

# Westchester Rising

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Friday October 13, 2023

## DA Charges Former New Rochelle Cop with Stealing \$24K from Non-Profit He Founded



Christopher Greco

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced last week that a co-founder of Christopher's Voice, Inc., a New Rochelle-based charity for autistic children, has been arraigned on a felony charge of stealing approximately \$24,000 from the not-for-profit organization and spending the money for his own personal purposes.

The defendant, Christopher Greco, 52 of New Rochelle, a 25-year veteran of the New Rochelle Police Department who retired in August 2021, was arrested on Sept. 21 by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, charged with

*continued on pg 7-*

## Victoria McEnroe, Bronxville High School Named Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the Week.



By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Victoria McEnroe, a Senior at Bronxville High School, for being named Con Edison's Student-Athlete of the week. Victoria won the 2022 New York State Tennis Championship and is the top seed going into the Section One tournament. She is the highest ranked tennis player in the state.

This season, Victoria continues to beat top opponents, including a recent match against the #1 at Horace Greeley High School. Overall, this year she is undefeated, allowing only 8 games in a total of 16 sets, and since the fall of 2022, Victoria has lost just one match.

*continued on pg 7-*

## Where will Westchester's First Legal Marijuana Store Be?



proposed location of Yonkers marijuana dispensary at 948 Yonkers Avenue

By Dan Murphy

The NYS Office of Cannabis Management, OCM, has released a notice of application by Nucleus Dispensary Inc. to open a Cannabis Dispensary at 748 Yonkers Avenue. OCM recently sent a notice a notification of adult-use retail dispensary license application to the City.

While the final application and approval to open has not yet been granted, the applicant does have a OCM CAURD license, which permits the application to legally sell marijuana and marijuana based products, Lic #- 2022-000848. But the license does not include a location to open and sell. The address must be negotiated with the property owner, and board or council must review the application before and work can begin to open.

This would be the first Marijuana dispensary in Westchester County. Other applications are moving forward in Mount Vernon and Peekskill.

*continued on pg 7-*

## Westchester Stands with Israel: Bowman Condemns DSA Support of Terror



By Dan Murphy

The rule of thumb for politicians regarding a wrongdoing or story that they want to see go away is simple; just wait for the next news item to occupy the minds of the American people.

Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman's fake fire alarm stunts at the Capitol in Washington DC two weeks ago has been taken off the front pages of most papers and isn't discussed anymore on Cable TV. First, it was replaced by the removal of Kevin McCarthy as House Speaker, with Bowman voting to remove and Westchester's other Congressman, Mike Lawler voting to keep McCarthy, who was voted out.

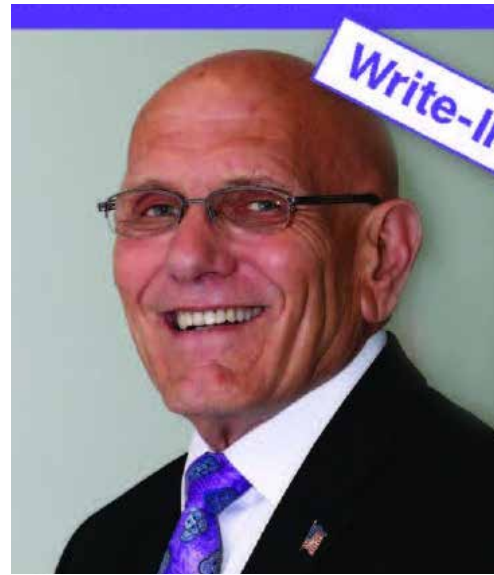
And last weekend, the terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas has now rightfully gained out country's outrage and attention, with Americans killed and taken hostage.

Some of the outrage in the US has turned on those elected officials and protestors who explained the killing of innocent men, women and children as a result of "U.S. government support for Israeli military occupation and apartheid."

The Democratic Socialists of America, DSC, drew the most criticism in New York when they joined a pro-Palestinian rally in Times Square one day after the attack. More than 1,000 chanted "Resistance is justified when people are occupied," and some stomped on and burned the Israeli flag. The worst visual was one pro-Palestinian protestor who held up a Swastika on their phone.

*continued on pg 7-*

## Can a Write in Candidate Win in Westchester? Former Mayor Belmont Will Try in Harrison



Top left; former Mayor Ron Belmont, Above Mayor Rich Dionisio; Bottom left democratic mayoral candidate Mark Jaffe

By Dan Murphy

Winning an election as a write in candidate has always been a long shot endeavor. It is difficult for voters to understand and then actually write-in a candidate.

In Harrison, former Mayor Ron Belmont is attempting to regain his old post, where he served from 2011-2020. Belmont, a Republican, is running a write in campaign and will challenge a fellow republican, incumbent Mayor Rich Dionisio, with Mark Jaffe is the democratic candidate for Mayor-Supervisor. Belmont made the announcement last week, writing "I am answering the call to run again. And I am entering the race with the groundswell of support from all over the town get the great town of Harrison back on track and moving in the right direction."

In addition to his service as Mayor-Supervisor, Belmont served as Harrison Superintendent of Recreation for 37 years. Belmont reminded voters of his achievements as Supervisor, including spearheading the acquisition of the former Willow Ridge County Club now Harrison Meadows, open to all town residents, and that all of Belmont's Town-Village budgets were under the tax cap.

"I hear growing dissatisfaction from residents young and old, democrat and republican. That is a compelling reason for me to get into this race-to end the

*continued on pg 7-*



## Target Closes in Harlem, Opens in Yonkers



By Dan Murphy

The news that Target is closing its Harlem NYC location on October 21 coincides with the opening of their Yonkers Super Store the following day. Target, the American retail corporation, announced a total of 9, of its 1,948 stores would close because of theft and crime at each location.

“We know that our stores serve an important role in their communities, but we can only be successful if the working and shopping environment is safe for all,” Target said in a statement.

But shoppers in Yonkers are welcoming the opening of Target at the Cross County Mall, on Oct. 22. The opening, at the former Sears location, gives the Cross County another important anchor tenant.

The 132,000-square-foot store is one of Target's largest stores, and the 40-lease agreement shows their commitment made to Yonkers “the first Target in Yonkers, will bring an “easy, affordable and convenient shopping experience” to the city, a spokesperson said, adding “In the coming weeks, Target will share details about how the shopping experience at its new store will be tailored to serve local guests.”

“Yonkers has hit the mark with Target’s plan for a new store at Cross County Center, their first ever in Yonkers,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said. “We are excited to get Yonkers back in business.”

“People feel safe in Yonkers, and businesses feel safe in Yonkers. It is good to see that Target has confidence in coming to Yonkers,” said Councilman Mike Breen.

Target has Westchester locations in Mount Kisco, White Plains and Mount Vernon.

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## The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze Returns to Westchester



photo by Tom Nycz

Celebrate the fall season with some of New York’s top-rated Halloween experiences, including two activations of The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze® and a full roster of Legend of Sleepy Hollow-themed events.

Blaze: Hudson Valley returns to its location at Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson for the 19th year and Blaze: On the grounds of Washington Irving’s Sunnyside in Tarrytown, visitors can enjoy two special celebrations of the author’s most famous work: Home of the ‘Legend,’ during the day and dramatic evening performances of Irving’s ‘Legend.’ A brand-new event will come to Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow this season, The Spirits of Sleepy Hollow Country: A Night of Legendary Magic, where visitors will be astounded by master illusionists communicating with legends thought long departed.

Both Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze® experiences are bigger and better than ever and feature thousands of hand-carved jack o’lanterns lit up in elaborate displays throughout historic landscapes. Blaze: Hudson Valley will run for 54 nights from September 15 through November 19. Blaze: Long Island will run for 30 nights from September 22 through November 5. New displays at Blaze: Hudson Valley include the country’s first-ever pumpkin Ferris wheel, a circus sideshow, and a jack o’lantern tribute to the Day of the Dead. At Blaze: Long Island, visitors will go under the sea with a giant pumpkin-octopus, meet the mythical Montauk mermaid, and get to know our friendly Pumpkin Pals. Both locations feature immersive experiences, an all-original soundtrack, theatrical lighting, and special effects.

Sleepy Hollow will get a little bit spookier with a new event at Philipsburg Manor, The Spirits of Sleepy Hollow Country: A Night of Legendary Magic, featuring Mark Clearview and Nick Wallace, both professional magicians. These master illusionists will take visitors on a supernatural journey, conjuring the spirits of Sleepy Hollow lore, including Hulda, Major Andre, and the Headless Horseman, for a night of mystery and fun. The event takes place in the Dutch barn on the 18th-century property.

These events have limited capacity and sell out. All admissions are by advance purchase only. Blaze: Hudson Valley dates are October 1-31; November: 1-5, 8-12, 17-19. Online tickets start at \$32 for adults and \$24 for children. For more information visit [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org) or by calling 914-366-6900.

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The unprecedented renaissance underway in the City of Yonkers is now premiering a spectacular new sequel! Yonkers is Hollywood on Hudson, home to the new 1 million square foot Lionsgate Studios complex, the largest modern film and TV production facility on the East Coast. Located along the beautiful Hudson River, this state-of-the-art media center will help complete the transformation of the Yonkers waterfront with local businesses benefitting from the expected 1000+ people working at the studio complex. And with the rapid growth in streaming media, other major film and TV studios are now eyeing Yonkers which offers one of the most easily accessible locations in the New York Metro area.

[HollywoodOnHudson.org](http://HollywoodOnHudson.org)

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## Westchester County Launches Connect Westchester: A New Digital Literacy Initiative

The Largest Dedicated County-Wide Program in NYS to Strategically Bridge Digital Divide

Connect Westchester is Westchester County’s Office of Economic Development’s new initiative to bridge the digital divide through providing essential digital resources, education and affordable internet access to low-income residents. This new program will utilize partnerships with the STEM Alliance, The Westchester County Association, and the Westchester Library System to help all members of our community make a significant step towards achieving digital equity.

County Executive George Latimer said: “For a thriving community, digital literacy and internet access are not just luxuries; they are necessities. From online banking, to job applications, healthcare enrollment, and educational pursuits – those who lack access to the internet are at a disadvantage. Connect Westchester is a continuation of our efforts to level the playing field and increase equity for all.”

Senator Schumer said: “Hats off to Westchester County for taking Connect Westchester to the next level and further closing the digital divide. Affordable high-speed internet access is a necessity, not a luxury, and is essential for everything from work to school to healthcare, which is why I was proud to deliver the federal funding that seeded efforts in the Hudson Valley to close the digital divide.” Schumer added, “I am proud to have delivered federal funding to boost equitable broadband accessibility in Westchester County, and strongly support this county initiative to get closer to providing top notch broadband access to all communities.”

Westchester County Legislator and Chairman Vedat Gashi said: “In our interconnected world, access to information and education should be a right, not a privilege. The County Board of Legislators is proud to support this initiative and help bridge the digital divide.”

Westchester County Office of Economic Development Director Bridget Gibbons said: “A digitally skilled workforce is a necessary foundation for a thriving economy. We are laser-focused on ensuring Westchester is a place where everyone has the opportunity to find success and that no one is left behind.”

The STEM Alliance’s President, Margaret Käufer said: “Westchester County’s financial and programmatic commitment to this work is notable as one of the only Counties in the state creating a dedicated initiative to attend to the digital divide problem that became so apparent during the pandemic.”

For more details about Connect Westchester and its objectives to increase access to internet, computers and tech training and education, visit: <https://thestemalliance.org/connect-westchester.html>.

## Bar Associations Judicial Ratings for State Supreme Court Show Democrats Well Qualified

The Westchester County Bar Association and Dutchess County Bar Association recently released their rankings for the 4 democratic and 4 republican candidates for State Supreme Court in the 9th Judicial District.

The Westchester County Bar Association gave three democratic candidates, Judge Charley Wood, Judge Fran Connolly and Judge Rolf Thorsen an Exceptionally Well Qualified ranking.

Judge Larry Schwartz got a well qualified rating, as did two republican candidates for State Supreme Court; John Sarcone and Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia.

Republican judicial candidate John Ciampoli received a qualified rating, and republican candidate Karen Ostberg received a not qualified based on her failure to appear for an interview.

The Dutchess County Bar Association also gave the eight judicial candidates their ratings, with Highly Qualified the highest.

6 candidates were screened for position of Justice of the Supreme Court: Hon. Charley Wood was found to be highly qualified.

Hon. Francesca Connolly was found to be highly qualified.

John Sarcone, Esq. was found to be qualified.

Hon. Larry Schwartz was found to be well qualified.

Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia was found to be well qualified.

Hon. Rolf Thorsen was found to be well qualified.

One member of the legal community commented, “it is important to review the ratings from the local bar associations, who take into account the candidates ability to serve as an impartial Judge, with no political motives. In addition to Westchester and Dutchess, look for more ratings to come before Election Day Nov. 7. Qualifications Matter.”

## Israel and Kennedy



By Eric Wolf Schoen

What’s Going on on Israel?

It started on Saturday morning. Hamas began an assault on Israel firing thousands of rockets. This followed a surprise attack by the Palestinian militant group based in Gaza that included taking civilian hostages at a music festival. 260 bodies were recovered.

The last time anything like this occurred was in 1973 during Yom Kippur. This time the attacks were occurring during Simchat Torah, a Jewish holiday that marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle.

Hamas said the attack is retribution for ongoing attacks on women, desecration of Al-Aqua mosque in Jerusalem, and the ongoing siege of Gaza.

At press time Reported numbers included 900 Israelis killed, 687 killed by retaliatory air strikes.

The Israel military called up 300,000 reserve units. This is a record number of reservists. Israel also asked the United States for more weapons.

The Israel defense minister ordered a complete siege of the Gaza Strip. The territory relies on Israel for food, water and electricity.

The Israeli military struck hundreds of targets in Gaza including mosque and refugee camps. Hamas threatened to execute a hostage each time an Israeli air strike hit a home in Gaza.

Both Republicans and Democrats condemned Hamas. Vladimir Putin’s response has been muted. At press time President Biden reiterated the United States support of Israel.

Democrat Socialist of America Congressman Jamaal Bowman who represents Yonkers and the Bronx refused to condemn the groups hate filled Pro-Palestinian rally in Manhattan on Sunday. At the rally the Israeli flag was burned and the event was filled with swastika images. Bowman’s lack of condemnation is disgraceful and out of line with his constituents who believe he should have condemned the rally.

Heightened security has been put in place in WESTCHESTER and throughout the metropolitan area. Jews in the United States going to and from synagogue or religious events have been told to stay aware of their surroundings

Where this is going to go nobody knows. Pray for the people of Israel that they be safe and secure during these trying times.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Is running for President on an Independent Line

The Democrat nominating convention for President in the ‘80’s. It took place at Madison Square Garden. It was a Tuesday night. The main speaker that night was Ted Kennedy. When it was his turn to speak I was at the concession stand getting a hot dog. I got the dog, mustard and sauerkraut. I was heading back to my seat when my mother who I brought to the convention screamed, ‘Eric sit down quickly. Ted Kennedy is getting ready to speak. ‘

And so I learned quickly Americas love of the Kennedy family. Mom was in her seat and began to cry when Kennedy started speaking. So did many other people in the auditorium. The Kennedy family has a special place in the heart of Americans.

So now, these many years later we have another Kennedy running for President. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

His father and uncles are rolling in their graves. Kennedy has decided to run as an Independent, not a Democrat for President in 2024. Hey wait. The Kennedy’s are Democrats. By running as an Independent he has taken up the banner of a populist movement that defies left-right division.

Kennedy has alienated his own family members by not running as a Democrat. His siblings denounce his candidacy and believe it to be perilous for our country. Democrats and Republicans are frightened by his Independent candidacy. What does Kennedy say to them? ‘My intention is to spoil the election for both parties.

Kennedy feels that the Democratic leadership has high jacked the party machine to stifle his potential challenge to Biden. The party, in his thinking has abandoned its principles and become corrupted.

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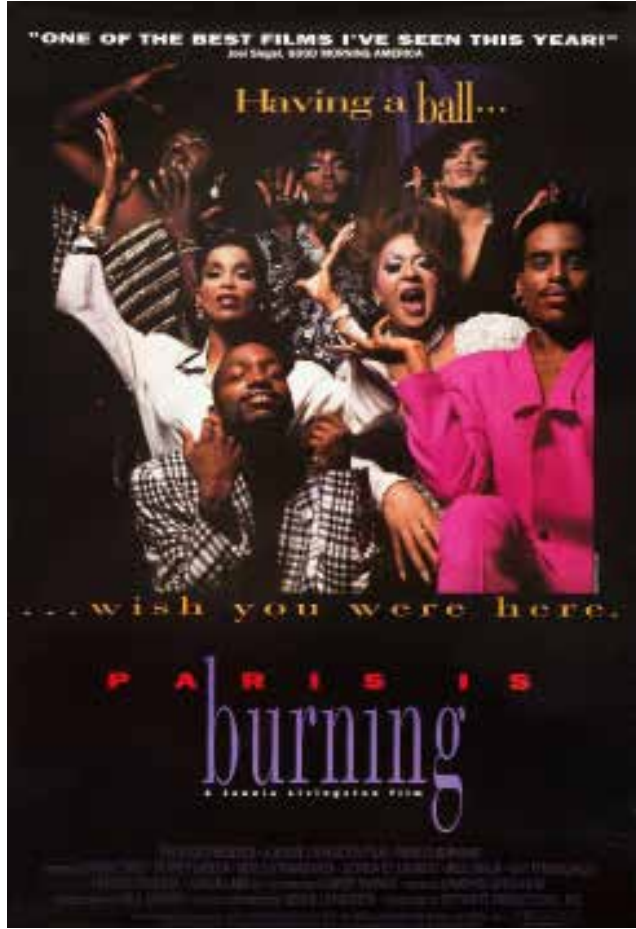
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# No Tea No Shade: October is LGBTQ+ History Month



the 1990 Movie Paris is Burning

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

The LGBTQ+ Community is celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month for the 29th time. The first LGBTQ+ History Month took place in 1994. Founded by Rodney Wilson, a high school teacher in Missouri, the month-long observance celebrates different factors of the community. Perhaps the two most important factors of this community are resilience and popularity. According to a Gallup poll, over 7% of Americans identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. That number has doubled in the past decade. With numbers creeping to 10%, the LGBTQ+ is here and is here to stay.

Today, many teenage boys could walk across their high school hallways holding their boyfriend's hand. Many girls could take their girlfriends to prom. Adults in the community could even get married now. When I was in high school, about a decade ago, the supreme court was yet to strike down all state bans on same-sex marriage. When I was in high school, we didn't have rappers like Santana and Lil Nas X. We had a few songs that meant something. Macklemore made a song called "Same Love" and Frank Ocean made a song called "Thinking Bout You." Macklemore's song has since garnered over a quarter billion views on YouTube.

As we identify LGBTQ+ History, it is imperative that we recognize our legends, statements, stars, and icons. One icon is Kevin JZ Prodigy. Prodigy, a vogue performer, and solidified ballroom commentator is from Philadelphia, PA. Kevin has been in the game for almost two decades and shows no signs of stopping. Beyonce's song "Pure/Honey" off her 2022 album Renaissance featured Prodigy. People across the world vogue to chants created by Prodigy- especially in New York. There's nothing like a nice warm, "bam-bam-sha-wam," to move the girls. Prodigy is an icon.

Ballroom culture itself is over 50 years old in New York. Popular slang terms have seeped out of the Ballroom scene and into mainstream media. "Messy," "Shade," "Giving," "Carry," and "Tea," are all popular words that even non-LGBTQ+ folk use today. Perhaps one of the most iconic visuals to come out of Ballroom is the 1990 American documentary film, Paris Is Burning. The documentary chronicles the Ballroom Scene in New York City.

Whether you support the LGBTQ+ Community or not, one thing is for sure, and two things are for certain. The Community has a history and it's important to know that history. Why? Because nothing happened today, just happened. It all took time and it all took folk before us to make it happen. Ancestors and Trancestors.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He has covered HBCUs periodically for six years at Yonkers Rising. Richmond lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @ NewYorkStakz.

# How the VET PFAS Act Could Help NY Veterans Injured by Toxic Exposure at Military Bases



By Jonathan Sharp, CFO, Environmental Litigation Group, P.C.

While the risks of military service are countless, from permanent hearing loss to serious combat injuries, a more insidious health threat is toxic exposure, which occurs at the vast majority of military bases nationwide. These installations are contaminated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS or "forever chemicals." Exposure to these harmful substances can result in numerous health problems, including kidney, prostate, and testicular cancer.

New York is home to 838,000 veterans and 19 military bases, including Camp Smith. Established in 1882 and located in Westchester County, the military base has a high PFAS level in its environment, specifically 80 parts per trillion, which exceeds the EPA's new safe exposure limit of 4 parts per trillion by 20 times. The source of "forever chemicals" at military facilities across the country is firefighters and trainees using AFFF, a fire suppressant that sometimes contains up to 98% PFAS.

Another site with known PFAS contamination in the county is Westchester County Airport, whose environment is polluted with 96 parts per trillion of these highly toxic chemicals, eclipsing the maximum permissible limit by 24 times. Today, the water supply of Yonkers contains seven contaminants of concern over the safe exposure limit, including chloroform, trichloroacetic acid, and bromodichloromethane. This means that other dangerous substances might have been used at Camp Smith during the last century, which ended up in the groundwater.

While PFAS exposure can also impact the health of residents living near military bases, veterans have to suffer the most as a consequence of toxic exposure, as they regularly came in contact with these chemicals during active duty. A recent study from Environmental Health Perspectives assessed the risk of developing testicular germ cell tumors in U.S. Air Force servicemen exposed to PFAS. The researchers found that elevated PFOS concentrations were positively associated with testicular cancer, including after adjustment for other PFAS.

Sadly, many veterans affected by PFAS exposure at military bases have a challenging time accessing the VA benefits they are entitled to. This is because the VA does not currently recognize the connection between "forever chemicals" exposure and the diseases it can cause. However, a sliver of hope for veterans whose health was compromised by toxic exposure could be the VET PFAS Act, which was introduced by Senator Debbie Stabenow on July 17, 2023. One of the goals of this bill is to establish a presumption of service connection for veterans who were stationed at military bases where PFAS exposure occurred.

Some of the diseases the VET PFAS Act would cover are kidney cancer, thyroid disease, ulcerative colitis, testicular cancer, and high cholesterol. Furthermore, the purpose of the bill is also to provide healthcare and medical services to veterans who lived at military bases where they were exposed to "forever chemicals." If the VET PFAS Act was signed into law, veterans injured by exposure to these dangerous chemicals would have a significantly easier time obtaining the VA healthcare and disability compensation they deserve for their often life-threatening illnesses, as the connection between toxic exposure and their health problems would finally be recognized.

Jonathan Sharp is Chief Financial Officer at Environmental Litigation Group, P.C. Headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, the law firm provides assistance to veterans injured by toxic exposure at military bases across the country. Jonathan Sharp is responsible for case evaluation, management of firm assets, and financial analysis

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## Attorney General James Stops Westchester Real Estate Company from Discriminating Against Low-Income Renters

Platzner International Group Denied Housing to New Yorkers with Section 8 Vouchers, Company to Set Aside 20 Units for Low-Income Renters, Pay \$105,000 in Damages

New York Attorney General Letitia James announced an agreement today with real estate company and property manager, Platzner International Group (PIG), its owners Merrick Platzner and Harrin Platzner, and their various properties for denying housing to low-income residents in Westchester County. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG), with assistance from the Housing Rights Initiative (HRI), found that PIG violated federal, state, and local fair housing laws by denying housing to low-income New Yorkers with Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers. As a result of an agreement with OAG and a separate settlement with Westchester Residential Opportunities (WRO), a local fair housing group who brought their own litigation against PIG for their discriminatory behavior, PIG must set aside 20 units in its portfolio for applicants using Section 8 vouchers or other housing subsidies. PIG must also waive broker fees for any prospective tenant using housing subsidies for the next five years and pay \$10,000 to HRI and \$95,000 to WRO in damages.

“Every New Yorker, regardless of their income, deserves a place to live,” said Attorney General James. “Denying housing opportunities to low-income New Yorkers simply because they have a housing voucher is not only illegal, it worsens our affordable housing crisis. This agreement will help ensure that renters are treated fairly and will make it clear to brokers and landlords that discrimination will not be tolerated in New York. I want to thank the Housing Rights Initiative and Westchester Residential Opportunities for their help with this investigation and their ongoing and dedicated work to fight housing discrimination in our communities.”

PIG and its related entities own more than 200 residential units across four multi-building complexes and are property managers for an additional 14 residential complexes primarily in Pelham Manor, New Rochelle, and Rye. In November 2021, OAG launched an investigation into PIG based on undercover testing done by HRI that revealed PIG had an explicit policy of refusing to rent units to Section 8 voucher holders in certain buildings. Apartment listings from PIG entities stated, “Sorry, NO section 8,” and a representative from HRI was told that PIG “does not take Section 8” at one of their buildings.

The OAG investigation also found that PIG asked illegal questions to prospective tenants on their rental applications, inquiring about potential tenant’s sex and marital status, a violation of New York’s Human Rights Law and federal fair housing law. In addition, the OAG investigation found that PIG claimed in their rental application that the application fee was as high as \$50, a violation of New York state law which mandates they do not exceed \$20.

As part of an agreement with OAG, PIG will pay \$10,000 for HRI’s damages and \$95,000 in damages to WRO in their litigation. PIG will also implement an antidiscrimination policy that conforms with federal, state, and local housing laws, and explicitly include in all rental listings that Section 8 vouchers will be accepted. They will also be required to set aside 20 units for tenants holding government housing subsidies like the Section 8 Housing Choice voucher. In addition, the Platzners, their staff, and partners will have to undergo mandatory training on relevant federal, state, and local fair housing laws and be subject to random compliance testing.

“We are pleased to be able to work with Attorney General James’ Office to fight discrimination against voucher holders who are denied equal access to housing opportunities solely because of their lawful source of income,” said Marlene Zarfes, Executive Director of Westchester Residential Opportunities. “Source of Income discrimination is widespread and targets the most vulnerable of our society. This settlement should remind housing providers of their equal housing obligations and help to increase housing opportunities for voucher holders as intended under state and county fair housing laws.”

“Attorney General Letitia James is looking out for all New Yorkers — and Westchester residents — by ensuring all have a fair shot when looking for a place to live. We are facing a housing crisis and increasing access to those in need is one step toward solving this longstanding challenge,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer.

“Housing opportunities influence where we work, where our children go to school, and what we are able to save for the future. No one should be excluded from those opportunities based on the source of their income,” said State Senator Shelley B. Mayer. “I thank Attorney General James for securing a meaningful agreement that will expand opportunities for Westchester residents and send an important message to realtors that New York will not tolerate housing discrimination of any kind.”

## WEEKEND EVENTS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS

SATURDAY, OCT. 14

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005  
Yoga at the Quarry with YogaSix: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Join staff from YogaSix and Cranberry Lake Preserve on a guided hike, followed by 30 minutes of yoga, meditation and breathing. Registration is required at (914) 428-1005.

Alfred B. DeIBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Animal Interactions: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Enter one of Muscote’s enclosures, where you will see, touch and learn more about one of our animals. Also: Nov. 11, Dec. 9.

Carve & Sip: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Sip some hot, homemade apple cider while learning new techniques and tools to carve designs into a pumpkin. Cider and a pumpkin are included in the ticket price. For adults and kids ages 14 and older.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466  
Birding: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Join us for this walk to find out which of our feathered friends are passing through the Conservancy on their way south. Led by Chris Mignone of Central Westchester Audubon.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050 Pumpkin Painting and Carving: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Drop in to this fun, fall pumpkin-themed event and celebrate the season! Kids of all ages can choose to paint or carve their own pumpkin to take home.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851  
Hawk Watch: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Hosted by the Hudson River Audubon Society. Meet behind the mansion at 10 a.m. and witness the amazing migration of some of our favorite hawks. Bring binoculars, snacks, drinks and a comfortable chair if you don’t want to sit at a wood picnic table. At 1 p.m., join us at the nature center for a live birds of prey show with master falconer James Eyring. Also: Oct. 21, 28.

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Join us for a fascinating dive into Westchester’s insects with the American Museum of Natural History’s consulting entomologist, Louis Sorkin, and amateur entomologist Wyatt Hoffman. We’ll start inside to look at (and touch!) some bugs and then walk around the Preserve on our own bug hunt. For all ages.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720 Fall Foliage: Change of the Guard: 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. As autumn gets into full swing, see how tree leaves and surrounding area change.

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005  
Cryptids for Kids: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. What goes bump in the night? Explore the legends of mythical creatures through stories while roasting marshmallows and creating cryptids of your own!

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050 Phyre Nation Concert Series: A Night of R&B: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Artists: Musiq Soulchild, J Holiday and Case.

SUNDAY, OCT. 15

Alfred B. DeIBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282 Farmers Market: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Features more than 20 local vendors each week; every Sunday until Nov. 19.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Woodlands Story Hour: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Join Patches the Wanderer, woodsman extraordinaire, who will share a story about one of Lasdon’s fuzziest friends, the rabbit. Free.

Mini Terrarium Workshop: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Learn how to create your own little ecosystem with this engaging hands-on workshop. Everything you need is here to bring your own mini garden to life.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Fall Flowers Arts and Crafts: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join us for botanical crafts. We will be making wildflower cardstock, which can be planted in the fall to create a spring garden.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Amazing World of Ants: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Learn how a colony is formed, from the queen to the workers, and watch a colony in action.

### Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-

Running as an Independent is an expensive, uphill battle. Particularly when you have a lot of baggage to carry. He has alienated his family by promotion of conspiracy theories. He has rejected science and embraced the far left.

His anti-vaccine sentiment, suspicion of the government handling of the coronavirus, criticisms of lockdown and vaccine policies and belief that people are weary of the pandemic are all issues voters will have to take a look at. He believes voters are declaring independence from adversaries such as Wall Street, Big Technology, Big Pharma, the military industrial complex, mercenary media, cynical elites and the entire rigged system.

Kennedy believes his support will come from disaffected voters all across the political spectrum including skeptical democrats and political conservatives. Then let’s not forget nostalgia for his political lineage. There are still people like my mom who when they hear the Kennedy bell pull it!

As for me, I think he will take away more Democrats than Republicans making it easier for Donald Trump to get a second term as President.

DON’T FORGET THIS IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH. MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW YOUR DOCTORS INSTRUCTIONS OR THOSE OF YOUR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@aol.com), follow him on Twitter (X) @ericyonkers or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

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Notice of Formation of RyPlunk LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 104 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Pro-Ductiv Exhaust System Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (09/04/2023). Location: (Westchester County). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: (70 Hillside Avenue Apt. 1R, Yonkers, NY 10703). Purpose: Any lawful purpose

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS–SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER – MCLP ASSET COMPANY, INC., Plaintiff, -against- JEROMIO B. EDWARDS A/K/A JEROMIO EDWARDS, IF HE BE LIVING AND IF HE BE DEAD, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS-ATLAW, NEXT-OF-KIN, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST AND GENERALLY ALL PERSONS AND PARTIES HAVING OR CLAIMING, UNDER, BY OR THROUGH JEROMIO B. EDWARDS A/K/A JEROMIO EDWARDS, BY PURCHASE, INHERITANCE, LIEN OR OTHERWISE, ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE PREMISES DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; VINCI FREELAND; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (SOUTHERN DISTRICT), Defendants - Index No. 69420/2022 Plaintiff Designates Westchester County as the Place of Trial. The Basis of Venue is that the subject premises is situated in Westchester County. To the above named Defendants–YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff’s attorneys within thirty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. That this Supplemental Summons is being filed pursuant to an order of the court dated July 26, 2023. NOTICE-YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME – If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MCLP ASSET COMPANY, INC) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Charles D. Wood, J.S.C. Dated: August 18, 2023 Filed: August 18, 2023. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage and covering the premises known as 322 S 3RD Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Dated and Filed: August 23, 2023 Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, Attorney for Plaintiff, By: Richard F. Komosinski, Esq. 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590 Elmsford, New York 10523 Tel: (914) 345-3020

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE RESIDENT CASE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS**

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) hereby solicits proposals from qualified firms and/or organizations to provide Case Management and Technical Assistance Services to the residents of the MHACY owned/and or managed eleven (11) housing sites as specified in this Request for Proposals (RFP).

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter “Responders”) and is available online starting October 17, 2023, at [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org).

The RFP questions deadline is October 31, 2023, at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to [bids@mhacy.org](mailto:bids@mhacy.org) by the deadline. It is the responsibility of the proposer to see that any proposals submitted shall have sufficient time to be received by the prior to the proposal due date and time. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

FACSIMILE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ONLY SEALED RFP RESPONSES ARE ACCEPTABLE DO NOT FAX RFP RESPONSES.

The contract is an exclusive contract for the services described. Selection will be made to one (1) Respondents deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposal. Proposals must be received by the MHACY no later than 3:00 P.M. (EST) on November 14, 2023. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to the MHACY. The MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY’s best interest to do so. The

MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of the MHACY.

The MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. The MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of the MHACY’s Board of Commissioners, or the MHACY’s officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball, President & CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710  
Project No. 2023-0

***Everything You Need to Know About Adoption***

Forever Families Through Adoption has an upcoming free event. On Wednesday October 25, 2023. Adoption: Everything You Need to Know FREE ZOOM Information Session, 6:30-7:30pm

This free event is open to anyone interested in or involved with the adoption process, including community members, expectant parents, adoptive or prospective adoptive parents, and adoptees. Come learn about the domestic adoption process and meet some of the staff of Forever Families Through Adoption. Please contact us for pre-registration and meeting information at [adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](mailto:adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org) or 914-939-1180.

**Fourth Precinct Community Council**

The Fourth Precinct's Community Council will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October,19,2023, in the meeting room at the Fourth Police Precinct, at 53 Shonnard Terrace. Anyone who lives or works in the area served by the fourth police precinct is welcome to attend. All elected officials are also welcome. Captain Michael Messar, Precinct Commander, and Lieutenant Patrick Curtis will be available to discuss your issues and matters of interest.

We hope everyone has a safe Halloween and be careful crossing the streets with your child.

We thank everyone for attending these meetings and look forward to seeing you in future meetings!

If you have any concerns, please get in touch with the non-emergency department. (914-377-7900) For anything emergency-related, please call 911.

Notice of formation of GLOW N GLAMOUR LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Sec of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/14/2023. Office location, County of Westchester. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to:, c/o Faisal Butt - 117 Wickes Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Hanyst RX Consulting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/2/23. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 35 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Pharmacy Consulting

**Classifieds**

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Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ENH Assets Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/22 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 : ENH Assets Limited Liability Company 465 Tuckahoe Road #1189 Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

***Westchester Rising***

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## Westchester County Car Show Rolls Into Glen Island Park October 14

An array of vintage and modern cars and trucks will be on display at the Westchester County Car Show at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. previously scheduled for Sunday, Sept. Sept. 24). In case of rain, the event will be cancelled.

The show will feature displays of a wide variety of collectible cars, street rods and motorcycles, all carefully restored to mint condition or modified for performance. The gates open at 8 a.m. Registration runs from 9 a.m. through 1 p.m. and the entry fee is \$20 per vehicle. The awards will be given out at 2:30 p.m. The event is presented by the Westchester Street Rod Association, which will award more than 125 trophies.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “In its 18th year at Glen Island Park, the Westchester Street Rod Association’s annual car show brings together a magnificent array of vintage and modern automobiles. This event, a longstanding tradition in Westchester County for 40 years, showcases not only the passion for classic cars but also the scenic beauty of Glen Island Park, making it a must-attend experience. We’re excited to welcome car enthusiasts from all around, celebrating both the timeless vehicles and the picturesque surroundings.”

Admission is free for spectators and the parking fee is \$5. The Westchester County Car Show is sponsored by Hasselman Racing and Hyatt’s Garage & Towing.

### NR Cop Chared, continued from pg 1-

Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree. He was arraigned today before Judge Matthew Costa in New Rochelle City Court on the charge of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. The defendant’s next court date is Oct. 25.

According to the facts as alleged in the felony complaint, between January 2018 and May 2023, the defendant stole money intended for Christopher’s Voice, Inc., and spent it for his own personal purposes.

Greco, who also served as the President of the New Rochelle PBA and was named a “Hometown Hero” for creating a non-profit, Christopher’s Voice, named after his autistic son.

More details on the charges against Greco are at TalkoftheSound.com. “As reported in 2021, Christopher’s Voice engaged in spending of donor contributions outside the framework of both the original goals set out in their tax-exempt organization determination letter from the IRS in 2017.

“Failure to operate in accord with stated exempt purposes in the original application for exemption may result in an organization losing its tax-exempt status. Non-profits can amend their stated exempt purpose, but there is no record that such an amendment was filed for Christopher’s Voice.

“Christopher’s Voice is a two-man band. Despite having board members, donation spending decisions were made entirely by Christopher Greco and Tracy Greco. In 2021, we wrote: This might explain the seemingly capricious nature of decisions to spend money on largely undocumented, ostensibly charitable purposes outside their original application for tax-exempt status for things like paying rent for individuals, handing out \$1,000 checks to employees of the City School District of New Rochelle which has an annual budget of \$290 million, buying dog vests, allowing third parties to raise money in their name with vaguely worded and illegal claims about how much money generated by an event would be turned over to Christopher’s Voice, the charity’s abysmal record of putting funds raised to charitable purposes and the limited spending on charitable purposes described in their original application for tax-exempt status such as GPS tracking systems and security systems,” writes Talk of the Sound Editor Robert Cox.

It appears that Greco was not a fan of either DA Rocah or of Robert Cox. When a video surfaced of New Rochelle Police Detective Michael Vaccaro assaulting a possible suspect, Rocah charged him with assault.

Greco was not pleased with Rocah’s decision, including Rocah’s email address in a Facebook post which accused Rocah of “hunting cops”, and “Mimi Rocah is a threat to Westchester County residents and to police officers and to their families. Handcuffing good cops and weak on real crime — you are now less safe with her in office.”

Greco’s beef with Cox is nothing more than sour grapes based on good journalism. Starting in 2021, Cox wrote a series of stories about other alleged improprieties of Greco, which he has compiled at the Talkofthesound.com.

### Westchester Stands with Israel, continued from pg 1-

Congressman Bowman said, “ Hamas targeted defenseless and innocent civilians and killed the largest number of Jewish people outside of the Holocaust in one day. It has truly been a heartbreaking past few days with deaths we hoped would never happen again. Their actions are unequivocally abhorrent and must be strongly condemned,” said Bowman, who added “I am shocked and disgusted by the rally held here in NY this weekend celebrating death or attacks on civilians and showing swastikas. I condemn any demonstration that does this in the strongest possible terms.”

The NY Times reported that Bowman, “who was elected in 2020 with the help of D.S.A. activists but now faces a primary challenge in his heavily Jewish Westchester district...had let his membership with the D.S.A. lapse last year.”

NYC Congressmember Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, a graduate of Yorktown High School, also separated herself from the DSA rally, saying “It should not be hard to shut down hatred and antisemitism where we see the bigotry and callousness expressed in Times Square on Sunday.”

### Athlete of the Week, continued from pg 1-

Victoria is a team captain for the 2nd straight year and is Co-President of the Bronxville Athletic Council. She is known as a wonderfully well-rounded and good-hearted citizen of the school.

She serves as President of the Dwight Globals Global Issues Network, and is President of the Bronxville High School Athletic Council

Victoria takes primarily AP level courses and was a recipient of the AP Scholarship award for getting 5’s on her AP exams. McEnroe completed the Comp Sci program at Stony Brook University in the summer 2023.

“Victoria is the textbook definition of a scholar athlete. Her hard work on the tennis court paid off last year when she won the NYS Championship. She also gives back by serving as an assistant tennis pro at summer camps.”

“In the classroom Victoria is equally adept. I’ve taught her in both AP US history, and currently in AP Economics. and she is near the top in every category of assessment. She is a completely mature student and takes academics extremely seriously. She has scored a 5 on every one of the AP exams she’s taken.,” said Coach Steven Klurfeld.

### First Pot Store, continued from pg 1-

Another roadblock to opening is State Supreme Court Judge Kevin Bryant, who has frozen all projects before the NYS OCM from proceeding until a lawsuit filed by NY Veterans against the process by which OCM issues licenses is resolved. The Judges order is now 7 weeks old.

Assuming that the Judge re-opens the process of approving licenses and locations, the Yonkers City Council would have to review the application from Nucleus Dispensary. After getting input, the council could decide to approve the location, or they could reject it, or not vote on the matter at all.

It appears that other local governments that have reviewed licenses to open in their community, all have either approved or not taken a vote, allowing the business to open. There have been negotiations between the applicant and local government, and that could happen in Yonkers.

The 948 Yonkers Avenue location is the site of a closed bar, Duo Lounge. The bar closed after complaints of late night violence. The bar sits between a mini-mart, with some on site parking, and Flower Funeral Home, with a large amount of on-site parking

Support for a marijuana dispensary in Yonkers is close to 50-50, but many residents who do support it don’t want it next to their home or business.

So the council may have to determine the outcome, or whether to negotiate for another location. Most people had guessed that Central Park Avenue would be a better location.

We are also not sure what the vote would be on the council for a dispensary. It could be as close as 4-3 either way.

But if the council were to reject the application and location, it then goes back to the OCM for a final decision. The OCM could override the decision of the council, but that legal bridge has never been crossed yet. All applications have been negotiated and accepted by local governments, so far.

Two other Westchester locations are close to being ready to open. One is in Mount Vernon, the other in Peekskill.

### Harrison write in, continued from pg 1-

current dysfunction and partisan infighting.”

“I ran for Mayor/Supervisor with the best interests of the people of Harrison at heart. I never played politics or engaged in favoritism. My door was always open, and I was fiscally conservative with your tax dollars.

“The Town coffers have been severely depleted over the past two years. The long-range needs of Harrison Meadows have been ignored and there is not much competitive bidding happening with the doling out of contracts. The town should not be run like a dictatorship,” said Belmont, who acknowledged that a write in campaign “will be an education campaign for sure when but I am fully committed to running and winning this race. My passion or Harrison remains steadfast, and I look forward to restoring leadership the way it is supposed to be with honesty and integrity.”

The two questions about Belmont’s campaign that everyone in Harrison is asking is: Can He Win, and Who Will He Take Votes from?

In a Facebook post, Belmont continued his criticism of Mayor Dionisio, with serious allegations. “I have heard your concerns about whether my candidacy for Mayor/Supervisor will divide the Republican vote in November. Let me assure you that I deeply reflected on this before deciding to run. I derive no joy in challenging a member of my own party. But, the financial health and integrity of the Town and Village of Harrison must be placed above party politics. Simply put, Mayor Dionisio has been bad for Harrison. He’s drained the Town’s savings and has neglected long-term projects, such as the future needs of Harrison Meadows and the DPW garage.

“He has set a precedent of favoritism by giving large no-bid contracts to his friends and supporters. One recent example is the contract to demolish the old Sollazzo Rec Center. This bit of favoritism demonstrated by Mayor Dionisio cost the Town \$850,000 without even so much as considering another proposal.”

“Ethical considerations are also clearly lacking in the Mayor’s Office. The mayor has directed that all town cars that need auto repair or auto body work go exclusively to his business partner, who owns real estate in Harrison. In addition, the mayor should have recused himself from participation in the recent sexual harassment lawsuit settlement in light of his relative’s friendship with the Plaintiff and the fact that the Plaintiff’s mom is the campaign treasurer for the Republican party. These are significant conflicts of interest that the mayor simply does not care about,” said Belmont.

So far, no response from Dionisio. And Belmont didn’t really answer the question about who wins if he can’t? Republicans have a had control of Harrison for decades. Many residents we spoke to wonder if the two republicans will split the vote and Jaffe is the winner.

But the support for Belmont from voters we spoke to was very positive, and gives him a chance to do the nearly impossible. “If anyone can do this I think Ron Belmont can,” said one Harrison voter.



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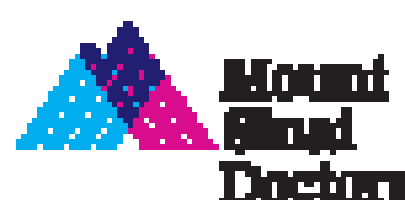
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