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## Tom Suozzi Brings Democratic Campaign for Governor to Westchester



Rep. Tom Suozzi, democratic candidate for Governor, Coach Diner in White Plains

By Dan Murphy

Long Island Congressman Tom Suozzi campaigned in Westchester and Rockland Counties last week and brought his message of change to suburban democratic voters. Suozzi is challenging Governor Kathy Hochul in a democratic primary in June, and has given up his seat in Congress to try and fix the problems in New York.

“Our government is corrupt,” “our government is so badly run. I ran Nassau County government, which is larger than the state of Arkansas. I know how government works and doesn’t work. If you are hard working you should have a decent life. That should be our goal in our country and in New York State. Let’s do everything we can to make our government work again,” said Suozzi in comments made during a Facebook live Town Hall to Westchester and Rockland County democrats.

In his meet and greet at the Coach Diner in White Plains last week, Suozzi said, “We need 600,000 votes to win the democratic primary. I’m running against the establishment, and I need your help.” The event was attended by more than 100 voters, who were either supporters of Suozzi or who wanted to hear why he was running for Governor.

Suozzi has identified three key issues that New Yorkers are concerned about and has made them the focal points of his campaign.

**I-Crime and Safety-** With 74% of New Yorkers saying that crime is a serious problem in New York City, and 65% say they personally worry about being the victim of a crime and want more cops on the streets-(69%), stricter gun control laws-(58%), Suozzi has discussed what he calls “common sense solutions.”

Suozzi pointed to his leadership when he served as Nassau County Executive on Long Island, (the 12th largest PD in the country), “we had the lowest crime rate in the United States.”

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## Former Gov. Pataki in Ukraine: They Want us to “Close the Sky”



former NY Governor and Peekskill native George Pataki in Hungary before cross the border into Ukraine

By Dan Murphy

Here’s another great way to make a donation which you can be sure gets to the people of Ukraine: Give it to George Pataki. The former NY Governor from Westchester is telling Americans two things about his experiences on the Hungarian-Ukraine border. He is worried that a continued flow of refugees will result in an inability to help, and the one thing that Ukrainians tell him again and again is for the United States to “Close the Sky” and give Ukraine the weapons it needs to fight against the Russian Air Force.

Pataki said that the United States “needs to do more” for the Ukrainian refugees fleeing their country. Pataki, whose family comes from Hungary, flew to Hungary last week and is now in the Ukraine.

Pataki met with refugees at a center in Ukraine from Kharkiv and other eastern cities, and with volunteer doctors for Ukraine. “They are asking for more doctors. The biggest problem is Covid currently. Only 30 percent of Ukrainians are vaccinated,” tweeted Pataki.

Pataki was able to bring over a planeload of medical supplies for the refugees. “Special thank you to the Greater New York Hospital Association for working with me and the Pataki Center to get three plane loads of medical supplies to Hungary for the #Ukraine refugees,” Tweeted Pataki. 200,000 Ukrainian refugees have fled to Hungary.

Pataki is working with the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to bring donations to the refugees. The Pataki leadership center in Peekskill also has a donation link. The people of Westchester are praying for Pataki and the people of Ukraine. “Amazing how some people just automatically step right up to the plate,” said one of our readers.

To donate visit -[appealofconscience.com/donate](https://appealofconscience.com/donate) or [www.georgepataki.com](https://www.georgepataki.com)

## Hey Albany and Washington Repeal the Gas Tax Now!



By Dan Murphy

A wide array of New York elected officials, and candidates for office this year, have come out supporting a temporary repeal of the state and federal gas tax in New York State. The current gas tax for New Yorkers is 48 cents per gallon, which includes a federal tax of 18.4 cents per gallon. For many of us, this would lower the cost of gas to under \$4 per gallon....for now, we understand that the prices will keep going up for a while.

Congressman Tom Suozzi, who is running in the democratic primary for Governor, called for an immediate repeal of the gas tax while campaigning in Westchester last week.

Democrat Robert Zimmerman, who is running to replace Suozzi in Congress, also called for a gas tax reprieve. “I strongly support the suspension of the federal gas tax through the end of the year and call upon our leaders in Congress to endorse the senate and house legislation. The severe increase in gas prices affects every aspect of our lives, and the time to act is now.”

State Senate republicans have also introduced legislation, The New York Gas Tax Relief Act, to repeal the state portion of the gas tax until September 1. Republican businessman Harry Wilson supported the gas tax repeal, tweeting, “Kathy Hochul doesn’t realize that this is the worst part of the day for most New Yorkers. She thought in an interview this week that the state gas tax was 10 cents/gal instead of the 48 cents/gal it really is.”

So far, Governor Hochul has not publicly supported the gas tax repeal. Consideration of repealing the State gas tax is now under review as part of the state budget negotiations. The NY State budget is due on April 1. Legislation currently before Congress in Washington titled The Gas Price Relief Act will eliminate the 18.4 cent per gallon federal tax through the end of 2022

## ‘Social Equity Candidates’ to Get the First Marijuana Licenses in New York State



marijuana is already openly being sold in Washington Square Park in New York City, left

By Dan Murphy

On March 10, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the first-in-the-nation Seeding Opportunity Initiative, which will position individuals with prior cannabis-related criminal offenses to make the first adult-use cannabis sales with products grown by New York farmers. This farm-to-store initiative makes sales in New York possible before the end of 2022, jumpstarts New York’s Cannabis Industry, guarantees support for future equity applicants, and secures an early investment into communities most impacted by the disproportionate enforcement of cannabis prohibition.

“New York State is making history, launching a first-of-its-kind approach to the cannabis industry that takes a major step forward in righting the wrongs of the past,” Governor Hochul said. “The regulations advanced by the Cannabis Control Board today will prioritize local farmers and entrepreneurs, creating jobs and opportunity for communities that have been left out and left behind. I’m proud New York will be a national model for the safe, equitable and inclusive industry we are now building.”

The Cannabis Control Board at its meeting March 10 advanced two components of the Seeding Opportunity Initiative. Before any applications are accepted and licenses provided, a public comment time period will take place on the proposed regulations. Starting March 15, hemp farmers can apply to grow cannabis starting this spring.

Cannabis Control Board Member Jen Metzger said, “The Seeding Opportunity Initiative truly sets New York’s program apart from other states that have legalized adult-use, by starting out of the gate with an equity- and sustainability-led program that will supply equity entrepreneur-owned dispensaries with sun-grown cannabis products. It is a great start to building a new industry in which small businesses can thrive and generational wealth can be created.”

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Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Returns  
 March 21-April 3; \$29.95 Lunch, \$39.95 Dinner



Spring 2022 Hudson Valley Restaurant Week runs from Monday, March 21 – Sunday, April 3, 2022. Restaurants will be offering 3 course, prix-fixe lunches at \$29.95 and dinners at \$39.95.

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week is a popular bi-annual event taking place each Spring and Fall. Past participating restaurants served an estimated quarter of a million patrons and reported an average 25% increase in business, collectively generating an estimated economic impact of \$10.2 million in sales revenue. Participating restaurants span eight counties in the Hudson Valley (Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Ulster, Orange, Sullivan, Dutchess and Greene counties) and offer a wide variety of cuisines.

For more information on HVRW, visit [www.hudsonvalleyrestaurant-week.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyrestaurant-week.com) or call (845) 463-0542.

## Mow and Blow? Panel Offers Healthy, Sustainable Landscaping Alternatives

By John Bradley

“How many people participating today would like to mitigate flooding, improve water quality in our rivers and streams and Long Island Sound and create a healthier home environment?” asked Nancy Seligson at the opening of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit program, “Sustainable Landscaping: A Beautiful Approach for a Healthy Yard and a Healthy Planet,” held via Zoom on Tuesday morning, March 8th.

Seligson, the Supervisor of the Town of Mamaroneck for the decade between Hurricane Sandy in 2011 and Hurricane Ida at the close of 2021, was joined by June Wallach, Co-Chair of the Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative and Lisa McDonald, Co-Chair of the Village of Larchmont Environmental Committee.

Yards Can Be Beautiful without the Use of Pesticides

“We love our lawns,” Seligson declared, “but if you want a truly healthy yard, she advised, “Don’t use or allow gas-powered leaf blowers in your yard. Mulch-mow your leaves rather than removing them from your yard.” And, “Don’t use pesticides and chemical fertilizers—use organic products in limited amounts to reduce (toxic) runoff.” Summing up, Seligson showed a photo of her own attractive yard, noting “I am proud to say that I haven’t used fertilizers, pesticides, or leaf blowers for over twenty years.”

According to June Wallach, “You need not sacrifice curb appeal to have a beautiful lawn.” Noting that often the traditional approach to yard care involves methods that serve neither plants nor the environment well, she cautioned that the use of pesticides and herbicides might also be dangerous to the those who use them. A photograph depicting a small, barefoot child on a patch of lawn with a yellow pesticide warning in the foreground, and the same photo with a “Healthy Yard” (pesticide-free) sign in the foreground was offered to make the point. The caption: “Why Risk It?”

Wallach said that since the establishment of the Larchmont/Mamaroneck “Healthy Yards” program, hundreds of residents have taken the healthy yards pledge, promising not to use pesticides or herbicides on their lawns. “This is an idea that is gaining in acceptance,” she said, adding that the “NYS Department of Environmental Conservation says that safe and effective alternatives already exist for most chemical pesticides and fertilizers.”

Lisa McDonald joined her co-panelists, stating that “We need to change our perceptions of what a beautiful yard is. Is it one that supports life, including our own? Or are we damaging our own health, our workers’ health, our environment, and our

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Send us your letters, opinions, photographs, story ideas and guest columns to:  
[dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

## Westchester Outraged at Attack on Elderly Asian Woman in Yonkers



125 Punches to Innocent Victim, Tammel Esco Called Her an “Asian Bitch”

On March 14, Yonkers Police and Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced that Yonkers resident Tammel Esco was charged with a hate crime after violently attacking a 67-year-old Asian woman as she entered an apartment building in Yonkers.

On Friday, March 11th, 2022, at approximately 6:11 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to an apartment building in the confines of the 3rd Precinct on several reports of a dispute; information was given that a woman was bleeding at scene and the suspect was in front of the location. Upon arrival officers located the victim, an elderly female, in the vestibule of the building with severe facial injuries; she was transported to a local area trauma center. The suspect was located outside the building and placed into custody without incident.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, and processed forensic evidence. Investigation yielded that the victim, a 67-year-old resident of the City of Yonkers, was returning home and saw the suspect in front of the building. As she walked past him, he called her an “Asian bitch;” the victim is of Asian descent. Ignoring his comment, the victim entered the vestibule of the building and was attempting to open the second door to enter the lobby when, without warning, the suspect approached from behind and punched her in the head, knocking her to the floor; he then stood over her and proceeded to punch her in the head and face more than 125 times with alternating fist strikes before foot-stomping her seven times and spitting on her. As a result of the beating, the victim suffered multiple contusions and lacerations to her head and face, facial bone fractures, and bleeding on the brain; she is currently listed in stable condition and is recovering in the hospital. The incident was captured on surveillance video.

Mayor Mike Spano stated, “Hate crimes are beyond intolerable in our city. I applaud our Yonkers Police for swiftly apprehending this violent criminal and removing him from our streets. I expect the suspect to be charged to the fullest extent of the law for his heinous actions. I continue to keep the victim and her family in our thoughts and prayers.”

Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, “This is one of the most appalling attacks I have ever seen; to beat a helpless woman is despicable and targeting her because of her race makes it more so. This defendant must be held to the maximum punishment allowed by law to send a clear message that hateful, violent behavior will not be tolerated in our communities. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim and her family, that she may make a full recovery.”

Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah said, “Our hearts are broken for the victim. The District Attorney’s Office will continue to work with the Yonkers Police Department to investigate and secure justice for her and to support her and her family through this difficult time. We also understand that many in the community may experience fear and trauma as a result of this incident. We will continue our work with our community and government partners throughout the County to provide support for the community, by offering training and outreach on hate and bias offenses in local schools, senior centers and other community organizations.”

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, “Acts like this despicable assault will not be tolerated in our city, county, state or nation. Hate and violence have no place in our society. My prayers go out to the victim of this assault, who faces a long road to recovery, and her loved ones. It is my hope that the proposed AAPI Equity funding in the Senate’s Budget will help address violence toward Asian-Americans and other issues facing this community.”

County Executive George Latimer said, “Westchester County is known for tolerance and unity – not for hate and violence. The conduct seen in the video footage released by the Yonkers Police Department is abhorrent, and we pray for the victim and her family. Any form of hate will not be tolerated in our County, and I applaud Yonkers Police and the Westchester County District Attorney’s office for their swift action.”

Esco is scheduled to appear again in Yonkers Criminal Court on March 25, 2022. The video of the incident can be found at [YonkersTimes.com](http://YonkersTimes.com) but is graphic in nature.

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## Iona Basketball and Pitino Don't Make it to March Madness



*A disappointing season for Iona hoops and coach Rick Pitino*

**By Dan Murphy**

Westchester college basketball fans are in shock after learning that Iona basketball, led by coach Rick Pitino are not headed towards 'March Madness' after they were upset in the quarterfinals of the MAAC Tournament, held on March 8, 71-70.

Dwight Murray Jr. of Rider, hit the game winning shot with 7 seconds left. Murray was the high scorer for the game with 21 points. Iona couldn't get another shot off in the final seconds, and a disappointing ending for what is now a disappointing season for Iona, located in New Rochelle.

A clearly dejected Coach Pitino said after the game that "Our players are devastated. They had dreams of going far in the tournament. They all come to an end when you're in a one-bid league. But it happens. All you can do is give Rider all the credit because they played a great game."

Iona was leading 70-65 with less than 3 minutes in the game. Iona has made the NCAA tournament since 2015, including last year, Pitino's first year as coach, and they played well, almost beating Alabama in the first round.

Pitino said, "I don't like it," but added "They made every big play down the stretch. We made a lot of great shots down the stretch. They were just better. They deserve all the credit. I'm proud of my guys. They gave me a great season, but when you're in a one-bid league, you suffer."

In the game, Tyson Jolly the MAAC Player of the year had 19 points to lead Iona. Pitino's squad cooled down in the final stretch of the regular season, going 6-4 in their last 10 games for a 24-5 final record.

After the game, Pitino seemed to lower expectations. "We didn't play poorly. We played well. That's the best we could play. We're just not that much better than any team in the league."

Iona will lose two of its best players to graduation, Jolly and Elijah Joiner. But Pitino is expected to bring in a few more top line recruits to see if he can make a run to the Final Four at Iona before he retires, or moves on to another program. But whether he can do that is now in question after this loss. "I've coached great teams. I've said it to our media all season long: Don't get carried away. We're not a great basketball team. We're a good team."

Here's hoping you are a great team next year Coach. And don't leave or retire yet please.

## RIP Judge Gil, Meeting Congressman Bowman, and a Note to Mr. Astorino



**By Eric Schoen**

*R.I.P Judge Gil Rabin*

People would tell me all the time, 'I had Jury Service and you will never guess who I ran into. (Judge) Gil Rabin from Yonkers.' I attended the funeral service for Judge Gil on Tuesday morning at Riverside Funeral Home. The place was packed as it should be. Before I get into some of the beautiful memories of Gil, I want to tell you how you can best remember Gil whether you knew him or not.

After his retirement as Chief Judge for the Yonkers City Courts, Gil was the guy in charge of Jury selection and much of the Jury process in Westchester County for many years. We constantly hear complaints that the reason why so many criminals are running through our streets is because of backups in the Court System. The backups are caused by you guessed it..Covid. People are turning down Jury Service and getting medical excuses in record numbers out of fear of catching the coronavirus.

I spoke to several judges at Gil's funeral (my friend Chief Judge Janet DiFiore unfortunately was not there) and I was told that ever so slowly the courts have put into place procedures to keep Judges, their staffs and most importantly jurors safe from contracting or being in a situation where they could catch the coronavirus. The 6 foot distance rule has recently been changed to 3 feet as it has in schools and many other situations.

Want to remember Judge Gil Rabin? Want to keep America safe. Next time you get called to Jury Duty, go! It's your civic duty. We live in a country where everyone is innocent until proven guilty. If the Jury system which Gil so heartily respected and managed brilliantly can't function, don't expect Crime numbers to go down or our Civil Courts to operate efficiently. And if there should be anything that makes you feel unsafe, you raise your hand, you ask to speak privately to the judge and you voice your complaint. If things don't improve you walk out of the courthouse and tell them that this columnist from WESTCHESTER Rising Newspapers told you to do so.

When one mentions Gil, one thinks of Gil and Zita, his beloved wife who passed away in 2016. They were an inseparable couple. I would run into them having dinner at Charlie Brown's on Central Avenue. With close friends they did so much for the hearing impaired as their youngest daughter, Marni was born with a hearing impairment. One of Marni's first jobs was working for me in a summer youth employment program I ran. She was an exemplary worker!

Gil was remembered by family and friends including the former Rabbi of Lincoln Park Jewish Center, Rabbi Solomon Sternstein's son, also a Rabbi. Everyone remembered Gil smoking a pipe. When he did it in a private room at the Courthouse, the head judge at the time got complaints. But Gil and the pipe were inseparable. Not much the Chief Judge could do.

He worked for the Court System at times for no pay when budgets were tight. Can't ask a Jurist doing such important work pro bono to to give up a thing he enjoyed doing.

Rabbi Sternstein referred to Gil as a 'Shul Mensch.' This is someone always on call to help the synagogue in good times and times of need. Rabbi Sternstein and his father, longtime Rabbi at Lincoln Park Jewish Center as all who knew him valued his Gil's advice, calmness, and the fact he was always willing to and would go out of his way to help others.

His daughter Jill talked about how her father wanted her to live life in the spirit of the law. He would always ask people what he could do for them. She joked that people who didn't know about her fathers life could refer to the extensive, no expensive obituaries that ran in the Journal News and New York Times.

It's amazing how in the newspaper business (except this distinguished weekly you are reading) they charge so much for obituaries. This tradition goes, sadly back a long time. That's how the daily papers like the Journal News and the New York Times stay afloat, reporting on the deceased. A sad state of affairs.

Jill, a gynecologist said that after her moms death she was charged with her dad's health, brother Corey was charged with his legal affairs and her sister Marni handled the Human Resources side of things. She joked that every 99 year old man should have a gynecologist in charge of his medical affairs!

The funeral ended with a video of a most beautiful song sung by singer Jason Mraz. The theme of the song: Not a Sad Goodbye. It sure wasn't a sad goodbye to Judge Gill Rabin 3 months before he turned 100 years young. I will always remember his kind smile and Zita's warm greetings. I will remember our briefs chats about life and of course things Yonkers, a city he loved.

Honorable Justice Gil Rabin. He, Too was Yonkers, Westchester, a lover of public service, a true gentle man and a friend to me and so many others. His wit and wisdom will be missed!

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## AMVETS Make Donation to Veterans at Montrose VA Hospital



In both photos, pictured are left to right: Nicole Embry Chief of Volunteer Services Hudson valley VA for Montrose and Castle Point VA hospitals, with Commander Sam Riti Post 40 Yonkers, and Ellie Schaffer Voluntary Specialist, accepting donations of 6 cases of hooded sweatshirts and 6 cases of healthcare travel kit including socks.

Thanks to the Department of NY AMVETS Service Foundation for the donations. Photos by Ed Whitman.



## Registration Open for Westchester County Parks Learn to Swim Program



Westchester County Parks' Learn to Swim program returns this summer at all four county-owned pools with registration opening Tuesday, March 15 at noon.

Learn to Swim is available for children ages three through 13 and will be held in two sessions, with session one running from Tuesday, July 5 through Thursday, July 21 and session two from Tuesday, July 26 through Thursday, Aug. 11. Class times to choose from are 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Each session is \$80 per child.

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Our Learn to Swim program is a great way to introduce swimming to young children and also provide them with the skill set to later on become a lifeguard."

Learn to Swim will be held at Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains, Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers, Tibbets Brook Pool in Yonkers and Willson's Woods Pool in Mt. Vernon. For additional questions call (914) 231-4556.

## During Women's History Month, Latimer Announces Key New Hires & Promotions



County Executive George Latimer, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, with Bianca Lopez, Karen Pasquale and Janice Duarte

During this month long recognition of Women's History & Achievements, County Executive George Latimer is proud to announce key new hires and promotions within Westchester County Government. Bianca Lopez has been promoted to Deputy Planning Commissioner, Karen Pasquale has been added as Assistant Director of Operations and Janice Duarte will take a role as a program coordinator in the Department of Finance.

Latimer said: "These promotions and hires will add to an already winning team here in Westchester, who serve the residents of this County with heart and distinction every single day. We know we are charged with being good stewards of this Government – and with this group of public servants – we are working hard to fulfill that mission."

Lopez previously served as Assistant Director of Operations for Westchester County responsible for oversight of all county housing-related programs, overseeing the recommendations and implementation of policies from the Police Reform & Reimagining Task Force across all County departments and worked with the Probation Department on Raise the Age implementation. Her new role will take on the responsibilities of assisting in the direction and administration of all planning programs and policies for the County.

Lopez said: "It is an honor to be appointed Deputy Commissioner of Planning for Westchester County. This is a department that plays a critical role in improving the quality of life and environment of Westchester County. Working alongside Commissioner Drummond and her outstanding staff is a privilege and I am excited to be a part of this team."

Pasquale has worked in state, county, and municipal government for over 25 years. During that time, she has focused on advancing strategic and operational needs and transforming issues into actionable initiatives. She has built long-term, collaborative partnerships and believes in the power of government as a positive force in people's lives. Her new role as a member of the Operations team will include a focus on the Departments of Correction, Probation, Emergency Services, Taxi & Limo Commission, Human Rights Commission, Consumer Protection and the County's police reform & reimagining task force.

Pasquale said: "I'm thrilled to take on this new role and to be part of the County Executive's team. I hope to put my experience and skills to good use and contribute positively to the team."

Duarte brings a blend of broad industry experiences in both the private and public sectors. She joins the County's Bureau of Purchase & Supplies after 4 years in city government where she legislated and implemented the first electronic bid process in Mount Vernon. Prior to public service, Janice worked for over 17 years managing various projects at small businesses and large corporations, ranging in roles in marketing, communications, project, and operations management.

Duarte said: "I'm excited to join the procurement team and support the County Executive's initiative to expand opportunities for Minority and Women-owned Businesses, as well as Disadvantaged Businesses. I look forward to leveraging my skills and work hard to support this important economic driver across the County."

**These new roles for Lopez, Pasquale and Duarte add to an already diverse County workforce both Countywide and in the County Executive's office**

## To the Editor,

The safest communities are those that have the most resources, not the highest jail populations. We need to protect bail reform and make immediate investments in high-quality, low-cost housing; excellent schools; good jobs; and full mental health services in communities that need it the most.

Pretrial detention—a practice that keeps people in jail before their day in court—is a racist system that destabilizes communities, separates families, and costs people their jobs and housing, while doing nothing to address the root causes of harm and violence.

Decades of disinvestment from Black and Brown communities has led to over-policed and under-resourced communities. Investment in these communities—from housing to public health to restorative justice programs—creates a safer world for all of us. Addressing these root causes of harm is racial justice and how we create safe and secure communities for everyone.

I am calling on [insert your legislators' names] and Governor Hochul to protect bail reform and invest \$1 billion in immediate resources to communities most affected by gun violence.

*Sincerely, Aminah Lucio, Mt. Vernon*

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## Obituary: Gilbert Rabin



On March 11, 2022, Judge Gilbert (Gil) Rabin passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family at his Yonkers home where he lived for more than 67 years. An exceptional man, sharp of mind, always generous with his time, expertise and attention, Gilbert always maintained a fundamental desire to be of real help to others. He worked tirelessly for fairness in the law and believed to his core that everyone deserved an equal chance at the promises our nation and our communities offer.

Judge Rabin was born in North Tarrytown, NY on June 10th, 1923 to Charles and Jeannette (Kalman) Rabin. He was a member of the 1941 graduating class of North Tarrytown High School. He attended City College before World War II began and answered his nation's call in 1943.

Gilbert served as a Sergeant in the Signal Corps as US forces leapfrogged across the Pacific for more than three years, completing his tour in Osaka, Japan. He was awarded the Philippines Liberation Ribbon and Asiatic Pacific Service Medal for distinguished service and later served as First Lieutenant, Judge Advocate General Department, Reserves.

During the war, Gilbert and his future wife, Zita Lorraine Segall, began their romance through V-Mail correspondence and, upon his return from service, Gilbert married Zita on June 18, 1950 and began a love affair which lasted more than 66 years.

Judge Rabin earned his Juris Doctor, LLB and LLM degrees, Cum Laude, from New York University in 1948 and served as Decisions Editor for the NYU Law Review. Upon graduation, he immediately began trying cases in NYC, working at the firm of Sidney O. Raefield, a decade at his own NYC firm, Rabin and Green, followed by establishing his own law practice in 1966 on McLean Avenue in Yonkers, NY.

"The Judge", as he became affectionately known by everyone, was elected as a City Justice in 1969 serving in that office for 12 years. In 1982, he was sworn in as a Yonkers City Court Judge. Unflinchingly diligent and fair-minded, he continually received endorsements from all political parties until his retirement as Chief Judge of the Yonkers City Court in 1993. His retirement was short lived when in 1993 he was appointed as a Judicial Hearing Officer in the Westchester County Supreme Court, an appointment which continued each year until 2019, when he retired from the bench. The Judge wore many hats but was best known for overseeing jury selection for Ninth Judicial District. Rabin's Rules for Jury Selection are used in courts around the State of New York and have widely become the model for the jury selection process. His daily speeches to groups of prospective jurors were poignant, profound, inspiring, and often humorous.

Gil was a longtime member of the NYS Bar Association, the Yonkers Lawyers Association, Westchester County Bar Association, and served as its Ethics Chair in the last decade. Gil received an honorary Doctor of Laws from Mercy College. He was admitted to practice before the US Supreme Court, Southern and Eastern Districts. Gil served on many committees and had many roles during his long career, including the Board of Immigration and Appeals, US Treasury Department; Committee of Law Reform, Bronx County Bar Association; Special Assistant Attorney General, Election Frauds Bureau; Special Referee, Supreme Court, State of New York; Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association; Pace University School of Law, Moot Court Judge; Faculty of Judicial Seminars in NYS. Early in his career, he worked tirelessly for the United Givers Fund, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and UJA, all in various capacities.

With his beloved wife, Zita, and lifelong friends Rochelle and Norman Kesler, Judge Rabin co-founded the charitable organization, CHEAR, Inc. (Children's Hearing Education and Research) to raise awareness for the hearing impaired and nerve deafness research. Their indefatigable efforts created the first NYS deaf relay service allowing hearing impaired individuals to communicate by telephone and contributed substantially to many other developments in deafness research.

Judge Rabin was a devoted member of the Lincoln Park Jewish Center Community in Yonkers. He served as President of the Synagogue and began an annual tradition of celebrating the legal profession at a Lawyer's Sabbath, shining a proud light on how Lawyers and Judges of all faiths contribute to our Westchester community.

Gil loved going to Yankee Games with his children and grandchildren, and he was honored as the "Veteran of the Game" by both the Yankees and Mets in recent years. He was always in the audience cheering for his grandson, Abraham, watching him perform in school and community productions. Even nearing his 99th birthday, he could still beat Corey at Gin Rummy!

Judge Rabin is survived by his three adoring children, Dr. Jill M. Rabin (Barbara), Corey B. Rabin, Esq. (Nancy) and Marni Rabin-Marron (Thomas), their four grandchildren Erick Rabin, Casey Rabin-Feldman (Andrew), Aaron Rabin, and Abraham Marron, his loving nieces and nephews, as well as his sisters-in-law, Audrey Segall and Doris Rabin. Gil was predeceased by his wife, Zita in 2016. Our family is grateful for the angelic care provided to him by his caregivers in recent months, with special thanks to Joan Parris who was with him since Zita's passing.

We are saddened by our loss but are grateful for all of the gifts Gil provided to us—his wisdom, support, perspective, insight and love. For now there are tears, later there will be fond remembering. May his memory be for a blessing.

Funeral Services were held at Riverside Memorial Chapel, 21 W. Broad Street, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10552 on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 9:30 am. Interment will follow at Temple Israel Cemetery in Hastings on Hudson, NY. Shiva will be observed at the Rabin home in Yonkers, NY. Family members wish to thank all their good friends for their loving expressions of sympathy. If you would like to make a gift in Judge Rabin's memory and in lieu of flowers, please direct donations to UJA Federation of New York, 6900 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 302, Syosset, NY 11791, ujafedny.org.

## Westchester County Golf Courses Now Open



Spring arrives early for Westchester golfers, as the six Westchester County-owned golf courses open for the season on Monday, March 14, weather and conditions permitting.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "Over the past two years, Westchester County's Golf Courses have been so popular, they've seen the highest attendance in over 20 years. It's time to break out your golf clubs and have some fun on the best public courses around. I encourage you to come on out and enjoy the beauty of our well-manicured Westchester County Golf Courses."

Tee time reservations may be made at [golf.westchestergov.com](http://golf.westchestergov.com) or by phoning the individual courses. Walk-up reservations will also be accepted. The courses are Hudson Hills in Ossining, Maple Moor in White Plains, Mohansic in Yorktown Heights; Saxon Woods in Scarsdale; and Dunwoodie and Sprain Lake, both in Yonkers. All of the courses have onsite restaurants, halfway houses and full-service pro shops. Driving ranges are available at Dunwoodie, Mohansic, Saxon Woods and Sprain Lake.

Any available E-Z Reserve spots will be sold at the courses. E-Z Reserve enables golfers with a Westchester County Park Pass to block out a regular Saturday or Sunday tee time for a period of 25 weeks. Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "Golfers of all ages and skill levels will enjoy playing on our beautiful fairways and greens."

For more information or to make a reservation visit [golf.westchestergov.com](http://golf.westchestergov.com).

## Fordham Offers Financial Benefits to Student Veterans Who Attend College in Westchester

U.S. military veterans seeking to further their education may be surprised to learn about the financial benefits of attending a Westchester-based college. The Veterans Benefits Administration's monthly housing allowance, or MHA, is higher for students attending schools or campuses in Westchester County than in many parts of the region, such as the Bronx or Stamford, Conn. That has not always been the case, and Fordham University is seeking to raise awareness about the increased stipend and how student veterans can take advantage of the benefits.

"Veterans don't always understand how their education benefits work, and we want to help them maximize their benefits," said Matt Butler, MSgt. USMC (Ret.), Director of Military and Veterans' Services at Fordham University. "Most students using the GI Bill receive a monthly housing stipend, which is tied to the zip code of the school they are attending, not their home zip code. The MHA for a Westchester-based university has gone up considerably, so Fordham's Westchester campus is now a much more attractive option for veterans who are coming in under the Yellow Ribbon benefit."

Fordham's Yellow Ribbon program covers 100 percent of the tuition and fees for eligible veterans. The Department of Defense calculates a basic housing allowance for eligible veterans and service members. The national average is \$1,833 per month, but for Westchester the stipend is approximately \$3,321 – so a student could live in a more affordable area outside of the county and receive the higher payment by commuting to a Westchester campus. By comparison, if that student were to attend school in the Stamford area, for example, the payment would be around \$2,727.

In addition to the Yellow Ribbon program, Fordham University offers a number of services to assist student veterans. The Office of Military and Veterans' Services works with individuals transitioning from the military to pursue higher education and become working professionals.

Fordham is an approved Yellow Ribbon Program University, which guarantees that all tuition and fees are fully covered for admitted veterans who are classified in the VA's maximum benefit category of eligibility. Fordham is one of the top-ranked military-inclusive colleges in New York City and is listed in the top ranks of other leading national publications for military and veterans. It is one of only five universities in New York State to be included in the "Keys to Veterans Success" listing by the U.S. Department of Education. For information, visit [www.fordham.edu/info](http://www.fordham.edu/info).

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*Eric Schoen, continued from pg. 3-*

My Friend Congressman Bowman

I read on our informative website, [yonkerstimes.com](http://yonkerstimes.com) that Congressman Jamaal Bowman, a man I have sharply criticized in this newspaper more than any other politician was having a Town Hall Forum at Mt. St. Vincent College with the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. It said nothing about registering in advance or press information, so I just showed up early.

Despite the fact that I was not on the official list his kind and sharply dressed aide saw me, said we know who you are and brought me into the press area easily filled with 50-75 journalists including cameramen with their video equipment, photographers with their long lenses, and reporters with computers and phone cameras. I took a seat at the head of several long banquet tables.

The Congressman walks in, says hello to the journalists, introduces one of his students from the day he was a Principal, sees me from afar, says, 'Eric Schoen' and embraces me like a long lost brother telling me he was so glad to meet me. He didn't remember that I met him at a fundraiser, he was standing by himself, I introduced myself to him, he told me he was running against my long time friend Eliot Engel, and I didn't laugh out loud but indicated my amusement at his choice of office to run for.

As they say, the rest is history. I would have liked to have seen a Town Hall Forum with the intelligent Mount St. Vincent students asking him unfiltered questions, but that was not the case. Aides brought questions to the Congressman and Speaker on topics from the economy to Ukraine, everything sort of pre planned or orchestrated. Those in attendance had apparently been vetted. A forum with diverse questions from students. That's what I expected.

My colleague David Propper from the Journal News asked Speaker Pelosi the question sitting on the tip of my tongue. He said many people in the Westchester and Bronx district that Congressman Bowman represents were unhappy with his vote against the Infrastructure Bill, a bill that would fix our pothole laden roads, crumbling bridges and infrastructure falling apart like Humpty Dumpty falling down over the wall. She said clearly she too was unhappy with his vote against the infrastructure bill. That was music to my ears, very sad music indeed.

Not many Yonkersites were at the event. Legislator Chris Johnson and his lovely guest, Councilperson Shanae Williams, former Councilpersons Symra Brandon and Robert Stauf were present as was a close supporter of the Congressman, activist Eileen O'Connor. Our Mount Vernon Neighbor and friend Ruth Hassell Thompson was also introduced. Mayor Spano, the guardian of Yonkers was not there. Unfortunately. Apparently at a recent event the Congressman would not shake Mayor Spano's hand, I truly hope Jamaal gets over the Spano is racist thing!

So what does this mean. Am I changing my opinion on the Congressman. No. Do I feel he should be elected in his new District? No. Did his vote against the Infrastructure Bill take away good Union jobs from black, brown and white people. Yes it did. But his warm welcome and kind staff certainly showed a different side of him than I expected, and it was refreshing!

In conclusion, ROB ASTORINO take down those campaign signs which are illegal and on public property and are sign pollution Yonkersites and Westchesterites don't want to see!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoisonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show alternating Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, WVOX.com click listen or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Gelpdawg Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Will On Wheels Transport Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 02/18/2022 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Will on Wheels Transport Services LLC, 519 Locust Street 1B Mount Vernon, NY 10552 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Aiyana's Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1339572, for Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 188 Waverly Street, Yonkers, NY 10701, NY, Westchester County, for on-premises consumption. JESMYR CORP. d/b/a EL CALVARIO COCINA MEXICANA

Notice of formation of JGS Notary Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O JGS Notary Services LLC , 588 Warburton Apt 2 Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/6/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC , 125 Dunwoodie Street Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice is hereby given that a license , # pending has been applied for by Dazzles Restaurant & Lounge, Inc to sell liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 130 132 S. 4th Ave. Mt Vernon NY for on premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of HSKickz Company LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/09/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Bainton Street, Yonkers, New York 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of BARK BARK BROTHAS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State (SSNY) on 02/09/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50 Riverdale Avenue, 2H, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Molcan Management LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/9/2021. 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, 34 Wickes Ave Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

March 17, 2022

City of Yonkers  
87 Nepperhan Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
Telephone: (914) 377-6000

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Yonkers (the "City") and/or the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (Authority).

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about April 11, 2022 the City will authorize the Authority to submit a request to HUD for the release of HOME Investment Partnership Funds and Section 8 Project Based Vouchers. The request will provide for the construction and operation of 60 senior rental units with HOME funds in the amount of \$650,000 and of 60 Project Based Section 8 Vouchers.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City has determined that the proposed redevelopment will have no will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1963 ("NEPA") is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record ("ERR") on file at the City of Yonkers at 87 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701 where the ERR may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Yonkers responsible for receiving and responding to comments. All comments received by April 12, 2022 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City certifies to HUD that Mike Spano in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Yonkers consents and accepts the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Authority to use Program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR, Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed via e-mail to: [NYPHDirector@hud.gov](mailto:NYPHDirector@hud.gov). Objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Mike Spano, Mayor  
City of Yonkers  
87 Nepperhan Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10701

Notice of formation of Love Jones 360 Experience LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 9/23/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Love Jones 360 Experience LLC , 41 Ridgeview Terrace Elmsford, NY 10523 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## Classifieds

Attorney

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

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Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-905-4755

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COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

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DISTRICT OPENINGS - Monticello Central School Elementary Teacher Leave Replacement Positions through June 2022 Elementary Math/Science Teacher (MS) NYS Certification Required Please apply online by Mar 22nd at <https://monticelloschools.tedk12.com/hire> EOE

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BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

*Mow and Blow, continued from pg. 2-*

properties to achieve this fleeting, sterile aesthetic?"

**Why the Concern Over Leaf-Blowers**

Perhaps the most obvious reason for concern over leaf-blowers is the noise they generate. McDonald explained that the noise from gasoline-powered leaf blowers is decibels higher than the CDC limit for adverse effects and over time can damage hearing. She shared that studies have shown that "environmental noise has become the new second-hand smoke linked to heart disease, hypertension and immune system suppression," resulting in a number of health organizations - including the World Health Organization, the EPA, and the CDC - speaking up against the noise produced by gas-powered leaf blowers.

Beyond the noise pollution, McDonald cautioned that there are other very serious effects stemming from the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. She shared they "produce more harmful greenhouse gas emissions than large cars." In fact, she noted that "the pollution from just one hour of gas-powered leaf blower use is equivalent to driving 1100 miles in an average car" and that "they also produce large amounts of carbon monoxide and ozone-forming chemicals that contribute to smog and are highly toxic to our lungs."

Furthermore, McDonald says that leaf blowers are particularly damaging to yard care crews because they work in close proximity to the noise, exhaust and airborne debris all day. Without the leaf blower ban, "We are asking crews to sacrifice their long-term health to perform an unnecessary service for which there are safer tools and equipment."

**Community Response**

What are communities doing in response to the overwhelming evidence about the damaging effects of leaf blowers? According to McDonald, a growing number of communities nation-wide are restricting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and other lawn equipment. The Village of Larchmont has outlawed gas-powered leaf blowers entirely, and electric blowers can only be used for spring and fall cleanups for the month of April and from October 15th to December 15th. The Town of Mamaroneck has banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers from June 1 to September 30. The Village of Mamaroneck has a ban on all blowers (gas and electric) from May 15 to September 30.

**Resources:** In closing, the panelists provided links to learn more about healthy, sustainable yard care practices:

Websites:

Larchmont-Mamaroneck Healthy Yards Program: [www.lmhealthyyards.org/](http://www.lmhealthyyards.org/)  
 Village of Larchmont: [villageoflarchmont.org/sustainable-leaf-maintenance/](http://villageoflarchmont.org/sustainable-leaf-maintenance/)  
 Larchmont Pollinator Pathways [larchmont-mamaroneckpollinatorpathway.org](http://larchmont-mamaroneckpollinatorpathway.org)  
 Long Island Sound Study: Sound Gardening: <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/get-involved/what-you-can-do/around-your-backyard/sound-gardening/>

Questions?

Email: Town of Mamaroneck: [sodierna@townofmamaroneckny.org](mailto:sodierna@townofmamaroneckny.org)  
 Village of Larchmont: [volenvironmentalcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:volenvironmentalcommittee@gmail.com)

*Marijuana Licenses, continued from pg. 1-*

Adam Perry, Cannabis Control Board Member said, "Shaping the New York cannabis industry and putting social equity entrepreneurs at the forefront is a historic opportunity to address the harm caused by cannabis prohibition and fully implement the goals of New York's Cannabis Law. This is the right start for the industry and I look forward to continuing to work with our team to support all license types to ensure we're not only delivering licenses to social equity entrepreneurs, but also setting them up for success over the long-haul."

Senator Liz Krueger said, "The initiatives announced by the Governor today will help to ensure that the equity and justice goals of the MRTA will be met, and that New York farmers and small businesses will serve as the foundation of the legal cannabis market. The MRTA was designed not only to end the failed war on drugs in New York, but specifically to take positive action to help rebuild those communities that were most harmed by prohibition. Offering the first retail licenses to people who have been convicted of marijuana-related offenses is a big step in the right direction, and will set the marketplace on a path where social equity applicants can compete successfully."

The Seeding Opportunity Initiative provides a Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary License to eligible equity-entrepreneur applicants, putting them at the front-end of the adult-use market. This first-round, equity-licensing opportunity will be supported with renovated or renovation-ready retail locations and wraparound services with dispensaries sited in high-traffic areas.

Applications for these priority licenses will open in the Summer of 2022. The first licenses are expected to be distributed by late summer or early fall 2022. This positions equity-entrepreneur-owned dispensaries to make the first adult-use cannabis sales in New York State by the end of 2022, while speeding the delivery of investments into communities across the state that were most impacted by the disproportionate enforcement of cannabis prohibition.

Under the proposed regulations, to be eligible for this initial license, applicants must:

Have a cannabis-related offense that occurred prior to the passage of the Marijuana Regulation and Tax Act (MRTA) on March 31, 2021, or had a parent, guardian, child, spouse, or dependent with a pre-MRTA cannabis offense in the State of New York.

Have experience owning and operating a qualifying business in the State of New York.

The New York Social Equity Cannabis Investment Program: Governor Hochul proposed this \$200 million program in her FY 2023 Executive Budget, the nation's first to make funding available for equity entrepreneurs at the forefront of the adult-use cannabis market. Under the proposal, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) would provide support with its leasing and construction services to site dispensaries at prime locations and renovate them to meet health, safety, and security requirements. The proposal remains under discussion with the Legislature.


Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) Executive Director Chris Alexander held a press conference on March 10 to discuss the initiative, adding that the state was looking for people with small business experience, who were arrested for small amounts of marijuana, and because of that arrest had either their education aid denied, or had job or other opportunity taken away. Applications must be owned by equity-entrepreneurs with a prior cannabis-related criminal offense who also have a background owning and operating a small business. They will be the first to open and make sales in New York State,

Drug related convictions must have occurred before March 31, 2021. The approval of a license can also include family members of an applicant who was convicted of a marijuana-related offense, or those who have a parent, guardian, child, spouse, or dependent with a pot conviction.

Non-profits can also qualify for a license if they can prove that they "serve justice involved individuals and communities with historically high rates of arrest, conviction, incarceration or other indicators of law enforcement activity for [marijuana]-related offenses;" have an established track-record of creating jobs for returned convicts; and if they employ "justice involved" New Yorkers on their boards or in their executive leadership.

Republicans in Albany opposed the plan, and especially the \$200 Million in seed money proposed by the Governor. Republican State Senate Minority Leader Rob Ort said this plan "hands out hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars to those who have broken the law."

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*Suozzi for Governor, continued from pg. 1-*

"We need to make changes to bail reform," said Suozzi, who agreed with County Executive George Latimer and other democrats that "crime is down in the suburbs and here in Westchester," but added "crime is bad in New York City."

Suozzi has released a 15-point plan to fix bail reform that includes giving judges the discretion to take violent and repeat offenders off the street, and to remove any DA that refuses to enforce the law. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg has refused to prosecute certain criminal cases. Suozzi said that "it's not up to the DA to determine what laws to enforce. If you want to change the law, then run for Assembly."

Last year, Suozzi endorsed NYC Mayor Eric Adams and was offered the job of Deputy Mayor of NYC after his election. "I support his (Adams) positions on bail reform and reducing crime in New York City. We have to hold people accountable; they can't get arrested and re-arrested."

Suozzi also recognized that homelessness and mental illness has become a large piece of the crime problem in New York City. 83% of New Yorkers said that homelessness is a serious problem. "75% of our prison population has a mental health or drug and alcohol problem. We have to give people the power to take someone off the streets, who is a danger to themselves and others, and get them health care and housing," said Suozzi.

Suozzi is talking about another issue that you seldom hear from today's progressive New York Democratic Party: property taxes. Suozzi represents and lives on Long Island, which together with Westchester County pays among the highest property taxes in the United States.

One of Suozzi key issues while serving as a member of Congress, was to repeal the \$10,000 SALT (State and Local Taxes) tax cap imposed under former President Donald Trump. Suozzi pushed for its repeal and got it passed in the House, but it died in the Senate, so no changes have been made.

Another way in which Suozzi is a different type of Democrat, is how he believes that many of the problems in New York State can be resolved with good management, and without the need for more taxes and spending. "Our state government is poorly managed, and we already spend so much. I'm running for Governor because of property taxes. 300,000 people left New York State last year, and taxes and crime are the reasons why they are leaving. I want to bring common sense, and my experience to get things done, to Albany. I know how to run a government."

Suozzi also acknowledged that education in the suburbs is uneven. "Some school districts in Nassau and Westcheter county are great, while others are struggling. We need to help those schools that are underperforming."

A proud, lifetime democrat, Suozzi touts his environmental record. "95% of our existing green spaces should stay as they are, and any new development should be close to train stations. But we can't have our utility rates go through the roofs. We need common sense."

At the White Plains Diner event, which was well attended by more than 100 people, Suozzi called for an immediate repeal of the gas tax in New York State, to help New Yorkers keep their gas tanks full, with a current price of \$4.50 a gallon and rising.

Suozzi stood on a chair to speak to the crowd saying, "We need 600,000 democrats to vote for us on primary day, and we are going to do it."

According to the polls, Suozzi's campaign for Governor has not yet picked up any steam. He sits at 9% in most polls, with Governor Hochul at 41%, and NYC public advocate Jumaane Williams at 13%. Even disgraced former Governor Andrew Cuomo sits ahead of Suozzi in the polls.

But his campaign team says to give it time. The TV ads are now running, criticizing Governor Hochul for her refusal to make changes to bail reform and attempt to tie her to a vote while in Congress to weaken gun laws. Suozzi is well funded, with \$5 Million in his campaign coffer and he continues to raise money in the suburbs.

Suozzi is running with Lt. Governor candidate Diana Reyna, a former New York City Council member and ex-deputy Brooklyn borough president. Reyna was the first Dominican American woman elected to public office in New York State.

John Zogby, Founder and Senior Partner, Zogby Strategies said, "While Governor Hochul is posting impressive numbers and the GOP candidates may draw blood before their primary, New Yorkers are in a sour mood this year. No lead is in the bag."

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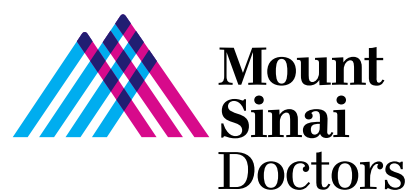
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