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## DA Rocah Charges DiBartolo With Felony Grand Larceny

Is this just “the tip of the iceberg?”



Eric DiBartolo

By Dan Murphy

Our story last month on former Yorktown Highway Superintendent Eric DiBartolo resulted in over 50 letters, emails, tips and stories from our readers, all of who had their own tale that they wanted to tell about being wronged over the past 20 years.

On Feb. 11, DiBartolo was arraigned in Cortlandt Town Court before Judge Maritza Fugaro-Norton and charged with a felony Grand Larceny charge of stealing \$14,479.78 from The Home Depot in Cortland Manor on 23 different occasions in 2020.

DiBartolo, a former four-term Yorktown Highway Superintendent, Yorktown Heights Fire Chief, and former President of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, is accused by the DA of conspiring with a Home Depot employee, Tyrone Bass, in a “scan and skip” scheme in which DiBartolo brought merchandise to Bass to check out, and Bass on nearly two dozen occasions completed the transactions without charging him for many of the items.

“It’s sad and disheartening to see someone who has been a respected elected official and community member violate the public trust in this way,” DA Rocah said. “These actions also have a corrosive effect throughout the area, undermining trust and confidence in government.”

DiBartolo’s arrest is still the talk of the town in Yorktown. “Mr. Murphy, it appears that the Westchester County Police did not get involved with inves-

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## New York State Heading Towards Legalizing Marijuana in 2021



By Dan Murphy

Governor Andrew Cuomo has agreed to the legalization of marijuana in New York State. Cuomo has proposed amendments to a legal pot agreement which will likely come as part of the state’s budget negotiations next month. Part of the legalization process will include how a \$100 Million Social Equity fund will be allocated, enable the use of delivery services, and refine which criminal charges will be enforced as it relates to the improper sale of cannabis to further reduce the impact on communities hit hardest by the war on drugs.

“As we work to reimagine, rebuild and reopen New York, we’re taking every opportunity to address and correct decades of institutional wrongs to build back better than ever before,” Governor Cuomo said. “We know that you cannot overcome a problem without first admitting there is one. Our comprehensive approach to legalizing and regulating the adult-use cannabis market provides the opportunity to generate much-needed revenue, but it also enables us to directly support the communities most impacted by the war on drugs by creating equity and jobs at every level, in every community in our great state.”

### Allocation of \$100 Million Cannabis Social Equity Fund:

This fund is to help revitalize communities that have been most harmed by the war on drugs. Through this fund, qualified community-based nonprofit organizations and local governments would apply for funding to support a number of different community revitalization efforts, including job placement, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, housing, services to address adverse childhood experiences, afterschool and child care services, linkages to medical care, women’s health services and other community-based supportive services.

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## Did Port Chester’s School Board President Share Racist Posts?

Tom Corbia Claims He was Hacked but Won’t Prove It



Students at Port Chester High School calling for the resignation of School Board President Thomas Corbia

By Dan Murphy

On September 16, 2020, the following post appeared on the Facebook timeline of Port Chester School Board President Thomas Corbia.

“I’m selling my white privilege card. It’s just over 77 years old and it hasn’t done a damn thing for me. No inheritance, no free college, no free food, no free housing, etc. I may even be willing to do an even trade for a race card. Those seem way more useful and more widely accepted. Interested? Contact me on my non-obama (sic) cell phone that I have to pay for every month. Serious inquiries only.”

The post was followed by a comment attributed to the President of the Port Chester School Board which read (but with profanity spelled out) “You are the f\*\*\*\*\* best and whoever doesn’t like that post, well they know what they can do.”

Another troubling Facebook post was found under Mr. Corbia’s account. This one was posted in 2018, at which time a Port Chester resident took and saved a screenshot of it.

“Illegal immigrants sent \$56 billion in pure cash to their home countries last year alone. That’s after their kids enjoyed free education, free lunches and free medical care all paid for by you!”

Shortly after the posts were discovered, and outrage in the community began to pour in, Mr. Corbia claimed that his Facebook account was hacked and he did not post nor share these comments, and welcomed an investiga-

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## Girl Scout Cookies are Back Keep a Good Tradition Going



Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. (GSHH) and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) are encouraging all of us to invest in girl leaders of today and the future by purchasing Girl Scout Cookies. GSHH is offering a number of online, contact-free sales options this year to keep girls and their customers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic while still teaching girls valuable entrepreneurship skills and helping local troops thrive.

This season, both the organization and our innovative girls are offering a number of ways consumers can still purchase Girl Scout Cookies in socially distant and contact-free ways:

- Many Girl Scouts have creatively changed their sales methods in light of COVID-19, from running virtual cookie booths, drive-through cookie booths, promoting their digital shop links on social media, and marketing their business with door hangers. If you know a Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she is selling cookies in ways that meet local and state safety protocols.

- Consumers who don’t already know a Girl Scout can visit [www.girlscoutcookies.org](http://www.girlscoutcookies.org), text COOKIES to 59618\*, or download the free Girl Scout Cookie Finder app for iOS and Android to purchase from a local troop for direct shipment to their door or donation to local causes. 57% of consumers report that they are shopping online more than they did prior to the coronavirus outbreak, and this additional contact-free method enables people in Westchester, to invest in girls while keeping girls’ safety and skill building top of mind. Through managing sales via the Digital Cookie platform, Girl Scouts are growing their businesses online while staying safe and learning skills such as goal setting, decision making, and money management.

- Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson is participating in a national collaboration with food ordering and delivery platform Grubhub so girls have an additional way to facilitate contact-free cookie orders. Consumers can order Girl Scout Cookies for pickup or delivery on [Grubhub.com](http://Grubhub.com) or the Grubhub app.

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## Artist Charles Fazzino Donates \$5K & Artwork to Relief Fund



Internationally renowned 3D pop artist Charles Fazzino made a \$5,000 donation this week to ArtsWestchester's Artist Relief Fund to provide more help to area artists negatively impacted by the coronavirus.

In response to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, Fazzino released a three-dimensional fine art print last June with the goal of raising funds for COVID relief organizations. The print titled "This Soon Shall Pass" (pictured above) is an expression of hope and compassion for all of those who are struggling during this unprecedented time.

"I created this drawing to send virtual hugs out to the whole world with the hope that we will all come through this great crisis together," said Fazzino.

All net proceeds from the sale of the "This Soon Shall Pass" art edition are put in a COVID-19 relief fund from which Fazzino makes distributions to a variety of charitable organizations. Other organizations that have benefited from the sale of this work include: The Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's Mohegan Lake, The New Rochelle Bethesda Baptist Church Food Pantry, St. Francis Food Pantries & Shelters and New Rochelle Community Action Partnership. Three out of the four organizations benefited thus far are part of the network of Feeding Westchester, an organization dedicated to ending hunger in Westchester County, New York.

Shut down for nearly a year, the arts community has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic. Nationally, financial losses to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations are an estimated \$15.2 billion with 894,000 jobs no longer being supported.

ArtsWestchester, New York's largest private arts council, launched a Go Fund Me Artists' Relief Fund at the beginning of the pandemic to provide emergency grants to artists who have lost work due to COVID-19.

ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam says, "With two-thirds of all artists unemployed due to the pandemic, Artist Relief efforts are vital in helping creatives make it through to the time when we are able to restart the arts and open our theatres and cultural events."

Going forward, Fazzino asks anyone who wants to purchase the artwork and earmark their donation for ArtsWestchester to use the code: "ArtsWestchester" when ordering the artwork directly from the artist. A mini print of the piece can be ordered through the gift shop page on his website or by emailing gallery representative Carol Ritz at dddgallery@aol.com. The price of the framed print is \$575 and they will offer free shipping to anyone who mentions ArtsWestchester. Approximately \$400 from the sale of each piece will be donated to ArtsWestchester Artist Relief Fund.

Art galleries around the world are also selling the artwork and are being asked to donate their proceeds from such sales to COVID relief in their local communities.

Please join us in our efforts to support struggling artists through ArtsWestchester's Go Fund Me Artists' Relief Fund or by purchasing a Fazzino print. Visit [charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/awrelieffund](http://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/awrelieffund), or [www.fazzinogiftshop.com/](http://www.fazzinogiftshop.com/) for more information.



Artist Charles Fazzino, holding his work "This Soon Shall Pass", also pictured above.

## 2021 Black History Month Series: Protect Teenage Trans Girls and Trans Women



Clockwise: Brayla Stone, Bee Love Slater, Muhlaysia Booker and Merci Mack Richey

By: Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz)

Brayla Stone, Bee Love Slater, Muhlaysia Booker, and Merci 'Pooda' Mack Richey are all pictured above. All of them are Black, and all of them are trans. A trans woman is a woman who was assigned male at birth. The "T" in LGBTQIA+ stands for transgender. Brayla, Bee Love, Muhlaysia, and Merci share something else in common besides race and gender identity. All four of them are deceased.

There's a trend that's sweeping across America, and people need to know about it. Teenage trans girls and trans women are being murdered at unprecedented rates. Many of the trans girls and trans women are dying at the hands of adolescent boys and men. From Florida to Arkansas and Texas to Pennsylvania, trans girls and trans women are being bullied, beaten, and brutally slain. We need to protect teenage trans girls and trans women.

Brayla Stone's murder in Sherwood, Arkansas, occurred in June of last year. Her body was found in a car after she had been shot to death. Brayla will never have the chance to see her 18th birthday because she was murdered at 17 years old. Bee Love Slater's death occurred in Clewiston, Florida, in September of last year. She was found in a burning vehicle, and it took several days before her body was able to be identified. Bee Love was 23 years old.

Muhlaysia Booker's killing happened in Dallas, Texas, in May of 2019. She was assaulted in April of 2019. People not only stood and watched the assault, but they also recorded it and shouted transphobic slurs. In May of 2019, she was found dead on arrival. Her cause of death was a gunshot wound. Muhlaysia was 22 years old. Merci 'Pooda' Mack Richey's murder in Dallas, Texas, occurred in June of last year. She was shot to death at an apartment complex. Her body was found in a Dallas parking lot with a gunshot wound to the head. Merci was 22 years old.

These stories are heartbreaking. Brayla, Bee Love, Muhlaysia, and Merci, were four of hundreds of trans teenage girls and trans women who were murdered within the past two years. These girls were robbed of the opportunity to live a full and happy life.

People may want to know more about the trans experience. What is it like for a young Black trans woman in America? For that, we can listen to the wisdom of Lavi Odijé. Navigating the world with proud Haitian, Bohemian, and African ancestry, Lavi Odijé is a kindhearted spiritualist. The 24-year-old trans woman who lives in New York has in-depth knowledge of the situation at hand. She agreed to this interview, and it is a privilege to share a portion of it with readers.

Dennis: Why do these men act the way they do towards trans teenage girls and trans women?

Lavi: There are three reasons why these men act out towards the girls. One, the women in their lives are nasty about trans women. Two, there were wounded men that raised these men. And three, because of broader society; school, social networks, and their community.

Dennis: What can people do to understand trans people better?

Lavi: Respect us. If you expect respect, that person is expecting the same thing. Learn how to have human decency.

Dennis: Being a Black trans woman, are you ever scared when you go outside?

Lavi: Sometimes, depending on where I go. Certain parts of Harlem or Brooklyn. For many people, ballroom is a safe space to be themselves. They can be free without judgment and express their gender identities.

Dennis: What advice do you have for young trans girls?

Lavi: Don't let what people feel about you cause you to look at yourself differently. I see you. I know you. I love you. I know you don't know me, and I know you don't know about my life, but I know you. People don't like you because people have never seen someone like you before—someone to be so free.

You'll always be able to be free in your community. Be friends with other trans girls. Walk with each other, talk to each other about everything, and make sure you always have something to protect yourself.



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## 'Upstanding' Yonkers 13 Year Old Stands Up to Racism and Bullies



*Sydnei McKnight*

*By Dan Murphy*

One of Michael Jordan's famous quotes is "Always turn a negative situation into a positive situation." For most of us, this is easier said than done, but Yonkers resident Sydnei McKnight has done it.

McKnight, an 8th grade student at The Chapel School in Bronxville, was the victim of online bullying last year. The reason for the bullying? Sydnei expressed her support and interest in the Black Lives Movement, BLM, which was the major topic of news and discussion across the country.

"About 7 months ago, I was racially harassed. The person used some of the ugliness that has been used to degrade black people for generations. It was a hard time for me to cope with it," said McKnight.

Adding to the hurt was the fact that the person who had bullied her online was someone that she knew from summer camp. McKnight told her mother Meisha about what had happened and The Chapel School was notified.

But what made her feel better during a time of need in her life was a friend and fellow students at The Chapel School who reached out and to lend his support. "This friend of mine was an upstanding ally—he stood up for me when he didn't have to and when I needed it. He didn't have to stick up for me, but he did, and he also stood up to the person who sent me the message," said Sydnei who has known the classmate for the five years that both have been students at the Chapel School.

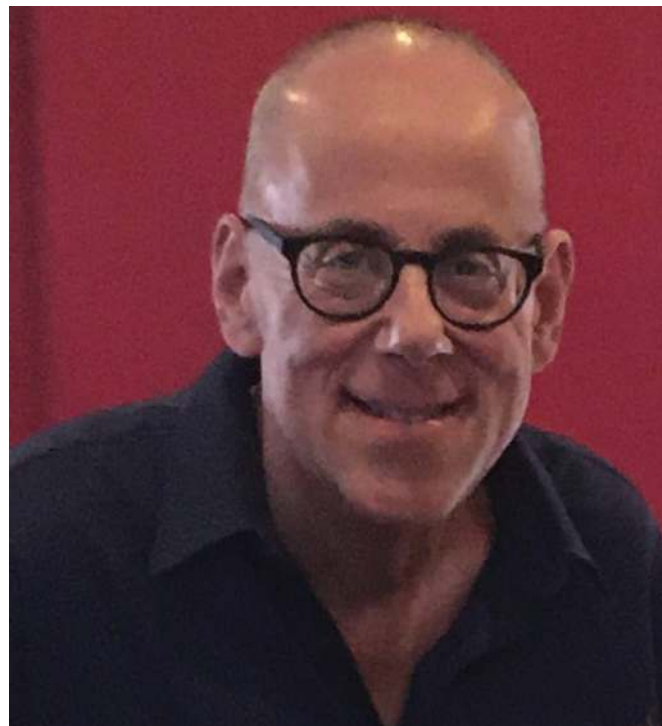
After the incident, the principal of The Chapel School, Michael Schultz, told Sydnei and her mom about an upcoming BLM march in Bronxville. They participated in the march and after, Sydnei had an idea. "A vision that I had after the march was to create a scholarship for a person who has an ally and has been an upstanding person, and who supports their friend or person when they know they need it."

The Chapel School loved the idea and got behind it. And this June, an essay contest will produce the first \$500 recipient of the Sydnei McKnight Upstander & Ally Scholarship. Participating students will be required to write an essay that best emphasizes the importance of standing up for their classmates.

"I'm so proud of how it came about. And I'm glad that everyone loved the

*continued on pg 4-*

## *Dim All The Lights*



*By Eric W. Schoen*

I was getting prepared to celebrate my birthday on Monday by going to bed fairly early Sunday night. I'm a pretty sound sleeper, but for some reason I woke up at 11:58 p.m. Sunday night, 2 minutes before the clock struck midnight and I would turn a year older.

I went to put my bed light on and no luck. I chalked it up to a burned out bulb. Got up to put the room light on and no, it did not go on either. Neither did the light in the hall nor Bathroom. Looked outside and things were pitch black. Maybe Donna Summer was 'Dimming all the Lights' in anticipation of my approaching birthday?

I called Con Edison. Always remember to call them (1-800-752-6633) or your local utility company when the power is out. They will call you when you owe them money, but perish the thought they would call your cell phone when there is a power problem at your home or in your neighborhood. Don't assume they know! So the Con Edison tape recording said there was no one to talk to but a major part of my area had a blackout.

I called the police to see what was happening and they told me they had gotten several calls about a blackout but had no further information on it. They told me to call Con Edison. So I was right back where I started from. Couldn't someone from Con Edison pick up the phone and alert the police as to what was occurring as we are all so very much on edge now?

It ended up being a blackout of several Yonkers neighborhoods including Park Hill and Nodine Hill. Within several hours the lights were back on and all was well in Yonkers. Do we know why lights went out. Conditions seemed to be stable. We weren't having surprise snowstorms and weather colder than we normally have this time of year. Unfortunately it is too little a story for our daily paper to report on. Come to think of it though it affected 1000's of people maybe they didn't know.

I would normally be toasty in Florida in or around my birthday. With what's going on in the country and the world not this year. But I had to have my favorite traditional birthday meal. Throughout Florida there is restaurant chain called Original Pancake House. They opened a branch several years ago in downtown White Plains. Off the diet for the 49'ers Flapjacks 'plate sized, buttery and chewy.' So far superior than the big pancake house so many of us know.

And now for the rest of the story:  
-Mayor Mike Spano's idea to put a campus of Westchester Community College (WCC) on the for sale Leake and Watts campus. Reminds me of the television show Gilligan's Island. People stranded at the farthest corner of the City of Yonkers. Minimal bus transportation. If it snows the number #32 bus which travels the hills of Yonkers doesn't run. No major highways

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## 914UNITED Inc. Expands Programming in Yonkers



By Camryn Sanchez

The new Yonkers nonprofit 914UNITED is launching new programming in March and February. 914UNITED is an organization cofounded by Jonathan Alvarez and John Cabrera which spearheads several causes including anti-racism and youth outreach throughout Yonkers and the entire lower Hudson Valley.

This month, 914UNITED launched the Streets Give Back Program geared towards supporting formerly incarcerated individuals as they reintegrate into society by accessing benefits, navigating paperwork, and even getting food and clothing. “We’re trying to bring people together in the name of helping those in need, and we would love to see in the future us being an entity that’s providing those services to the young people of color in the city, or brothers and sisters returning home. I do know that the city should do more, needs to do more for those returning home,” says Alvarez.

Alvarez is a Yonkers native who was formerly incarcerated, but was released in 2018. Since then he has become a mentor for My Brother’s Keeper, works as a case manager for SNUG - a violence prevention program under the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and is an academic coordinator with a youth offender program.

The Streets Give Back Program partners with local brands from different neighborhoods of Yonkers. “We are tapping into different areas of the city who historically have been disconnected. So we have individuals who lost loved ones due to warfare between one block or another. So inter-community conflict that’s been going on since the mid 90s,” says Alvarez.

Brands like Top Level and Hood Millionaire Clothing appear together through 914UNITED. “914UNITED is looking to unite blocks so individuals or groups that have been historically disconnected in the name of helping individuals coming home so that’s something that I feel like is very powerful with what’s going on with this movement it’s definitely fresh it’s still growing. We started off with six brands. We now have eleven brands that donated.”

Streets Give Back Program participant and 914UNITED brand manager Dominick Pallano says, “I always wanted to give back after everything that I’ve been through, because there was a lot of things growing up we didn’t have. Nobody was doing what he’s doing now.” Pallano says that as a child in Yonkers, programs like 914UNITED were not available to him. “It’s easy to transition back into a life of crime and what we know because we’re scared. People are scared of trying something new and failing. Everybody is used to just going into what they know, and that’s just committing crime.”

914UNITED is rolling out a new program in March that Alvarez describes as, “A campaign from hood to hood to basically talk about financial literacy.” The program is aimed at adults interested in workshops on investment, budgeting, and economics. Limited by Covid-19 restrictions and budgeting, 914UNITED does not currently operate a public center, but is based out of 45 Ludlow Street within the PowerLab. Although relatively new, 914UNITED is already an important staple in the Yonkers community and has the support of several organizations like the Yonkers PowerLab and Pamela’s Big Heart Foundation.

“No greater value exists than caring for the less fortunate. It is with the mindset of WE that build communities and improve the welfare of the people,” states the 914UNITED website. Never has this been more true.

## Make Your Picnic Reservations at County Parks

Outdoor picnicking will return to County parks this year. The Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation is now taking reservations for the upcoming months.

Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O’Connor said: “We are committed to providing recreational opportunities to our guests during the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to open activities that we feel we can operate safely, with health at the forefront of that decision making process. As we move into the spring and summer, we hope to have many picnics at our parks.”

All groups will be required to follow current Covid-19 guidelines at the time of their events including but not limited to capacity, social distancing and mask wearing.

Picnicking, including outdoor pavilions, is allowed at the following parks:

- Blue Mountain Reservation, Peekskill
- Croton Gorge, Cortlandt
- Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson
- George’s Island Park, Montrose
- Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- V.E. Macy Park, Irvington
- Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale
- Saxon Woods Park, White Plains
- Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers
- Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers
- Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River
- Willson’s Woods Park, Mount Vernon

To make a reservation call the permit office at (914) 231-4575, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservation holders will be contacted if there are any changes to Covid-19 protocols in regards to capacity or cancellations.

### Upstander continued from pg 3-

idea, to empower young men and women to stand up for what is right and be an upstander and stand up for what they believe in and what is right.”

We asked Sydnei if this type of racism that she experienced happens less with her generation. “I feel like this stuff happens every day, but it’s not talked about. As a result of what happened to me, I have heard countless stories from others about similar incidents. At first, I felt I couldn’t talk about it but now other people my age are standing up and trying to change things. Yes, it was a horrible experience, but we can make something great out of our bad experiences. It is time to stand up and stand up for good. As a member of my generation, I believe it’s important to be an Ally and Upstander.”

Meisha McKnight said, “Sometimes you have to stand up for what you believe in. And Sydnei is really a person who stands up for what she believes in.” She also thanked The Chapel School and principal Michael Schultz for their support.

“Principal Schultz was amazing and so supportive. When the idea was pitched to him, we didn’t know what to expect. But he thought it was a great idea from Day 1. He followed through and helped make it happen. “It’s inspiring that a young person like Sydnei understands and recognizes the importance of being an upstander and ally for others,” said Schultz.

Sydnei and her mom have not yet visited the BLM Mural in downtown Yonkers but plan to when the weather gets better, and they get their COVID vaccine. Congratulations to Sydnei McKnight, who is wise beyond her 13 years, for turning her negative situation into a positive situation for others for years to come.

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## 75 Dogs Rescued from Puerto Rico

*Sato Project, Wings of Rescue and Million Air Make it Happen*



The Sato Project collaborating with Wings of Rescue airlifted 75 dogs to the FBO's hangar where they were received by loving families. The flight was part of the "Love is in the Air" mission to save more than 500 at-risk shelter pets during the week of Valentine's Day with support from Tito's Handmade Vodka and the spirits company's Vodka for Dog People program.

All of the dogs were rescued from the streets of Puerto Rico, saved from a severe hoarding situation, abandoned, or pulled from overburdened animal shelters impacted by recent earthquakes. The Sato Project has rescued, rehabilitated, and flown more than 5,000 dogs to the Northeast.

"We were very grateful for the opportunity to host The SATO project and provide the space for this loving union between Westchester families and their new pets," said Roger Woolsey, CEO of Million Air. "The work that this organization does is nothing short of miraculous and we were proud to play our small part in this effort."

Dozens of volunteers arrived at Million Air on Saturday, Feb. 13 to help unload the animals, complete paperwork and unite them with their new families who were eagerly awaiting their arrival.

John and Allison Levene of Chappaqua and their children, Owen, 6, and Shane, 3, were there to pick up Zena, who was rescued as a tiny pup from a plastic bag dumped by the side of the road. Zena, now four months looking healthy and happy, rewarded her new family with plenty of kisses.

"We lost our dog awhile ago, and we are all very happy to have Zena," said John Levene.

There is a stray dog epidemic in Puerto Rico, where an estimated 500,000 roam the streets and municipal shelters average a 94-96% euthanasia rate. For the past decade, The Sato Project has rescued, rehabilitated, and flown more than 5,000 rescue dogs to the Northeast.

Also contributing to the cause on Saturday was Rita and Vincent Santelia of Silver Lake Pizza who donated lunch for dozens of volunteers.

## Plant Sale Opens at Hilltop Hanover Farm

With spring just a month away, Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center is preparing to replenish gardens across the County with vegetables, herbs, flowers and native plants. Their annual plant sale is open for pre-season ordering now through March 19.

County Executive George Latimer said: "Hilltop Hanover Farm continues to showcase its value with the launch of its online plant sale. Last year the farm addressed food insecurity brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, and it's now addressing the increased demand for seedlings in our community."

Over 100 varieties of plants are available for purchase and are grown using organic practices at Hilltop Hanover Farm.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center Director Shanyn Siegel said: "Local farms are essential to a sustainable food system. We've witnessed a resurgence of home gardens and are proud to support sustainability efforts across the County with events like our plant sale."

Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center President Janet Hareckham: "Our plant sale will support thousands of gardeners in our local community. If they overproduce, we hope they join us in donating their extra vegetables to food pantries throughout the County."

Orders can be placed at <https://hilltophanoverfarm.square.site/>. Cool-season plants will be available for pick up April 23, April 24, April 30 and May 1. Warm-season plants will be available for pick up May 7, May 8, May 14 and May 15.

To the Editor,

When I think about all of the issues that plague our democracy, one that makes me especially angry is felony disenfranchisement. It's absurd. In the year 2021, New Yorkers who have fully completed their prison sentences and re-entered their communities face needless hurdles to casting their ballot. These are people who pay taxes, provide for their families, and contribute to society just like you and me.

It's not only a violation of the principle of one person, one vote -- these laws are deeply racist. Laws disenfranchising people with past convictions are Jim Crow era relics designed to deny voting rights to Black men, and they still have a disproportionate effect on people of color today.

Luckily, we have a few sensible lawmakers up in Albany trying to remedy this. Bill S.830 / A.4448, which was introduced into the New York State Legislature earlier this year, would automatically restore the voting rights of formerly incarcerated New Yorkers. If passed, this reform would permanently re-enfranchise tens of thousands of voters.

I'm calling on the New York State Legislature to pass this legislation as soon as possible. This crucial reform can't wait.

Sincerely,  
Susukie Martinez, Yonkers

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## 21 Former Children's Village Residents' File Abuse Lawsuits



The number of former residents of The Children's Village who have filed lawsuits accusing the Dobbs Ferry, NY, residential treatment center of physical and mental abuse has doubled.

Greenstein & Milbauer, the New York City law firm representing the men who now range in age from their 30s to their 70s, has filed an additional 10 abuse lawsuits against the residential treatment center bringing the number to 21 since the first case was filed in 2019. The window to file an expired or time-barred case was set to close August 14, 2020, but due to the disruption of the legal system by the pandemic the deadline has been extended until August 14, 2021.

The victims were all young boys when they were placed at the Children's Village by courts or child welfare agencies. They recount how they were physically brutalized, raped, and humiliated by older residents. Similar sexual abuse was perpetrated by staff, including teacher aides, counsellors, and a former executive director. When the boys complained to social workers or other staff about the physical and sexual abuse, they were either ignored or threatened with violence.

"As our cases make their way through the courts, more men are stepping forward to share their painful histories," said Robert Greenstein. "It has taken decades for some of our clients to open up about the abuse they suffered at the most vulnerable points in their lives. With the window of opportunity to obtain justice closing in August, we strongly encourage other victims to come forward and raise their voices now while they have this unique opportunity."

He added: "Even after so many years have passed, these men still carry the burden of the horrendous emotional scars and pain they were so cruelly subjected to as children. Their stories of the culture of abuse that persisted for decades at The Children's Village not only deserve to be heard, but by bringing them to light, it will hopefully spare future generations of children from being subjected to similar abuses. These courageous men truly deserve to be heard."

The Children's Village is a not-for-profit residential treatment center created in 1851 to provide a safe and nurturing shelter for children who are experiencing hardships at their homes. The abuse cases in the lawsuit occurred over a 25-year period from about 1970 to 1995.

The lawsuits accuse The Children's Village of negligence in its hiring, training, and supervision, among other failures. Among the recent plaintiffs are:

S.D., whose complaint was filed on Feb. 2, said that from 1992 to 1995 he was raped and beaten by older residents.

J.P., a minor whose complaint was filed on Feb. 1, was placed at The Children's Village in 2013 at the age of 8. During his stay he was beaten and sexually abused by older residents in his room and in the shared bathrooms. John Doe, whose complaint was filed on Feb. 1, was placed at The Children's Village at the age of 12 from 1996 to 2001. He was sexually abused by residents and a staffer. During a psychiatric evaluation he told the doctor about the abuse and the doctor interpreted it as a "verbal slip." Other staff dismissed or ignored his complaints about abuse.

John Doe, whose complaint was filed on Feb. 3, was placed at The Children's Village from 2002 to 2006 at the age of 12. He was sexually assaulted by older residents in his cottage, the shower and a van when the children were unsupervised. Some of the abuse occurred as night watchmen were asleep on the job. Two female staffers also sexually abused him.

The cases are being heard by Justice Steven M. Jaeger at the Nassau County Supreme Court in Mineola. The cases were filed under the provision of the Child Victims Act. In 2019, Governor Cuomo signed the Child Victims Act to ensure survivors of childhood sexual abuse have a path to justice, including the ability to file a case which had already been time-barred or expired for a one-year period.

### Girl Scout Cookies, continued from pg 1-

As always, the proceeds benefit the troop and council while providing another innovative way to safely run the cookie program virtually. GSUSA is grateful to Grubhub for waiving all fees for the organization to make this new delivery option feasible for sales without reducing troops' and councils' proceeds. Hours and delivery area for GrubHub orders will vary, check GrubHub.com or the GrubHub app for details.

Cookie customers not only can create joy for themselves during this difficult time by purchasing Thin Mints®, Samoas®, and other favorites—they can also create joy for military troops serving overseas through GSHH's Operation Cookie Drop. And the earnings stay local: girls decide how to allocate their portion of the earnings for community projects, leadership opportunities, and exciting experiences. Our council depends on its earnings to run Girl Scout programming throughout the Hudson Valley.

If you don't already know a Girl Scout, visit [www.girlscoutcookies.org](http://www.girlscoutcookies.org) to purchase cookies online from a local troop for direct shipment or donation to local organizations.] Girl Scout Cookie season in Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson runs through March 16, 2021. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org).

## Section 3 Work Opportunity

MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking construction Section 3 eligible applicants for a moderate rehabilitation project, Kingsley House Located in White Plains, NY.

Section 3 eligible applicants are invited to submit a resume for the work in the following trades:

- Electrician
- Carpenter
- Construction Laborer

Work is to be performed in White Plains under Davis Bacon Act (prevailing wage) requirements.

Section 3 residents are:

- Public housing residents or
- Persons who live in the area where a HUD-assisted project is located and who have a household income that falls below HUD's income limits.

For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>  
Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to:  
Jennifer Monaghan at [JMonaghan@mdgny.com](mailto:JMonaghan@mdgny.com)

**Schoen, Dim All The Lights, continued from pg 3-**

or parkways anywhere near it. Roads unprepared for traffic. Such a far walk for anyone considering walking from downtown Yonkers.

Mike called the current Yonkers Westchester Community College Campus a 'shopping mall' college. Former County Legislator Bernice Spreckman and a committee I was part of worked hard for the WCC campus at Cross County. And then State Assemblyman Mike Spano supported it too! The place is jammed (in normal times) and offers everything Leake and Watts does not. Sorry Mike you are wrong on this one.

Speaking of education, why not use Leake and Watts to build some new Yonkers Public Schools. Maybe existing buildings can be retrofitted. What South Yonkers needs is more class space for our Yonkers Public Schools with so many public school students living on the west side of town!

-Let's hope that the new Covid-19 vaccination site at the Yonkers Armory opens more slots for people in Yonkers. I congratulate those of you who have been able to navigate the state site and get vaccinated. I tried it the other day for a neighbor. Got a slot at Aqueduct Racetrack. I don't mind the drive. Maybe my neighbor can get vaccinated and put \$2 on a horse, long shot and win the money it would have cost me for gas and tolls. Completed 75% of the registration and the system kicked me out. New York has got to come up with a better way of doing this.

-Spoiling doses of the vaccine putting a hand warmer in the container they were being stored in. Now 88 people need to be vaccinated again. The thought of wasting doses of the Covid-19 vaccine because the people available when all scheduled shots are given don't meet the current criteria. Any other dumb things related to the virus?

-I've said it before and I will say it again. Governor Cuomo would not let a drop of the vaccine hit the arms of New Yorkers before his medical team analyzed it. No one was smart enough to say hey, wait a minute Governor, before we reintroduce or introduce individuals with Covid-19 into nursing facilities we better think about it? This mess needs to be investigated and those responsible lose their jobs or go to jail. Investigated by someone with no ties to New York State or Cuomo or those in his administration.

-Is anybody thinking of the families of the 15,000 people who lost their lives because of this terrible mistake? To hear a public official at the highest levels of government say, 'We got Frozen!' This is not a Disney movie or play. We are talking about people's lives here. For the Cuomo administration to have any fear of the Trump administration? Boggles my mind.

-In the politicians do some of the stupidest things, we have two contestants this week. New York City Mayor Bill deBlasio who wanted to close two very popular, heavily used skating rinks in the middle of the ice skating season because they are operated by the Trump organization because years ago the city couldn't get its act together. Affecting 1000's of people desperate for outdoor activities and things to do in the midst of a pandemic! Fortunately cooler, no more intelligent heads prevailed.

And our buddy, what did Donald Trump call him, was it 'Lying Ted Cruz' who left town for warmer climate when his state was in the middle of one of the worst weather events it had ever seen? Put yourself in his shoes with similar family situations. First thing you don't do is have your wife send a group text to other families asking if they wanted to get away from the mess they were in. Would Texans and all of America be screaming if his wife took the girls who were on spring break to warmer climate without their father. Only problem here is that the school the Cruz daughters go to does not encourage out of the country vacations.

Right after it is announced on the radio that New Jersey had approved recreational marijuana we hear a commercial for a drug program for people who have increased marijuana smoking during the pandemic to help them stop or at least cut back! Mind boggling!

That new car smell we love is actually chemicals in the carpets, leather and paints of the vehicles that can be dangerous to our health. Scientists say long rides smelling this stuff could be dangerous. Please, Stay well my friends!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@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](http://WVOX.com) and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

Notice of Formation of 11 Lincoln Avenue LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/22/2020. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1354 Seneca Ave., Bronx, NY 10474. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of EVERYDIMECOUNTLLC. filed with the SSNY on 10/23/2020. 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. 442 North Avenue New Rochelle Ny 10801 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Empowered Wealth, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/1/2020. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Empowered Wealth, LLC. 41 Dellwood Road, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: to provide financial planning purposes.

JAMES HARDEE ENTERPRISES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/01/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 20 Bonnefoy Place Apt.3 New Rochelle, NY 10805. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Errands Trucking, LLC filed with SSNY on 2/23/21. Office Loc: Westchester Cty. SSNY desig. as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 46 Gramatan Ave #1056, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of FICKLE WORLD LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 1/26/2021. Office Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC: 33 Darwood Place, Mount Vernon, NY 10553. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**Legal Marijuana in NY, continued from pg 1-****Enabling the Use of Delivery Services**

The legalization of cannabis is expected to play an important role in helping rebuild New York's economy following the damaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, legalization is projected to create more than 60,000 new jobs, and spur \$3.5 billion in economic activity while generating an estimated \$350 million in tax revenue once fully implemented.

Cannabis legalization also has the potential to have a significant economic benefit on distressed areas in New York, providing employment opportunities for all levels of the workforce. As social and economic equity are the bedrock of Governor Cuomo's proposal, delivery services offer a low-cost entry point into the industry, particularly in communities which have been especially impacted by the war on drugs.

Recognizing this, the Governor is amending his proposal to allow for the permitting of delivery services as a way to open up access to this new industry even further so more New Yorkers can participate as it grows. As part of this, local governments would have the opportunity to opt out from delivery services occurring within their jurisdiction.

**Criminality of Improper Sales**

Under the Governor's amended proposal, specific penalties will be reduced as follows: Criminal sale in the third degree (sale to under 21 year old) will be made a class A misdemeanor. Criminal sale in the second degree (sale of over 16 ounces or 80 grams of concentrate) will be made a class E felony. Criminal sale in the first degree (sale of over 64 ounces or 320 grams of concentrate) will be made a class D felony

In 2019, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to decriminalize the penalties for unlawful possession of marijuana.

A new report says legalization of marijuana for adult use in New York State will create tens of thousands of jobs and add hundreds of millions in revenue over the next 5 years. The report, Economic and Revenue Impact of Marijuana Legalization in New York State—A Fresh Look, was written by James Parrott of the Center for New York City Affairs at The New School and economist Michele Mattingly.

The report found New York will see sizable economic benefits in the form of excise and sales tax revenue, jobs and overall economic output from the new industry to contribute to the state's revenue goals in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis and budget shortfall. The pandemic has taken a greater jobs toll in New York State than in any state except Hawaii.

If New York becomes the 16th state to legalize marijuana during the 2021 legislative session, annual retail sales of adult use marijuana are projected to rise from \$566 million in fiscal year 2023—when legal sales are expected to be first authorized—to \$2.6 billion in 2027, and could reach \$3.9 billion by 2032. The experience of other states shows that legal sales grow rapidly in the first several years as current users are drawn away from the illicit market and new users are attracted by the safety, quality assurance, and product variety that legalization provides.

That market size would generate up to \$159 million in state excise and sales tax revenue in fiscal year 2023 and \$765 million in annual tax revenue by 2027 based on Governor Cuomo's proposed tax structure—which includes a 10.25 percent excise tax, a potency tax and would subject retail sales to the sales tax. On a cumulative basis more than \$2.5 billion in total state taxes would be generated over the first five years. In the Governor's proposal, additional tax revenue would be generated for localities by the local portion of the sales tax, and under a proposal co-sponsored in the legislature by Senator Liz Krueger and Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes, four percent in excise taxes would benefit municipalities and counties.

The legislature's proposal would generate slightly lower state taxes than the governor's proposed tax structure, and about the same amount of local taxes.

The authors estimated that every \$1 billion in sales in New York would create 19,400 jobs in the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and retail segments and an estimated \$848 million in employee compensation and several hundred million dollars in business income. These jobs include those directly employed in the marijuana supply chain as well as by suppliers to the industry and the jobs supported by the consumer spending of those workers. Projections show that in the first year, more than 11,000 jobs would be supported. In fiscal year 2027, over 50,000 jobs would be supported, equating to \$2.2 billion in employee compensation and over \$2 billion in business income.

The report found that adult use marijuana sales will add \$6 billion in economic output in New York by fiscal year 2027.

"A legalized adult-use cannabis industry can inject billions into our state economy and address longstanding inequities with smart policies in place. As New York works to develop new revenue streams to address critical budget needs and repair the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, legalization provides a substantial opportunity to create new and diverse small businesses, quality jobs and strengthen rural and urban economies and communities," said lead author economist James A. Parrott.

Notice of formation of Simple Wishes LLC. Filed with the SSNY on 01/05/2021. Office Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC: 300 Gramatan Avenue Apt G81 Mount Vernon, N.Y 10552. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of ROTTINGPUMPKINLLC. filed with the SSNY on 11/30/2020. 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, PO Box 186 Armonk, NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of HAPPINESSJONESLLC. filed with the SSNY on 11/30/2020. 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, PO Box 186 Armonk, NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.



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**DA Charges DiBartolo, continued from pg 1-**

tigating DiBartolo until the Home Depot Loss Prevention Unit asked them to investigate. It says that DiBartolo stole from the store on 23 separate occasions. First question, what prompted the Loss Prevention Unit to investigate? Did they receive a tip?

“How do they know when the scheme actually began, or, are they speculating? He could have been doing this for years. Did the Loss Prevention Unit also look other Home Depot stores in Westchester County, Putnam County, Dutchess County and in Connecticut to see if there were other incidences where DiBartolo may have run the same scam?”

“Did the Westchester County Police reach out to other law enforcement departments to see if DiBartolo may have pulled similar scams in their jurisdictions? Have they asked Lowe’s to check their loss prevention specific to DiBartolo returning items to their stores?” said Julius G., a Yorktown reader.

Another Yorktown reader asks, “What makes a person like Eric DiBartolo, a former highway superintendent, president of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, highly admired and respected citizen of Yorktown and Westchester County, resort to stealing? Were there similar actions in Mr. DiBartolo’s past that were brought to light but cast aside by people wanting to protect him and his image?”

“Who knows what his thoughts were at those times. Was he scheming to make fast money for himself? Has Mr. DiBartolo been doing things that border on being illegal? Has he been caught before but not held accountable? Have his actions been covered up by friends with political connections?”

“This time he is caught and there is no covering up his actions. However, is this crime the tip of the iceberg or is there more to find? Many of the people that have contacted you know that Eric DiBartolo is not the same wonderful Yorktown citizen often portrayed in newspaper articles. Apparently investigations conducted by Yorktown citizens approximately ten years ago, when Mr. DiBartolo was Yorktown Highway Superintendent, questioned his purchases and actions, many times bordering on being illegal, that were covered up to protect him.”

The investigation referenced was a NYS Comptrollers report from 2012, which highlighted questionable use of taxpayer funds and conduct by DiBartolo. “We are concerned that the Superintendent has not always acted appropriately and in the best interests of the Town’s citizens. We identified actions of the Superintendent in which we believe both his personal financial interests and public responsibilities conflict. We found that the Superintendent sold used equipment and materials totaling \$28,670 to the Town, and the Town paid a company over \$100,000 that was owned by his sister-in-law which created prohibited interests. In addition, we identified irregularities in the bidding processes for various pieces of equipment, including ignored bid specifications and erroneous bid documents to make it appear as though purchases were bid when they were not. Finally, we found that the Superintendent’s computer was used to view and store pornographic and other inappropriate images, engage in a political campaign, and to buy and sell auto parts, for personal use, on a public auction website,” wrote NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli’s office.

Other emails and stories about DiBartolo, and his trail of wrongdoing include, a number of incident and police reports, from impersonating an officer to picking a fight at a cancer walk in town, to having town employees work on his home, to the questionable acquisition of property on Front Street, to charges made at Mitchell’s Hardware in town, to an anti-semitism suit filed against him, and it goes on and on.

One reader called DiBartolo “a semi-celebrity who got preferential treatment.”

Another believes that DiBartolo may have returned the same items that he is accused of stealing from Home Depot. “He is the type of guy who will find someone down on his luck and befriend him and get that person to help in his scheme.”

Some Yorktowners with friends who work at Home Depot claim that DiBartolo was also seen “at customer service, where you return items, alot,” which leads to speculation that he may have returned stolen items, which sometimes are accepted without a receipt, but just your ID.

“I wonder if that constitutes another crime,” asked Patty B, from Yorktown. “If he returned items and got cash for a stolen item, I hope someone is looking into that. I think that could have definitely happened--he’s a habitual criminal.”

One police report concerning DiBartolo is worth mentioning because it involves the daughter of a then Croton Police Department Lieutenant. Dated, Oct 3, 2005, Krysten Duffy, claimed that an unmarked car with flashing lights had pulled next to her and was following her around Yorktown as she waited to pick up a friend.

A real Yorktown Police Officer and car went to the corner where Duffy had pulled over and she told the officer her story, in which she was very nervous at the car that pulled next to her. The police report states that “Eric DiBartolo is following the vehicle.”

According to a FOIL request, the Town vehicle that DiBartolo was driving, while not a police car, had lights similar to an unmarked police car and a siren, was removed from DiBartolo and returned to the town.

More on this in the weeks to come.... if the stories keep pouring in?

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## Classifieds

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**Corbia, Racist Post allegations , continued from pg 1**

tion by the school board Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committee immediately proceeded to hire T&M, an outside internet technology firm to investigate and determine if Corbia was hacked. In order to conduct their investigation, the company had to have access to Corbia’s devices (cell phone or computers) to validate him his claim.

When the moment of truth came to hand over his devices for the good of the students and taxpayers of Port Chester, Corbia said, “Over My Dead Body” would he hand over his devices.

Now, 160 days after the comments were found, Thomas Corbia still presides over the Port Chester School Board, and he remains defiantly uninterested in resolving the matter, while members of the community push for his resignation, forced removal or his cell phone, to get back to the business of educating the students in the Port Chester schools, 84% of who are black and/or Hispanic.

On November 11, the Port Chester School Boards Ethics Committee issued their report on Corbia, which seems to point the finger at Corbia’s guilt, but without the smoking gun of his device or Facebook account history.

According to the report, after weeks of delaying an interview or sharing his cell phone, (which Corbia claimed is the only device that he uses for Facebook) Corbia tells the school district attorney that “Over my dead body will I share this phone with anybody. I don’t even share this phone with my wife.”

Due to a lack of cooperation by Corbia, the report concludes that they were unable to determine if Corbia was hacked, or if he in fact shared the posts. He did share with the school district that he had brought his phone into Wireless World in Harrison, and that a technician “had his phone all day.”

“It is troubling that Mr. Corbia was aware that hacking was a crime...but he never reported any of the incidents to law enforcement,” states the report, which continues “Rather than denying that he shared the post with anyone, he (Corbia) stated that “he did not remember if he shared it with anyone.”

But at a Sept 17 Board meeting, Corbia said, “I want the public to know it wasn’t originated by me and it wasn’t forwarded or commented on by me.”

“We have great difficulty reconciling this glaring inconsistency,” stated the report, which concluded that “our overall impression was that Mr. Corbia’s responses were lacking in credibility,” and “some of his responses were deliberately evasive.... We find the lack of cooperation rather troubling.”

Here’s three Q&A’s with Corbia that led to a conclusion of lack of cooperation:

1-Will you agree to meet with T&M—Answer—No Comment

2-Will you agree to turn over your devices---Answer-I have turned over all school district devices. Never used school devices for Facebook.

3-Are you willing to authorize the school district to access your Facebook account. Answer—No Comment

We spoke to several former school board members, parents, taxpayers, and students, all who called for Corbia to present his devices, resign from the board, or have the school board force his removal. Former Port Chester School Board member Carolee Brakewood, who served with Corbia from 2010-2019, said she was not surprised by Corbia’s recent behavior.

“This is not his first rodeo with misbehavior. He (Corbia) has exhibited a pattern of doing unethical things on the school board, and then getting away with it. And every time, there is outrage, but not enough to stop it or remove him.”

“But people are fired up now about the racist comments on his Facebook account, and at this point I can only assume he did in fact make the posts and was not hacked. Our school community is very diverse with 84% students of color – this is not the type of leadership we want in our schools. In other communities, public officials who have been caught making offensive or racist comments have been embarrassed by their own behavior or the resultant outrage, and have known enough to step down, but not him. Corbia looks you in the eye and says, “Over My Dead Body,” said Brakewood.

In addition to his duties as School Board President, and a member of the Port Chester Housing Authority, Corbia holds a job as “Community Work Assistant” for Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health, at a part-time salary of \$59,200. The patronage job requirements are to serve in a community relations capacity and represent the department with constituents, advocacy groups and the general public.

Some have called for Corbia to be fired from his county post. Others in the Port Chester community want Corbia to provide his devices to investigators or pay for the fees that the taxpayers paid to the attorneys and IT company hired to investigate him if he wants to keep his post.

“Is the message here that you can say anything you want, just don’t cooperate and you can get away with it? I support the cost of the investigation, but I want justice. I consider it racist to disparage an entire class of people and think you are going to get away with it. The board has other educational concerns they need to work on. But I want him (Corbia) to know that we are not going away, and the only way to resolve this is to hand in your devices, step down, or be removed,” said Brakewood.

Port Chester High school senior Rahsheek Hill, created a petition calling for Corbia’s resignation, which has been signed by more than 1,750. “I have watched what he has said and did over the past six months, and I have no respect for him. He has constantly denied saying those things and hasn’t tried to clear his name. He should go, and a lot of students think the same way. Students as young as the 8th grade know what he said and have come up to me to say thanks for standing up to him, and parents say I appreciate what you are doing,” said Hill, the Senior Class President.

“His words are damaging, not only to me but to the entire community because we are such a diverse town and its embarrassing to have someone like him in a position of power and to say things like this. He doesn’t have the courage to accept responsibility and resign.”

Two members of the community group Port Chester United, commented on their continued quest for the truth, or resignation or Corbia. Mandy Ortiz, called Corbia’s comments “totally racist.”

“We want him gone because its all about him. He refuses to step down after being asked by the Mayor and members of the school board to do so. We had a school board meeting online and for four hours, more than 40 Port Chester residents called on him to resign. The expression on his face during this meeting was smug, he doesn’t care and won’t step down. He continues to sit in meetings choosing the next superintendent. He has more rights than we do and it’s hurting our community.”

PC United member Keith Morlino said, “There is a pattern of bad behavior here. Tom Corbia passed on confidential information to undermine the school district in 2016 because he was jealous and had it out for the administration. Now, he has stalled this process, and if he wasn’t going to cooperate, he should have said it from day one. Now he has cost the district time and money, and no one can focus on anything else until it gets resolved. Everyone loses, because even if you don’t have kids in Port Chester our community’s reputation, and integrity, is at stake.”

The five-member school board is currently split, with two members generally not supporting Mr. Corbia as was the case in the One World vote, (Chris Wolff, and Lou Russo) and two board members supporting Corbia (Anne Capeci, Chrissie Onofrio).

Subsequent to the filing of the Ethics Committee report the Board hired Gus Moutanos of the law firm Ingerman Smith to evaluate what charges could be brought against Mr. Corbia. That vote was 3 to 1 with Trustee Capeci dissenting. In early February, Gus Moutanos presented the charges to the board who voted 4 to 0 to accept charges which remain confidential.

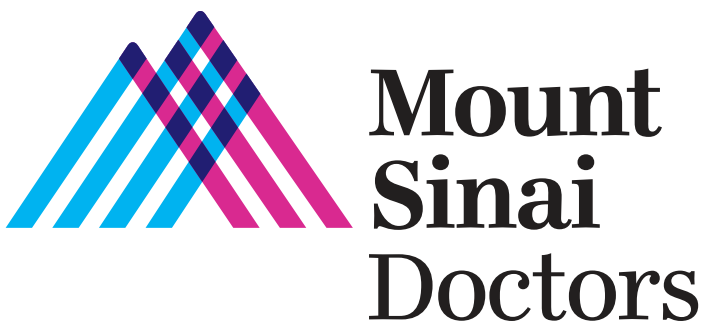
Joe Carvin, another member of PC United, said that second 4 to 0 vote causes more concern that optimism. “I now think it is highly probably that Mr. Corbia skates free unless Port Chester residents, and all of Westchester, make clear they will not stand for these kinds of racist rants. I do not think the good people of Port Chester understand how profoundly a vote to let Mr. Corbia skate free will impact our community both in real terms and in terms of perception. What is clear to me is that there is no compromising with overt acts of racism and it seems to me that far too many in Port Chester are prepared to stay silent,” said Carvin.

Over the next two weeks, we will contact elected officials to see if they are aware of the allegations against Mr. Corbia, and if they wish to comment.

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