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Friday February 11, 2022

Yonkers Mayor 'Taking a Look' at Challenging Bowman; Criticized for Radio Comments About Congressman



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, left, discussed Congressman Jamaal Bowman, right, in a recent radio interview on WVOX

By Dan Murphy

On Feb . 3, In a wide-ranging interview on WVOX Radio 1460 AM, with Phil Reisman and Matt Richter, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said that Congressman Jamaal Bowman's "political philosophy is not in line with the people that live here" and said that he was "looking at" a possible challenge to Bowman in a democratic primary this June.

"He's tough for Westchester and tough for Yonkers," said Spano, explaining that Bowman's far left, progressive philosophy is difficult for most Westchester democrats to accept and agree with.

"They should have arrested him (Bowman) for his no vote on infrastructure. I'm a hardcore moderate in the middle, and that is where most of us are and end up. But the democratic party over the past two year has been pushed to the left, and the reforms, like bail reform, have gone too far."

Spano's comment that Bowman "should have been arrested," received strong criticism from the NAACP, Black Democrats, the Black Women's Political Caucus, IND CDNY 16, and from democratic elected officials, including Congressman Monaire Jones, State Senate Majority Leader Andrew Stewart-Cousins, and County Legislator Christopher Johnson.

We have printed many of their comments on pg 7, but all of their comments can be found in several stories on this subject at YonkersTimes.com

Yonkers City Councilwoman Tasha Diaz, supported the Mayor, saying "in all my experiences with Mayor Spano, I can say he stands for inclusion and respect. He's not a racist. People can interpret remarks differently when politics are involved, but as a Black councilwoman and a woman of color, I will stand with Mike Spano any day."

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For Cancer Prevention Month, Dr. Ashley Tsang, Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester, Discusses Types of Breast Cancer & Treatments



Dr. Ashley Tsang,
Mount Sinai Doctors-
Westchester

By Dan Murphy

World Cancer Day is marked on 4 February to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. Dr. Ashley Tsang, from Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester, spoke with us to explain the different types of breast cancer and to encourage women to stay on top of their yearly screenings and mammograms.

"A common misconception is that all breast cancer is the same. Many of my patients come in with preconceptions of what their treatment will be based on what they may have read or what a friend or relative has personally experienced. I often explain that there are different types of breast cancer, and depending on their type and stage, we will determine the treatment algorithm" said Dr. Tsang.

Different breast cancer types are identified based on evaluating three tumor markers: 1) Estrogen receptor 2) Progesterone receptor and 3) HER2-neu. The simplest way to approach treatment is by separating into these three types:

1- Estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor-positive, HER2 negative. "This is the most common type of breast cancer that we see, and can often be treated by surgery first, as long as we find it in the early stages," said Dr. Tsang. "Eventually after surgery, this type of breast cancer is controlled with a hormone blocking pill."

2. HER2 – positive. About 1 out of every 5 breast cancers tests positive for HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2.) "This type of breast cancer is more aggressive, and patients often need chemotherapy and HER2 targeted therapy before surgery. The good news for this breast cancer type is that up to

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Yonkers Says Close the Duo Tapas Lounge ASAP!



The Duo Tapas Lounge
743 Yonkers Ave.



Antonio Antoine-Filis, right, was shot and killed while working at the club

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers community is united in their calls for the Duo Tapas Lounge on Yonkers Avenue to be close immediately, after a late-night shooting at the club that resulted in the death of an employee. The release from the Yonkers Police Department reads:

On Sunday, February 6th, 2022, at approximately 2:08 AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to 748 Yonkers Avenue at the Duo Tapas Lounge and Bar on a report of a shooting with multiple victims. Upon arrival First Responders located two male victims at scene with apparent gunshot wounds; one victim was unresponsive and given CPR. Both males were transported to local area hospitals where the unresponsive victim died. Police cordoned off the scene and initiated a criminal investigation. Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, and processed forensic and ballistic evidence. Investigation has yielded that the bar was hosting a party on the second floor that resulted in several fights amongst the patrons. Bar management stopped the party and was ushering the attendees outside, some of whom were intoxicated and disorderly. Investigators allege that one of the attendees went to a parked vehicle and retrieved a handgun, and then proceeded to the front of the bar and fired at least three gunshots into the vestibule of the building, striking two employees: a bouncer and a busser. Both the employees were engaged in moving the party crowd outside.

The bouncer, a 23-year-old resident of the Bronx, New York City, was struck

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Yonkers City Clerk's Passport Office a Success More Convenience and Longer Hours Offered



By Dan Murphy

In early 2020, just before the COVID pandemic, Yonkers City Clerk Vincent Spano went to the Yonkers Post Office with his wife to renew their passports for an upcoming trip to the Bahamas. The experience stretched out to three hours before the two filed the paperwork so they could take their vacation.

"We waited for an hour and then they took lunch and closed up. They are only open for passports from 1-3pm. When I left I said to my wife, this was bad customer service. There has to be a better way to do this, besides going to the County Clerk in White Plains, said Spano.

The only options for submitting the paperwork and photo to get a US Passports are at your local post office, or the County Clerks office. Until now. The Yonkers City Clerk has opened a Passport office in City Hall. It is the first downstate City Hall in New York to feature an office dedicated to helping individuals apply for US Passports.

City Clerk Spano decided to embark on a mission, (or crazy idea as he put it), to try and open a passports office in Yonkers City Hall. "Nobody in New York State, except for Jamestown did passports in their City Hall. It took a lot of time and paperwork, but we got it approved from the Secretary of State and now we are up and running."

"I wanted to offer the people of Yonkers another alternative. It seems that you can't get anyone to answer the phone in a lot of government agencies, and the alternative is to wait for three hours on line. I wanted to open a Passport office where we actually answer the phone and help you with your questions," said Cl Spano explained that while appointments are taken with the Post Office and County Clerk, they are booked until April. He also realized that there was a need

2022 Black History Month Series:
Westchester's Black LGBTQ+Community



Cienna Rosalina, left, and Sammie Ried

by Dennis Richmond Jr.

The acronym LGBTQ+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning+. Members of the LGBTQ+ community live everywhere in the country. New York is one of the states that has many LGBTQ+ neighborhoods. Many folks in the community struggle, though.

I don't feel discriminated against for my sexuality. One reason is that I'm somewhat masculine presenting. That isn't the same for everybody. Many trans girls and trans women face cruelty. Amariey Lei, also known as Myara, a young trans woman, was murdered in January of 2022. Myara was only 20 years old. I spoke to social media influencer Cienna Rosalina, 21, a trans woman about this. She was heartbroken.

"Stop trying to teach trans women when to disclose and maneuver," said Cienna Rosalina. "Teach men how to treat us. As they do any other walking human being." When Cienna came out of the closet in Yonkers, it was scary for her. My "main concern was not getting accepted." She soon realized something. "Coming out and transitioning was more about me." She couldn't be the only one in Westchester with a coming-out story.

Westchester County, New York, is home to over 1,000,000 people. Yonkers takes the cake in the county with over 211,000 residents. From Yonkers to New Rochelle and from Greenburgh to Mount Vernon, there are young Black folks in the LGBTQ+ community. These young folks are all from different parts of the county and hold different experiences.

Yonkers produced Cienna Rosalina, and Mount Vernon created Sammie "Secret" Reid. Secret's story is a bit different than Cienna's. "My coming out experience was pretty smooth. It wasn't too hard." Sammie, 25, came out when it wasn't too popular for Black boys to be gay in high school. "It's more accepted now," he said. Many teenage Black LGBTQ+ folks can move a little freer today because of folks like Sammie.

Sammie and people like him were not strangers to adversity in high school. Teenagers who didn't accept homosexuality would say negative things to Sammie and others. Sometimes, this would lead to a fight. "We wanted people to respect us," he said. Nowadays, in Westchester, the LGBTQ+ community is massively different. Young gay boys don't have to worry as much about being bullied today as they did before. Trans girls have more resources today than ever before. Not to mention, there are peer support groups for many LGBTQ+ folks.

Westchester County is not New York City, and as such, might be a bit conservative. Regardless, there are many young Black LGBTQ+ folks across the community. It's important to acknowledge those around us, no matter how old. Life is about giving people roses while they can still smell them. At Yonkers Rising and YonkersTimes.Com, we want to ensure that Cienna Rosalina and Sammie "Secret" Reid get their roses.

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

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Gorton HS Boys Basketball Hopes to End the Season Strong



The Gorton High School Varsity Boys Basketball team recently lost a close game to Saunder High School by a 64-58 margin.

Top Scorers: Jaiden Luckett (18 points)
Aaron Yepes (20 points)
Sleyder Valenzuela (10 points)

Their overall Record is 3-10, but they 3-3 for their league record: Their most recent game was against Roosevelt on Feb. 3. Their overall record does not reflect on the hard work and practice by the players and coach. Most of their games have been competitive.

Congratulations Wolves! We hope you finish your season out strong!

Smash & Grabs at Louis Vuitton & Burberry in The Westcheter Not Reported on For a Month



Our question to the people of Yonkers-What if this incident happened in Yonkers? Would it be on the front page of the Journal News a day or two after it happened? What about News 12?

Former County Executive and Gubernatorial candidate Rob Astorino, posted two videos last week of Smash and Grab robberies of Louis Vuitton and Burberry, in The Westcheter mall in White Plains.

We have heard these reports, and empty shelves, from New York City and in parts of Yonkers. But we didn't hear about these incidents until Astorino released the video, and then many local media outlets reported on it, as they should.

The White Plains Police Department said that the videos were from early January. But an internet search found no media reports of either incident, which occurred at different times.

Why that is the case is a debate, with different viewpoints. Some blame the mall security for not contacting the police department immediately. If they did, they might have been able to catch the thieves.

Others believe that the media dropped the ball and didn't pick up on the story. But the many posts from Westchester residents and shoppers at The Westchester tell us that they want to know when cases like this happen, as soon as possible. Not three weeks later. That fact seems a little strange to me. Hopeful, there is a video from the parking lot that shows the license plate of the getaway car. Read the entire story at YonkersTimes.com

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Rubbo: Loosen Restrictions on Masking in Schools



City Council Majority Whip John Rubbo

Supports Science Based Policies That Take Kids Mental & Physical Health Into Account

“I believe that we need to be progressive in our thinking with regards to our school community and their health. The time has come to implement a plan that returns our schools to a sense of normalcy. In order to do so we must look to science,” stated Councilman John Rubbo.

As a father of two young school children and a local representative, the Councilman is asking Governor Hochul and the NYS Education & Health Departments to consider a universal policy that by effective March 1, 2022 loosens the restrictions placed on our school children and provides a clear metrics and strategy to transition from pandemic to endemic.

Look to mask options that have worked in other school districts across the country. For example, Positive Case Rate Triggers where any school building that reaches five (5) percent of students and staff with positive COVID-19 cases, that building will mask for five (5) calendar days or until the positive case rate drops below five (5) percent. If an elementary classroom has (5) or more positive cases, that class will mask for five (5) days. The State should provide clear guidance on vaccinated and unvaccinated students participating in sports, extracurricular activities and programs. Decisions should be based on facts and science and determined at the State level for universal rollout across all NY school districts. We have seen positive cases drop by 94% since January 7, and so its now time to receive clear guidance that does not drive fear into our society.

There will be socioeconomic effects across our cities, state and nation as a result of COVID-19. It is vital to our future to come together and work on a comprehensive plan to help our children, teachers and school staff. While our children are resilient, we need to be proactive in providing our kids the resources to support them during these next few years of development after dealing with two long years of COVID-19 including loss of family members, separation from friends and family, and virtual learning.

Per the CDC, up to 50% of children infected may not have shown any symptoms at all. As we have seen over the past 12 weeks through the Omicron variant, vaccinated individuals can still carry and transmit and show symptoms of COVID-19. This can be considered factual and scientific data that should be considered.

According to Vivek Murthy, the U.S. Surgeon General “the pandemic era’s unfathomable number of deaths, pervasive sense of fear, economic instability, and forced physical distancing from loved ones, friends, and communities have exacerbated the unprecedented stresses young people already faced.” The CDC found that in early 2021, U.S. emergency department visits for suspected attempted suicides were averaging 856 per week for 12- to 17-year-old girls and 196 per week for boys of the same age. That was 50.6% higher for girls and 3.7% higher for boys compared to the equivalent time period in early 2019.

The time to act is now,” said Rubbo. NY Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced on Feb. 9 that the mask mandate for indoor businesses would end immediately. But the Governor kept the mask mandate for schools, at least up to the February school winter recess, after which she will reevaluate.

“Numbers are coming down, and it is time to adapt. But we are not saying its over,” said Gov. Hochul. “the numbers are trending much better and there definitely is an end in sight but students still need adults looking out for their health, this is all about protecting our children.”

Spano’s No Racist! Bowman Has Got to Go!



by Eric W. Schoen

I have known the Spano family for over 50 years. Recent reports that try to label Mike Spano a racist are like calling Swiss Cheese American Cheese. In a month Mike Spano has done more for black, brown and the people in Yonkers as Mayor and New York State as an Assemblyman than Congressman Jamaal Bowman has done in his lifetime. Comparing Mayor Mike to Donald Trump? How silly. We will get back to Spano shortly.

Have you looked at the new Congressional District lines for New York State District 16 which Bowman currently represents. With Control of the New York State Assembly and Senate as well as the Governor’s office, Democrats increased their party enrollment in all of the districts to protect incumbents with the exception of one district. That is the 16th District represented by Jamaal Bowman. The new district includes all of Yonkers and cuts his Bronx base in half. The seat now goes all way up to Putnam Valley and Carmel. That’s a long way from Yonkers. It makes it more difficult for Jamaal as the new areas are much more moderate.

What does this move by the State Legislature and Governor prove? They are unhappy with the way Jamaal has voted, represented his district and in particular his no vote on the Infrastructure Bill. Jamaal’s vote against the bill hurt this Country including the residents of his district. He took away jobs from the American people, hurt our country’s crumbling infrastructure, and took food off the table of families crippled by a pandemic and a troubled economy and clothes off their backs. Shameful.

Jamaal got elected because unfortunately his opponent who (sorry this is not kosher) ‘brought home the bacon’ for his district did not take his challenge as seriously as he should have. The Bronx and Yonkers Democratic parties failed miserably in turning out the vote for Eliot Engel.

I think I was one of the few people who actually knew of Bowman because even though he is my neighbor in Yonkers’ Park Hill section, as Mayor Spano has pointed out repeatedly nobody had ever heard of him in Yonkers. His sole community involvement prior to his election was as a Principal of a Bronx School. The financial issues at the school he headed are public. No community involvement in the city where he lived. I have never seen a public official in Yonkers get elected with a blank slate of service to his city.

I met Bowman at a fundraiser I went to in White Plains. He was standing by himself and I always like to meet new people. He was gracious, I told him about my writing for this paper and radio show and asked him what brought him to the event. He said he was running for Congress against my friend Eliot Engel. I was shocked at this and if I remember correctly, I said, ‘Are you kidding? Do you know how popular Engel is in his District?’ That was my first and only encounter with him, and as they say the rest is history.

Somehow I got on Jamaal’s political campaign list. Everyday he or one of his minions asks me for \$3. Don’t know how but it’s not unheard of candidates intermingling their official government lists with political lists. So I read almost daily about what is going on in his campaign. His association with ‘The Squad’ a group of elected officials including Ilhan Omar that have been known to be anti-Israel. A January 31 email from his Campaign Manager Luke Hayes asking for \$3 donations from 3 people in the 10701 zip code to meet financial goals. Constant referrals to anyone who disagrees with him as racist.

Jamaal in an official taxpayer paid mailing took credit for items in the Infrastructure Bill that he voted against. One of those was, as a caller to my radio show pointed out attempts to deal with flooding problems in Mamaroneck. He claims to have ‘provided tax relief for the homeowner by lifting the SALT deduction cap. Reduced prescription drug prices. Expanded job opportunities. He’s rarely seen in Yonkers, and while advocating for cuts in the in the police work force had the audacity to request Yonkers Police ‘patrol his home in Yonkers.’ These ‘patrols’ take police officers off the streets and prevent them from keeping you and I safe.

When he was arrested on the Voting Rights issue by Capitol Police he stood as the only person without a Mask in picture after picture endangering the lives

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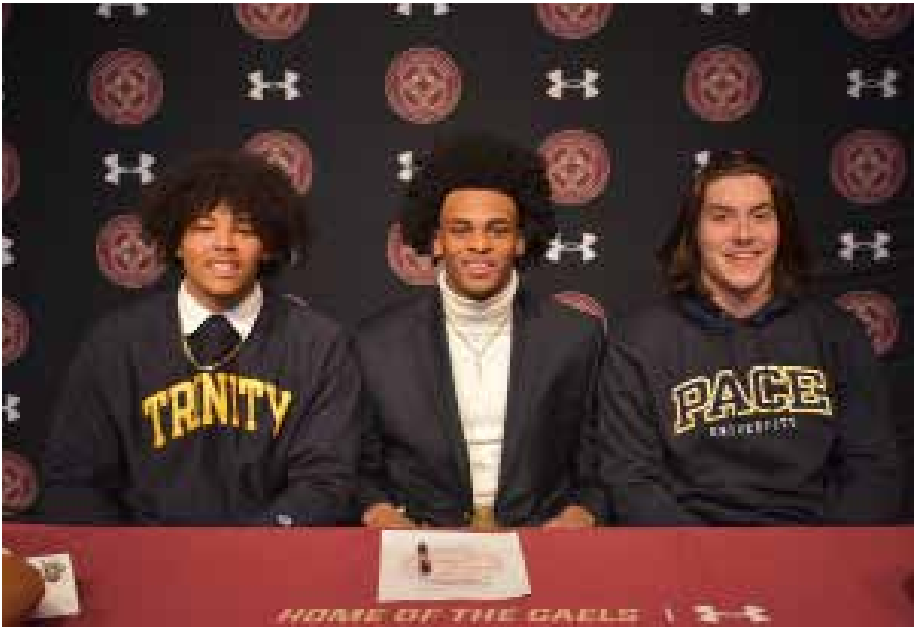
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Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Aiyana’s Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of J’s Admin, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/12/22. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Julia Rea 69 Dale Ave Apt 6 Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Iona Prep Star From Yonkers Signs With Pace; 16 Student Athlete's Successes from Class of '22



Iona Prep Student Athletes L-R: Jose Ruiz, Kaloni McIntyre, Jayson Vavrlica

Three more Iona Preparatory School scholar-athletes committed to playing collegiate football as part of the school year's third National Signing Day ceremony on Feb. 2, the opening day of the regular period for football. This brings the total to 8 DI signings 3 DII, 5 DIII, with 16 overall commitments from the Class of 2022.

Nationally, about one in 13 high school athletes go on to play a collegiate sport; only 2 percent for Division I schools. With its latest round of commitments, Iona Preparatory's Athletic Department continues a now seven-year trend of besting the national average and doubling up the average number of Division I signings.

Moreover, the most recent commits had an average GPA over 90, with two topping the mark individually. That's right in line with the varsity football team as a whole under alumnus and coach Joseph Spagnolo '98, which proved itself to be championship-caliber in the classroom, as well, being one of five fall teams (out of nine) with an average GPA over 90. In fact, those nine fall teams—some 267 scholar-athletes—posted a collective average of 90.11, and none lower than an 85.

The ESPN-style event included remarks by Athletic Director Ryan Mahoney, Coach Spagnolo, and other school dignitaries, with proud parents, teachers, and fellow students watching remotely on LocalLive. The following Gaels committed on February 2, 2022:

JAYSON VAVRICA, 17, Yonkers, Football-Pace University

Jayson is a four-year member of the football program and a two-year Varsity starter as a defensive end. He also played one season of varsity basketball. Jayson was a member of the undefeated 2021 Spring 2 football team and a key member of the 2021 CHSFL and NYS Catholic Championship football teams. Jayson had other offers and interests from Ithaca, Union, Culber Stockton and AIC. He is a member of the Film Club, Latinos Unidos, and participates in our Backyard Sport after-school service program. Jayson currently has a 3.7 overall GPA, and will continue his academic and football career at Pace University.

To learn more about Iona Preparatory, please visit www.IonaPrep.org.

The Third Precinct Police Community Council will hold its next regular meeting on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Merchants and residents of southwest Yonkers are urged to attend this important community meeting. Captain Mike Mulvey will be available for usual quality of life questions and concerns. For further information please contact either Bob Stauff, President at 914 476-2284 or Captain Mulvey at 914 377-7427.

Yonkers Kiwanis, Board of Education, and City Partner for Teacher of the Year Awards

Students, Parents, Teachers & Administrators Called to Nominate Teachers at www.YonkersNY.gov

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the Yonkers Kiwanis Club in collaboration with the City of Yonkers and Yonkers Board of Education Trustees will present the 2022 Teacher of the Year Awards to three deserving members of the Yonkers Public Schools' faculty. Nominations can be submitted by students, parents, teachers and administrators today through March 4 at www.YonkersNY.gov.

Established in 1956, the Teacher of the Year Award celebrates Yonkers teachers who further excellence in education. A committee comprised of members of the Yonkers Kiwanis Club and Trustees of the Board of Education selects the honorees.

"Our Yonkers Public School teachers continue to rise and adapt, especially during the pandemic, and they deserve to be recognized with honor," said Mayor Spano. "These awards are a gesture of thanks for positively impacting our children's lives. The partnership between the City, the Yonkers Kiwanis Club and the Yonkers Public Schools celebrates the exceptional dedication and commitment of our everyday heroes in the classroom and, at times, even beyond the classroom."

"Over the past two years, teachers' instructional practices significantly changed," noted Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada. "Yonkers teachers understand their impact on students' academic, social and emotional progress. I'm proud to say that so many of our teachers overcame the challenges of remote instruction to provide exciting learning opportunities for their students. This award is an opportunity for our community to say thank you to those teachers for their professionalism and daily relentless quality teaching."

Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez, praised the Yonkers Kiwanis Club for their decades of support for Yonkers teachers and Mayor Spano's collaboration with this recognition, which has expanded the reach of the Trustees' message. "This annual celebration truly demonstrates a citywide commitment to education. It highlights the contributions of our outstanding teachers for their commitment to our children. Our teachers, students and families quickly shifted to remote learning and our teachers ongoing engagement with our families kept everything moving forward. They deserve to be honored."

Three Yonkers Public Schools teachers, representing the elementary, middle and high school levels will be selected. Students, parents, teachers and administrators are encouraged to nominate a teacher at www.YonkersNY.gov

Eligibility requirements for selection as Teacher of the Year include employment as a teacher in the Yonkers Public Schools for at least five years; demonstration of dedication to the teaching profession which has led his/her students to both knowledge and understanding; and initiation of new, meaningful programs for either students, teachers or parents, or been innovative in the use of existing programs, and display significant community involvement.

"The Yonkers Kiwanis Club is once again involved to recognize teachers in our school community who exemplify professionalism and show outstanding dedication. These highly motivated teachers, in their untiring efforts, provide quality education to the students in the Yonkers school system," said Judy Bartunek, Yonkers Kiwanis President.

The nominations form and sample application are available online at www.yonkersny.gov. Online nominations must be submitted by March 4, 2022 at 5PM. The recipients are expected to attend School District, City of Yonkers and The Yonkers Kiwanis Club Teacher of the Year functions, to speak in public and to the press representing all Yonkers teachers.

City Clerk, Passports, continued from pg 1-

to offer passport services at different times. The Yonkers Passport office is open from 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday, and on Tuesday night open until 7pm, by appointment only. "This is all about customer service and making things easier. Everyone is so busy, with work and family and their lives that this might make it a bit easier if you need a passport. You will not find another place in New York State that's open to 7pm for passports."

The Yonkers City Clerk's Passport Office opened on Feb. 7, but the response has been so great that there is already a two week wait to make an appointment. "The interest has been great and the phone is wringing off the hook. Hopefully, we are in the process of putting this pandemic behind us and people will return to normal travel. I am confident that by providing this service, it will make it easier to obtain a passport. We look forward to working with the U. S. Department of State to make it happen."

Once the paperwork is filed, there is an 8-11 week wait for the NYS Department of State to process your passport. If you decide to pay for an expedited application, it still takes 5-6 weeks.

Spano has also been able to open the Passport office without any increases in staff. "We were able to move some positions around to make it work without hiring anyone else. And the revenues will help the city. That's another reason to come to City Hall for your passport, but we also do E-Z Pass, licenses and birth certificates. We try to make it a one-stop place to make it easier, and our offices revenues will double."

Spano thanked his team at the clerk's office, including deputy Clerks Mike Ramondelli and Nerissa Pena, for their help in setting this up, and Mayor Mike Spano for helping with the office set up. And the approval of the City Council. So far, the response from the residents of Yonkers has been positive, on social media, and in the proof that in their first week of operations, appointments are sold out for two weeks.

Other enhancements added to the City Clerk's Office in the last few years include, partnering with Vitalchek to make online requests for Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates possible, E-ZPass® "On-the-Go" program, the easiest and fastest way to start an E-ZPass account, and Dog License applications and renewals now available online.

To learn more about getting a passport, call 914-377-8099 or email Passports@YonkersNY.gov to schedule your appointment today. The Yonkers City Clerk is located at 40 South Broadway Room 102, Yonkers, NY 10701. By appointment only.

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Mayor Spano and Yonkers Local 628 Agree to New Contract for Firefighters; Council Approves Deal *Contract Ratified by Local 628 and Approved by City Council*

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Fire Local 628 President George Rocha today announced its newly negotiated contract between the City of Yonkers and Local 628 was ratified at the Union's stated meeting on Monday, January 31. The negotiated contract is pending approval at the Yonkers City Council's next stated meeting on Tuesday, February 8.

The agreed-upon five-year contract, once approved and passed by the City Council, would retroactively cover all terms of employment for Yonkers firefighters dated back from July 1, 2019, and extend through June 30, 2024.

"This contract is honest and fair – it works for our brave firefighters and taxpayers of this city," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I want to thank Union President George Rocha and the rest of the fire union leadership for negotiating in good faith and agreeing on a contract that both supports our firefighters and is fiscally responsible."

Contract highlights include increased annual general wages and the reduction of new hire salaries, saving taxpayer dollars plus out of title pay for selected positions.

Local 628 President George Rocha stated, "Throughout the pandemic, despite everything we were dealing with, we frequently communicated each other's interests to the other side. Finally, thanks to the mayor's commitment to getting the contract settled, we were able to come to an agreement that was fair for both sides. It took teamwork to get this done, and I couldn't have asked for a better team than the one I have. I am greatly appreciative of my membership, not only for the remarkable work they do, but also for their patience and understanding. These past two years have been difficult for everyone, but the Yonkers Firefighters have proved yet again why they are the best."

Local 628 represents over 300 Yonkers firefighters. The Yonkers City Council approved the contract at their meeting on Feb 8 by a vote of 6-1, with Councilman Anthony Merante voting no.

Cancer Awareness Month, continued from pg 1-

80% of patients have positive clinical outcomes-or good response to treatment," said Dr. Tsang.

3. Triple negative (or estrogen receptor negative, progesterone receptor negative, HER2 neu negative). Around 15% of breast cancers are this type. "Triple negative breast cancer is harder to treat and is the most aggressive form. Patients often need chemotherapy before surgery. Those who respond completely to treatment have very good prognosis and survival."

Dr. Tsang said the first question most patients ask is whether they will require chemotherapy. "I cannot stress enough the importance of screening because if caught early, at Stage 0, patients will not need any chemotherapy at all. Early detection with annual mammography is key in being able to identify stage 0 cancer, which is where the cancer cells remain within the wall of the milk ducts. Once the cancer cells invade through the wall of the milk ducts, it can spread to other parts of the body. When cancer has already spread to other parts of the body, surgery is often not part of the treatment algorithm."

After two years of COVID-19 and with some patients falling behind on their routine checkups and care, Dr. Tsang said now is the time to catch up and keep up on your healthcare. "Some women have been diagnosed at a later stage because the pandemic has delayed their annual screenings. Early diagnosis of breast cancer greatly increases the chance of cure and survival from the disease, and accurate early diagnosis of breast cancer is critical in the management of the disease. While the number of women (1 in 8) who get breast cancer hasn't changed over the years, the survival rates have improved because of early detection, and improved treatments. My message during February, which is Cancer Prevention Month, on World Cancer Day, is that breast cancer is a treatable and curable disease, and if it is caught early, can save your life." said Dr. Tsang.

Ashley T. Tsang, MD is a board certified, fellowship-trained breast surgeon from Stanford School of Medicine, specializing in the treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the breast and management of patients at high risk for breast cancer. Dr. Tsang is Assistant Professor of Surgery at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, and a member of the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

Dr. Tsang has offices at Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester in Scarsdale, 341 Central Park Avenue, (914)-370-5000. Visit <https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/westchester> for more information.

THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and in line with the directives issued by the Mayor of Yonkers regarding public safety, there is limited access to One Larkin Center. The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must wear face coverings and see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will clock in the bid and then contact Purchasing to pick up the bid. Sealed Bids will continue to be opened and read on the dates below, however, there will not be a public opening of bids. Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidssystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1. Bid 6740 - Opening date: 3/4/2022: Furnish & Deliver 2022 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED HYBRID (FB).
2. Bid 6741 - Opening date: 3/4/2022: Purchase of (2) Portable Heaters, Oceanaire Model No. 20ACH6012 SPOT Cooler or approved equal (FB).
3. Bid 6742 - Opening date: 3/25/2022: Use of NYS DEC Transfer Facility To Dispose Of City Delivered Construction & Demolition Debris (NG).
4. Bid 6743 - Opening date: 3/25/2022: HVAC Renovations at Paideia School 15 - GC/HVAC/Electrical (KS).
5. Bid 6744 - Opening date: 3/25/2022: Roosevelt HS Replacement of Ceiling & Lights Phase II (DC).
6. Bid 6746 - Opening date: 3/4/2022: Furnish & Deliver (300) 26x36 Double Sided Banners and Hardware (KS).

On This Day in Yonkers History...



movie star Virginia Valli was married in Yonkers in 1931

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, February 14th

February 14, 1931: Motion picture stars Charles Farrell and Virginia Valli slipped into Yonkers City Hall to obtain a marriage license. Later that day, Reverend Ralph Houston married them at the First Methodist Church parsonage, North Broadway and Ashburton Avenue. United in Yonkers, the couple were together until her death in 1968. Farrell played Gail Storm's father Vern Albright in the long-running 1950s TV series "My Little Margie."

February 14, 1945: The Yonkers Kiwanis Club Board of Governors adopted a resolution opposing the "Entertainment of prisoners of war any place in the United States outside of their places of detention." Copies of their resolution were sent to area members of Congress and to Kiwanis International.

Tuesday, February 15th

February 15, 1939: Warburton Avenue dentist Dr. Edward Jones was appointed a member of the New York State Commission tasked with studying conditions of the state's urban African-American population.

February 15, 1955: Eighteen Yonkers Auxiliary Policewomen were presented in their new uniforms! The women, sworn in as peace officers after completing the same intensive training course as male Auxiliary officers, were given the same authority as the male officers. In addition to being assigned to clerical work, they also performed policewomen's duties.

Wednesday, February 16th

February 16, 1935: Special nurses at Yonkers Professional Hospital successfully lobbied for replacing twelve-hour shifts with eight-hour shifts. Previously paid \$6 for twelve-hours, the new rate was \$5 for an eight-hour shift. St. Joseph's Hospital had a shorter shift for four months; St. Joseph's Nursing Supervisor Alice O'Donnell said it "worked very well."

February 16, 1945: Former Yonkers mayor William Wallin was unanimously reelected to another 12-year term on the NYS Board of Regents.

February 16, 1945: After American Legion officials Post 7 Commander Leslie Jones and Crescent Post Past Commander Morris Zellner spoke about Mount Carmel Church hosting 150 Italian "signees," the Eighth Ward Republican Association added its name to the list of organizations opposing the "coddling" of Italian service units. A copy of their resolution was sent to US Senator Robert Wagner.

Thursday, February 17th

February 17, 1918: Chairman of the Yonkers War-Savings Committee William Palmer East announced five hundred Yonkers Boy Scouts had pledged to buy a thrift stamp for their own thrift card.

February 17, 1947: Sister Elizabeth Kenny, the Australian nurse known for creating a successful method of treating polio, visited Yonkers City Hall to receive a check for \$4500 from the PAL; the money was raised at a benefit show put together by PAL President Lieutenant Edward O'Connor specifically for Sr. Kenny. She thanked "the good people of Yonkers for their generous support."

February 17, 1955: Representatives of all Yonkers banks met at People's Savings Bank; they adopted a resolution opposing to the proposal to turn the Dunwoodie Golf Club into a county public golf course.

Friday, February 18th

February 18, 1923: Former Yonkers High School and Pittsburgh University baseball star Jerry Brady signed to play with the Mariano Team in the Havana League. Brady, the son of Police Captain Hugh Brady, was to report to Cuba in the Fall.

continued on pg 6-

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Shooting at Duo Tapas Lounge, continued from pg 1-

one time in the stomach and was treated and released. The busser, a 22-year-old resident of Montvale, New Jersey, was struck twice, once in the torso and once in the hand, and died from his injuries. The alleged shooter was apprehended at scene by patrol officers. Detectives also recovered an illegally possessed Taurus 9mm semi-automatic pistol believed to be the murder weapon. The handgun was purchased in North Carolina in 2018 and was not reported stolen. Investigators are continuing to develop information and enhance the investigation.

"I extend my deepest sympathies to the family of the precious young life lost," said Mayor Mike Spano. "Working with our partners on the state level, we will ensure a fatal event like this never happens again and provide true justice for the family by continuing to fight to keep illegal guns off our streets and from the hands of violent criminals."

Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, "In less than 72-hours our fantastic Yonkers Police investigators have filed murder charges against the alleged perpetrator of this senseless killing; but that is not enough to deliver justice to the victim's family or other crime victims. We must ensure that those who commit crimes in our communities are held accountable for their actions and send an unequivocal message that criminal behavior will never be tolerated. I would like to thank the great partnership the Yonkers Police Department has with the Westchester DA's Office. We must have an end-to-end solution in holding people accountable and it doesn't happen unless police departments and district attorneys' offices across the country are working hand in hand. In this case, the quick resolution of this case is exactly that."

The suspect is identified as Yaquba Jaquan MCGOUGAIN, a 29-year-old resident of Peekskill, New York. MCGOUGAIN is charged with one count of Murder 2, a Class A-I Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law; Attempted Murder 2, a Class B Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law; and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2, a Class C Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law. MCGOUGAIN was arraigned in Yonkers Criminal Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail pending his next court appearance on February 17th. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. City and Police officials are working with State authorities to suspend business operations at Duo Tapas Lounge and Bar. The busser is identified as Antonio Antoine-Filis. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Apparently, the club has received numerous complaints from nearby residents. State Senator Shelley Mayer stated after the shooting "I wrote the NYS Liquor Authority demanding they close Duo Tapas Bar & Lounge in Yonkers immediately, and revoke or suspend their license in light of the terrible murder of their employee by gun violence last night. Sadly, I have asked them repeatedly in the past to investigate this bar based on the complaints of neighbors, and not enough was done. Now there is no excuse. Close this place ASAP."

Councilman John Rubbo said, "The shooting at Duo Bar last night resulted in a loss of life. This is a terrible, targeted attack that should have never happened. The Yonkers Police Department have a suspect in custody.

"We need to be tough on crime. I remain committed to advocating to my Council colleagues and the NYS legislature to ensure that the YPD has all of the resources they need to combat illegal guns coming into our city. We need to get illegal guns off the streets.

"I am asking the Mayor and Police Commissioner to shut this bar down indefinitely. The YPD has kept our city sheltered and safe. We must not let these isolated incidents define who we are as a city and people."

Councilman Anthony Merante said, "I concur with others. This bar must be shut down! It is a detriment to the neighborhood. However, let's be clear, that will not permanently solve the growing crime problem that leads to fatal shootings. Yonkers has always been a City of diverse neighborhoods. When neighborhoods start to fail, the signs are there. We must stop the cancer of crime in its tracks before the infection spreads and grows into fatalities and to the destruction of our neighborhoods throughout our City.

"The police play a key role in disrupting this process. If they focus in on disorder and less serious crimes our neighborhoods will not be overtaken by serious crime. We desperately need #BailBondReform now and to fix our failing criminal justice system. We must give our police the support and tools they need to get criminals off our streets and stop this."

Yonkers History, continued from pg. 5-

February 18, 1935: Trapped by a ruse, two men from Newark were caught on Roosevelt High School grounds with a truck with liquor! Gertrude Fleishcher, school cafeteria manager, was suspicious after the men cashed a check earlier than agreed. She got them to return by hinting she might want to buy some of their applejack, but had Principal Richards call the police when they arrived. When the officers searched their truck, they found half of a case of whiskey and a 5-gallon jug of applejack. Patrolman Frank Jordan placed Sydney Ades and George Zall under arrest for petit larceny and transporting liquor, a violation of the state liquor laws. Ades, according to Jordan, said he offered to sell liquor to Miss Fleischer. The whiskey and applejack were sent to the city laboratories for testing.

Saturday, February 19th

February 19, 1926: Dr. Virginio Minervini, head of the City Hospital for Communicable Diseases, announced his resignation; the post was taking too much time from his private practice. Health Commissioner Dr. Clarence Buckmaster asked Yonkers to create the position of resident physician at the hospital because of the large increase in work.

February 19, 1935: The two Newark men arrested at Roosevelt High School, Sydney Ades and George Zall, were brought before City Judge Fay to be charged with petit larceny, offering to sell alcoholic beverages to school Cafeteria Manager Gertrude Fleischer, and unlawfully transporting alcohol without a license. Judge Fay denied bail. The men were held while police also investigated if the men had sold liquor to any Roosevelt High School students. Because they did not want to delay the trial, the men's attorney conceded the seized liquors were whiskey and applejack.

Sunday, February 20th

February 20, 1920: George Thomas, the alleged leader of the policy slip racket in Yonkers attempted to escape after Judge Boote ordered his arrest. He was in the courtroom to see how one of his henchmen fared in court; the judge recognized him and ordered Captain Ford to arrest Thomas, who bolted out of the court. Court Interpreter Henry Friedman grabbed him in the hallway, and then marched the escapee back into the court, holding him by the scruff of the neck. Friedman recognized the man; Thomas had been arraigned on similar charge the previous September and given a suspended sentence. Boote ordered that sentence to start immediately.

February 20, 1945: Chairman William Scott called a special meeting of the Central Committee of War Veteran Organizations to "consider—in the American way—the question of Italian war prisoners or signees visiting communities and being entertained."

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com. For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Notice of formation of JGS Notary Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O JGS Notary Services LLC , 588 Warburton Apt 2 Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/6/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC , 125 Dunwoodie Street Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

of the Police and his fellow protestors. The Daily Mail caught him maskless in a visit to New Rochelle High School in pictures with students who were masked per Governor Hochul's order on January 31. Is he above the law? Does he do this so his face is not covered when the cameras are around?

Recently, Jamaal sent out a government sponsored mailer with a Community Survey. The question he asked? What issues should your Congressman focus on in 2022. Continued Covid 19 response, support for Schools, Workforce Development, Healthcare Issues and Climate Issues. No where does he mention the economy. No where does he mention inflation. No where does he mention prices for food that are sky high. No where does he mention providing help at our ports to bring in the goods and services we need. No where does he mention cleaning up the bail reform that has made the justice system a revolving door. No where does he mention gun control. Serious issues facing our country and his district.

And no where does he mention crime, the most serious issue facing all of us right now. You are supposed to add these issues on if you feel he should focus on them in 2022. I don't know friends, maybe he lives in a different world then we live in and doesn't understand what's going on in Yonkers, the Bronx, Putnam Valley and yes Carmel.

Let's get back to Yonkers and Mayor Spano. Readers of this column know that I have taken on the Mayor and his administration many times in the past including last week on the Rollout of the Sustainable Westchester electricity issue. He's been a friend for many years but when in the middle of the night he went against the two time wishes of the voters in Yonkers and gave himself a third term despite telling me at a public event that he wasn't interested in a third term, I was furious. I called it like it was. My friend had lied to me.

But for people, some new to Yonkers and without any Yonkers credibility to call him racist? The political discourse has reached a new low. Spano has appointed the most black and brown judges to the Yonkers Court Bench than any Mayor. He has appointed black and brown individuals to Boards and Commissions, far more than his predecessors. He has worked to build and renovate public schools for the large black and brown population in Yonkers. He has cleaned up areas of Yonkers long neglected. And his door is always open ready for suggestions from the public.

Try to get a meeting or a response to an email from Mr. Bowman. Maybe he doesn't respond because he knows he has no power to do anything. No knowledge of the needs of Yonkers. Officials at all levels of government are disgusted with him. Simply take a look at the redistricting plan.

Spano's comments may have offended some people and his goal was certainly not to do so. But this whole situation has been blown out or proportion by a politician who is desperate for attention and votes. Jamaal has been silent. In situations like this politicians go around and get others to do their work.

Given Jamaal's history, he probably will send out an email decrying this column and this columnist racist.

As Former First Lady Michelle Obama said, 'When they go low, we go high!'

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

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Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Gelpdawn Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1339572, for Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider in retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 188 Waverly Street, Yonkers, NY 10701, NY, Westchester County, for on-premises consumption.

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The Generation Foundation Awards \$1.2 Million Grant to Greyston Employment Opportunity Center

Greyston Foundation has received a Generation Foundation grant of \$1.2 million to support the Greyston Employment Opportunity Center (GEOC). Funding will support GEOC's employee research, academic and NGO (Non-Government Organization) engagements, and regional expansion. This is the second major grant the Generation Foundation has awarded Greyston in the past four years.

"With our continued partnership we can now delve deeper into how Open Hiring® is actually the catalyst for taking a more holistic approach to a human capital and talent management strategy," Greyston President and Chief Executive Officer Joe Kenner said. "From here we can better understand the broader needs of an organization (employer and employee alike) and other stakeholders."

Founded in 1982, Greyston for nearly four decades has worked to help individuals facing barriers to employment secure a job, improve their lives, and become self-sufficient. Greyston offers innovative training, development, and wraparound social services, and the opportunity for individuals to unlock their full potential. Greyston makes an even greater impact by helping to educate individuals through its Workforce Development and Training programs.

Director of the Generation Foundation, Grace Eddy, commented: "Over the past three years, Greyston has demonstrated that open and inclusive hiring models are beneficial to businesses, individuals and society. We are delighted to continue to renew our support for Greyston in tackling the next challenge: helping businesses to adopt these practices at scale and making inclusive hiring the norm."

Spano -Bowman, continued from pg. 1-

Phil Reisman, the co-host of the radio show that Mayor Spano was on, posted on Facebook, "Spano wasn't seriously calling for Bowman's arrest. This is a deliberate over reaction from a vulnerable and seemingly desperate incumbent."

Matt Richter, the other co-hosts of the Reisman-Richter report, posted the following on Facebook about the Spano interview. "Congressman Bowman is taking issue with some of Mayor Spano's statements. Particularly, they are upset with the mayor's statement that Bowman should have been arrested for his vote against the bipartisan infrastructure bill. To be clear and provide context, I mentioned that Bowman had recently been arrested at a protest at the capitol and said he'd be arrested again. That's when Mayor Spano made the quip about the infrastructure bill. It was a joke and not the least bit incendiary although I hear the Working Families Party and some other progressive groups are trying to spin it another way."

Spano replied with the same statement to several media requests for comment, saying, "To clarify, while being interviewed by a reporter who mentioned Jamaal Bowman's recent arrest during a protest, I expressed my disappointment with his no vote on the infrastructure bill, which ultimately hurts working families across the state — an issue that can't be ignored."

Spano added, in a statement to the Journal News, "Congressman Bowman started the conversation about being arrested based on political beliefs. He is on record suggesting he will continue to get arrested until the voting rights bill is passed. I simply suggested if he wants to get arrested, it should be for his vote against the infrastructure bill, which ultimately hurts working families across Yonkers."

While Spano left the door open in the interview for a run for Congress, several people close to the Mayor say that it probably won't happen. But Yonkers DPW Commissioner Tom Meier and other Westchester democrats are considering a democratic party challenge to Bowman.

Others believe that Mayor Spano's broader theme in the interview, about the discussion in the democratic party between moderates and progressives, on issues like bail reform, make Spano a dangerous candidate against Bowman.

Rep. Bowman's 16th District has been redrawn and changed significantly, removing some of the Bronx portion of the district and running north, through northern Westchester and into Putnam County. These changes make the district more moderate and suitable to a challenge from someone like Spano.

There was other important news in the interview, including the fact that Mayor Spano indicated that he would not be seeking, or have any interest in, running for a 4th term as Yonkers Mayor. One Yonkers Democrat close to the Mayor said it was about 90% likelihood that Spano won't seek a 4th term, which would require a council vote to modify the term limits law again. If Spano doesn't run for Mayor again, it opens up the way for many Yonkers democrats and republicans who want to be Yonkers Mayor in the election of 2023.

Mayor Spano was also able to explain the Westchester Power energy alternative in Yonkers. "We are the 29th community in Westchester to do this. Yonkers residents now have a choice with their energy supply. None of us every picked Con Ed and right now Con Edison's rate charge to customers is 12 cents (per Killowat) and they are asking for an increase to 17 cents. Sustainable Westchester has a rate that can be capped at 8 cents. A very simple way to look at this is you can lock in a low rate now and avoid any large increases," said Spano.

Spano said that the reason why residents have to opt out of the new plan or they are automatically opted in is because, "the only way the system would work is to have 50,000 customers to take the buying power of municipalities and put it out for bid. It also allows providers to bid for the energy consumption and this has proven to be a cheaper way to go.

"I was in the oil business, and you could lock in a cheaper price. This year, energy rates could go up by 50%. This gives you price protection, and you can opt in or out without penalty. It's a considerable savings for residents."

The City Council passed this plan last year by a 5-2 vote, with republican councilmembers Mike Breen and Anthony Merante voting no. Merante has become the leading opponent to the idea of the alternative of the Westchester Power plan and the way in which it was rolled out, sending out robocalls and texts explaining that he voted no on the plan and according to the Mayor, spreading misinformation.

When asked by Phil Reisman about Merante's claims that prices will double and that residents are being forced into the plan, Spano said, "I don't know where he is getting that from."

"We really believe that when people look at it they will want to stay with this program. But people have every right to know. I know this requires a lot of explanation but you are getting more choices than ever before."

"I believe we are going in the direction (of clean energy). Let's lead the path and with more buying power you get a cheaper rate."

The City of Rochester has also offered a similar plan. New bills will go out March 1, and residents can still learn more by visiting

<https://sustainablewestchester.org/wp/yonkers/>

or by calling 914 242 4725.

Mayor Spano also challenged the Wall Street Journal, who published an op-ed from that was critical of the Westchester Power plan and rollout. Spano called the WSJ piece "ill informed and he didn't have the facts."

The larger theme from Spano was what he called, "the push to the left by the democratic part over the past two years. We all agreed to do something about cash bail in the minority community, we don't want black teenagers in jail for nothing. But the left took control and were tone deaf to anything else and did what they want. The democratic party is much more moderate that what we are seeing," said Spano.

Three days after Spano's WVOX interview, On Feb. 6, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins appeared in an interview with Indivisible NYCD-16. Link-

In that interview, Stewart-Cousins, supporting the existing criminal justice reforms, warned of what she called, "Republican National Fear Tactics."

Calling it a wake up call, the Senate Majority Leader, one of the three most powerful elected officials in New York State, from Yonkers, advocated for the progressive views and values of New York democrats, and most important, in support of the existing criminal justice reforms.

We will highlight Stewart-Cousins comments, which can be found at YonkersTimes.com, in next weeks issue, with both sides of the bail reform debate.

Letters, Email, Comments on Mayor Spano's WVOX Interview

"*The Black Democrats of Westchester County* respects Mayor Spano's choice to run for Congress but strongly denounces the mayor's insinuation that Representative Bowman should be placed in jail for how he voted. We are only four days into celebrating Black History Month, a time where we are supposed to be uplifting black voices and contributions. Mayor Spano had the gall and audacity to say he would put a sitting Congressman in jail for the way he voted. That is not only disgusting but unacceptable, especially coming from a Democratic mayor running a city where residents are overwhelmingly people of color. Many of us did not agree with Congressman Bowman's decision to vote no on the infrastructure bill, but never would anyone left or right of the political spectrum dare arrest him for it." said County Legislator Terry Clements, the Chair of the Black Democrats of Westchester.

The Working Families Party of NY wrote, "We strongly condemn the statements made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano calling for Rep. Jamaal Bowman's arrest. This is sadly a threat that too many Black New Yorkers have heard before. Rep. Bowman has fought tooth-and-nail for our communities in Congress, and it's entirely unacceptable for Mayor Spano to threaten his safety and livelihood. We expect Mayor Spano to issue Rep. Bowman a full apology immediately," said Sochie Nnaemeka, Director of the New York Working Families Party.

From the Yonkers NAACP. "The Yonkers NAACP Unit #2188 is outraged by the racist remarks and attacks made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Span against Representative Jamal Bowman. A mere three days after the start of Black History Month, the mayor of the 3'd largest city in the state and largest in Westchester County comments that the first black person to represent the City of Yonkers in the 16* Congressional District should have been arrested, not for a crime that he committed but for a vote that he'd taken. The Yonkers NAACP condemns the statement made by Mayor Span. We are calling for others to stand with us and Representative Bowman to demand a public apology from the mayor. From our elected officials, civic and community-based organizations, and stakeholders in and around our city, it's time to take a stand."

Reverend Frank E. Coleman, Jr., President of the Yonkers NAACP added: "Historically, black men have been stereotyped as inferior and nothing more than chattel. From slavery to Jim Crow and beyond, black men have always been at the brunt of white resentment and anger. The statement from the Mayor of Yonkers, Mike Spano, spews out the divisive *dog whistles" that have too often been seen as mis-spoken rhetoric. Mayor Spano, at the onset of Black History Month, finds himself at ease to call for the arrest of Congressman Bowman because of his vote on infrastructure without recognizing that his arrest was in direct opposition for the voting rights bill not being passed that impacts Black and Brown people. It is not okay to call for a black man to be arrested for any crime he has not committed."

Congressman Mondaire Jones stated, "Mayor Spano's comments about Congressman Bowman are irresponsible, unproductive, and dangerous. Political debate is a hallmark of our democracy, but calling for a Member of Congress to be arrested because of a vote he took is completely unacceptable, especially in light of Republicans' continued attacks on our democracy. As elected officials, what we say matters. Mayor Spano owes Congressman Bowman, and the people of Yonkers, an apology."

The NAACP New Rochelle stated, "The NAACP New Rochelle Branch joins the Yonkers Branch in expressing our disgust and outrage at the comments made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. Mayor Spano called for the arrest of Congressman Jamal Bowman the first African American Congressman, from the 16th Congressional District, for simply doing his job. These comments are rhetoric that conjures up the racial stereo type that all Black men are criminals and should be incarcerated. We stand with the NAACP Yonkers Branch in demanding Mayor Spano issue an apology, not only to Congressman Bowman, but to the entire African American Community." Respectfully Submitted, Minister Mark McLean, President NAACP New Rochelle Branch.

The Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus stated, "The statement reflects a fundamental level of disrespect for an African-American elected official and in these racially and politically polarizing times. It is extremely disappointing for the Mayor of Yonkers, a diverse community that includes a sizable and historical African-American community, to allow his political ambition to engage in hateful rhetoric."

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi tweeted, "@MayorMikeSpano some of us (not you) feel urgency around the threats to our democracy. Some of us (not you) actually have principles that we stand for. What exactly do you stand for? Thinly veiled racism?"

County Legislator Christopher Johnson stated, "The ignorant comments made by Mayor Spano in reference to Congressman Jamaal Bowman's vote on the infrastructure bill and bail reform are unacceptable" says Majority Leader Christopher Johnson. "Black people are 5 times more likely to be arrested than their white counterparts, even when they are not committing a crime. For the Mayor to suggest, even in poor judgement, that Congressman Bowman be arrested for taking a vote on a bill is racist. It's hurtful, particularly to people who live in this city who look like Congressman Bowman and I, who face those unjust realities everyday. I have disagreed with Mayor Spano over many issues, but have never resorted to calling for his arrest. A full apology needs to take place immediately."

NYCD-16 Indivisible letter included, "The Steering Committee of NYCD16-Indivisible denounces the assertion by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano that Congressman Jamaal Bowman should have been arrested for his "no" vote on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

"It is troubling to hear Mayor Spano make such provocative statements. Remarks from him about putting our Black Congressman in jail stoke fear and anger in certain communities. We have yet to understand what he means by "changing bail reform."

"Most constituents look to our democratically elected officials for reasoned and calm governance in these troubling times. Dog whistle statements from Yonkers Mayor Spano don't reflect the type of leadership that we need from him. We expect him to demonstrate a more considered and respectful approach in the future."

Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins condemned Spano's remarks, and added that the Mayor was running for Congress against Bowman because "he was making calls to donors. She then added that Spano's stance on bail reform is similar to the "Republican national coordinated campaign of fear."

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Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company Love Jones 360 Experience LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 9/23/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Love Jones 360 Experience LLC , 41 Ridgeview Terrace Elmsford, NY 10523 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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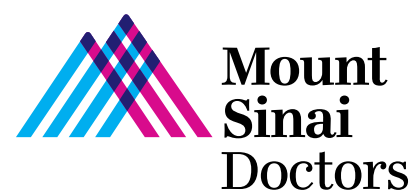
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