

Yonkers Rising

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22 Suggestions in Yonkers Police Reform Committee Report



Report Open for Public Comment through March 2, 2021 at www.YonkersNY.gov/YPRC

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the Yonkers Police Reform Committee's final report, consisting of twenty-two suggestive reforms to the Yonkers Police Department. The final report is open for public comment through Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at www.yonkersny.gov/yprc.

"Residents can take great pride in the Yonkers Police Reform Committee's hard work; I thank them for their vested interest in creating inclusive reforms to further increase trust between the Yonkers Police Department and the communities they serve," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I am very proud of the reforms we have made over the past nine years, becoming a model for police agencies across the country, but I recognize we can always do better. I encourage residents to review the final report for another opportunity to have their voices heard."

Police Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, "We greatly appreciate the hard work and efforts of the City of Yonkers Police Reform Committee in creating this reform and reinvention plan and look forward to reviewing and implementing the final recommendations. I want to thank Mayor Mike Spano for his direction and guidance in forming the Committee; all the committee members for engaging in this process; and all the community members for voicing their comments and recommendations. The Yonkers Police Department is committed to transparency and excellence, and working together with our community we are dedicated to always improving and enhancing meaningful and equitable police services in the City of Yonkers."

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Yonkers Downtown Library Features "A Carnival at Night"



Look up to the 4th floor of the riverfront Library at night and enjoy video-art



The Yonkers Public Libraries latest arts offering turns the Riverfront Library building into a projection screen for video-art that can be enjoyed from outdoors or even from a passing Metro-North train.

Working in partnership with artist Dave Steck, and with help from the local audiovisual firm Sound Associates, YPL is turning the windows of Riverfront Library's fourth floor Yonkers Room into a projection booth.

Starting around sunset, and running for several hours every night, the south-facing window comes alive with Steck's video projection piece "Carnival Split."

In his "Split" series, Steck films objects in close-ups so you don't immediately know what they are, and then edits the images to highlight the movement of shapes and patterns, turning them into something new.

"There is something thrilling about a carnival at night," says Steck, "The lights are like an endless maze that you weave through as you go from ride to ride."

"YPL is dedicated to showcasing the artistry and ingenuity of Yonkers residents," says YPL Director Jesse Montero. "When Dave Steck proposed using the library to project video we couldn't resist. It turns the library into a literal beacon for something beautiful and curious, brightening up this

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City Council Majority Wants Union Labor & Affordable Housing for Ludlow Development



A rendering of Ludlow Point, a 520 unit residential plan at 150 Downing Street

By Dan Murphy

A divided Yonkers City Council did not approve a draft environmental review plan for Ludlow Point, a large redevelopment of southwest Yonkers next to the Ludlow Train Station, proposed by Ginsberg Development Company, GDC. After a healthy discussion, the Council voted 3 yes, 2 no, and 2 absentions NOT to accept a draft environmental impact statement, which is usually adopted as a formality in the development process for any project.

Four City Councilmember, Council President Mike Khader, and Councilmembers Shanae Williams, Tasha Diaz and Anthony Merrante, all called for the developer to reach an agreement with Union labor on the construction of the project, called a Project-Labor Agreement, PLA.

Council President Mike Khader said that he will not support the project unless a PLA and a suitable Affordable Housing component of apartments are set aside for low and middle income Yonkers residents. "I support project labor agreement and I have sat on picket lines. Labor needs to have a seat at the table and I have a concern that while we are moving along with procedural steps, these major issues are not being addressed. The developer also has to be a part of the affordable housing crisis that we face. If developers are opposed to affordable housing and project labor agreements, its not my job to make developers rich, its my job to represent the community and at this early stage the needs of the community have not been met. I will not support any project where a developer does not support increased affordable housing and a project labor agreement."

Councilmember Anthony Merante said, "I have spoken with members of Labor and they say that the developer has not been listening and not willing to come forward and negotiate. I think that we need to push the developer to work with labor on this project."

Khader and Merante voted no, while Councilmembers Diaz and Williams abstained, with both calling for affordable housing and a PLA with the developer.

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Republican Ron Matten Steps Up to Run for City Council President



Republican City Council President candidate Ron Matten

By Dan Murphy

Longtime Yonkers resident, operations manager, and republican Ron Matten announced his candidacy for Yonkers City Council President last week. Matten, who grew up on Valentine Lane in Southwest Yonkers and attended Sacred Heart High School, is expected to get the Yonkers GOP nomination when they meet next week.

Matten is a graduate of Manhattan College with Bachelor of Business Administration (Finance) and he holds a Master's in Public Administration from Pace University. He wants to use his 30 years of experience in facilities and operations management, working for private and public entities, to help the people of Yonkers and the taxpayers, in the budgetary process.

Most recently, Matten has worked for the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut and the City University of New York with municipal and organizational budgets, and in restructuring organizations to operate efficiently.

In Yonkers, Matten serves as a board member of Yonkers Joint Schools Construction Board. The board was created by statute and is charged with rebuilding the facilities of the Yonkers' school system. Ron is also a board member of the Yonkers Family YMCA. As a resident of southwest Yonkers, the "Y" had a major positive influence in his family's life.

"I'm running for Council President to put my extensive experience to use for the benefit of the Yonkers taxpayer. I can make a substantive impact towards the city's financial stability while improving the life of our residents. The office of City Council President has significant authority and this authority has not been used to its potential," said Matten who lives with his wife Khanittha in Colonial Heights where they are active members of the neighborhood associate, CHAT.

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Spano: Turn 32-Acre Leake & Watts Property Into a WCC Campus



Aerial view of 32-acre former Leake & Watts campus

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today called on the State University of New York (SUNY) to purchase the 32-acre property at Rising Ground, formerly Leake & Watts, located in southwest Yonkers to serve as a second major campus for Westchester Community College (WCC).

“The sale of Rising Ground’s property in Yonkers provides our community and SUNY an unmatched opportunity to better serve the growing number of students from Yonkers and lower Westchester,” said Mayor Spano. “This piece of prime real estate overlooking the Hudson River can become more than just additional classroom space – it can also serve as an accessible location for local community activities and events, expanding WCC’s campus presence in the county.”

Citing that twenty-five percent of Westchester Community College’s student body are Yonkers residents, Mayor Spano added, “Many of our graduating students are accepted and attend WCC. Providing them and others local students the ability to take classes near their home and close to public transportation is ideal in promoting their commitment to higher and continuing education. Yonkers enrollment would surely increase.”

“I encourage Governor Cuomo and Westchester County to support our efforts to expand the county’s largest educational institution to the largest city in the county,” commented Mayor Spano. “I believe WCC can better achieve its mission of providing accessible, high quality and affordable education by extending its reach to the diverse community located here in Yonkers.”

From June 2016 through June 2020, twenty-eight percent of Yonkers Public Schools students who graduated high school and attended college began their post high school studies at Westchester Community College. Westchester Community College serves 20,000 full and part-time college credit students and over 10,000 continuing education students each year.

Rising Ground, originally founded in 1831 in Manhattan as the Leake & Watts Orphan House, moved to the Yonkers site in 1890. In 1979, the organization grew to provide a wide range of human services for children, adults, and families in need. Last year, Rising Ground moved its main administration office from its Yonkers campus to Brooklyn to be closer to its New York City-based programs and to its government and community partners.

Rising Ground, located at 463 Hawthorne Avenue, last week announced its intent to sell its Yonkers location.

Yonkers Fire Commissioner Robert Sweeney to Step Down



Yonkers Fire Commissioner Robert Sweeney

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced Yonkers Fire Commissioner Robert Sweeney submitted a letter of resignation from his position, effective March 10, 2021. Sweeney has served as Commissioner for eight years under the Spano Administration.

“Bob has served the Yonkers Fire Department with professionalism and honor; and has demonstrated respect for the job, our firefighters and for the city in which he serves,” said Mayor Spano. “I want to thank Bob for his dedication and leadership during his career with Yonkers. Bob has been an exceptional fire commissioner for us and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.”

Mayor Spano will be appointing Fire Chief John Folkerts as Interim Commissioner.

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.



NOTICE TO NEW YORK RESIDENTS

Homeowner Funding is now offering homeowners a chance to make necessary energy efficient home repairs and will be offering its services to families who:

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Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Announces Appointment Schedule for Yonkers Vaccination Site

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins announced today that residents in parts of Yonkers and Mount Vernon will be able to make an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine through the New York State website or the Vaccine Hotline at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829), beginning on Wednesday, February 24th at the new FEMA and State run vaccination site in Yonkers. The vaccine site is expected to open on March 3rd.

"Through my advocacy efforts, and my calls to the Governor's office to expand equitable vaccine distribution, partners and I at all levels of government were able to make this happen," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

"The Westchester County Center was not accessible to many Yonkers and Mount Vernon seniors or those depending on public transportation in our hardest hit communities so getting this site in my district will be life-saving."

Appointments for vaccines will open first on February 24th in Yonkers zip codes: 10701, 10705, 10703, and 10704 and Mount Vernon zip codes: 10553, 10550, and 10552. On March 3rd, all Westchester County residents can begin making an appointment.

The new vaccine site will be located at the New York National Guard Armory in Southwest Yonkers at 2 Quincy Place. The site is expected to offer 1,000 vaccines each day. Meanwhile, with the opening of this site, the Westchester County Center should see shorter lines and appointments open.

Now, the Majority Leader said she is focused on launching an awareness campaign to let residents know this site is here. The Senator said her staff will be reaching out to organizations and residents by phone. She will also be making efforts online to get the word out.

"We saw Yankee Stadium open, and people didn't even know it was a vaccine site in the beginning. We can't let that happen in Yonkers. My office will be working to raise awareness."

The Majority Leader hosted a Facebook Live event on February 24th at with Senator Shelley Mayer to address health inequity in the Black community, and what can be done to combat vaccine hesitancy. The Senator encourages residents to join the conversation and to visit the State's website to determine if they may be eligible to get the vaccine.

Editor's Note: Initial reports from the Yonkers community have the appointment schedule process working well, with residents who are in the zip codes permitted are making appointments for March.

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."

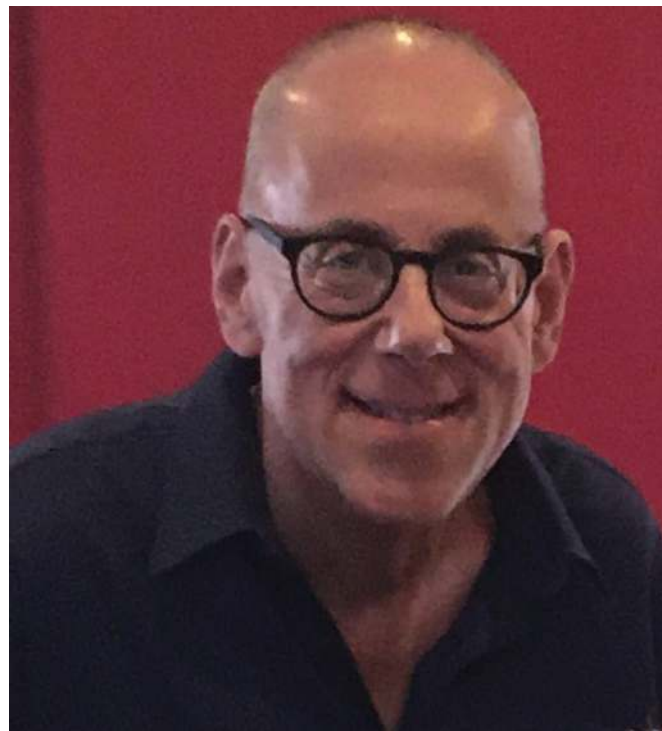
All groups will be required to follow current Covid-19 guidelines at the time of their events including but not limited to capacity, social distancing and mask wearing.

Picnicking, including outdoor pavilions, will be allowed at Yonkers two county parks, Sprain Ridge Park, and Tibbetts Brook Park, and at all county parks.

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.

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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.

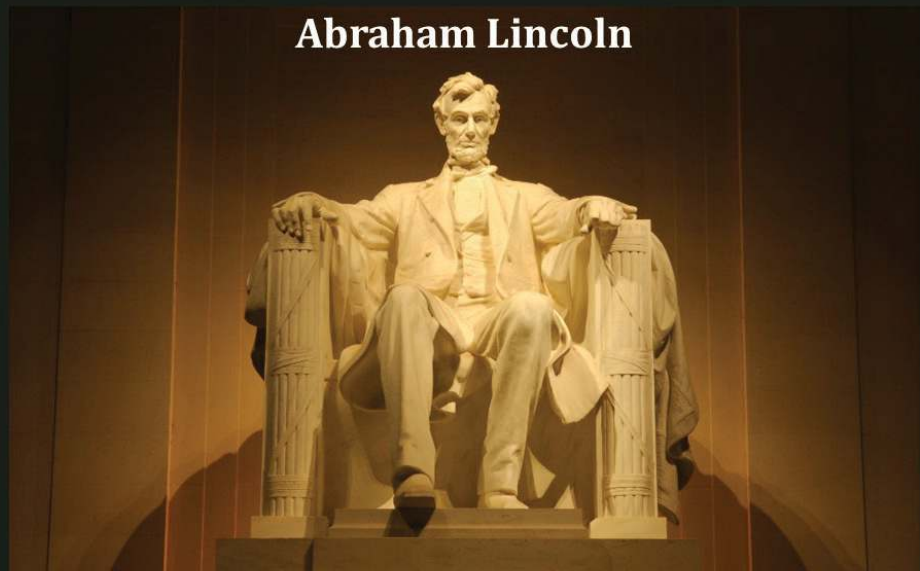
I would normally be toasty in Florida in or around my birthday. With what's going on in the country and the world not this year. But I had to have my favorite traditional birthday meal. Throughout Florida there is restaurant chain called Original Pancake House. They opened a branch several years ago 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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Yonkers Republicans Celebrate Our Party's Founder Abraham Lincoln



"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves"

As the author of the **Emancipation Proclamation**, Lincoln's **integrity and belief in core principles** held this nation together during its most divisive time. And, it's what we, the Yonkers Republican Party still stands for today!

- * *Respect for Individuals and Law Enforcement Alike*
- * *Efficient & Responsible Government*
- * *Safe Communities*
- * *Strong Support for the US Constitution and All its Amendments*
- * *Strong Support for Our Nation's Military*

To learn more about the Yonkers Republican Party-please email us at: yonkersgop@gmail.com

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Matten for City Council President , continued from pg 1-

- Matten plans on presenting a platform of
- Putting term limits back in the hands of the voters. Term limits were extended without regard to the voters. Its time to give this decision back to the people.
 - Bringing fiscal stability and accountability to Yonkers. In the last two years, Moody's has downgraded Yonkers' general obligation bonds, based on instability and unrealistic budgets. The Council President has equal authority over IG investigations. As Louis Brandeis said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." It is time to unleash this authority.
 - Putting quality of life above overdevelopment. Its great that the City has brought development to Yonkers, but developers don't always consider the interest of the residents. When they do not, it has a negative impact on our communities. Development funded through the Yonkers IDA should require project labor agreements.

City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen, the top elected republican in Yonkers, said, "I'm glad that Ron Matten is running and that the Yonkers republicans have a candidate for Council President. He is more than qualified to run and has an impressive resume. That is why I recommended him to serve on the Yonkers Joint Schools Construction Board. He has worked in the Yonkers GOP for several years and will represent the party well."

Letter 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

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, 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 or the Grubhub app.

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 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.

Carnival at Night, continued from pg 1-

dark cold winter.”

“It's cool to have such a unique space to show my work,” added Steck, “The library has been a great partner in making this happen.” Riverfront Library is open to limited services and occupancy, but this exhibit is best viewed from outside in the evenings. It is a great way to enjoy something unique that the library has to offer, while still maintaining safe social distancing.”

The Carnival Split installation is easily visible from the Van der Donck Park at Larkin Plaza, across the street from the library and the Yonkers Metro-North Station. It will be on display every night through February 28th, starting at dusk. This project is made possible in part from funding from the Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library.

Yonkers Rising

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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 investigation 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.”

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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.

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

Continued on pg 7-

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



Park Hill Country Club

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Member of the Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board

Monday, March 1st

March 1, 1935: NYS Senator James Garrity introduced a bill in the State Legislature to pay Yonkers City Court Jurors three dollars a day; at the time they were paid twenty cents a day.

March 1, 1944: After reading The Saturday Evening Post, Yonkers learned Charles Towner, US Coast Guard Sound Man Third Class, was a member of the USS North Star crew that mounted an expedition against the Nazi radio station and weather base in Greenland a few months earlier. Towner, son of former Third War Alderman Harry Towner of Warburton Avenue, wrote his parents he was surprised to meet Alan Codd of Park Avenue while in Greenland; Towner and Codd attended Yonkers High School together.

March 1, 1962: The Park Hill Racquet Club burned down; this formerly had been known as the Park Hill Country Club.

Tuesday, March 2nd

March 2, 1928: James Lessner of South Broadway was awarded \$50,000 for injuries suffered while repairing an elevator in New York City. The case, heard by Supreme Court Justice Joseph Morschauer, ended quickly when the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff after deliberation of less than 15 minutes. Lessner was repairing an elevator when the janitor touched the control switch, causing the elevator to crash to the ground floor. As a result, Lessner suffered paralyzing injuries to his arm.

March 1, 1936: Sixteen-year-old Yonkers Eagle Scout Charlie Pound appeared on Major Bowes Amateur Hour. Before he began playing the accordion, Charlie told the Major he was known as the "Boy with the Flying Fingers," adding that he was "the fastest accordion player in the world."

Wednesday, March 3rd

March 3, 1923: Well known local singer Janet Beck of Guion Street, broadcasting from a major NYC studio, was the first American female vocalist to be heard overseas.

March 3, 1947: The Family Service Society of Yonkers filed plans with the Building Department to alter its new headquarters at 219 Palisade Avenue. Formerly the home of Charles Ketcham, President of the Yonkers Savings Bank, Family Service decided to purchase the Palisade Avenue building after a sharp rent increase by the new owners of 45 South Broadway. Previously owned by the Westchester Lighting Company, the Society only was charged a "courtesy rent" of \$1,000 per year. Currently located at 30 South Broadway, the organization first opened in 1883 in the Woman's Institute, moved to the Proctor Building in 1919 and then to their Palisades Avenue home in 1943.

Thursday, March 4th

March 4, 1927: "Millionaire straphanger" John E. Andrus returned home to Yonkers after a three-week vacation in Fort Myers, Florida. According to Andrus, he "stayed in Florida as long as his money lasted."

March 4, 1932: After an anonymous note was found in an east Yonkers mailbox, police searched Grant Avenue and Lincoln Park for the kidnapped Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

March 4, 1936: People in downtown Yonkers were talking about a small brass plate sunk into the sidewalk at the southwest corner of South Broadway and Hudson Street; the inscription read, "Property Line Cochran Estates, Inc. Crossing by Permission Only. Permission Revocable At Will." No doubt, thousands of people had unwittingly "trespassed" on this property.

Friday, March 5th

March 5, 1834: Frederick Weed bought what now is the Sherwood House Museum for \$1200; his family occupied this home for 89 years. The Yonkers Historical Society now runs the museum.

March 5, 1930: A labor dispute that became a boycott was settled when a bakery was sold. The dispute at the Rosenmann Bakery on Riverdale Avenue began when Rosenmann hired men affiliated with independent local union #164. His other workers, members of AFL Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union #144, were unhappy he brought "members of a socialistic union" to work in Yonkers. The new owner, Mr. A. Brock, signed an agreement to operate the shop only using members of Local #144.

March 5, 1932: Bert Corbalis, Chairman of the Joint Veterans' Committee announced it would try to use the old Statesman Building at 86 Main Street for relief distribution headquarters. The committee was notified it, along with the Salvation Army, would have to vacate its present quarters at Hudson Street and Riverdale Avenue immediately as it had been rented to an automobile dealer.

Continued on pg 7-

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

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. 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.

Notice of formation of Panza NY LLC filed with the SSNY on 10/13/2020. 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, 640 Van Cortlandt Pk Ave Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Byrd Enterprises, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/21/20. 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, 249 Hoover Road, Yonkers NY. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Rella Electric, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/1/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Christian Farella at 186 Stone Ave., Yonkers, NY, 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Miss DQ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/19/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 154 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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.

Port Chester School Board , continued from pg 4-

"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 Capecci, Chrisie 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 Capecci 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 than 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.

Notice of formation of MASSIVE ATM LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/30/2018. 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, 1 Glenwood Ave, apt 6D, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of ThirdByrd, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/23/2020. 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, 249 Hoover Road, Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.



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Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Saturday, March 6th

March 6, 1911: Alderman Hayes proposed a high fence be built around the Fort-field Reservoir to prevent suicides.

March 6, 1942: New York Daily News columnist Ed Sullivan mentioned Yonkers native Brigadier General Frank Brady in his column; hero aviator Brady, the son of late Yonkers Police Captain Hugh Brady, had won new awards for his courage fighting in the skies over Java.

March 6, 1950: Yonkers baseball star Steve Ridzik broke his knee while working out at the Philadelphia Phillies' Training Camp in Clearwater, Florida.

Sunday, March 7th

March 7, 1911: Stephen Thayer, Chairman of the Manor Hall Committee, announced Alexander Smith Cochran had offered to finance restoration of the Manor Hall to its pre-Revolutionary splendor.

March 7, 1928: After Public Safety Commissioner Frank Devlin asked for an opinion, Corporation Counsel Leonard McAneny ruled that an appearance of Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle at Loew's Theater, would not constitute "an offense against public decency," and the city had no legal right to block his appearance.

March 7, 1947: Harold Zulauf, VP of Industrial Relations for the Smith Carpet Company, spoke to students at Cornell University's School of Industrial Labor Relations in Ithaca, the first four year-course of its kind in the country. After speaking to students in open forums on "Bridging the Gap between Management and Labor," he had dinner with students at the student union.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Ludlow Development , continued from pg 1-

oper. Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Issac, Minority Leader Mike Breen and Councilmember John Rubbo voted yes. Breen said he was "looking for a negotiated settlement for a PLA," between the developer and the unions. "If the developer won't come to the table that is a problem but I'm hopeful that an agreement can be reached because that is what the people of Yonkers are looking for."

Councilman Rubbo said, "This is a good development project for Yonkers. Finally we have economic development moving south from the downtown-waterfront. I will continue to ask the developer to come to the table, but I support this project."

GDC's Ludlow Point, a \$199.7-million investment, is the centerpiece development of the new Ludlow Station Area Master Plan. Located at 150 Downing St., the project will feature 520 residential units in two 10-story and two 11-story towers. The unit mix will be comprised of 80 studios, 320 one-bedrooms and 120 two-bedroom apartments. Building amenities will include a club lounge, fitness center, swimming pool, business center, bike racks and tenant storage lockers. A total of 10% of the units (52) are to be affordable under the Yonkers Affordable Housing Ordinance.

Ludlow Point will feature a new Promenade Park overlooking the Hudson River and the cliffs of the Palisades that will connect to O'Boyle Park, which will be refurbished by GDC. Ludlow Point will represent the largest private investment made in Southwest Yonkers in decades, according to the IDA, and is estimated to create approximately 600 construction jobs and 14 permanent jobs. IDA financial incentives for the project include \$4,752,563 in sales tax exemptions and \$2,520,000 in mortgage recording tax exemptions.

The other GDC project, 70 Pier St., is a \$14.2-million mixed-use building to be constructed on the south side of Abe Cohen Plaza at the Ludlow Metro-North Train Station. The project will consist of a four-story building containing 36 residential rental apartments with a unit mix of six studios, 18 one-bedrooms and 12 two-bedroom units.

Four votes were needed to move the item forward, and it did not pass. The item may be resubmitted in two weeks, at which time another vote will be taken.

Councilman Merante's no vote on the Draft EIS was not expected. Several more votes will have to take place for the final approval of the plan and four votes are needed.

The issue of a PLA has been discussed in recent years in Yonkers concerning redevelopment. The City and IDA were requiring a PLA for development projects until the decision was made not to continue the requirement.

The argument against PLA's was that some developers walked away from some Yonkers projects because of them. The argument in favor of PLA's is that it provides good paying jobs and that members of construction union live in Yonkers and pay taxes.

The Council meeting held on Feb. 16 was one of the most interesting in years, with many items on the agenda, including calls for a Marina on the downtown waterfront, a return of a Ferry Service at the same locale, a resolution supporting the elimination of student debt and more, which we will report on next week.

Police Reform Committee Report, continued from pg 1

Carlos Moran, Chairman, Yonkers Police Reform Committee, commented, "The final report presented by the Yonkers Police Reform Committee is a culmination of the past five months which have been filled with long nights, countless hours reviewing policies and procedures of the Yonkers Police Department, and much productive dialogue. I thank my fellow Committee members for embarking on this journey to seek improvements to our Yonkers Police Department to better the Yonkers community. The conversation does not end here. The Committee encourages residents to review the final report and give public comment for consideration."

The twenty-two suggestive reforms include:

1. Establish a Mental Health Crisis Outreach Team and Policy inclusive of trained professionals that could serve as the primary responders to calls that do not involve a legal issue or high threat of violence or risk to the individual or others.
2. Improve and expand programming at Westchester County-operated homeless shelters to better support the mental health needs of the homeless community.
3. Establish and raise public awareness of best practices for calling 911, providing residents with best practices for reporting an emergency.
4. Provide additional training to dispatchers for screening mental health emergencies.
5. Keep police presence in schools limited to student engagement opportunities, including school visits to speak at student assemblies and to introduce YPD community outreach programs designed specifically to engage youth and young adults in the local school district. Police can have an important role in supporting students through these programs in partnership with the school community.
6. Develop a comprehensive Community Policing Strategic Plan to ensure the entire Department understands and supports a policing model reflecting the desired vision, values, and goals of the community.
7. Bring YPD Community Affairs programs into neighborhoods by partnering with community organizations to identify neighborhood locations that could host Community Affairs programs while also serving as "safe places" for families to gather and for parent and youth support services.
8. Establish Consistency in Community Outreach Patrols to better familiarize precinct officers with the community, proactively offer resources and assistance to those in need, and establish positive police-community interactions.
9. Invest in Marketing for Community Affairs programs to attract a broader pool of residents who could benefit from the programs and positive interaction with members of the police department.
10. Establish and Deploy a Clergy Response Team into neighborhoods to help foster on-going opportunities for discussion between police and the community.
11. Improve options for reporting discriminatory stops and searches, including establishing a website for public reporting and raising awareness.
12. Strengthen respect for citizen rights and police procedure during traffic stops by creating an education program focused on informing citizens of their rights and the rights of police officers in conducting an investigation.
13. Improve public access to YPD policies, procedures, and disciplinary actions by posting internal policies on its website and disclosing the handling of police misconduct cases, including any disciplinary actions taken.
14. Pursue a performance evaluation program for officers that incorporates metrics based on Community Policing principles.
15. Improve the functions of the Police Professional Standards Review Committee ("PPSRC") to ensure adequate community representation and reporting of Committee activities. The YPRC also suggests the City consider incorporating the functions of the proposed Civilian Complaint Review Board ("CCRB") into the existing PPSRC structure.
16. Expand NYS Civil Service Banding Zones for Police Entrance Examination scores to provide a larger, more diverse pool of qualified candidates that could be considered for hire.
17. Strengthen the residency requirement for police officer candidates by extending the period of time that a police officer candidate must be a Yonkers resident, both prior to taking the written exam and post-hiring.
18. Award points on the Police Examination for long-term residency and for those of underrepresented populations to boost efforts for achieving a workforce that is representative of the diversity of Yonkers' population.
19. Establish a Police Examination Preparation Course in Yonkers high schools to help students gain information and familiarity with the police examination and increase their confidence and comfort with taking the test.
20. Develop a long-term Police Recruitment Strategy for the African American community aimed at increasing the pool of African American police officer candidates. The City of Yonkers should also push for the creation of State and/or Federal police diversity recruitment programs to fund marketing and community outreach activities targeting underrepresented populations within local police departments.
21. Provide mental health support for police by utilizing the resources of an established Mental Health Crisis Team, as discussed in Recommendation 1.1, and ensure intergovernmental coordination for additional services as may be required.
22. Engage and train officers in mental health intervention by establishing an open line of communication between YPD leadership and officers on the various situations and incidents impacting their mental and physical health and their ability to perform their job functions. YPD should explore mental health and wellness training opportunities for supervisors to gain strategies and techniques for recognizing warning signs and applying effective intervention.

To access the Yonkers Police Reform Committee's final report and submit public comment, visit [yonkersny.gov/yprc]yonkersny.gov/yprc. Residents can make public comments through Tuesday, March 2021. All public comments will be reviewed and considered.

Final Report Timeline

I Public comment period open through March 2, 2021 at [yonkersny.gov/yprc]yonkersny.gov/yprc.

II After comments are considered, the document will be sent to the Yonkers City Council for ratification or adoption.

III Mayor Spano will sign the final document to be sent to the Governor's Office for review by April 1, 2021.

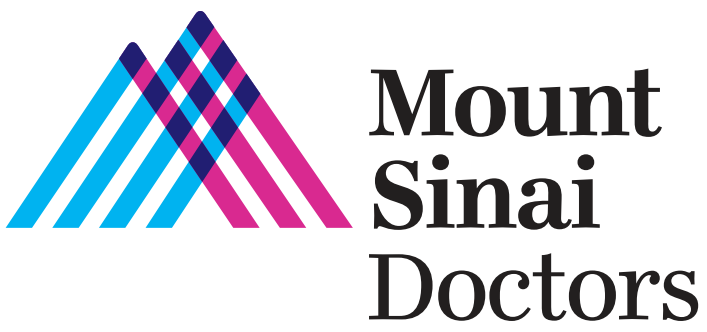
In June 2020, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order No. 203 urged New York's more than 500 police agencies to rebuild police-community relations. In August 2020, Governor Cuomo released the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative as a resource and guide for local public officials and citizens to assist them in discussions to develop policies that protect the public, while meeting the local communities' acceptance. The Governor's Order authorizes the Director of the State Division of the Budget to condition State aid to localities on adopting the report.

Recreational Marijuana , continued from pg 5-

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.



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