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Friday June 5, 2020

Council Passes Budget 6-1

Cuomo Could Cut Yonkers Aid this Summer

By Dan Murphy

\$1.24 billion total budget -1.58% Property Tax Increase, under tax cap

maintains city services; Yonkers Public Schools to eliminate 168 positions

Usually in a Yonkers budget cycle, once the City Council passes a budget and the Mayor signs the budget, the debate is over and there is certainty on the amount of revenue the City and the Yonkers Public Schools will have for employees, services and programs.

But even after the City Council voted 6-1 to approve a \$1.2 Billion budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, there is still a number of unknowns for the future of how much money that City Hall and the Board of Education has to spend.

That is because the State of New York has the same uncertainty, and cannot tell Yonkers and other local governments how much money they can afford to give them in both municipal aid and state education aid. NY Governor Andrew Cuomo is still waiting and hoping for Congress and President Trump to agree on a 4th stimulus-bailout that would give Cuomo and New York the money they need to balance their budget, and then provide Cities like Yonkers their usual share of State Aid.

But last week, the City Council did what it had to do, and pass a budget. The Adopted Budget stays within the state-mandated property tax cap, maintains all city services, and has a property tax increase of 1.58%. City water and sewer rates will have no increase.

The City of Yonkers needed an adopted budget so that the Finance Department can borrow short term in case the State slows down or holds back some of its aid payments, and so that tax bills can be sent out to homeowners on time.

"This year's budget has proven to be one of the most difficult as our city, state and country deal with the economic impacts of a global pandemic," said Mayor Spano. "The city has lost millions in economically sensitive revenues. Despite this, we stayed within the tax cap so as to not overburden our taxpayers as they, too, are trying to navigate this storm."

Council President Mike Khader said, "Today I joined my colleagues in adopting the City of Yonkers Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget in a 6 - 1 vote. This year's budget process was different because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requiring them to be held virtually for the first time in council history. Due to the tremendous negative impact that the pandemic has had on our city, it was important that this budget was passed on time to prevent the city from running out of money.

"This budget calls for no cuts to city services and has no layoffs, while staying under the state-mandated 2% property tax cap. It also makes improvements to our water system, with zero water rate increases for residents in the upcoming year, and the creation of a tiered water rate system - something that protects residents by now charging commercial enterprises in Yonkers different rates than homeowners

"Additionally, funding has been included for a number of important projects and programs in the upcoming year. These include increased funding

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Rep. Engel: Running on his Record in Washington for Westchester



By Dan Murphy

The election of 2020 marks an interesting time in Westchester politics. Congresswoman Nita Lowey is not running for re-election. Congressman Eliot Engel is running for re-election.

For more than four decades, Lowey and Engel have served all of most of Westchester County since 1988 when both were elected.

This year Rep. Engel does have a challenge in the democratic primary on June 23. In fact he had three democratic challengers, with democrats Jamaal Bowman, Chris Fink and Sammy Ravelo looking to defeat the longtime congressman in the 16th district which includes parts of the Bronx and most of southern and mid- Westchester.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, Engel stayed on the legislative front lines, skipping the photo opps and avoiding the negative attacks against his opponents. Engel was focused on helping his New York colleagues in the House to deliver \$5 Billion for New York hospitals, which was five times more than any state. And unfortunately, New York State deserved five times more help for our hospitals because we have had more than five times the number of hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 than the rest of the country.

Rep. Engel was also able to help secure \$76 million for community health centers and \$400 million for COVID-19 relief for nursing homes.He

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Peaceful Protest in Memory of George Floyd in Yonkers

"Racism from Yonkers to Yale" -Kareem Abdul-Jaabar



peaceful protestors in Yonkers to honor the memory of George Floyd

By Dan Murphy

Over the past week, the people of the City of Yonkers have joined with the rest of the country in honoring the memory of George Floyd by participating in peaceful protests. Floyd was killed in Minneapolis last week by a police officer, and his murder was caught on video and now witnessed by all of us.

Protest marches in Yonkers were held on Sunday May 31 and Tuesday June 2, held along Yonkers Avenue and on South Broadway and in Getty Square. The protests were photographed and videotaped and showed no violence and no arrests or an overactive police presence.

These facts have been confirmed by members of the Yonkers Police Department and those marching and seeking change. City Councilwoman Shanae Williams has been an educational voice of reason during this time. "I am tired of reading posts and messages from people about violent protesters who were rioting/looting in Yonkers. There were no violent protests in the City of Yonkers on Sunday or Tuesday at either protest. Both protests were to shed light on the fact that we live in a nation full of injustices and we want change! Both protests were in honor of #GeorgeFloyd and all the black and brown men and women who were murdered by the police," said Williams on Facebook.

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Mayor Spano Endorses -Daly, Shako & McGrath for Yonkers City Court

Momentum Growing for a Team Everyone Can Agree Upon



L-R-Verris Shako, Mayor Mike Spano, Judge Tom Daly, Judge Brendan McGrath

By Dan Murphy

The three candidates for Yonkers City Court that received the overwhelming support of the Yonkers Democratic Committee, Tom Daly, Brendan McGrath and Verris Shako, received several key endorsements over the past few weeks.

The biggest endorsement came from Yonkers top Democrat, Mayor Mike Spano. "The role of a judge is an important one," said Spano. "The people of Yonkers deserve someone who is fair, impartial, highly experienced and well-tempered. I am fully supporting the candidates endorsed by the Yonkers Democratic Party.

"I ask the citizens of Yonkers to please cast your three votes for Judge Thomas Daly, Judge Brendan McGrath, and attorney Verris Shako on June 23," said Spano, who added, "Judge Tom Daly has served with distinction as Yonkers City Court Judge for the last twenty years. He has my full support and I look forward to working with him in his new role as Chief of the

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Hospitals Turn the Corner as Last COVID Patients Discharged



The front-line healthcare staff at Saint Joseph's Medical Center recently celebrated the discharge of one of the hospital's last hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Anyely Gomez de Martinez of Yonkers was discharged to applause and cheers on May 14. She was admitted to the hospital April 2

Neighbors of UPS Refueling Depot Say "No More" -StopUPS.org



a UPS facility on Tuckahoe Road has neighboring homeowners upset

submitted by StopUPS.org

In October of 2019 Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced that UPS would be building a logistics center at 555 Tuckahoe Rd. A former "light manufacturing" facility, it had most recently been the site of a small-scale Saks distribution center and POP Displays.

As these plans were slowly unveiled, it became clear that United Parcel Service is proposing a massive 24/7 truck terminal, refueling depot and distribution center in the middle of a residential neighborhood in northeast Yonkers. The proposed site is surrounded on three sides by approximately 2000 households. The proposal has been met with overwhelming resistance by the surrounding neighborhood, yet a petition with hundreds of signatures has not been acknowledged by the Planning Board.

The UPS proposal at 555 Tuckahoe Rd. requires site plan approval by the City of Yonkers Planning Board, an appointed body which does not allow for a public hearing on the UPS site plan application. Despite the Planning Board not yet granting their approval, construction at the site has been moving ahead at a feverish pace. Neighbors find there is an incompatibility with their neighborhood on many fronts that will lower property values, impact health and create impossible traffic. They created StopUPS.org to address their concerns, which include:

- UPS vehicles from the NY Metro area utilizing the site daily as a refueling facility for both gas and diesel UPS trucks, dispensing fuel from multiple massive 12,000-gallon storage tanks. This raised concerns about massive air pollution from vehicles, diesel and petroleum fuel odors, truck noise 24/7 and intrusive lighting throughout the night and the overall industrialization of a residential neighborhood;
- Hundreds of UPS vehicles utilizing the site 24/7 causing a traffic nightmare and safety issues on local roads, and the destruction of remaining green space on the property adjacent to residential houses which the property owner promised the City would never be destroyed.

A comparison to other nearby UPS locations with similar capabilities reveal that UPS nor any other logistics carrier have heavy industrial located in a residential neighborhood. In the NY Metro area in particular, UPS and similar carriers are located in industrial parks zoned for such activity. The zoning for the proposed center does not even allow for most of the activity proposed for the location.

"It's not as if the neighbors are opposed to progress," said Joel Sachs of Keane & Beane, PC, an attorney hired by neighbors. "Just a half-mile away is a FedEx with a massive operation in an Industrial Zone next to I-87, and it doesn't have any refueling."

"What does David P. Abney know that we don't know?" asks Clare Gallagher, a neighbor, referring to the CEO of UPS. "Why did the work begin months before the proper site approval worked its way through the planning board?"

Neighbors have united by writing Planning Board members and expressing their opposition, but it continues to fall on deaf ears. Opponents of the site urge those who don't want to see their property values decline, their health suffer or the sanctity of their neighborhood be ruined, to visit www.stopups.org, which includes points to include in letters to elected officials. A meeting between the neighbors and the developers failed to materialize because the developers chose to delay the meeting with a June 10 Planning Board meeting scheduled.

Concerned residents did not oppose the recently constructed FedEx site, also on Tuckahoe Road. However, to put it simply, to locate the kind of operations proposed by UPS at the 555 Tuckahoe Road site, in the middle of a residential neighborhood, is ABSURD! The Yonkers Planning Board has yet to even demand that an Environmental Impact Study be performed, potentially robbing the neighborhood of their rights under the law and avoiding a fair study of their concerns! The Yonkers Planning Board is even allowing the site to be used as a refueling depot, a non-listed use! The Yonkers Planning Board is considering allowing above ground fuel storage even though such storage is NOT permitted in the Yonkers city code!



VOTE JUNE 23rd



VOTE
for the kind
of leadership
Yonkers needs.

Judge DALY
Verris SHAKO
Judge McGRATH
for Yonkers City Court Judge

Sen. Mayer: Let HS Graduation Celebrations Outdoors in July



State Senator Shelley Mayer

On Wednesday, May 27, State Senator Shelley B. Mayer (SD-37, Westchester) and many of her Senate colleagues sent a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo urging that he permit outdoor in-person high school graduation ceremonies in July under guidance set by the NYS Department of Health.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, said "Our students have already had to make tremendous sacrifices due to the coronavirus pandemic. High school graduation is such a special milestone—I believe that we can find a safe way for them to celebrate."

The letter states: "The high school graduating class of 2020 should be permitted to embrace their achievements, celebrate their successes and be fully recognized as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. The relationships students have developed with their schools, teachers and peers will forever be grounded in their hearts and we know you share with us a commitment to find a way for them to celebrate their final high school moment in a traditional, ceremonious manner... We are confident a safe, carefully managed outdoor and in person high school graduation can be achieved in New York, during the month of July, and under guidance set by the Department of Health. We urge you to find a way to allow this to happen."

This week, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy announced that in-person high school graduation ceremonies would be allowed in the state beginning July 6th.

Demystifying Medicare Online

Because COVID has forced libraries and community centers to cancel their events this spring, WSOS's light-hearted and interactive "Demystifying Medicare" workshops have also been postponed.

But, the Westchester Library System does not want anyone to lose out on this ongoing opportunity to learn how Medicare works, since a complete understanding of the whole system is key to making the best personal health insurance decisions.

So they've put a version of this upbeat and interactive workshop online, where people can absorb audio chapters at their own pace and refer to downloadable handouts that are used in the live presentations. You can access all of these at <https://wikis.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic/demystifying-medicare/>.

"Demystifying Medicare" is designed not only for people currently enrolled in Medicare, but for those soon to be 65 or helping relatives and friends with their medical decisions and paperwork. Topics include Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans, prescription drug plans, Medigaps (supplemental plans), EPIC, and cost-saving programs for people with limited resources.

In a non-COVID universe, Westchester Seniors Out Speaking works year-round in other ways to help people with Medicare. They run free Senior Benefits Individual Counseling centers (SBICs) at nine libraries throughout the year, where people can get answers to their coverage and billing questions on a first come, first served basis. The roughly 80 volunteers in this program have been trained and updated monthly by the Medicare Rights Center in New York City, an advocacy group not affiliated with the insurance companies or with Medicare itself.

For questions about the "Demystifying Medicare Online" or to sign up for future live presentations, please leave your name and number at (914) 231-3236, or email SBICmedia@gmail.com. You can get individual help at the WSOS helpline, (914) 231-3260, or by emailing them at SBIC@wlsmail.org. Like the workshops, the counseling is also free.

And What Were You Expecting?

By Eric W. Schoen

Things got a little too close to home. The Stop and Shop where I bought broccoli crunch salad earlier in the week gets evacuated on the premise that protestors were getting ready to loot it. Store windows at Cross County Shopping Center, where I sat on Santa's lap as a child (I told him I was Jewish when he asked me what I wanted for Christmas) are broken and boarded up. McLean Avenue businesses, across from the Kent Cinema where I sat as a child watching movies and as an adult in the balcony waving away the cigarette and other smoke, broken into with shards of glass all that is left separating the street from the inside of businesses built by immigrants and hard working businesspeople.

And oh my god, OMG in computer lingo, the iconic Macy's on 34th Street in Manhattan where to this day at Christmas time I still visit Santa and the Christmas Village riding my favorite wooden escalators from floor to floor bringing memories of a time long ago has its windows smashed and it's store looted. The windows dressed all year year but especially at Christmas with decorations that get more magical every year broken, shards of glass all that remains. Macy's always looks so nice on television on Thanksgiving Day even if you can't be there in person.

But friends, I ask you what were you expecting? A Minneapolis Police Officer pressing on George Floyd's neck with his knee ultimately killing the poor man. A world disturbed by the behavior of a few rogue police officers when our communities invest so much money and training to prevent such events from occurring.

People prisoners in their residence for over 2 months, scared by the authorities to come out and get a breath of fresh air. Then we find out that 60% of the people infected by the virus were those who followed the authorities orders staying in their domicile. In New York City and many places in Westchester these 'homes' are small, in need of repair, not livable for a day let alone 2 months.

Folks told to eat sauerkraut, kimchi and take drugs unapproved for use and liable to kill by a rogue leader of the free world. This same leader gassing people to get out of the way for a photo shoot with a bible in front of a church he has never set foot in. The leaders of the church calling him out for his horrific behavior.

26,000 people die in the Nursing Homes in our country. Our friends, our relatives, our family. Many fault orders given by the directors of the Centers of Disease Control that patients not needing the high level care of a hospital but requiring nursing care be put in the nursing homes of our country. We see it once, we see it twice, but it takes two months to see that we have a problem here, people are dying and must stop the practice. Will anyone go to jail, the CDC Director, the President who he works for, the State Commissioners of Health or the Governors go to prison for killing 26,000 innocent people. Outside investigations beyond the reach of government bureaucracies are what is needed.

Baseball. America's past time. Something young and old look forward to every year having a tough time deciding whether to play an abbreviated season. Do you enjoy watching baseball games from 1976? I say discontinue the sports channels on your cable television system, don't support companies that advertise on them, don't buy those overpriced jerseys and t-shirts and other Major League Baseball paraphernalia and you'll see how quickly the umpires say, 'Play Ball!' The same goes for football, basketball and any other sport with problems getting back on the air.

Where else can these sports heroes, rather figures make the money they make? On the McDonalds grill line flipping burgers? I don't think you!

In the midst of a pandemic the government cuts jobs for young people. Do they really cost that much money, or isn't their enough competent bureaucrats to get these programs started for our young people? There certainly is enough work to be done.

Look at our Board of Elections on the state or the county levels. Upstate they can't get ballots printed in time for School Elections. Only one company can produce them. How much money did that company give to political candidates and their parties. Downstate like here in little 'ol Yonkers we receive a letter that says the mail in ballot application is only good for the Primary this month. The application (praise the lord they put postage on the return envelope) says the application is good for the Primary and General elections and those in between. The letter to voters, well let's just say a 2 year old could do better. The same two year olds trying to learn to wash their hands in a pandemic.

We are trying to get over a pandemic and protestors, mostly peaceful ones not social distancing or wearing masks. And they are marching with the very politicians who are on television encouraging, no pleading with you to wear a mask.

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City Council to Review Body Cam Legislation for YPD & Civilian Review Board



body cameras for Yonkers Police officers, will be debated by the City Council

Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader told Yonkers Rising that he will submit legislation to implement body cameras for Yonkers Police officers, and for a Civilian Review Board for all complaints filed against YPD officers.

Khader also commented on the recent peaceful protests, and the distinction between the peaceful protests and what he called "criminal activity" of a small number of looters in the city.

"I will always support American's right to peaceful protest in the face of injustice and racism. I will not condone criminal elements taking advantage of this fundamental right during a national tragedy to hurt our community. While there were no protests on McLean Avenue, early this morning, criminals burglarized two stores and today I went down there to see the damage and show small business owners that the City of Yonkers stands with them. These people are our neighbors like Billy from Westchester Jewelers, along with Merk Chemist's Cliff and Anthony who both had their businesses broken into. They want people to know that in spite of these senseless acts they won't close their doors or give in to fear and will continue to serve and be there for community."

"What happened here on McLean Avenue are not protests, they are looters using the protests as cover for criminal activity. What is happening across the country and in New York City is not happening in Yonkers."

Khader also commented on the body cam and civilian review board legislation that he plans to put before the council. "It's important that this legislation is well thought out and has all stake holders involved in the process. I look forward to working with my council colleagues, the administration, the YPD and the community to all be involved in the process."

Fourth Precinct Community Council

53 Shonnard Place, Yonkers, NY 10703

The Fourth Precinct Community Council will not hold its monthly meeting this month because of COVID. It will, instead, hold a ZOOM meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday June 18, which you can attend from home. It will be the same as it was last month.

To participate in the ZOOM meeting, Call (646) 876-9923 and Enter Meeting ID 445-678-6822, and identify yourself.

Greyston CEO: We Are Part of the Solution, and We Always Have Been

I've spent the last week ruminating on the May 25 death of George Floyd. As the leader of a social enterprise founded on recognizing the value and potential of every human being, I cannot be silent. As a black business leader, husband, and a father of a son, I cannot be silent. I grieve with George Floyd's family, try to manage my own feelings of anger, and question if there is a way forward for America.

This is not a time to be anti-police, or devolve into violence and further confusion. However, it is certainly a time to be pro-humanity and appeal to our better angels. Since becoming president and CEO of Greyston, I've been confronted with outsized external challenges, beginning with COVID-19 and, now, the repercussions of George Floyd's death. With each obstacle, I believe more firmly that, together, we must double down on our efforts to extend and expand opportunities to those who need them most.

Greyston's Open Hiring® employment model is needed more than ever. Our win-win approach for both employee and employer has generated millions in economic impact in Southwest Yonkers and provided hundreds of jobs to the hardest to employ. Meanwhile, recent and successful adopters of the Open Hiring® model, like The Body Shop, have reduced turnover by over 60% and increased productivity by 13%. This is the future of work: being innovative with human capital management and intentional about creating a more inclusive economy.

Don't think it's coincidental that leaders of large, multinational corporations, like Jamie Dimon, Bob Swan, and Ajay Banga of JPMorgan Chase, Intel, and Master Card, respectively, now are discussing "stakeholder capitalism" and focusing on investing in the communities their businesses serve. If we continue to show how business can be part of solving some of society's greatest ills, we can be part of healing this country and igniting an economic revival. This is what Greyston is all about.

I am committed to seeing Open Hiring replicated, and even more committed to expanding our workforce development and community wellness programming that trains, supports, and develops opportunities for our neighbors who want jobs and are ready to get to work. Our Greyston team will continue to do impactful work, and we will remind our current and future donors that it's all the more critical to support our efforts to scale our mission and assist the millions of people facing barriers to economic success.

These last days have represented a tragic period for our country but, every day, the Greyston family illustrates what a thriving and inclusive society can look like. Let's build upon it. Let's get to work.

Joe Kenner, President and CEO, Greyston

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The weather is getting hot, People are told not to leave their apartments, a member of the family has virus symptoms but no place to isolate, family members have lost their jobs, after 3 months the New York State unemployment system is filled with glitches and people not getting Their unemployment benefits from a system run by those who are supposed to be the finest computer experts in the world. No thought of people being able to be free to go outside and enjoy the beautiful weather and 'free world.'

If I think of people like my grandmother who was perfectly coiffed at the beauty salon on Friday, i have to think of Black and Brown women who spend a lot more money than grandma did getting perfect hairstyles. Black and Brown men who sit for hours in the Barber or Hair Salon vs. me, 10 minutes in the chair getting the little hair I have perfectly groomed. Sometimes grandma would miss a week and be in an uproar. How do you think my black and brown brothers and sisters feel 3 months without getting their hair done?

In this pandemic fewer kids are getting the childhood injections they need for school as well as life. The threat of CVS being closed due to looting and not being able to get medications. Journalists as well as some black and brown people targeted by a small group of police officers. Politicians crying their community has no jobs when their husband and wives and same sex partners sit in jobs they are unqualified for and/or don't have the ability to do!

We all miss our church and synagogues dearly, But are you seriously going to follow the advice of Dr. Trump and fill the aisles and pews without social distancing? Are all these protestors and soon to be shoppers going to cause the threat of another pandemic.

So now good people you see why I say, 'And what were you expecting?' Put it all together, and while going to space is the hot thing now we can say, 'Houston, We have a Problem!'

County Executive George Latimer appointed a Back to business, Back to Work, Back to Basics' task force. George, you must show leadership and tell the business leaders what the rules and laws are for reopening their businesses. They are professionals. They want to get back to making money and serving their communities. They have enough brain power to get it together. But please, don't be like the ever poor Yonkers and charge a cash strapped business for a damn permit!

And remember, the money used for overtime policing our streets can be used to educate our children and provide services for our seniors!

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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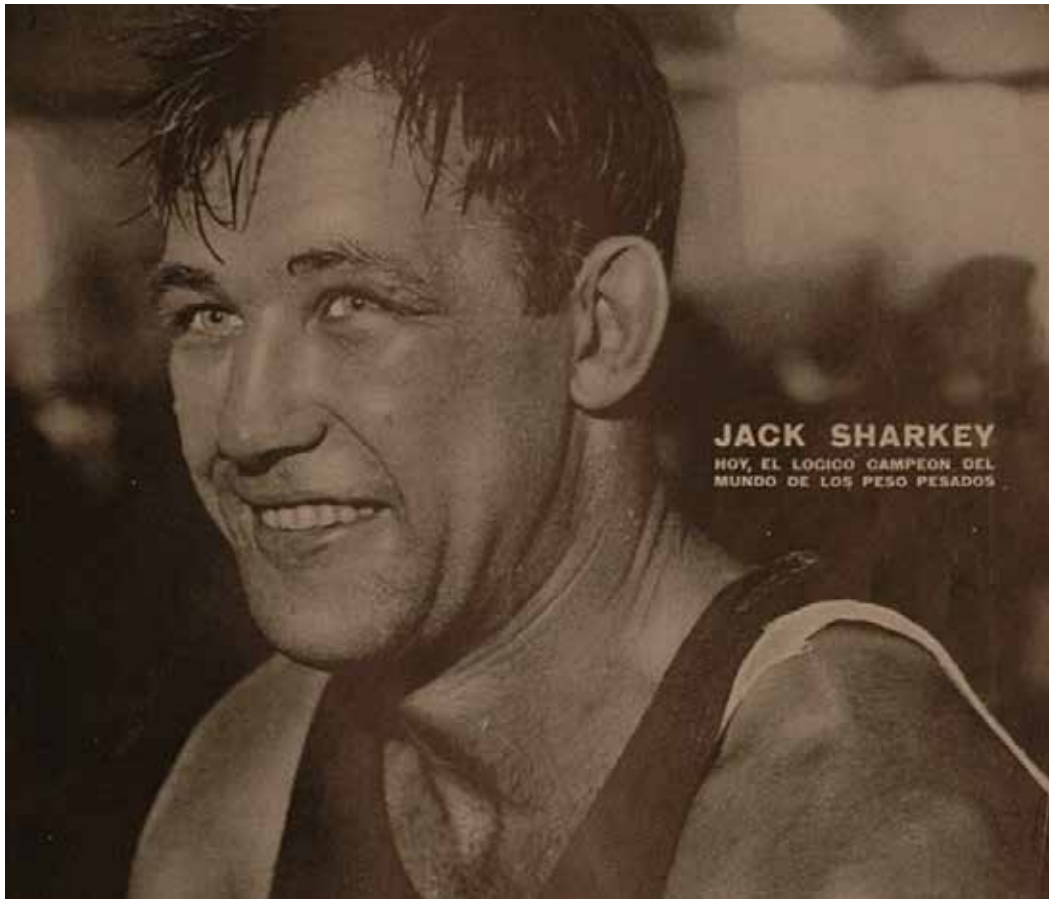
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On This Date in Yonkers History



Boxer Jack Sharkey

Monday, June 8th

June 8, 1936: Members of the Yonkers Kind Word Club were entertained while attending the Elks State Convention in Poughkeepsie; former Yonkers resident George Walsh, District Manager for Public Theaters, treated the group to a fine meal in his executive offices. The Yonkers Kind Word Club had one main qualification for membership, never saying anything kind about anyone! About twice a month the club officers selected a member and gave him a surprise dinner. The late May honoree had been mortician Edward Maloney; the club presented him with a coffin filled with golf balls!

June 8, 2001: Yonkers native Lieutenant General William Lenox, Junior, assumed duties as the 56th Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Tuesday, June 9th

June 9, 1917: Governor Whitman signed a bill amending State Education Law limiting the number of members serving on local Boards of Education to nine members. At the time, fifteen members were serving on the Yonkers Board of Education; Mayor Lennon announced he would appoint a new board of nine people.

June 9, 1930: In his efforts to prevent serious pollution in one of Yonkers principal sources of water, DPW Commissioner William Colquhoun banned out-of-towners from fishing in the Grassy Sprain Reservoir. He said an undesirable element from New York City fished the spot regularly, bringing lunch boxes and other paraphernalia, and always left the shoreline and water filled with garbage. This created a health menace. He added Yonkers residents, who had to get a fishing permit from DPW before fishing in the reservoir, complained many times about large picnic parties from the Bronx.

Wednesday, June 10th

June 10, 1914: Dr. Henrique Lopez made an unusual emergency call. The tug boat Victoria took him from the City Pier out to a canal boat moored in the Hudson to care for a woman giving birth!

June 10, 1934: Moored in the Hudson River off the coast of Yonkers for 18 days, the cruiser Salt Lake City was ordered to Hampton Roads for maneuvers. While here, thousands of Yonkers residents visited the ship.

June 10, 1939: After the Common Council adopted pension law changes the Yonkers Police Association wanted, Association President Thomas Cunningham commented he would like a survey of all New York State Police and Fire Pension Funds to find out what their members thought was needed.

Thursday, June 11th

June 11, 1907: The German Oddfellows paid \$41,000 for the estate of recently deceased James Courter, first Mayor of Yonkers, to use as a residence for old people. Courter's property was located on the north side of Tuckahoe Road.

June 11, 1937: Former Governor of Pennsylvania (1911-1915) John Kinley Tener moved to Fairfield Place in Yonkers. He had several careers during his life besides governor, including former President of the National Baseball League, former pitcher for the Chicago Cubs, former Congressman (1909-1911), former bank president and former manufacturer. While living in Yonkers, he devoted his time to his responsibilities as Executive Director of the Elks National Membership and Publication Commission. Shortly after arriving Yonkers, he helped the Yonkers Lodge with a charity show held at the County Center. He moved back to Pittsburgh in 1942.

Friday, June 12th

June 12, 1930: Trustee John Wallace asked School Superintendent Lamont Hodge to hook up Yonkers High School's radio; the trustees wanted to listen to the Sharkey-Schmeling World Heavyweight Championship bout immediately after the end of their business meeting. However, Sharkey was disqualified in the fourth round for landing a blow below Schmeling's belt.

June 12, 1933: A small piece of property in the middle of Central Park Avenue near the Cross County Parkway was designated a city park in memory of the late Park Superintendent Otto Frey.

June 12, 1940: The Federal Food Stamp Plan, a system that would bring an extra \$500,000 of food to Yonkers relief clients, was launched at a ceremony held at the Public Welfare Department Store on Ash Street.

Saturday, June 13th

June 13, 1904: Joseph Warren Stillwell of Palisade Avenue, member of the United States Military Academy class of 1904, graduated from West Point. He was to spend his two month furlough in Yonkers before reporting for duty in Mindanao in the Philippine islands.

June 13, 1926: Patrick Cardinal Hayes dedicated a new church on McLean Avenue, Saint Paul the Apostle in Lincoln Park.

June 13, 1940: Mobilization Chairman Hartnett Ready presented his plan to the American Legion Crescent Post; the Legionnaires would be prepared to give immediate assistance to the City of Yonkers if our law-enforcement officials requested it.

Sunday, June 14th

June 14, 1940: Fifteen Directors and officials of the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company donated funds for an ambulance for the British Army, and help the British-American Ambulance Corps replace the hundreds of ambulances lost in the Battle of Flanders.

June 14, 1942: City Manager Raymond Whitney asked the Common Council for permission to donate all rubber mats in city buildings and vehicles to our Rubber Salvage Drive.

June 14, 1942: Dr. Lawrence Ashley, the Defense Training Coordinator, announced eight new lathes and other machines for the defense training schools were sitting unused; the Board of Education did not have the money to install them.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, please visit our Facebook pages. For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

NYS DMV Announces Rules For All Transactions

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles announced that beginning Monday, June 1, state-run DMV offices in the counties of Albany, Onondaga, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester and the five boroughs of New York City will begin to process vehicle registrations and other transactions by mail, and beginning June 4, will accept transactions through secure drop boxes located at each office. County Clerks that operate DMV offices in the remaining 51 counties of the state are advised to follow the State DMV's timeline and guidance for reopening. For specific information about services offered by county-operated offices visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/dmv/dmv-office-locations>.

In addition, Commercial Driver License (CDL) road tests will begin to resume in all regions that are in at least phase 1 of reopening. All road tests will be conducted with strict safety requirements in place; DMV road test examiners will wear gloves, face shields and have hand sanitizer, and customers must wear masks and will be screened prior to beginning the test. Customers whose road tests were canceled because of COVID-19 will be given priority for rescheduling, and DMV staff will begin outreach to those customers on June 1. Reservations for other CDL customers will be available in the days following at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/schedule-road-test>. Road tests and reservations for Class D (passenger vehicles) will not be available at this time.

As regions enter phase 3 of reopening, DMV will offer limited in-person transactions in state-run DMV offices by reservation only, prioritizing critical services, and will resume road tests for all drivers at that time. Until then, there will be no in-person transactions in any DMV office and reservations will only become available as regions enter phase 3. Further guidance will be provided at the appropriate time.

Extension of Expired Documents. All driver licenses, non-driver identification cards and vehicle registrations that expired March 1, 2020 or after and vehicle inspections that expired March 31 or after were previously extended and continue to be extended.

Mail-In and Drop-Box Transactions. DMV is expanding the ability for New Yorkers to complete necessary transactions by mail and drop box and will no longer offer these services in person including: All original vehicle registrations and license plate transfers, License plate surrenders, Sales tax only transactions, License and registration renewals (online option also available), Replacement of lost documents (online option also available), Address change (online option also available).

Beginning June 4, secure drop boxes will be located at all state-run DMV offices and available to customers during regular office hours Monday through Saturday, which can be found at <https://dmv.ny.gov/dmv/dmv-office-locations>. When dropping off documents, customers must wear a face covering, and only two customers will be allowed in the office at one time to access the drop box and must maintain proper social distancing at all times. They should ensure their documents are filled out completely prior to bringing them to the DMV. All documents and instructions are available on www.dmv.ny.gov. Customer service representatives will not be available to assist with these transactions.

Customers will not be allowed to pick up their completed transactions. Once transactions are complete, a receipt, or license plates and registration documents, when applicable, will be returned to the customer by mail.

Customers who wish to register a vehicle should complete the DMV online registration checklist before mailing or dropping off their documents. Instructions for returning license plates by mail can be found on the DMV website at <https://dmv.ny.gov/registration/how-surrender-return-or-turn-your-plates-dmv>.

To find out where to mail transactions visit: <https://dmv.ny.gov/dmv/dmv-office-locations>.

Online Transactions. The DMV offers more than 60 transactions online making it fast and convenient for all New Yorkers to complete their business with the DMV. The following services continue to be offered online: select driver license services, such as renewing or replacing a license, vehicle transactions, such as renewing or replacing a registration, requests for DMV records like crash reports or driving abstracts, personal services like changing an address, handling fines and fees, including to plead or pay New York City traffic tickets and paying other civil penalties.

Customers need to pass a vision test to renew their license online. There are more than 6,000 providers enrolled in the DMV's Vision Registry and approved to administer the vision test. Following the test, these providers enter the results online, saving the customer time when they visit the DMV website to renew their license. A vision test from a Vision Registry provider is valid for one year.

Customers who have not had their vision checked by a Vision Registry provider can have their doctor or another medical professional complete a Vision Test Report, which the customer can use to complete the renewal process online.

Customers cannot upgrade to a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver License (EDL) without visiting a DMV office. For the health and safety of our customers and staff amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, DMV offices are not serving customers in person. While offices are closed for such transactions, customers can renew their current license or non-driver ID online now and upgrade to a REAL ID or an EDL in a DMV office later. Also due to COVID-19, the federal REAL ID enforcement deadline has been extended one year until October 1, 2021.

Road Tests-For the safety of everyone at road test sites, all customers and accompanying drivers must wear face coverings and maintain 6 feet from other customers and staff whenever possible. Customers will also need to disinfect the passenger side of the vehicle with disinfectant wipes upon arrival. Customers taking a road test will have their temperature taken and be screened for symptoms of COVID-19.

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Judges, continued from pg 1--

Yonkers City Court.”

“Judge Brendan McGrath has proven himself to be a fair and impartial arbiter of justice over the years in both of his roles as Inspector General and City Court Judge. It was a privilege to appoint him City Court Judge and he has my full support as he works to continue serving a full term on the bench,” said Spano.

“Attorney Verris B. Shako has my full support in her campaign to become judge of the Yonkers City Court. She is known to be a counsel of integrity in her almost 15 years of experience practicing in this court and I believe she is the right person to make history this November, becoming the first African-American woman to serve on our bench,” continued Mayor Spano.

Daly, McGrath and Shako also received several key endorsements, which taken together show that their combined campaign of running as the team of three endorsed candidates of the Yonkers Democratic Party, have a growing momentum going into the June 23 Democratic Primary.

The Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats endorsed Daly, McGrath and Shako. “We are excited to endorse candidates that represents the values of our organization and we are confident that they will help protect the LGBTQ community,” said organization President Anthony Nicodemo. “More than ever, its important to assure the election of progressives that will respect all people.”

Shako, Daly and McGrath also received the endorsement from the Westchester Putnam Building and Construction Trades Council, the United Healthcare Workers local 1199SEIU, and most recently, the Yonkers PBA. These three endorsements, from different segments of the Yonkers community, show that, Judge Tom Daly, Judge Brendan McGrath, and attorney Verris Shako, are a team that everyone can agree upon.

Engel continued from pg 1--

He is currently working with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to attempt to negotiate a fourth stimulus package which, hopefully for New York, will include relief for state governments.

Engel received the endorsement from the Congressional Black Caucus for re-election. “Our membership knows that Eliot Engel will be there with his energy, his leadership and his vote, especially in these times of crisis,” said Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee Chair Congressman Gregory Meeks. “Eliot is my colleague in the New York Delegation, he is the Dean of the New York Delegation, and I know first-hand how much he cares about our community. He’s a friend we can call on who delivers for New York, and he’s earned our endorsement because he shows up time and again.”

“The CBC is one of the most important institutions in Congress, and I’m truly honored to have the endorsement of its committee,” said Congressman Engel. “As we all know, the African-American community is disproportionately affected by this terrible virus, and that’s a big reason why I’m fighting for more federal funding for hospitals, community health centers, education, and frontline workers. We must do better. I am absolutely committed to fighting for the issues that matter the most for the black community, in the Bronx and Westchester and around the country.”

Engel has strong support from 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. He recently called out the Trump Administration, demanding they stop attempts to strip federal relief dollars from Planned Parenthood

“Once again, the Trump Administration is using a veil to launch a political attack on Planned Parenthood and undermine access to reproductive health care,” said Rep. Engel. “This latest bit has nothing to do with Planned Parenthood’s eligibility for federal dollars, but is yet another tactic to deflect from the Administration’s failure to curb the pandemic, which has claimed far too many New Yorkers,” said Engel who has a 100% pro-choice voting record.

Rep. Engel also has the support of gun violence prevention groups like the Brady Campaign. “Rep. Eliot Engel has championed gun violence prevention throughout his time in Congress, working to make New York and all of our communities safer. From introducing the Safe Gun Storage Act of 2019, enabling the creation of federal standards for safe storage devices to end family fire, to co-leading the Prevent Crime and Terrorism Act, which would prevent the misguided transfer of arms export licensing away from the State Department, Rep. Engel has shown that he understands the need to prevent gun violence in all of its forms. He is an essential partner in this work who is not afraid to act. Brady is proud to endorse Rep. Eliot Engel for re-election.” -Kris Brown, Brady President.

“I am thrilled to announce that I have been endorsed by the Brady Campaign, who is leading the charge in the fight against #gunviolence and I look forward to standing side by side with them as we continue that fight. Even during the #coronavirus pandemic, pro-gun groups like the NRA are pushing for fast and loose gun sales. Now more than ever we must continue to challenge those who wish to make dangerous firearms more accessible,” said Engel. The Brady Campaign is named after James Brady, White House Press Secretary under President Reagan who was shot

On the local level, Engel received the support and endorsement from Westchester democrats including County Executive George Latimer, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senator Shelley Mayer, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson, and Mt. Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard.

Rep. Engel also continues his work at Chair of the House Foreign Affairs committee, where he continues to monitor and speak out about the dealings of the Trump administration and the State Department. More recently, Congressman Engel has spoken out about the death of George Floyd, and the police violence after protests in Brooklyn.

“New Yorkers have the right to have their voices heard. They have the right to peacefully protest. And in the case of the murder of George Floyd, so many in our communities feel that they have a duty to do so. Their message is vital. And we in government must listen. What happened in Brooklyn on the part of the police was wrong. I agree with Governor Cuomo: the public deserves answers and they deserve accountability. I support his call for Attorney General James to investigate the actions of the police last night, and to seek justice in cases of police violence,” said Engel.

One of Engel’s opponents in the democratic primary, Andom Ghebregiorgis, dropped out of the race this week, and endorsed Bowman.

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Legal Notices

Notice of Formation of Generation Liberte, LLC which is managed by one or more members. Liberte means Liberty in French. LegalZoom filed with NYS Department of State on 3/16/2020. Office location: Westchester County. Secretary of State-NY (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Generation Liberte, LLC at 3 Sadore Lane Apt 2M, Yonkers, NY 10710. The LLC designates the following registered agent whom process may be served: United States Corporation Agents, Inc. at 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.”

Notice of Formation of A&A MOBILE RECONDITIONING LLC. Articles of Organization Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/18/2020. Office Location: Westchester County, New York. 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: Agustin Sierra 838 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Creatorsapes Productions, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYS Dept. of State (SSNY) on 1/1/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 47 Rockland Ave, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any Lawful

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

May 27, 2020

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M. WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR CUOMO’S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1; IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV, THE DAY OF THE MEETING FOR LOG-IN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

CONTINUED HEARINGS

5689 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, on premises known as 41 Woodycrest Avenue, Block: 2207, Lot: 19, Zone: T

5690 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of 125 Orchard LLC, owner, on premises known as 125 Orchard Street, Block: 2174, Lot: 101, Zone: A

5695 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, on premises known as 45 Woodycrest Avenue, Block: 2207, Lot: 17, Zone: T

5696 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of CCNA Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 470 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 2073, Lot: 1, Zone: I

5697 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 56 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2115, Lot: 5, Zone: A

5698 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 69 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2114, Lot: 42, Zone: A

5699 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 76 Point Street, Block: 2114, Lot: 17, Zone: A

5701 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of CW Highridge Plaza LLC, owner, and Achieve Martial Arts, lessee, on premises known as 1809 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4445, Lot: 2, Zone: M

NEW HEARINGS

5704 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Siwy Made, owner, on premises known as 290 Roberts Avenue, Block: 3060, Lot: 7, Zone: S-50

5705 – Area Variance – Lucia Chiochio, Esq., on behalf of Dutchman Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 13 Culver Street aka 372 Riverdale Avenue, Block: 129, Lot: 26, Zone: BA

5706 – Area Variance – Leslie J. Snyder, Esq., on behalf of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., owner, on premises known as 267 Saw Mill River Road, Block: 2410, Lot: 72, Zone: I

5707 – Area Variance – Gibbons Engineering, PC, on behalf of Global Equities, LLC, owner, on premises known as 961 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 3091, Lot: 58.63, Zone: I

5708 – Area Variance – Gibbons Engineering, PC, on behalf of Dorothy Ann Lavista, owner, on premises known as 27 Corbalis Place, Block: 3408, Lot: 14, Zone: S-60

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI

CHAIRMAN, ZBA

FOR FULL AGENDA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/meetings-agendas/-selcat-97/-toggle-all>

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Yonkers budget, continued from pg 1--

appropriations for pest control and renovations and repairs to many long-neglected parks throughout the city, funding to help combat teen pregnancies, and funding for school nurses and school resource officers.

Finally, the City Council will soon invest in a “good government” software system that is has been used by other governmental agencies like Westchester County and New York State for years. This will be used by the City Council and Clerks Office to modernize record-keeping, help speed up interdepartmental coordination, and increase transparency.

The 2021 Adopted Budget also increases the School District’s budget, totaling the city’s contribution to \$269.6 million -- making it the largest local share of any big city to a district outside of New York City. Despite the record increase in the City’s school funding, the School District still will need to eliminate up to 168 positions because Yonkers continues to receive far less school funding from the state government than the state’s other large cities.

The Yonkers Public Schools, Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada and the Board of Education had two options to close a \$22 Million hole. One option is to get the Yonkers Federation of Teachers, YFT, to agree to delaying a salary increase, which would save \$15 million. The Mayor and Council agreed to bond out the cost of books for the YPS, which would save another \$5 Million.

The other option was to cut positions throughout the YPS to close the \$21 M budget hole. And with no agreement from the YFT on forgoing their pay raise, cutting 186 positions is what Quezada and the BOE will do.

Mayor Spano commented, “While the city has provided record aid to our schools, it is still not enough as the state did not provide the additional funding to our schools as we had hoped. Our schools will have to make some tough decisions and need to work within the allocated budget so that our students, teachers, administrators and staff can still work efficiently and effectively.”

Council Minority Leader Mike Breen said, “The City’s finances were on pace to exceed projections and then the global pandemic caused a loss of millions of dollars in economically sensitive revenues. Even still, we were able pass a responsible budget that maintains City services while not overburdening our taxpayers with excessive increases.”

Breen, like Spano and Councilman Anthony Merante, the lone no vote on the council for the budget, all blamed Albany for a lack of funding. Councilman John Rubbo said that he voted yes on the budget because it maintained all city services, and at an additional cost to property tax owners of \$225 per year, or \$18.75 per month. “This budget: maintains 3 day pickup for sanitation, keeps the men and women in blue in our precincts and on the street to protect each and every one of us, fully staffs the fire department, delivers much needed improvements to the Bernice Spreckman Senior center at Coyne Park, sets aside \$1,000,000 for technology for our public school students, adds 4 additional nurses in September as our children prepare to return to school post COVID-19, invests tens of millions of dollars in our school buildings, and delivers on a promise I made which is to improve the Yonkers Avenue Corridor, like we have done for Lockwood Avenue, McLean Avenue, Midland Avenue and Main Street.

During the budget vote Councilman John Rubbo stated, “Unlike my first two years on the City Council, this year we were forced to deal with a pandemic that no one expected. Our economy was booming. Businesses were doing well. People were working. And Our schools were educating a record number of students. And then COVID-19.”

Although we are giving additional funding to our school system there will still be a shortage in our Board of Education. “I am saddened by that, but the City of Yonkers and its residents can only do so much each year. I want to thank Senators Shelley Mayer and Majority Leader Cousins for once again providing a \$12M boost to our school budget,” stated Rubbo.

Another possible was out of the budget crisis in New York State is to wait, and hope, for the election of Joe Biden as President. More on this idea next week.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on the Death of George Floyd

“Don’t understand the protests? What you’re seeing is people pushed to the edge. What was your first reaction when you saw the video of the white cop kneeling on George Floyd’s neck while Floyd croaked, “I can’t breathe”?

“If you’re white, you probably muttered a horrified, “Oh, my God” while shaking your head at the cruel injustice. If you’re black, you probably leapt to your feet, cursed, maybe threw something (certainly wanted to throw something), while shouting, “Not @#%\$! again!”

“Then you remember the two white vigilantes accused of murdering Ahmaud Arbery as he jogged through their neighborhood in February, and how if it wasn’t for that video emerging a few weeks ago, they would have gotten away with it. And how those Minneapolis cops claimed Floyd was resisting arrest but a store’s video showed he wasn’t. And how the cop on Floyd’s neck wasn’t an enraged redneck stereotype, but a sworn officer who looked calm and entitled and devoid of pity: the banality of evil incarnate.

“Maybe you also are thinking about the Karen in Central Park who called 911 claiming the black man who asked her to put a leash on her dog was threatening her. Or the black Yale University grad student napping in the common room of her dorm who was reported by a white student. Because you realize it’s not just a supposed “black criminal” who is targeted, it’s the

whole spectrum of black faces from Yonkers to Yale.

“You start to wonder if it should be all black people who wear body cams, not the cops.

“You’re not wrong — but you’re not right, either. The black community is used to the institutional racism inherent in education, the justice system and jobs. And even though we do all the conventional things to raise public and political awareness — write articulate and insightful pieces in the Atlantic, explain the continued devastation on CNN, support candidates who promise change — the needle hardly budges.

“But COVID-19 has been slamming the consequences of all that home as we die at a significantly higher rate than whites, are the first to lose our jobs, and watch helplessly as Republicans try to keep us from voting. Just as the slimy underbelly of institutional racism is being exposed, it feels like hunting season is open on blacks. If there was any doubt, President Trump’s recent tweets confirm the national zeitgeist as he calls protesters “thugs” and looters fair game to be shot.

“Yes, protests often are used as an excuse for some to take advantage, just as when fans celebrating a hometown sports team championship burn cars and destroy storefronts. I don’t want to see stores looted or even buildings burn. But African Americans have been living in a burning building for many years, choking on the smoke as the flames burn closer and closer. Racism in America is like dust in the air. It seems invisible — even if you’re choking on it — until you let the sun in. Then you see it’s everywhere. As long as we keep shining that light, we have a chance of cleaning it wherever it lands. But we have to stay vigilant, because it’s always still in the air and the racism virus infecting the country is more deadly than COVID-19.”

“What you should see when you see black protesters in the age of Trump and coronavirus is people pushed to the edge, not because they want bars and nail salons open, but because they want to live. To breathe,” writes Abdul-Jabbar

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.

“I am proud of all those who came out to speak out against the system and demand change. I am proud of the Yonkers Police for working with the community and for listening to them. I look forward to voting in support of body cameras. Too many bad police officers have abused their powers and take innocent lives for no good reason! It’s because of these racist evil people that we tend to generalize and think all police officers are evil. I know that’s not true because I have friends in the police force that I trust and love and know are goodhearted people who want to keep us safe.”

What Councilwoman Williams was referring to were Facebook comments about minor incidents of looting and broken windows of businesses on McLean Avenue, and at the Cross County Shopping Center.

Councilman John Rubbo, who represents McLean Avenue, said, “Unfortunately, Westchester Jewelers and Merk Pharmacy were looted by criminals last night. These acts were not conducted by marchers. These stores were not hit by the protesters for justice. Please don’t confuse those who seek peace and do so peacefully and those who riot and loot. The peaceful protesters deserve respect. I’ll march and fight with the peaceful protestors in solidarity any day and I stand with law enforcement to battle criminal activity.”

Yonkers PBA President Keith Olson said, after one protest, “After watching you manage today’s protest for more than five hours, weaving in and out of streets and parks all across the city, facing incredible adversity in such a difficult time and in the midst of a pandemic, I am reminded how blessed I am to be able work along side you all. Another takeaway is that I saw so many people who were thanking the cops working the detail and telling us to stay safe. I hope you all noticed that too. Hundreds of protestors, probably 20 miles and 6 hours of protesting yet no property damage and no arrests.”

Prior to the protest, Olson said about the shooting of George Floyd, “From what we’ve seen thus far and what we know right now, I find the incident disgusting and reprehensible. I can see no justification for what happened and I am dumbfounded that not one of the other officers didn’t step in and stop what was happening. I am embarrassed that someone in my profession so callously caused the death of someone in his custody and I fully expect the officers to be held accountable. I am sad because George Floyd should not have died. I am sad because the media will do everything they can to recklessly capitalize on this tragedy. But still, I remain hopeful.”

Mayor Mike Spano joined in one of the protest marches and said, “The emotions running deep throughout my body are similar to those of our entire city. The tragedy of George Floyd creates a heaviness in my heart and anger within — emotions that cannot be undone. What can be done is choosing how we respond. To truly create change, we must work toward achieving better understanding, educate ourselves, and vote — our country’s future depends on it. I’ve met with local Yonkers community and church leaders resulting in a fruitful conversation about the need to come together as one city, one community and one purpose to fight for justice and peace.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said, “This past Sunday, I stood in solidarity with approximately 1,000 members of our community who organized a peaceful demonstration in Yonkers mourning the death of George Floyd. Intolerance, hatred, and institutional racism have no place in our community or our nation. We must do our best to cultivate a diverse, inclusive community grounded in respect for each other’s humanity. I thank other community leaders and elected officials who demonstrated their commitment to our city’s residents by attending this unifying event.

“In New York State presently; residents are prohibited from seeing pertinent information, including disciplinary records and the outcomes of administrative trials involving taxpayer-funded employees. If we are serious about beginning a constructive dialogue to heal the pain and distrust that exists in our marginalized communities, we must be transparent in coming together with open hearts and open minds. The actions of a few in law enforcement do not reflect the majority in the profession who display professionalism, equality, and compassion to the communities they serve.”

Congressman Eliot Engel said, “George Floyd and his family deserve real justice—that’s what I believe. The African American community deserves real justice. None of us can bury our heads in the sand when it comes to inequality and brutality, especially in our justice system. We must face it. We need law enforcement that works for everyone equally and I’m committed to fighting for it. One officer has just been arrested for George Floyd’s death, but all of the officers responsible should be charged to the fullest extent of the law and held accountable for their actions. This brutality must end.”

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie issued a joint statement which read, “Tonight has been another night of heartbreak in the wake of the horrendous killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Protests have been unfolding across the country and here in New York. Let’s be clear - the reason for the protests themselves is warranted and too familiar.

“Tonight, two members of the Legislature, who stood in solidarity with the protesters in a peaceful manner and who were trying to help to calm the situation, were pepper sprayed and one was put in handcuffs. Our hope is the heartfelt demonstrations do not lead to more violence, injuries or worse. From what we have witnessed, there must be better coordinated efforts to help de-escalate tensions and allow for our citizens to protest injustices.”

The two legislators that Maj. Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie spoke of were, State Senator Zellnor Myrie, a Democrat from Brooklyn, who was handcuffed, and Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, a Democrat also from Brooklyn, who was hit by pepper spray, during a protest in Brooklyn.

County Executive George Latimer said, “George Floyd was murdered, plain and simple. He had no weapon, he was not resisting arrest. Derek Chauvin murdered him. Callous, arrogant tough guy. What would we be hearing from the White House today if Floyd wore a badge and Chauvin did not? Chauvin dishonored that badge and the police who watched and did nothing shamed the many good men who wear the police officers’ uniform.

“We owe more than an apology to George Floyd and his family. We owe him justice, by bringing his murderer to justice. And we owe his memory a commitment ... to end this horror of violence from happening again. We renew our commitment to get this right, right here, right now. No more deaths,” said Latimer.

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller, interviewed on Yonkers-Voice.com, said “I was shocked, disgusted, and horrified,” by the video. These incidents are painful because they set up back years on the relationships that we have built in the community. You can’t understand someone by interacting with them just after an incident like this. It takes years of building relationships and we have to make sure that we have the credibility and the communities trust.”

American legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wrote an op-ed that all of us should read and consider. Most of his letter is printed to the left of this page.



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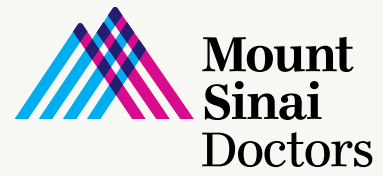
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