. You move you loose.

The big question here. Since Johnson did not live in the district he was elected to represent, should he be required to pay back his salary to the county? He just can’t get away with what he did with no punishment.

But the County Legislature or at least some of its members operate on the old boy or girl network. It’s you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours. At the Board meeting last week they all knew the County Charter but tried to slow the process for removal of Johnson down. Where they thought this mess would be going is anybody’s guess.

Someone said Chris was currently looking for an apartment in the district he was elected to represent. Sorry, Chris it’s too late for that to change the equation given that you moved out of the district. THE SEAT IS VACANT.

Chris is a nice guy, but after this episode all I can call him is a crook. He took advantage of a system that if other people did the same he would be this first to criticize. He bought an affordable housing unit as an investment and illegally rented it to his brother in law and his wife. These apartments are for people who truly need them and can’t afford the housing unsubsidized. Some family will suffer because of Johnson’s actions. The Yonkers Inspector General took 2 days to discover this.

The affordable unit is in Johnson’s legislative district. After he moved out of the affordable unit he moved into a house not in his legislative District. The scheme was he had to be in the affordable unit between 3 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. because the primary was coming up and he didn’t want anyone to question his residency.

His brother-in-law said it would be disruptive but agreed to do it, supposedly not knowing what this scheme was all about. Wouldn’t this scheme make you suspicious? But as the Primary came closer the demands to Johnson to occupy the unit increased. Johnson’s wife said he would sleep on the kitchen floor and leave in the early morning so he would barely be noticed. Johnson has 2 sons who frequently get up at night so his brother in law said no.

To subject two children to sleeping on a kitchen floor, well if this is the case I just can’t believe parents would do this without being reported to Child Protective Services. As an aside, this whole scenario is starting to look like a picture more disturbing than Congressman George Santos? The scheme included Chris picking up mail from the condo every day.

Molina didn’t know the unit was affordable housing and could not be rented. He claimed to not know Johnson’s house was in the new district nor Johnson had to live in the district he represented. Given all he was aware of at this point I’m afraid I can’t believe him.

Johnson set a condition on the affordable rental. If anyone asked for Johnson Molina and his girlfriend had to say he wasn’t home. Leads me to believe Molina was somehow part of this game.

Johnson lost the Democratic primary to City Councilwoman Shanee Williams. Yonkers Director of Communications said the city attorney sent a letter to Johnson demanding he sell the unit at an affordable price.

Johnson defended his decision on Facebook live:

‘If I have done anything wrong it’s working for you (his constituents). Fighting for affordable housing, loving my family. And guess what. If that’s wrong I am going to keep doing it. If you want to talk about my family you stop now.’

Molina claimed he didn’t need help. After Johnson signed the agreement for the affordable housing he signed an agreement with Molina matching the \$1500 rent August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023. The short 1 year lease for a family member aware of what’s going on here seems fairly short. If I was the family member I would have questioned it.

It’s sad when politicians use government programs to benefit themselves and their families. It’s sad when politicians lie about where they live. It’s sad when politicians drag other family members into these crazy situations. And it’s sad when we, the taxpayers have to put up with this nonsense.

I hope Shanee Williams gets appointed to the county seat immediately. That Christopher Johnson receives some sort of punishment for his misdeeds. And after this and the employee prowling the internet for underage children which was not reported to the County Board, the WESTCHESTER County Board gets its’ act together so there is no more illegality in this body where many served over the years with integrity.

Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday’s from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge. Reach him at thistoosyonkers@aol.com.

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State Senator Mayer on Recent US Supreme Court Decisions:



State Senator Shelley Mayer

On July 3, State Senator Shelley Mayer commented on recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action on service to LGBTQ+ persons

“Last week’s Supreme Court decisions reflect the impact of a Trump-appointed Supreme Court majority that was determined to rule on cases in a manner that expressed their personal views on public policy, acting as a “super legislature,” rather than their role as the judges of the highest court in the land. Their decisions and their clear desire to reverse years of precedent that had moved America forward will continue to undermine the faith of Americans in this great institution. I was particularly dismayed that in some of these cases, the Court actually decided in matters where there was no plaintiff that was actually harmed. Courts are supposed to rule on cases, not accept manufactured scenarios to make a point. Sadly, just one year after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, eliminating a right that was long deemed constitutionally-protected, this Supreme Court majority continues to upend decades of precedents designed to protect Americans, expand opportunities, and ensure our institutions reflect the beautiful diversity of our nation.

“The decision to strike down affirmative action undermines efforts to expand opportunities and diversify universities and companies across the nation. Clinging to colorblindness is disingenuous in a nation where African American, Hispanic, and Native communities have been historically and persistently disadvantaged. Our nation is not colorblind - and we all know it. Every institution - university, business, and doctor’s office - is strengthened and more effective when it includes diverse perspectives to advance our society through ideas and experiences. This is a terrible blow to this important effort.

“Then, on Friday, the Supreme Court ruled that, under the pretext of free speech, businesses can refuse services to LGBTQ+ individuals, even though the website designer complaining was never even asked to provide a website for an LGBTQ+ couple. This decision is painful to the LGBTQ+ community, and raises serious concerns about what other market activities and public accommodations - including those governed by New York’s Human Rights Law - will be denied on the basis of the First Amendment.

“Finally, the Supreme Court’s decision to strike down President Biden’s student debt relief plan allowed the Attorney Generals’ of conservative-leaning states - who could show no harm - to advance their agenda to reject the Biden plan and impose thousands of dollars of debt onto those burdened with student loans. This decision undermines opportunities for those most burdened with debt, but I am confident the President has identified an effective - if more lengthy - path forward to provide much needed relief to those who incur college loan debt, including those who did not complete their degrees and their families.

“These recent Supreme Court decisions will have a real and searing personal and economic impact on millions of Americans and send a devastating message about the progress that we have made. But as with every setback, the fight is not over. In New York State, we will continue to do everything we can to protect and expand opportunities for all New Yorkers. It is what all New Yorkers deserve, and it is the right path to a more resilient economy and a stronger, more just society.”

RUN, PLAY AND LEARN AT WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS’ SUMMER CAMPS

Visit: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/children-camps>

There is plenty of summer left for children of all ages to run, play and learn in Westchester County Parks this summer at its variety of summer camps

Available summer camps:

- Hole-in-One Jr. Golf Camp for children ages 10 through 17, at all six County-owned Golf Westchester Courses: Dunwoodie in Yonkers, Hudson Hills in Ossining, Maple Moor in White Plains, Mohansic in Yorktown Heights, Saxon Woods in Scarsdale, and Sprain Lake in Yonkers.
- HEAT Baseball Camp for children ages 8 through 15, located at V.E. Macy Park in Ardsley
- Hilltop Hanover Farm Children’s Summer Programming for children ages five and older, with a selection of camps that focus on farming, gardening and more.
- Nature Camps for children in Pre-K through grade nine, located at five of our Nature Centers: Cranberry Lake Preserve in White Plains, Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye, Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers, Marshlands Conservancy in Rye and Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River
- Slam Dunk Basketball Camp for children entering grades three through 9, located at the Westchester County Center in White Plains

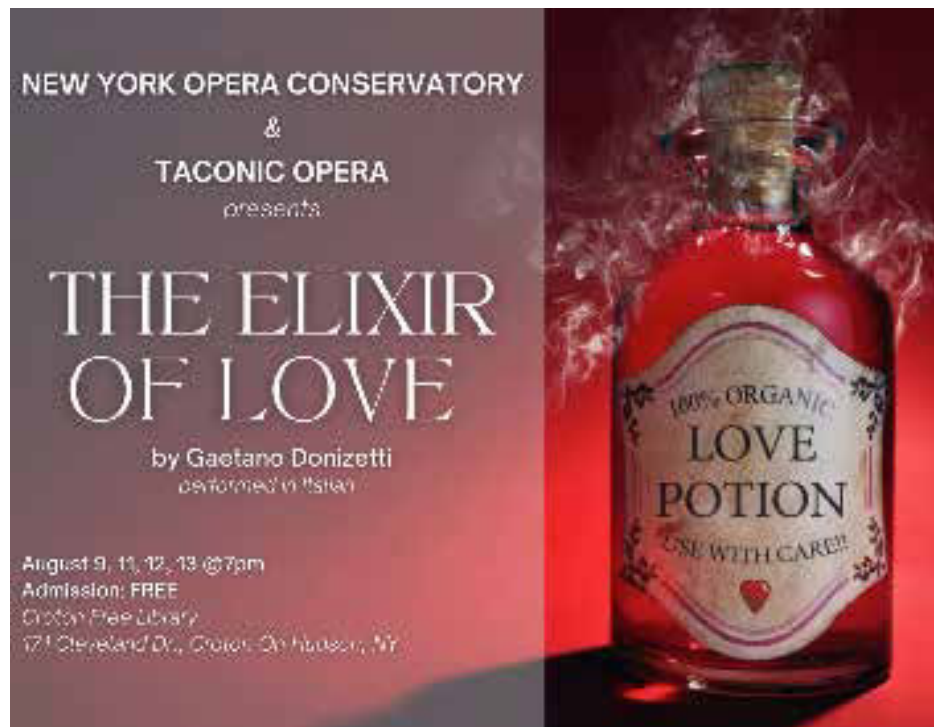
Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “With weeks of summer still ahead of us, children have time to hone in on their skills or find new ones they never knew they had. The Westchester County Parks Department’s array of summer camps provides children with a great opportunity to do so.”

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O’Connor said, “There’s no better place than our parks for summer camp! Between the beauty of our parks and our staff, children of all ages are sure to learn and have fun this summer.”

Weekly rates available for Jr. Golf, HEAT Baseball, Nature and Slam Dunk Camps, while Hilltop Hanover Farm’s camps vary per program.

Visit: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/children-camps>

Taconic Opera Presents Free Concert Series



The Taconic Opera summer program for emerging opera singers, New York Opera Conservatory (NYOC), offers you an opportunity to hear the upcoming generation of professional singers as they gain valuable experience perfecting their craft. Established in 2018, the NYOC helps to fill an unmet need among trained singers to gain valuable hands-on experience through actual performance.

Each event in the series listed below will have a different cast, making every performance completely unique from all the others - an all-opera version of America’s Got Talent! Each performance includes the complete opera and is semi-staged (costumes, props).

August Opera: Elixir of Love – Donizetti

Elixir is a comedy about a country bumpkin who falls madly in love with an “uptown girl” who doesn’t return his affections. A snake oil salesman comes to town and sells him a “secret love potion” that will make anyone who drinks it fall in love with him. To our amusement, things don’t exactly work out as planned. Features the famous aria Una furtiva lagrima. Sung in Italian.

Dates: Wednesday, August 9
Friday, August 11
Saturday, August 12
Sunday, August 13

Location: Croton Free Library, 171 Cleveland Drive, Croton-on-Hudson
7:00 pm

Cost: Free

For information about becoming a student in the NY Opera Conservatory, visit the Conservatory website: <http://www.newyorkoperaconservatory.com>.

For general information about Taconic Opera and NY Opera Conservatory events, visit the website: www.TaconicOpera.org

Voice of the County Center, continued from pg 1-

The required sentence for receiving child pornography is a minimum of 5 years. Federal sentencing guidelines for all of Leaf’s crimes call for 14-17 years. A Judge could have leniency on Leaf before he has no criminal history when he is sentenced in Jan. 2024.

Leaf, 75, is a resident of Somers and remains free on \$100,000 bail. Leaf was the sports announcer at the Westchester County Center for many years, and also announced Iona sports events in the past. Because of this history, he was honored as a member of the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame.

Last week, Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Board of Legislators Chair Vedat Gashi said that measures were underway to remove Leaf from the Hall of Fame. Latimer pointed out that Leaf has now admitted the crimes he was accused of in Federal Court.

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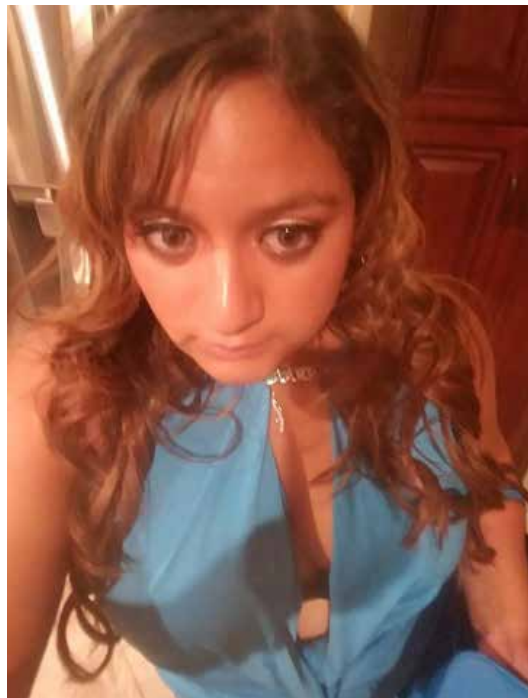
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Former Yonkers Teacher Arrested, Charged with Enticing Her 16 Year Old Student into Sex



Facebook photo of Sandy Caraza-Pinez

On July 12, SDNY US Attorney Damian Williams announced the unsealing of a two-count Indictment charging SANDY CARAZAS-PINEZ with enticing a minor victim to engage in illegal sexual activity and production of child pornography. As alleged in the Indictment, CARAZAS-PINEZ, a former high school teacher at the Biondi School in Yonkers, enticed one of her 16-year old students to engage in sexual activity with her and further induced the same student to participate in live-streamed sexually explicit conduct while on video calls with CARAZAS-PINEZ. CARAZAS-PINEZ was arrested on July 13 and no longer works for the Yonkers Public Schools.

U.S. ATTORNEY DAMIAN WILLIAMS SAID: "AS ALLEGED, SANDY CARAZAS-PINEZ EXPLOITED THE TRUST PLACED IN HER AS A TEACHER TO SEXUALLY ABUSE A TEENAGE STUDENT IN HER CARE. TODAY'S INDICTMENT MAKES CLEAR THAT MY OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO TIRELESSLY PURSUE SEXUAL PREDATORS OF ALL FORMS - ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE ENTRUSTED TO CARE FOR CHILDREN - AND HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT UNDER THE LAW."

FBI Acting Assistant Director in Charge Christie M. Curtis said: "As alleged, Ms. Carazas-Pinez, a former high school teacher, enticed one of her students to engage in sexual activity and live-stream sexually explicit conduct."

According to the allegations in the Indictment unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:[1]

CARAZAS-PINEZ was a high school teacher at a school for kindergarten through 12th grade students located in Yonkers, New York ("School-1"). From in or about November 2022 until in or about February 2023, CARAZAS-PINEZ abused her position as a teacher at School-1 by inducing and attempting to induce a student ("Minor Victim-1") at School-1 into a sexual relationship with CARAZAS-PINEZ. Minor Victim-1 was 16 years old at the time of the abuse.

CARAZAS-PINEZ singled out Minor Victim-1 for personal attention at School-1. In addition, CARAZAS-PINEZ induced Minor Victim-1 to engage in sexual activity with her by leading Minor Victim-1 to believe that they were in a romantic relationship.

CARAZAS-PINEZ used her personal cellphone to call, text, and video call Minor Victim-1 to arrange sexual encounters and to repeatedly induce Minor Victim-1 to engage in live-streamed sexually explicit conduct while on video calls with CARAZAS-PINEZ. In text messages with Minor Victim-1, CARAZAS-PINEZ referred to her sexual encounters with Minor Victim-1 and the live depictions of sexually explicit conduct she induced Minor Victim-1 to create as "gifts."

CARAZAS-PINEZ also used her personal cellphone to send Minor Victim-1 sexually suggestive photographs of herself along with sexually explicit text messages. After sending the photographs and messages, CARAZAS-PINEZ instructed Minor Victim-1 to delete them and inquired repeatedly as to whether Minor Victim-1 had done so.

The indictment also alleges that Carazas-Pinez engaged in sexual activity with the minor student at the Biondi school.

To facilitate their sexual encounters outside the premises of School-1, CARAZAS-PINEZ directed Minor Victim-1 in text messages to obtain day passes from School-1 to be permitted to leave campus. CARAZAS-PINEZ then met Minor Victim-1 at a location near School-1's campus and drove Minor Victim-1 to another location. On multiple occasions, while parked in CARAZAS-PINEZ's car at various locations, including in or around the Bronx, Yonkers, and Staten Island, New York, CARAZAS-PINEZ engaged in sexual intercourse and other sexual acts, and attempted to do so, with Minor Victim-1.

It was the unidentified minor student who broke of the relationship with Carazas-Pinez, but not after she threatened him to punish him at school if he didn't continue their sexual activity.

Eventually, the two were seen together outside of the school, and others had witnessed the inappropriate behavior inside the school. Carazas-Pinez was terminated in March.

CARAZAS-PINEZ, 34, of Bethel, Connecticut, is charged with one count of enticing a minor victim to engage in illegal sexual activity, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison, and one count of production of child pornography, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

Any individuals who believe they have information that may be relevant to this investigation should contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or tips.fbi.gov.

DA Rocah Indicts Three from Westchester in Stolen Deed-Loan Fraud Real Estate Scam

Properties in New Rochelle and Yonkers

On July 3, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that six individuals and a corporation were indicted for defrauding distressed homeowners by stealing the property deeds to Westchester homes and fraudulently obtaining \$2 million in loans. The defendants—including licensed realtors and an attorney—were also charged with evading a combined total of nearly \$200,000 in state taxes.

DA Rocah said: "Deed theft schemes exploit the most vulnerable and can have lasting housing and financial impacts to families. My office will seek to hold the defendants accountable for allegedly stealing titles to victims' homes while pretending to help them."

As alleged in the indictments, the defendants targeted three residential properties facing bankruptcy or foreclosure—two in New Rochelle and one in Yonkers valued in total at nearly \$2.5 million. Owners for two of the properties believed they were receiving mortgage assistance when they signed over to the defendants the deeds to their homes at a closing. The third property, which was in bankruptcy proceedings, was acquired in a short sale and two of the defendants allegedly moved in and occupied that home as their primary residence. The defendants were charged with forging financial statements and filing false tax documents to obtain \$1.5 million in short-term "fix and flip" loans for the properties before defaulting on those mortgages, and also securing a \$500,000 COVID relief small business loan. The homeowners who were expecting a refinanced mortgage faced eviction or were pushed out of their home.

The District Attorney identified the defendants as: licensed real estate broker Marcia Campbell, 61, of New Rochelle, and her husband, a licensed real estate salesperson, Fred Campbell, 64, of New Rochelle; licensed attorney Anthony Chilliest, 53, of New York City; Gerald Smith, 48, of Elmsford; Wayne Green, 48, of Lynbrook, N.Y.; Frank Palmer, 66, of the Bronx; and Campal Corp.

Marcia and Fred Campbell, Chilliest, Smith and Green were arrested and arraigned on June 21 and Palmer was arrested and arraigned on June 29. Bail was set for all but Green.

A Westchester County Grand Jury charged the defendants across multiple indictments.

Marcia Campbell, 61, of New Rochelle, a licensed real estate broker, was charged with Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, Grand Larceny in the First Degree, four counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, four counts of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, two counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, three counts of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Third Degree, two counts of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree, two counts of Repeated Failure to File a Corporate Tax Return, all felonies, and two counts of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fifth Degree, a misdemeanor.

Campbell identified financially distressed properties, promised mortgage assistance to homeowners in order to induce them to sign the deeds to their properties over to Campal Corp., a corporation she owned that served to obfuscate her identity in transactions. She also committed tax fraud, with the intent to evade taxes due for two other corporations under her name—Extreme Realty Associates and Extreme Taxes Inc.-between 2019 and 2022.

Fred Campbell, 64, of New Rochelle, a licensed real estate salesperson and husband of Marcia Campbell, was charged with Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, Grand Larceny in the First Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, and two counts of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree.

He acted as a straw purchaser and loan guarantor for the acquisition of residential properties, used 99 Patmore Ave Inc. and Gencamp LLC, two corporate entities under his name, to facilitate fraudulent transactions using doctored statements to prove liquidity with lenders, and committed tax fraud, according to the indictment.

Gerald Smith, 48, of Elmsford, was charged with Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree, Grand Larceny in the First Degree, three counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, three counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, Criminal Tax Fraud in the Third Degree, Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree, and Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fifth Degree.

Smith functioned as a loan broker, communicating with lenders to further the acquisition of loan proceeds; made false entries in loan applications and filed false and forged documents provided by his co-defendants to ensure the loans were procured; coordinated loan procurement efforts with Marcia Campbell and Anthony Chilliest, and committed tax fraud.

The case is before Judge George Fufidio in Westchester County Court, Anyone who may be a victim of deed theft or fraud can file a complaint with the DA's Office at (914)995-TIPS (8477).

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Notice of formation of Intwinely, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/10/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 2005 Palmer Avenue, Suite 1064, Larchmont NY 10538. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of True to Life Counseling Psychotherapy Services, LCSW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/26/2023 Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC at 50 Riverdale Avenue Suite 15J, Yonkers, Ny 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Registration of International Blockchain Legal LLP. Registration filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/26/2023. Office location: Westchester County. LLP formed in the District of Columbia on 8/30/2020. Princ. office addr. of LLP: 600 Mamaroneck Ave. Ste 400, Harrison, NY 10528. SSNY designated as agent of LLP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Aaron Krowne - 600 Mamaroneck Ave. Ste 400, Harrison, NY 10528. Registration filed with the DC Office of the Secretary, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Ste 419, Washington, DC 20004. Purpose: Legal services.

PLLC- Notice of formation of CHAT with Alexis Bramswig LCSW PLLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/13/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 310 Manville Road Apt. S1, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NYAG Mamaroneck Schools , continued from pg 3-

three black children assaulted by this boy’s language; (2) No counseling was offered to any of these children; (3) No mediation was ever conducted between the white boy and the three black children even as they continued to attend the same after-school club; and (4) No meeting was had between all the parents involved.

“Additionally, (5) their teachers were never informed of the incident or asked to be vigilant with respect to how this incident may affect their academics. And (6) until now, the school has not made the school counselor (who was supervising the after-school club when this incident occurred) available to us to explain what he saw and heard on that day, despite our unanswered emails to him directly and our subsequent conversation with the principal. By the principal’s own admission, she did however make the counselor available to speak with the white boy’s parents.

“In short, we were startled to hear the principal acknowledge out loud that the only parents she, her assistant principal and the school counselor had actually communicated with and included in the discussion of an ‘outcome’ to the incident were the parents of the white boy. What we’ve learned (and these black children are currently struggling to comprehend) is that even in schools, when whites are the aggressors, they are treated with more respect and given more consideration than those they have violently assaulted with their language.” (End of Martin’s blog post..

Notice of formation of My Mind Is Magic, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/14/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 20 South Broadway Suite 420, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Hatter Luxury Eyewear LLC filed with New York State Department of State on March 11, 2023, Office location: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. is designated as the agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of LIVE LONG LIVE STRONG FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/22. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 33 Sherwood Ave, apt. 3w, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of FITT 4 LIFE PRO GYM LLC. Arts. of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2023. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 444 South Fulton Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10553. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of LIMESMASHER LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/2/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Michael Limekiller, 938 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of CHAT with Alexis Bramswig LCSW PLLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/13/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 310 Manville Road Apt. S1, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Ossining Police, continued from pg 1-

year with the DA’s office claiming that she was a victim of threats and harassment, claiming ”a fellow police officer or multiple police officers at my department are involved.”

But DA Investigators uncovered that the texts and emails were sent from Hirshowitz’s own devices, according to the complaint filed by Westchester DA Investigator Michael Garcia last month.

Hirshowitz was arrested on June 28 and charged with three counts of offering a false instrument for filing and four counts of falsely reporting an incident. She is on paid leave from the OPD. Hershowitz lives in Peekskill. Prior to joining the OPD, she served in the New Rochelle Police Department for two years.

Media reports claim that the messages called for Hirshowitz to commit suicide, and other demeaning comments. One odd fact about this case is that another individual was captured on some of the screen shots that Hershowitz originally gave the DA’s office.

Next was the filing of a lawsuit against OPD Commissioner Kevin Sylvester by two former Ossining cops.

Former officers Louis Rinaldi and Andrea Zambrano claim in court documents that Sylvester created a unhealthy working environment that forced both to resign, including claims by Rinaldi that Sylvester accused him of substance abuse and domestic violence occurrences.

The lawsuit claims that Sylvester tried to get Rinaldi’s fiancé to testify against him, and also claims that Sylvester intervened against him when he tried to get a job with the Greenburgh Police Department.

Andrea Zambrano claims that Sylvester refused to comply with medical recommendations for her and her attempts to go on family medical leave. Zambrano’s attempts to get a job with the Westchester County Police were also thwarted by Sylvester according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit also claims that the OPD under Sylvester used license plate readers to track the off-duty locations of officers and their vehicles.

Sylvester became chief in 2016 at the age of 35. He is President of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police.

The lawsuit against Sylvester also claims that the Chief “was having an ongoing sexual relationship,” with Hirshowitz, and that Sylvester tried to blame Officer Rinaldi as the person sending the threatening texts to Hershowitz.

Sylvester also filed complaints with the Westchester DA’s office last year over the threatening texts, which DA Investigators have found to be phony, and sent by Hershowitz herself.

“Sylvester ... conducted numerous interviews of police officers, directly asking each officer if they were aware the Officer [Louis] Rinaldi was sending the texts to Officer Emily Hirshowitz,” the lawsuit claims.

And “despite having no evidence to support his accusations,” tried to put the blame on Rinaldi.

After Hershowitz’s recent arrest, the suit claims that Sylvester still attempted to protect her. “Sylvester told [village officials] that Hirshowitz had been set up by Plaintiffs Rinaldi and Zambrano and personally recommended she not be suspended without pay.”

While Hirshowitz was suspended with pay, officers Rinaldi and Zambrano were suspended without pay. Both officers have resigned.

Village attorneys claim the allegations in the suit are “ludicrous,” but the one unanswered question is who was the other person identified in the criminal complaint filed by a DA Investigator that someone else other than Hirshowitz had sent some of the threatening texts?

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Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “Westchester County’s workforce is made up of a wealth of talented individuals who boast a variety of professional backgrounds and experiences. In addition to offering competitive salaries, our County employees are also entitled to comprehensive benefits, paid leave, and a retirement plan. Whether you are just embarking on your career or looking to move on to the next opportunity, I strongly encourage everyone to explore all that Westchester County Government has to offer.”

Human Resources Commissioner Lisa Denig said: “A job with Westchester County is more than just a paycheck. The benefits highlighted by County Executive Latimer provide the type of work/family balance that Westchester residents are looking for. Plus, the wide array of jobs available in government affords opportunities for growth and promotion that might be foreclosed in certain private sector industries.”

The Westchester County Human Resources Page

(<https://humanresources.westchestergov.com/employees>)

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“Iona University is proud to help prepare the next generation of nurse educators and executive leaders, who are critically needed in today’s workforce,” said Iona University President Seamus Carey, Ph.D. “The NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences continues to attract highly motivated and talented students who feel called to serve others. We look forward to launching these new advanced programs and welcoming our inaugural classes in the fall.”

To learn more about these exciting new programs and how they can accelerate your nursing career, please contact Daniel Gallagher, director of Graduate Admissions for the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences, at dgallagher@iona.edu or 914-637-7770. You can also apply directly online today

A Premier New School on the Rise

Established July 2021, the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences continues to flourish and grow, adding dynamic new degrees that help to meet the needs of today’s workforce. Iona’s collaboration with one of the nation’s top hospitals also provides students with access to top clinical placements and full-time employment opportunities after graduation.

Nursing students will pursue their studies in Iona’s new state-of-the art Kelly Center for Health Sciences, the flagship building of the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences.

Spanning three floors and nearly 32,000 square feet, the Kelly Center features unparalleled access to the latest lab and simulation technologies, giving students access to hands-on learning experiences alongside top faculty and health care practitioners.

“The NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences offers a cutting-edge education in some of today’s most in-demand fields, providing a highly valuable and engaging program for our students,” said Kavita R. Dhanwada, Ph.D., founding dean of the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences. “Our academics are rigorous, but we know we are preparing students well for the challenges they will inevitably face in the field.”

Collaborative, Cutting-Edge Clinicals

Both new programs require 510 clinical practice hours, provided under the mentorship of top nurse educators and leaders both in academic and service settings, notably with opportunities at NewYork-Presbyterian.

Both programs are also grounded in the competencies of various national organizations, including AACN, NLN and AONL. Throughout their studies, students will develop the leadership behaviors that reflect moral courage, ethical principles, human dignity and social justice as they collaborate within interprofessional teams.

“We are thrilled to launch these two new nursing programs, which will go a long way toward supporting the future career goals of our students as well as the needs of the workforce,” said Sherylyn Watson, Ph.D., MSN, RN, CNE, director of nursing and associate dean. “We encourage anyone who may be interested in learning more to reach out or apply as soon as possible.”

About Nursing Education (MS)

A Master of Science degree in Nursing Education is designed to prepare graduates to assume leadership roles in higher education, hospital staff development and other community health programs. The program will prepare students to:

Apply clinical expertise in the health care environment.

Create learning environments effective for diverse populations.

Engage in scholarship to foster evidence-based practice and advance nursing practice.

Serve as a change agent through innovation.

About Nursing Healthcare Organizational Leadership (MS)

A Master of Science degree in Nursing Healthcare Organizational Leadership is specially designed for nurses who want to pursue advanced leadership roles within the health care system. The program will prepare students to:

Lead within complex health care systems to design and implement equitable health care access and solutions.

Create collaborative relationships and trusting work environments.

Serve as change agents through innovation.

Apply knowledge of human resources and fiscal management for health care.

Iona’s curriculum integrates advanced nursing role concepts and executive leadership-focused theories, principles and strategies into core and program-specific courses. The curriculum includes theoretical courses as well as leadership-focused clinical practicums.

Allowing for greater flexibility, the theoretical courses are offered in an executive hybrid format, providing the opportunity for in-person instruction and asynchronous coursework. Throughout their studies, students will examine organizational and leadership theories, financial management, human resource management and innovative design thinking.

Visit

Union Church of Pocantico Hills is at 555 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills
Kykuit, The Rockefeller Estate: Built between 1906 and 1913, Kykuit was home to four generations of the Rockefeller family, beginning with John D. Rockefeller, the founder of Standard Oil. Later, his grandson Nelson Rockefeller, the former governor of New York and vice president of the United States lived there with his family.

The site is open for guided tours Friday-Sunday, May 12-October 2; Wednesday-Monday, October 4-October 30; and Friday-Sunday, November 3-12.

Kykuit, a historic site of the National Trust, is operated and maintained by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund as a center for its philanthropic programs. Historic Hudson Valley operates the public visitation program.

All visits to Kykuit start at the Kykuit and Philipsburg Manor Visitor Center, located at 381 North Broadway (Route 9) in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., two miles north of the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. Selected Highlights tour tickets are \$25 for adults, \$23 for children, young adults and seniors. Westchester County residents receive a \$5 discount on the adult ticket price for this tour. Classic tour tickets are \$45 for adults, \$43 for children, young adults and seniors. Grand tour tickets are \$65. Historic Hudson Valley members receive a 15% discount on all Kykuit tickets. Visit-www.hudsonvalley.org, for more information.

Garris shooting continued from pg 1-

ing been on life support since the incident, Jarrell Garris died on Monday evening. The APA offers our condolences to the entire Garris family and to the New Rochelle community.

“The APA fully recognizes the importance of full and complete transparency in all police involved shootings. We are pleased that the New Rochelle Police Department quickly released the body worn camera footage of this incident so that the public can have a true understanding of what happened and why and we look forward to a fair and expeditious review of this case by the New York State Attorney General’s Office. Unfortunately, a number of press releases and media reports have been less than transparent and have omitted many important factors that will help the public more clearly understand what led to Jarrell Garris’ death. While body camera footage clearly shows that Garris attempted to rip a handgun from one of the police officer’s holsters, there is much background information that the public should know to have a clearer picture of how and why this happened.

“For the sake of transparency, here are some facts the public should be aware of: Jarrell Garris had a lengthy criminal past and a history of mental health issues, including schizophrenia. At the time of his death, he was on felony probation for Attempted Arson in the Third Degree following his arrest for setting fire to a trash chute in a Municipal Housing Residence in New Rochelle. He was sentenced to probationary supervision for five years on November 9, 2022, with his probation supervision transferred to North Carolina. On the date of his death, he was an absconder from North Carolina, and was not authorized to be in New York; earlier that same day, he had broken into the home of a New Rochelle resident.

“Throughout his life, Jarrell Garris was subject to multiple arrests and convictions, including a 2007 felony conviction that resulted in a probationary term of five years. That plea covered a number of additional crimes, which included resisting arrest and reckless endangerment. His 2022 plea to Attempted Arson covered a number of local charges in Mount Vernon and New Rochelle as well, including a second allegation of Attempted Arson in the Fifth Degree.

“Garris was a known user of dangerous and illegal drugs. In fact, he was admitted to Mount Vernon Hospital on July 1, 2023 – just two days before this shooting – after being observed self-mutilating himself in public. While detained, he acknowledged that he was under the influence of PCP. He was treated and released from Mount Vernon Hospital.

“In summary, Jarrell Garris had a long and troubled history of mental health and legal issues, which by and large, went unaddressed. While the New Rochelle officers attempting to arrest Mr. Garris may not have known his complete criminal and mental health history, they did know that he was properly and legally subject to arrest. They also knew that, at the moment he was shot, Garris was attempting to gain control of one of their firearms. This is the risk police officers take every day: that a seemingly simple arrest can become a life and death struggle without warning.

“Sadly, Congressman Jamal Bowman has ignored all facts and has wrongly accused the officers of police brutality. Bowman dangerously continues to push his false narrative in a cheap attempt to score political points and, as usual, offers no solutions on how to solve the problem of violent mentally ill people roaming our streets. Instead, when tragedy happens, he predictably blames the police and ignores his own responsibilities as an elected official.

“The simple yet tragic fact is that Detective Conn’s actions were made necessary by the actions of Jarrell Garris. Had Detective Conn not taken swift and decisive action, we could very easily be mourning the death of multiple police officers. Noting that nearly 200 police officers have been shot in the line of duty in the U.S. in 2023, with 28 fatally shot while protecting the communities they served, we are thankful that Detective Conn and all of the responding New Rochelle police officers are alive today.

“The Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester offers its unequivocal support to the men and women of the New Rochelle Police Department. We remember that our job is never “routine” and we recognize the dangers inherent in policing and the risks faced by our Westchester police community every day. We thank the members of the New Rochelle Police Department – and all of the police departments throughout the County – for keeping our neighborhoods and families safe,” said Det. Keith Olson, President Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester, and Yonkers PBA President.

NY State Attorney General Letitia James announced that her office would conduct an investigation, and that the “Office of Special Investigation (OSI) has opened an investigation into the death of Jarrell Garris, who died on July 10, 2023 following an encounter with members of the New Rochelle Police Department (NRPD) on July 3, 2023. Pursuant to New York State Executive Law Section 70-b, OSI assesses every incident reported to it where a police officer or a peace officer, including a corrections officer, may have caused the death of a person, by an act or omission. Under the law, the officer may be on-duty or off-duty, and the decedent may be armed or unarmed.”

The Garris family said that he suffered from mental illness and would never have shot a cop. “You tried to take my son away from me. My one and old son. You’re going to give me my justice,” said Raymond Fowler, Garris’ father.

Garris family attorney William Wagstaff called Olson’s introduction of Garris’ criminal past, “a blatant character assassination.”

The statement from the Garris Family reads, “Another unarmed Black man was killed by police, and yet another defensive, insensitive, and irresponsible response from a police association. How does a detective from a neighboring police department with no role in the investigation purport to know what the unreleased body camera video shows when the family nor the community whose taxes pay for the equipment and salaries of the officers that use it don’t know?”

The family applauds Congressman Jamaal Bowman’s consistent courage to speak up for the members of his district and looks askance at the NRPD’s carefully curated release of some videos but not all videos while feigning transparency.

Even more distressing is the blatant character assassination of Jarrel. The exposé of his criminal record and personal history is legally irrelevant to the fundamental question of was the shooting legally justified.

The association has taken an excerpt from page 2 of the police PR playbook, the classic, but he was a criminal routine, which suggests that someone’s past makes their extra-judicial killing acceptable; it does not.

Perhaps the discussion should be about the shooter’s background, his disciplinary record, his history of aggression, racism, or incompetence. Perhaps it’s time to stop blaming the victims and start focusing on the killers’ histories.

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YONKERS TIMES
News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Latimer and Byrne Attend Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board Annual Meeting



County Executives George Latimer of Westchester and Kevin Byrne of Putnam hosted the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board's (WPWDB) 2023 Hybrid Annual Meeting on June 22, 2023. The program featured keynote speakers Dana Politis, Associate Commissioner, Workforce Development, NYS Dept. of Labor and Matt Berndt, Director of Job Search Academy, Indeed.

"Workforce development is entering a new phase. Things are happening with technology that most of us can barely begin to grasp including the impact of AI. It is a far different landscape than 50 years ago and that means employees need to upgrade their skills and learn new technology at a more rapid pace than ever before. Fortunately, workforce innovations and the training County government and partners can provide, can help individuals fill the gap and be ready to expand their career opportunities," stated Westchester County Executive George Latimer.

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne said: "I happen to know that people live in Putnam County and work in Westchester and vice versa, so we greatly value the coordination and the health of the regional partnership. We are excited that the NYS Dept. of Labor is leading the charge on integrating Virtual Reality into our career centers. It's especially valuable for our youth to experience the day-to-day reality of many different kinds of jobs before committing to an expensive education or training."

Dana Politis and her team demonstrated a new program that uses Virtual Reality (VR) technology for workforce training and career path exploration, as a service to both job seekers and employer customers. Career Center customers will be able to "try out" multiple jobs and/or trainings without leaving the career center, saving them precious time and money. Some of the areas where this new technology is being focused include manufacturing, skilled trades, warehouse and storage, hospitality and tourism, public safety and the automotive industry. The Department of Labor has acquired 235 headsets for this unique training opportunity which is completely customizable.

Matt Berndt presented the details of a groundbreaking partnership between Indeed's Job Search Academy and the Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network that will expand training and workshop services for customers. This private/government partnership is the first collaboration of its kind between a workforce board and Indeed in the country. The free online workshops offer a chance for job seekers to learn how to search for a job, how to prepare an impactful resume, how to prepare for a job interview, how to evaluate opportunities, how to research compensation and how to manage your career after getting the job. Matt also addressed the potential for developing custom workshops for the underutilized workforce who have barriers to employment.

"The innovative use of VR technology and private sector partnerships within our career centers will add new tools to the toolbox. They won't replace what we are doing, but will give staff additional ways to serve our customers," stated Thom Kleiner, WPWDB Executive Director. "These tools will help our customers save time and money exploring new career paths and getting the training they need."

THE WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WPWDB) is comprised of leaders and staff of state and county government agencies, non-profits, public education, and the private sector who work together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the "Career Center Network" to meet the needs for a skilled workforce. The WPWDB pursues funding opportunities and develops model programs and leading-edge practices. The "Network" is made up of four Career Centers (White Plains, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, and Carmel) as well as partner agencies that provide state-of-the-art technology, training, resources, and services to youth, adults and employers. For more information, visit www.westchesterputnamonestop.com.

Historic Hudson Valley Expands Tours of Washington Irving's Sunnyside, Philipsburg Manor and Union Church at Pocantico Hills



Philipsburg Manor, photo by Tom Nycz

In response to growing visitor demand, Historic Hudson Valley is pleased to announce the expansion of tours at three of Westchester County's iconic historic sites: Washington Irving's Sunnyside, Philipsburg Manor, and Union Church at Pocantico Hills. Starting July 20, these locations will extend operations to provide additional access to locals and tourists alike, now open weekly from Thursdays through Sundays.

Washington Irving's Sunnyside is the charming riverside cottage of America's "Founding Father of Literature." Visitors can walk in the author's footsteps and experience the grounds and home that Irving designed himself.

At Philipsburg Manor, visitors tour the working gristmill, walk through the manor house with period artifacts, and learn about the 23 enslaved individuals of African descent who lived and labored on the plantation.

Visitors to Union Church of Pocantico Hills view the awe-inspiring stained-glass windows by European masters, including the last commissioned work by Henri Matisse and nine windows by Marc Chagall, and learn the inspiration behind each one.

In addition to expanded operations of these three National Historic Landmarks, Kykuit, the Rockefeller estate will expand operations to six days a week this fall. Starting October 1, 2023, this top-rated cultural attraction will welcome visitors from Wednesday-Monday. Visitors to Kykuit learn the story of the Rockefellers, beginning with John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil, whose business acumen made him the richest man in America in his day. He later became the country's first significant philanthropist and by his death in 1937, he had given away more than half his fortune through various philanthropic causes.

Philipsburg Manor: In 1750, Philipsburg Manor was home to 23 enslaved individuals known to have lived and labored there. It is the country's first living history museum to focus on the history of northern slavery.

The site will be open for guided tours Thursday-Sunday, May 12-November 12 and Saturday-Sunday, November 18-December 17. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and young adults, and \$10 for children. Tours are free for Historic Hudson Valley members. Admission is by timed ticket only. Philipsburg Manor is at 381 North Broadway (Route 9) in Sleepy Hollow

Sunnyside: America's "Founding Father of Literature" created a romantic, picturesque estate nestled along the Hudson riverbank. The house and the furnishings, many of which are original to Irving, have been restored to their 1850s character.

The site will be open for guided tours Thursday-Sunday, May 12-September 10. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and young adults, and \$10 for children. Tours are free for Historic Hudson Valley members. Admission is by timed ticket only.

Washington Irving's Sunnyside is at 3 W Sunnyside Lane, Irvington,.

Union Church of Pocantico Hills: Union Church was organized as a non-denominational Protestant church in 1915, with John D. Rockefeller among the founders. Over the years, the Rockefeller family commissioned stained-glass windows by European masters Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall to adorn the unassuming country church.

The site will be open for guided tours Thursday-Sunday, May 12-November 12. Tickets are \$10. Tours are free for Historic Hudson Valley members. Admission is by timed ticket only.

Yorktown Trash Bingo

Garbage picked up	Recycling picked up	\$3,456,789	Garbage not picked up	32 gallon can
Recycling not picked up	Skipped my neighborhood	Didn't take my plastic	Left cardboard behind	Emailed town board
Call Competitive Carting	64 gallon can	Free space	Competitive gets fined	Carting truck broke down
Mixed garbage and recycling	Skipped my house	Didn't empty garbage can	Post to trash talk FB group	Bid process
AAA	Refuse and recycling dept	Hydraulic fluid	Duffy's truck	\$1,500 fine per day

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