

Westchester Rising

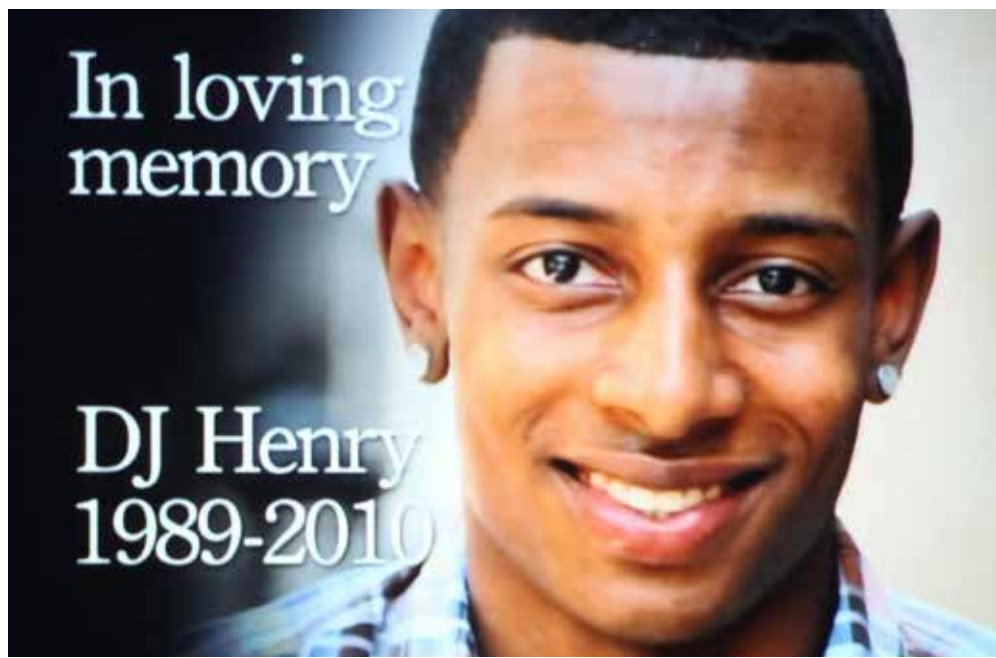
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Friday June 19, 2020

Should DJ Henry's 2010 Death Case Be Reopened?



By Dan Murphy

Ten years ago, in 2010, I watched the news reports about the death of a young Pace University student and wondered why the event happened, and what was I missing. The student's name was DJ Henry, and he was celebrating a Pace Football team win at a bar in Thornwood.

The first thing that came to my mind then, and even more so now, is how young African-American's are always told by their parents to be mindful and careful of the police, and to act in an overabundance of caution.-----Continued on pg 4-

Mom's Demand Action on 'Gun Post'

Unconfirmed reports of protesters/rioters in my hood ready for anything.....



See Story on pg 7-

50a Repealed Is Defunding Police Next?



"We've had enough abuse of power by law enforcement... Black Lives Matter, and we've had enough of being told otherwise."

*State Senate
Majority Leader
Andrea Stewart-Cousins*

By Dan Murphy

The New York State legislature passed, and Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law, the repeal of 50a of the Civil Rights Law, which had provided additional protections to the personnel records of police officers, firefighters, and correction officers. This protection had been interpreted to include disciplinary records of law enforcement officers. This repeal would subject these records to FOIL, just as all other records kept by public agencies, while protecting the sensitive personal contact and health information of these officers.

In the peaceful protests across Westchester County since the killing of George Floyd, the call to repeal 50a protections had been made by many protestors and elected officials. Last week it happened.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "The murder of George Floyd shined a light--yet again--on the injustice that pervades our justice system and the structural racism that has cut countless black lives short in our nation. This latest, horrific example of police brutality unleashed a torrent of grief and outrage across America - from Minneapolis to our very own communities here in Westchester.

"It is a time for momentous change and civic participation. It is also a time for those of us in positions of power to act. Change is necessary, and now is the time.

"In recent days, I was happy to stand and address hundreds of my constituents at rallies and vigils in Dobbs Ferry, Yonkers, New Rochelle, Hastings and Elmsford—and others—who want real change that has so far been denied even after the killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade, and so many others.

"But this time is different. This week is different. As Senate Majority Leader, I am proud to stand with my colleagues and pass legislation that will help stop bad actors and send a clear message that brutality, racism and unjustified killings will not be tolerated.

"We've had enough abuse of power by law enforcement. We've had enough of the lack of transparency and accountability. We've had enough of feeling our hearts break for families whose loved ones were taken by the very people who were supposed to protect them. Black Lives Matter, and we've had enough of being told otherwise," said Sen. Stewart-Cousins.

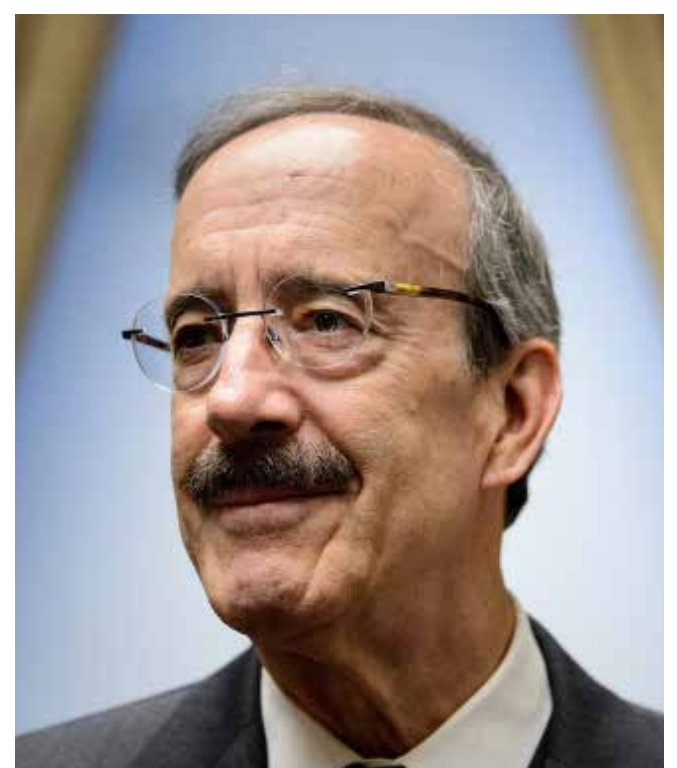
Other items adopted with the repeal of 50a aimed at police reforms, include:

- Senate Bill S.2574B: This legislation, sponsored by Senator Jamaal Bailey, will create an Office of Special Investigation within the Department of Law, under the Attorney General, which will investigate, and, if

continued on pg 7--

Polling Places for June 23 Primary See Page 3-- Get Out and Vote !

We Endorse: Scarpino for DA, Engel for Congress, Jen Williams for Assembly



On June 23, democratic voters across Westchester will be voting, either in person, or by absentee ballot, in important primaries for District Attorney, Congress and Assembly. Two of the bigger races in Westchester are for District Attorney and for two seats in Congress. Rising Newspapers endorses Anthony Scarpino for re-election as District Attorney, and Congressman Eliot Engel for re-election to the 16th District.

Both Scarpino and Engel have served their constituents well; Scarpino in protecting and serving the people of Westchester, while at the same time enacting new progressive reforms to the criminal justice system. Crime is down 20% under Scarpino's watch. At the same time, DA Scarpino has stopped prosecuting minor marijuana offenses and began to enact bail reform for misdemeanors and nonviolent crimes in his office before it

--continued on pg 5--came state

Summer Online Offerings for All at Hoff-Barthelson Music School



Hoff-Barthelson Music School is offering online lessons and summer programs for all ages. Photo by Steven Schnur.

There is something for all ages being offered online at Hoff-Barthelson Music School this summer—Summer Lessons (for both children and adults), our Summer Arts Program for students entering 1st - 12th grades, and Early Childhood Classes for our youngest musicians. While we will dearly miss seeing everyone in person on campus, we promise you a summer that is engaging, has flexible options that work well online, and provides students the opportunity to participate in many of their favorite musical activities.

Summer Lessons are being offered online through August 28!

Take advantage of our summer discounts and flexible scheduling for private lessons! Since tuition does not include musicianship classes or ensemble opportunities, price points are considerably lower than during the academic year. To entice you further, we are pleased to offer a 10% discount on purchases of 3 or more lessons per student. Get a head start on new music for the fall and combat summer learning loss. Try a new instrument, or explore whether a little one is ready for private instruction by “test driving” lessons.

Our popular Summer Arts Program will take place online this summer! Hoff-Barthelson’s Summer Arts Program Online provides a stimulating, challenging, and fun-filled opportunity for students entering grades 1-12. Our online, 3-day per week program is highly customizable, offering students the opportunity to grow in their enjoyment and practice of music while minimizing screen time.

Students may combine classes to focus on classical music performance, jazz and popular music, music technology, musical theater, composition and arranging, or other areas of interest. Configure classes to suit your interests and scheduling needs. Elective classes encourage the exploration of new interests: learn a second instrument, learn to put music technology to creative use, and/or jump-start your knowledge of music theory and history.

All students are encouraged to take advantage of private lessons and to schedule time with a Practice Partner (a Summer Arts Program high school or college intern) to optimize learning at home.

Online Summer Early Childhood Classes: HBMS is also offering a new online Summer Early Childhood Music and First Instrument program for children and families this summer. Classes offered: Seasons of Song (Ages 2-3); Getting to Know You: Exploring the Instruments (Ages 4-6); Beginning Musicianship: Listening and Learning in Action (Ages 5- Kindergarten); Piano Together – Group Piano Classes (Ages 4-5); Suzuki Pre-Twinkler Violin (Ages 3-4); and All Ages Sing-Along! For additional information visit www.hbms.org. The best way to reach is by e-mail at hb@hbms.org.

Croton Gorge Park Closed Latimer Gives COVID Update



County Executive George Latimer announced last week that Croton Gorge Park will be closed on weekends up to and including the upcoming 4th of July weekend. Latimer cited an inability to control visitors at the park on the weekends, and that overflow of visitors, combined with the continued concerns over the coronavirus, made closing the park for the next three weeks the correct decision.

“We are closing Croton Gorge Park again. We must have the ability to manage the demand, and the volume at this park on the weekends have been difficult to manage. The park will remain open during the week,” said Latimer, who also cited parking limitations at the park, which includes some of the most stunning views of a waterfall from the Croton Reservoir, pictured above.

Latimer made the announcement while visiting Peekskill, where, together with Mayor Andre Rainey, handed out masks for residents and Census forms. The County Executive also provided a COVID-19 update.

“More than 200,000 Westchester residents have been tested, that is 20% of the county population,” said Latimer, who added that 17% of the Westchester population that has been tested, tested positive. That number is down from 34% more than a month ago. On the day of his visit to Peekskill, Latimer said that two Westchester residents died of the Coronavirus, bringing the total of county residents who have died to 1,402.

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June 23 Primary Polling Places in Westchester

Note: If you intend to vote in person on June 23, you must vote at one of 61 open polling locations in Westchester. Your usual polling place may not be open.

See below for a list of Westchester polling locations.

Bedford Town House-321 Bedford Road, Bedford
 Blue Mountain Middle School-Cortland Manor
 Croton High School-36 Old Post Road,
 Van Cortlandville School-Mohegan Lake
 Eastchester Middle School
 Tuckahoe Community Center
 Tarrytown Village Hall
 Dobbs Ferry Village Hall
 Ardsley Middle School
 Greenburgh Town Hall
 Tarrytown Village Hall
 Woodlands High School, Hartsdale
 North Castle Community Center
 Harrison Avenue School
 Lewisboro Justice Court
 Mamaroneck Town Center
 Mt. Kisco Memorial Complex
 James Galgano Senior Building, Sleepy Hollow
 Mt. Pleasant Community Center
 Pleasantville High School
 Horace Greeley High School
 Herganhan Recreation Center, Armonk
 Pequenakonck Elementary School, N. Salem
 Ossining Community Center
 Roosevelt School, Ossining
 Pelham Town House
 Pound Ridge Community Center
 Rye Middle School
 Edison School, Port Chester
 King Street School, Port Chester
 Fox Meadow School, Scarsdale
 Davis School, New Rochelle
 Somers Town House
 Copper Beech Middle School
 Yorktown Cultural Center
 John Hart Library, Shrub Oak
 New Rochelle Library
 New Rochelle High School
 Jefferson School, New Rochelle
 Davis School, New Rochelle
 Neighborhood Center, Peekskill
 Rye City Hall
 Board of Elections, White Plains
 White Plains High School
 PS #4-Parker School, Mt. Vernon
 PS #9-Graham School, Mt. Vernon
 Grimes Elementary School, Mt. Vernon
 Nellie Thornton School, Mt. Vernon
 PS #5-Hamilton School, Mt. Vernon
 Allen Memorial Church, Mt. Vernon
 Mt. Vernon STEAM Academy, Mt. Vernon
 PS #2-Lincoln School, Mt. Vernon
 Mt. Vernon First Presbyterian Church
 PS #6-Traphagen School, Mt. Vernon
 PS #16-Pennington School, Mt. Vernon

Yonkers voting locations:

Saunders HS 183 Palmer Road

Lincoln HS 357 Kneeland Ave

Yonkers Middle/HS 150 Rockland Ave

Cross Hill Academy 160 Bolmer Ave

Nepperhan Comm. Ctr. 342 Warburton Ave

Cesar Chavez School 20 Cedar Place

School 29-Westchester Hill 47 Croydon Road

Will Library 1500 Central Park Ave

I Support a Real Democrat: Congressman Eliot Engel

By Eric Schoen

If you live in Yonkers, I urge you to vote to re-elect Eliot Engel For Congress in the 16th Congressional District on Primary Day, June 23. You can vote in person, by mail or during the early voting taking place at the Grinton Will or Yonkers Riverfront Libraries through this Sunday.

Why do I urge you to vote for Eliot? Simply he is running against a blank slate with no knowledge of Yonkers. He is running against a candidate who moved into OUR district just so that he could run for Congress. He is running against an opponent with no Yonkers credibility, a man who doesn't list any community involvement in Yonkers on his campaign literature. Why? Because he has none!

What an insult it is to those of us who work hard everyday trying to make Yonkers a better place to live. We simply cannot open the door to someone who couldn't find their way to Getty Square. Or Yonkers City Hall. Or to the schools in our city with such severe financial problems. Or to major business districts like Central Avenue, Ridge Hill, the fresh coffee brewing at everyone's favorite store in the Austin Avenue development, the McLean Ave and Yonkers Avenue business districts, you name them I doubt Eliot's opponent Mr. Bowman could find them.

How insulting to the people who make Yonkers great. Not a bit of community service on his campaign literature. I know people who have lived in Yonkers two years that at least have some roots to their community.

Before I sing Congressman Engel's praises you need to know more about his blank slate opponent. He claims he is an 'Award Winning Educator!' In 2018 alone NYC Board of Education Records on his school state 81% of students 'failed math standards' and '66% failed English.'

And sadly, Mr. Bowman doesn't bring up the New York Post October 25, 2018 story that told how he as a Principal was fined a thousand dollars by the New York Conflicts of Interest Board for using his school for political purposes. Our hard working parent and community organizations have to pay to use our school buildings after school. Is he going to let his political cronies use our school facilities for nothing?

Mr. Bowman calls himself a Democrat. When did he become a Democrat? When he moved to Yonkers less than 2 years ago and decided to run for office. Before that he was a member of the Independence Party. You remember them. The party that supported Sarah Palin. Yes, that Sarah Palin.

He wants you to care who the Democratic Candidate for the 16th District is but did he care who the Democratic Candidate for President was in 2008? In 2016? He did not vote in any Democratic Primary when he lived in Brooklyn nor Manhattan through 2016. And he calls himself a Democrat?

Matter of fact he didn't even register as a Democrat when he moved to Yonkers in 2017 not voting for County Executive that year nor in the June 2018 Congressional Primary for the seat he currently seeks. Something seriously wrong with this picture!

Let's look at Bowman's literature. He's a coalition builder and community organizer. Not in Yonkers. He will push universal health care, bring down prescription drug prices, defend a woman's right to choose, immigrants rights, voting rights, support labor Unions and green deal jobs, stand up to Trump's division, reduce gun violence, enact police reform, fight for affordable housing. That's what Engel's literature says he will do.

Wait a minute. That's Bowman's literature. Funny but Eliot Engel has been doing this and more since Bowman was a child. By the way, funny how Mr. Bowman didn't mention any support for Israel. It's not funny. It's sad!

Bowman is supported by NYC Comptroller Stringer who probably couldn't tell you the name of the Yonkers Controller. Congresswoman Andrea Ocasio-Cortez who know bupkis (little) about Yonkers. She went to school in Northern Westchester. Probably had more opportunities than those of us who grew up in South Yonkers. And State Senator Alessandra Biaggi whose grandfather, Mario Represented many parts of Yonkers for years and is probably rolling over in his grave knowing his granddaughter is endorsing someone with no roots to Yonkers nor the Bronx.

And as we go to press comes support from Senator Elizabeth Warren. Let me not insult my Native American brothers and sisters (my cousins sister is married to a real Native American) by bringing up her name.

Engel has a lifetime 'F' voting record from the NRA. He fought for needed funds to combat the coronavirus. He demanded money for NY hospitals. He demanded Personal Protection Equipment for emergency services frontline workers. He obtained 1000's of FDA approved coronavirus antibody tests.

Most importantly, he has done all the things his opponent Bowman says he will try to do and more. Did you know that Engel spends most of his Congressional Budget in his district with workers solving your federal issues?

I was sponsoring a candidates night at the Yonkers Public Library Will Library during Hurricane Katrina.

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Open Letter to Mr. Jamaal Bowman

News reports indicate that you were recently endorsed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose record on Israel is deeply distressing and disappointing. Following your expression of gratitude regarding her endorsement, I began looking into your position vis a vis Israel.

You're quoted as saying that American aid to Israel should be conditional on exploring Israel's human rights record. I am of the opinion, as noted by others, that there is no country anywhere facing the same threats as Israel, that has a better human rights record.

I am especially alarmed that at no time have you mentioned Palestinian violation of human rights - specifically, the Palestinian Authority's policy of funding the families of those who have committed murderous terrorist acts.

Those murderous acts have not spared our own district. Just a year and a half ago, Ari Fuld, son of Rabbi Yonah Fuld who is a past principal of the SAR academy, one of the largest schools in our area, the Riverdale section of the Bronx, was knifed to death by a Palestinian terrorist.

And let us not forget Taylor Force, an American veteran who was murdered in Tel Aviv by Palestinian terrorists. In 2018, the Taylor Force Act was passed in Congress. The bill calls for America to decrease aid to the PA until it stops supporting terrorist families.

Due to the PA's "pay to slay" policy, the families of these terrorists will be receiving financial support from the PA for life. Knowing that their families will receive money, this policy has inspired many to commit more heinous acts of terror.

Countless Riverdalians now live in Israel, including our daughter and her family. Some live in the town of Efrat, just south of Jerusalem, in Gush Etzion. In the center of Gush Etzion, many, including Ezra Schwartz, a teenager from Boston, were viciously murdered by Palestinian terrorists.

Furthermore, the human rights abuses of the PA (and the Hamas terrorist organization, for that matter) don't merely extend to Israelis, but Palestinians as well. In fact, according to a 149-page report released in 2018 by Human Rights Watch, the organization describes what it calls "arbitrary arrests" and "systematic torture" by the PA and Hamas towards innocent Palestinians.

Mr. Bowman, you have said before that "this is not about singling out Israel and targeting Israel." Yet it seems to me, at least in regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, that this is exactly what you are doing.

And so, in light of all this, my questions are very specific: Do you support the Taylor Force Act? Are you prepared to say that you oppose the PA's policy of financially supporting families of terrorist murderers? And will you condemn the human rights abuses of the PA and Hamas?

Additionally, your position on BDS is not clear. Most recently, there was a bill in Congress entitled "Opposing Efforts to Delegitimize the State of Israel and the Local Boycott Divestment Sanctions Movement Targeting Israel." When the time came to vote on it, 398 Congresspersons voted yea, 17 voted nay. Reps. AOC, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib were amongst the few nay votes.

How would you have voted on this resolution? How can we be sure that having received a strong endorsement from AOC (who also co-sponsored a different pro-BDS resolution proposed by Omar), that you are not beholden to her? Are you able to definitively commit yourself to never supporting BDS?

Speaking of Reps. Omar and Tlaib, you tweeted that "@IlhanMN @RashidaTlaib do not hate Israel." As many know, both Omar and Tlaib have made highly anti-Semitic statements in recent years, and their anti-Semitism has been condemned by the Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Do you still stand by your defense of these Congresswomen?

Mr. Bowman, you have raised questions about Israel's human rights record and labeled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as an "authoritarian." However, Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. It has just gone through its third election in 18 months.

Yet you've said nothing about the PA, whose president Mahmoud Abbas, is now in his twelfth year of a four-year term. Will you similarly label Abbas an authoritarian? Our community is proud of its commitment to American values including, of course, racial harmony and equality for all.

And amongst the issues most important to us is the well-being of the State of Israel, one of America's greatest allies. Unfortunately, your comments on Israel have fallen, far, far short. I look forward, and I believe our community looks forward, to hearing your responses to the specific questions that I've raised.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, Founding Rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale,

After COVID, "Business as Usual" Will be Impossible

By Brent Messenger

The coronavirus pandemic has triggered massive changes in consumer behavior. Demand for online grocery shopping has more than doubled. At-home fitness gear is flying off the virtual shelves. And e-commerce platforms of all types are recording unprecedented traffic. Online sales jumped about 50 percent in April following the beginning of shelter-in-place orders.

In an attempt to return to normalcy, several states across the nation are lifting shelter-in-place orders and removing social distancing requirements. But things won't ever be the same. The pandemic has profoundly altered the way we do business, and some of these behavioral changes are permanent. If businesses don't prepare for this new digital reality, they won't survive the pandemic or its aftermath.

E-commerce has boomed since the outbreak began. Compared to their 2019 figures, retailers that have both brick-and-mortar and online presences reported a 52 percent increase in online sales between late-January and February, according to analytics firm Quantum Metric.

Much of this business comes from new customers. A recent survey found that more than 40 percent of people shopping online for groceries were doing so for the first time.

Hiring patterns reflect this new wave of online demand. Businesses nationwide have laid off millions of Americans. Yet in March, Amazon and Walmart announced that they planned to hire a combined 250,000 additional workers to fulfill and deliver e-commerce orders. Macy's recently stated that it would furlough most of its employees, but there would be "fewer furloughs in our digital business . . . so we can continue to serve our customers online."

Of course, people are primarily transacting online because they can't leave their homes, but these new customers won't all disappear once the virus subsides.

Consider the workout industry. The average gym membership costs nearly \$700 per year in the United States. It's far cheaper -- and more convenient -- to subscribe to a virtual fitness program and buy a set of weights.

Or consider meal delivery kits. Folks may initially sign up for Blue Apron or Hello Fresh to avoid visiting the supermarket, but some people will discover they enjoy cooking their own pre-packaged dinners and become lifelong subscribers.

Florida may reopen its beaches, Texas might allow residents back into restaurants, and Georgia may open up its gyms. But even with social distancing measures in place, there will still be untold numbers of people who are afraid to even leave their homes. Millions of high-risk people who suffer from chronic conditions will be particularly wary of venturing into busy stores and public places.

If businesses want to survive in the new reality, they'll need to significantly expand their online presence.

My company, Fiverr, has worked quickly to adapt to the new ways that Americans are living and working. When the pandemic began, we opened several new categories on our website -- including online coding classes and music lessons -- to meet the demand for virtual assistance. Now, we're working with businesses to help them digitally transform their offerings -- whether that's creating a website, helping with e-commerce, or optimizing social media channels.

We're not alone. Shopify, an e-commerce company, is offering an extended 90-day free trial to new customers who are looking to take their retail stores online. The coronavirus pandemic has ushered in a new digital-first age, one that'll last long after the virus fades. Businesses of all sizes will have no choice but to adapt.

Brent Messenger is vice president of public policy & community engagement at Fiverr. This piece originally ran in the International Business Times.

DJ Henry, continued from pg 1-

hose words of caution do not equate to the story that police officers told about what happened on October 17, 2010 at Finnegan's Grill in Thornwood. A fight had just broke out in the bar as Henry and his college classmate attempted to drive out of the parking lot.

At this point, off duty Pleasantville police officer Aaron Hess stepped in front of Henry's vehicle, after which the details of the events that evening become confused and with conflicting versions of what happened. Hess ended up on top of the hood of Henry's vehicle, where he fired four gunshots into the windshield, striking Henry and a friend of his.

Henry was removed from the car, handcuffed and left for dead as police officers attended to officer Hess. Henry's friend, Brandon Cox, who was in the car and was also grazed with a bullet, asked the officers to help his friend.

Two Pleasantville police officers fired at Henry's car; Hess and Police Officer Ronald Beckley. But two years later, Beckley testified that he fired his gun at Hess, not realizing that he was a police officer but because he thought that Hess was the "aggressor" in the incident.

Beckley's testimony, two years later, was different to what Mt. Pleasant Police Chief Louis Algano said happened, which was that Henry drove aggressively toward Hess and Beckley, resulting in numerous shots fired into Henry's car.

DJ's mother, Angella Henry, said that Beckley was the officer who told the truth. "It's a shame that Ronald Beckley, the officer who told the truth about DJ's killing, was denied pension, but Hess received his. What kind of system punishes an officer for doing what's right? These are all changes that need to be made," Angella Henry said.

"We'd welcome a reexamination into our son's case. All of the evidence is there, we just need someone with the courage to convict all those involved."

Angella Henry sees a connection between her son's death ten years ago and the recent death of George Floyd. "Our son was killed by a white officer, handcuffed and left on the street to die," Angella Henry told The Enterprise, a newspaper in the Massachusetts town of Easton, where the Henry's are from. "People asked the officers to intervene, but they didn't — the same as Mr. Floyd."

"We relive the horrific images of our son's last moments — of him dying on the ground without help," she said. "These will never go away but are always brought to the forefront when one of these cases, and there are many, happen."

In 2016, Henry's parents reached a \$6 million settlement with the village of Pleasantville and Hess, to resolve a civil wrongful death lawsuit the family brought against the municipality. The Town of Mt. Pleasant also made a public apology to the Henry family.

Hess' attorney, Brian S. Sokoloff, said that his client "was thrown onto the hood of a speeding car by an intoxicated driver." Hess was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing by a grand jury, and in 2015, then US Attorney Preet Bharara said that there was not enough evidence to indict officer Hess.

The attorney for the Henry family was Michael Sussman, known for his portrayal in the HBO Miniseries "Show Me a Hero." During the Civil Suit, Sussman presented evidence which included a video camera from outside the bar showing Henry's car with its break lights on and traveling at 14 miles per hour. And friends of DJ Henry said that he was not drinking at all.

DJ's sister Amber Henry wants the case re-opened, Tweeting, "The shooting death of my brother DJ Henry in Pleasantville N.Y by officer Aaron Hess should be reopened, investigated and prosecuted. He was MURDERED, plain and simple. The town and the police tried in vain to cover it up. Justice. NOW."

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Schumer: Domestic Violence Cases up 33% During COVID

Citing a recent New York State report that details a very troubling 33% rise in domestic violence cases across New York amid COVID, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer demanded the United States Senate take up the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which passed the House with bipartisan support all the way back in April of 2019. Schumer demanded Leader McConnell take VAWA 'off the shelf' and rightfully pass it in the Senate. Schumer said that New York is not alone in worrisome statistics, either. Other states, like Texas and Illinois, according to the New York Times, have seen similar domestic violence surges and capital resources for many programs could dry up fast.

"The data from New York's report mirrors similar statistics across other parts of the country that are also seeing a rise in domestic violence amid the coronavirus pandemic. It's up to all of us to heed the warning in these numbers and not allow a pandemic to fuel an epidemic of domestic violence so many have devoted their lives to preventing," said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. "Since I first helped write the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, countless individuals have been saved. Whether the funds provided were for local shelters, counseling or other critical efforts, the law has given so many a second chance and we cannot rest until the Senate acts, the law is fully reauthorized and the help New York and other states need is on the way."

According to New York's domestic violence task force, "...in the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, data reported by law enforcement and domestic violence service providers pointed to an increase in domestic violence, with the New York State Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline recording a 33 percent increase in calls for April 2020 compared to April 2019, and shelter occupancy rates upstate rising to 78 percent in April 2020, versus 59 percent in April 2019.

"Right now, because of the uncertainty around the Violence Against Women Act's future reauthorization we have states preparing to turn over the couch cushions for this life-saving funding, and that cannot sustain," Schumer added. "Philanthropy is certainly one way to 'fill in the gaps' but existing federal funding cannot be allowed to simply 'fall short.'" That's why we need the Senate to act here, because government has a job to do and lives to save."

The original 1994 VAWA bill, which was authored by Schumer when he was a member of the House, has been reauthorized three times—in 2000, 2005 and 2013—with unanimous Senate approval the first two times. Since its enactment, the bill has reduced domestic violence by more than 50 percent. Additionally, the legislation, over the course of its history, has provided more than \$7 billion in federal funding towards reducing these types of violence.

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Endorsements, continued from pg 1-

law.

DA Scarpino has also enforced the Red Flag Law, which takes guns out of the hands of the mentally ill. And through the COVID-19 epidemic in Westchester, Scarpino's office continued to protect the people of Westchester.

Scarpino's opponent, former prosecutor Mimi Rocah, has not made the case to remove Scarpino from office. Over the past four years, Scarpino has exhibited a combination of prosecuting cases that keep the county safe, while at the same time implementing progressive reforms to his office. That balance is the reason why we endorse Scarpino for re-election in the democratic primary June 23.

Rising Newspapers also endorses Congressman Eliot Engel for re-election in the democratic primary June 23 in the 16th District, which includes Yonkers, and all of lower -mid Westchester and parts of the Bronx.

Engel has served his constituents well over his 32 years in Washington. He is a respected member of the leadership in the House, led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and has used his seniority to help the district with needed Federal funding. During the pandemic, Congressman Engel delivered \$5B for New York hospitals, \$76 million for community health centers and \$400 million for COVID-19 relief for nursing homes, a hot spot for deaths in NY.

Engel enjoys strong support from African-American leaders including members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, and State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

Engel has strong support for women's rights groups and has been endorsed by NARAL Pro Choice America, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, ProChoice Voter and the National Organization of Women PAC. County Executive George Latimer, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson also support Engel's re-election, as we do.

As Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Engel continues to speak out against injustice across the world and against Trump administration when he sees fit.

Engel's opponents, Jamall Bowman, Chris Fink and Sammy Ravello, have not provided a compelling reason why Engel should not be re-elected. We endorse Eliot Engel for re-election to Congress in the 17th district June 23 in the democratic primary.

Rising newspapers also endorses Jen Williams, in the democratic primary on June 23 for Assembly in the 92nd District, which includes the towns of Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant. Williams is challenging Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, who has served on the County Board and now as Assemblyman for more than twenty years.

We knew nothing about Jen Williams, or this primary, until Williams spoke out about being sued by Abinanti to keep her off the ballot for a technicality in her petition. The courts ruled against Abinanti as he continued to appeal their decisions. We also found it in bad taste for Abinanti and his wife to personally tape the lawsuit to the Williams door in April, when the Coronavirus was at epidemic levels.

For Williams, it provided her an opportunity to introduce her to the voters. What we have found is Williams to be deeply involved in her community, helping and serving others. She has the enthusiasm, energy and intelligence to serve.

"I have fought for my seat at the table. I pulled out my own seat and sat down without asking for permission," said Williams, whose journey to get on the ballot is indicative of how difficult it is for outsiders to run for office in Westchester, and in New York. We should encourage more people to run for office.

Williams has also addressed issues of concern during the campaign, including support for vaccinations and more support for small businesses, which she has first hand experience. We need more transparency in Albany, and Williams will provide that, and can use all of the obstacles placed before her to serve the people of the 92nd Assembly District. We endorse Jen Williams in the democratic primary June 23. Sometimes, a fresh voice adds to the debate, and in New York State, we will need to reassess almost everything as we head into uncertain times.

We have no endorsement for Congress in the 17th District to replace Nita Lowey. May the best woman or man win.

Manhattanville College Launches First COVID-19 Course This Summer

Manhattanville College is offering one of the first college courses on COVID-19 in the nation for its incoming first-year students. The two-credit course is free of charge and brings together faculty from across campus to explore the pandemic and its effect on our lives through the lens of sports, arts, science and other fields and how the continued fallout may alter our communities well into the future. Classes begin in July.

"As a small liberal arts college, Manhattanville is uniquely positioned to break down this complex situation," said Manhattanville President Michael Geisler, Ph.D., who will address students at the end of the course. "In this summer mini-course, we will come together as educators, scholars, and learners to see how our ideas and experiences intersect to build knowledge and community even when we aren't physically together, marking the beginning of our students' college career in a special way during this unique moment in time."

The course is called, "Manhattanville Together...at a Distance: Coming together as a community in the age of COVID-19." The purpose of the COVID-19 course is to offer incoming students ways to make sense of the pandemic and to connect with their peers about the uncertainties they are facing, uniting them at a difficult time. The course will also help acclimate incoming students to the college and the available instructional technologies and resources.

"The faculty who created this course came together to talk about how disorienting and scary this time must be for graduating high school seniors and we wanted to really actively reach out and show them what it means to be part of an engaged, compassionate, and curious campus community," said Visual Studies and Art History Professor Megan Cifarelli, Ph.D. "In decades of teaching, I've never experienced anything like this."

Straying from the typical lecture style class, this course will be conducted in a conversational style with experts together on screen virtually. Podcast-style conversations will help students understand the ways that different fields look at evidence, and the different kinds of conclusions that can be drawn, while live discussion sessions with various faculty will allow students to ask questions in real time and connect with one another.

"I am thrilled to be offering the keynote and offer a perspective from sport studies and all of the fields that it pulls from -- history, sociology, politics, the sciences, media, and so much more," said Amy Bass, professor of Sport Studies. "It was the NBA that really woke America up as to what living in a pandemic could mean and I think using the lens of sports to unpack some of the cultural, scientific, and political aspects of COVID-19 is a provocative and engaging way for students to launch their college careers at Manhattanville." Bass has been widely quoted in national media and helped produce coverage for eight Olympic Games for NBC Sports.

The course was created and will be taught by Manhattanville College faculty in the schools of arts and science, education, and nursing and health sciences and brings together in conversation nearly all academic disciplines.

Classes will begin during the week of July 6 and will run for four weeks. Two credits will be awarded if the student enrolls full time at Manhattanville for fall 2020. To learn more about the course and registration visit www.mville.edu/covid-course.

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Notice of Formation of Sweet Pea Hospitality LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/06/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to: 315 East Grand Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: any lawful act or activity--07/10

Notice of formation of The Westchester Dent Company LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/27/2020 . 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, 1153 Clay Ave Pelham NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of C Squared Consulting, LLC. on 03/16/2020 with the SSNY. Westchester County office. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 15 Hudson Street, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: To provide consulting services to new and existing specialty cafes.

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC
FIRST: The name of the Limited Liability Company is MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC. (hereinafter referred to as the "company").
SECOND: The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State of New York on April 23, 2020.
THIRD: The county within New York in which the office of the Company is to be located is Westchester
FOURTH: The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process to is 722 Frost Avenue, Apt. 1, Peekskill, NY 10566.
FIFTH: The purpose of the Company is to engage in any lawful activity under the laws of the State of New York. The Articles of Organization of MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC were subscribed to by THE KLEISTER LAW GROUP, LLC, 85 East Main Street, Washingtonville NY 10992.

Notice of App. of Authority of Smart D2 Playrooms LLC (LLC), filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/8/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as LLC's agent for service of process, and shall mail process to: LLC, C/O P.O. Box 67, Rye, NY 10580. Formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/2/2019. Cert. of Formation filed with, and copy can be obtained from: DE Secy of State, Corporations Div., 401 Federal St #4, Dover, DE 19901. DE registered agent/office: Agents for Delaware Corporations, Inc., 310 Alder Rd PO Box 841, Dover, DE 19904. Purpose: residential and commercial playrooms.-6/26

Notice of Formation of Taxing Times Accounting LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 5/11/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at: Keep Insurance 27 Cleveland Street Valhalla NY 10595. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.-6/19

Notice of Formation of The Party Nail, LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/25/20. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 90 State Street Suite 700, Office 40 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. -6/19

Notice of formation of SoSi Group LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/28/2020 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, 641 S. 7th Avenue, mount vernon, NY 1550 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.-6/19

Notice of formation of Life in Motion Photography L.L.C. Articles of Organization Filed: 4/28/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against is may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 35 Claremont Gardens, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Any lawful activity. -6/19

Craftdbyhand LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/20. Office: Westchester County. Eridania Morillo designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Eridania Morillo at 70 Virginia Road, white Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

RACHELE E. KHADJEHTURIAN, NP IN FAMILY HEALTH, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 14th, 2020. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 316 Bishop Pl., Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: to provide any medical services for which licensed family health nurse practitioners are authorized.-6/26

schoen continued from pg 3-

I was shocked that Eliot showed up as some lesser officials failed to show. He was waiting for a call on his flip phone from the White House. Cell service stunk. I said, 'Eliot, thanks for showing up, you can go you have more important things to worry about. He stayed for the event, answered questions from the audience and took notes for follow-up. All while holding on for the President on his flip phone from Washington.

I'm tired of carpetbaggers coming into Yonkers asking us how long we have lived in our city. Telling us how to solve the problems of a city we know so well. I have never felt as strongly about asking you to vote for a candidate as i do with Eliot Engel. He's not perfect. He made a gaffe on a local cable channel he should not have. He should have been in district during the coronavirus situation but hey, I would not have put my grandfather on a plane. I don't think you would have either.

I hope you will join me in voting for someone who knows the needs of our district, Congressman Eliot Engel on Primary Day, June 23. God Bless America.

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

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50a repeal, continued from pg 1-

warranted, prosecute any incident of a person whose death was caused by a police officer or peace officer.

“This is not a bill that is aimed against the police, it is a bill that increases transparency with the goal to improve community and police relations, and help regain trust in police,” said Senator Jamaal Bailey, Senate lead sponsor of the bill to repeal 50-a. “I would like to thank the families of victims, the advocates, and my colleagues in government for consistently and tirelessly advocating for this reform. Change is coming in New York, and I am proud that it is under the leadership of Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie.” Sen. Bailey, represents Mt. Vernon and the Bronx in the 36th District.

· Senate Bill S.3253B: This legislation, sponsored by Senator Kevin Parker, will clarify that a person not under arrest or in the custody has the right to record police activity and to maintain custody and control of that recording, and of any property or instruments used to record police activities.

· Senate Bill S.6670B: This legislation, the “Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act,” sponsored by Senator Brian Benjamin, will prohibit the use of chokeholds by law enforcement and establish the crime of aggravated strangulation as a Class-C felony.

· Senate Bill S.8493: This legislation, the New York State Police Body-Worn Cameras Program, sponsored by Senator Kevin Parker, will direct the Division of State Police to provide all State police officers with body-worn cameras that are to be used any time an officer conducts a patrol and prescribes mandated situations when the camera is to be turned on and recording.

· Senate Bill S.2575B: This legislation, sponsored by Senator Jamaal Bailey, will require state and local law enforcement officers, as well as peace officers, to report, within six hours, when they discharge their weapon where a person could have been struck, whether they were on or off duty.

“The repeal of New York state’s infamous police secrecy law 50-a, is an important step towards ending an era of special rights for police and the ability of police departments to hide patterns of brutality, sexual violence and other police abuses,” said Communities United for Police Reform (CPR) spokesperson Carolyn Martinez-Class. “The public will no longer be blocked from seeing how prevalent police violence is, and what is or is not done in those cases.

In spite of what police unions and police departments have falsely claimed for years, the goal of repealing 50-a has never been to make addresses or phone numbers of police publicly available through release of police misconduct and discipline records.

In fact, separate from the 50-a statute, FOIL already provides police departments with the option of redacting that information, separate from the 50-a statute -- and police departments routinely redact this info in their responses to records requests.

#Repeal50a bill changes this to require law enforcement redact this personal privacy information for survivors, complainants, witnesses and family members of those who have been killed or brutalized.

“We think of Eric Garner today, as we celebrate the passage of the repeal of 50-a. We know that the full repeal of 50-a will expose the Daniel Pantaleos of the NYPD,” said Adilka Pimentel, Lead Organizer at Make the Road New York. “This is a critical step toward making systems of policing more transparent and accountable to the communities they are supposed to serve.”

“The obligation to admonish our brothers and sisters when they do wrong is sacred to our Jewish tradition. “Rebuke, yes, rebuke your brother lest you carry his sin.” (Leviticus 19:17) The NYPD has shown itself incapable of admonition, discipline or correction when it comes to crimes committed by officers and bears responsibility for those crimes. The values of our democracy demand a transparent institution that can be held publicly accountable for its mistakes,” said Leo Ferguson, Movement Building Organizer at Jews for Racial and Economic Justice.

“Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and we know that transparency is a critical first step in to change the way police interact with communities in New York,” said Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society.

State Senator Shelley Mayer said during the debate, “I have decided Section 50-A of the Civil Rights Law, adopted over 40 years ago, can no longer be the standard for the release of disciplinary records of officers. Rather, law enforcement officers, like so many other public officials, must be accountable to the public in order for trust to be restored.

“In the military, there is an expectation that all officers are held “to a higher standard”; that they have an affirmative duty to speak up and stop unlawful behavior when they witness it, and that the disclosure of information about prior incidents is actually necessary to ensure fundamental trust in the military system of justice. We should take this comparison to heart as we move to change the laws that have contributed – unfortunately, but justifiably – to a fundamental distrust in our law enforcement system by black and brown Americans.

“This is a moment of a national reckoning – one that makes me optimistic and determined at the same time. Optimistic because Americans of all colors, faiths and ages are forcing us to look reality in the eye and acknowledge our system must change to confront and end racism in all its forms. Optimistic because young people are demanding us to act.

“Peaceful and loud demonstrations in the streets of my communities and yours – in New Rochelle, White Plains, Yonkers, Harrison, Mamaroneck, Bedford, Bronxville, Tuckahoe, Port Chester and elsewhere – are good. Demonstrations protected under the First Amendment; demonstrations in my communities protected by the police. However, they are not enough. They must lead to real reforms. We cannot wait for incremental change and continue to rely on the prior innocent hopes that simply the good officers would outweigh and over power the bad.

“These bills will not harm the tens of thousands of professional, compassionate and responsible officers I have supported, who have nothing to fear and with whom I will continue to stand. However, it will change the culture of secrecy, the patterns of illegality that have been allowed to fester and the legalized denial of accountability that have held us back for too long,” said Sen. Mayer.

“It is our strong hope that now that the veil that had shielded police misconduct from public view has been lifted, countless injustices, including wrongful convictions, can be prevented. This is only one ingredient of authentic accountability but it is the first, crucial step, in bringing some justice to a system that previously prevented it,” said Rebecca Brown, policy director for the Innocence Project.

“Repealing 50-a is a step in the right direction, but it is not mission accomplished. We’ve had to fight tooth and nail for half a decade to get here. Now, in addition to this hard won transparency, we must get justice for families who’ve been injured or lost loved ones, defund the police all over the state, and invest in real safety for our communities,” said Monifa Bande on behalf of Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the Movement for Black Lives.

Bande and many other protestors across the county have also said that it is time to ‘defund the Police.’ Is it possible and what does it mean. Read about it next week.

Mom’s Demand Action on ‘Gun Post’

By Dan Murphy

A Facebook post last week by Yonkers small businessman and democratic political leader John Khader drew a harsh response from local gun safety ---organizations including Mom’s Demand Action, and have now landed in the middle of the race for Yonkers City Court.

On June 2, John Khader posted a photo of a gun with bullets, and commented “unconfirmed reports of protestors/rioters in my hood ready for anything...”

One organization that spoke out against Khader’s comments, was Mom’s Demand Action, an organization founded after the Sandy Hook shootings working to pass stronger gun laws and work to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families. Their website also states, “We also work in our own communities and with business leaders to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership.”

Barry Graubart, a member of Mom’s Demand Action in New York, responded to Khader’s post, writing, “I was appalled to see this post on Facebook and Instagram today, threatening protesters with violence with what appears to be a short-barreled pistol-grip pump-action shotgun. These weapons are often referred to colloquially as a “zombie killer”. “The photo was posted under the account “Johnny Limo”, which belongs to John Khader, MPAC founder and owner of Top Class Limo in Yonkers. Gun violence may be a joke to John Khader, but to many of us in Westchester, it’s a reality that has taken too many lives. And in the current environment, with people protesting for racial justice, with increasing domestic violence, gun violence is no laughing matter.”

Graubart asked Westchester DA Anthony Scarpino to disavow Khader from his campaign and cancel a fundraiser scheduled with Khader. Scarpino issued a comment which read, “I became aware of a disturbing Facebook post by one of my supporters tonight. Upon learning about this post, I immediately cancelled an upcoming event that this individual had planned in support of my campaign. In no uncertain terms, I condemn this post and the message it sends, particularly in this painful time. I stand strongly in support of those protesting against systemic racism and police brutality and commit the full force of my office to fight for positive change on behalf of people of color in Westchester.”

Shortly after Scarpino condemned the post, the same call was made to Yonkers City Court candidate Dan Romano to do the same. Romano, who is running in a Democratic Primary June 23, is seen photographed on Facebook with John Khader. Last week, Delfim Heusler, Editor of the online media site Yonkers Insider, posted information he found at the Board of Elections that Khader was paid \$2,500 from the Romano campaign.

Now, more than 10 days after the incident, and still no comment from the Romano campaign. Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier, said, “We have a responsibility to be careful about what we post and what we say. I tell my friends and family that all the time. What you post online will be there forever. But it doesn’t make us bad people.

We spoke to John Khader, and reiterated what we now write in this story. He is a political figure in the City of Yonkers, not because of his family relations, but because of the fact that he founded a political organization, MPAC, the Mediterranean Political Action Committee, MPAC, which has given a voice to those who didn’t have one. He is also active in Democratic politics not only in Yonkers but across Westchester. People will listen and take note of what he says, and posts.

John Khader said, “My post was in no way intended to promote violence. I overacted when I heard that there might be looting going close to my neighborhood. But I did it to protect myself and my family.”

Catherine Schowalter, a member of Mom’s Demand Action in Westchester, said that, “It was the wrong thing to post. The 2nd Amendment gives the right to have a licensed gun in your house, but it shouldn’t be used as a threat to others.”

Green Business Partnership Receives \$25,000 Grant from Con Edison



The Green Business Partnership (GBP), a membership organization that helps businesses become sustainable and achieve green certification, has received a \$25,000 grant from Con Edison. The funds will be used to expand membership in the GBP, to provide technical assistance and coaching to member organizations so they may achieve green certification, and to update the online dashboard businesses use to walk them through the certification process.

“Sustainability is always a team effort, and we’re so grateful to have Westchester’s primary energy provider as a longtime supporter of the partnership and our efforts to help the business community go green,” Dani Glaser, Program Director of the Green Business Partnership.

Any for- or non-profit organization that leases or owns commercial or industrial space can join the Green Business Partnership and use its online toolkit and propriety greenhouse gas emissions tool to earn an official green certification and track and reduce emissions. More than 150 businesses and nonprofits are members, and 59 have achieved certification since the GBP launched its official accreditation in 2014. These organizations use their certification to save money, increase competitiveness, and recruit and engage employees.

“Con Edison welcomes the opportunity to assist the Green Business Partnership and to work together towards attaining our clean energy future,” said Jane Solnick, Con Edison Director of Westchester Regional and Community Affairs. Learn more at www.greenbusinesspartnership.org.

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Jamaal Bowman Did Not!

**Bowman did not vote for
Obama in 2012.**

Jamaal Bowman didn't vote in 2012.

**Bowman did not vote for
Obama in the 2008
Democratic
Presidential Primary.**

He wasn't a Democrat. He was an
"Independence Party" member. Bowman's
party tried to defeat Obama in 2008
with John McCain and Alaska's Palin.

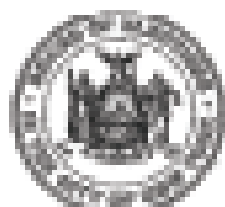
This is official voter history when he
lived in Brooklyn and Manhattan from
2002 to 2018. He was not a Democrat. Bowman didn't vote. His voting record is proof.

Bowman only became a Democrat in 2018, two years after Trump was elected, when he decided to run
for Congress. He is not a real Democrat.

You can read all about it in *Washington's Journal News* (6/11/20).

<https://www.journalnews.com/politics/2020/06/11/jamaal-bowman-18th-congressional-district-house-representative-primary-2020/>

**Jamaal Bowman voted
only 3 times from 2002
to 2018 when he lived in
Brooklyn and Manhattan.**



**And he did not
vote in 2012.** Board of Elections in the City of New York

NAME: BOWMAN, JAMAAL, A
ADDRESS: 200 WASHINGTON STREET
CITY/TOWN: NEW YORK 10018
DOB: 04/13/74

Website: www.ny.gov
Mailing Address: 200 WASHINGTON ST, NEW YORK, NY 10018
Registration Date: 08/16/02

Working Registry:

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