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Friday July 16, 2021

Judge Rules That Hezi Aris/Yonkers Tribune is NOT A Journalist



Hezi Aris

Former YPD Commissioner Gardner and Officer Montero named sources

"We hope this gives pause to all of the so-called journalists out there and that they are put on notice that if they print lies about people, they will be held accountable,"

Det. Keith Olson

Plaintiff in lawsuit

By Dan Murphy

A defamation lawsuit filed by three Yonkers Police Officers against the owner of the Yonkers Tribune website raises interesting legal questions, including what journalistic standards should online websites, or publications, be held to?

The suit, filed by Yonkers Police officers John Mueller, (now Commissioner), Det. Keith Olson (PBA President) and Det. Brian Moran, challenged whether Hezi Aris, publisher of the Yonkers Tribune, had any sources for many of the controversial tales he posted on his site, of whether they were made up fiction, with no veracity.

NY Supreme Court Judge Joan Lefkowitz ruled on June 2 that Aris was not a journalist, and as a result not entitled to any of the protections given to journalists regarding protecting their sources. Aris was also ordered to reveal his sources to the three police officers, resulting in an astonishing admission that in many cases, he had no sources for many of the stories he concocted and posted on the Yonkers Tribune.

Ironically, many of Aris's controversial stories were titled –Blue Truth, and the most salacious, which have been denied by the officers as nonsense, included:

That Mueller, before he was named Yonkers Police Commissioner “ committed multiple criminal, unethical and immoral acts, inter alia, offering an illegal monetary bribe to a county political leader and state political leader; committing the felony of perjury and maliciously claimed that plaintiff submitted perjured police reports to the YPD; stealing funds from a charity event

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Sen. Schumer Joins STSI at St. John's Hospital to Fight Black Maternal Health Crisis



Senator Charles Schumer, kneeling, with State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, STSI founder Cheryl Brannon, and St. John's Hospital staff

Standing at St. John's Riverside Hospital, where 67% of maternity services are delivered to women on Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care, surrounded by frontline workers, local officials, and advocates determined to change maternal outcomes among Black women, Sister to Sister International, founder, Cheryl Brannon stood with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer as he unveiled a comprehensive three-part plan to address the national maternal mortality crisis and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes nationwide and at the only maternity ward in Yonkers at St. John's Riverside Hospital, in New York's fourth-largest city.

Sister to Sister International, Inc. (STSI) links women, girls, and families of African descent globally, to the resources that connect, advance, and strengthen them. STSI published a first ever report on the Status of Black Women & Girls in Westchester County in 2019, revealing major health disparities in Black maternal health outcomes compared to their white counterparts. STSI researched the issue further in Westchester County and found that Black women are more likely to deliver babies with low birth weight (12.4%) than white women (6.9%). This trend continues for premature births (8.4% for white women and 12.0% for Black women) and infant mortality (2.1% for white women and 7.8% for Black women).

Moreover, Black women were 2.3 times more likely to experience such complications. In the Hudson Valley, rates of complications were 214 out of 10,000 births. In 2020, New York exceeded the national average for maternal morbidity and maternal mortality.

"We are truly in a state of emergency when it comes to black maternal health outcomes and we need all hands-on deck, therefore STSI is pleased to

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Mayor Spano Vetoes Affordable Housing Amendment Increase from 10%-20%



Yonkers Affordable Housing Ordinance requires new development projects to include 10% affordable units.

By Dan Murphy

On July 7, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano delivered his veto message to the Yonkers City Council regarding the City's amended Affordable Housing Ordinance (AHO), which would double the city's current affordable housing from 10% to 20%. Upon review of the Council's legislation that passed last month, Mayor Spano cites an independent report conducted by HR&A Advisors, Inc. stating the proposed amendment is infeasible without significant public subsidy.

According to HR&A, which has worked with cities throughout the United States to develop affordable housing ordinances, the proposed amended AHO will result in a halt to new market rate housing construction absent a City tax subsidy that would be double that of which is currently granted to market rate developers. HR&A issued and presented the comprehensive analysis, which included feedback from community stakeholders and developers, to the Yonkers City Council before its vote in June.

"While I support enhancing our affordable housing stock, the ordinance passed by the Council fails to address the fiscal concerns raised by the report, such as what means are available to increase public subsidies necessitated by the AHO," Mayor Spano stated in his veto message. "The Council also presented no alternative analysis or narrative that disagreed with HR&A's findings, nor did they prepare an analysis regarding the po-

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Councilman Merante Running for Re-Election on His Record of Accomplishments



In 2017 when Councilman Anthony Merante ran to represent the 6th Council District, he was a political novice who never held public office. Anthony Merante is a very successful Yonkers businessman, CPA and community leader. "I came to the job with a very simple approach" said Merante. "The guiding principle in business is customer satisfaction. The need of the customer is always top priority. In government the taxpayers are our customers. Their hard-earned tax dollars fuel City Government so they deserve responsiveness. I set out to make sure their problems were addressed. Problems like road paving, tree maintenance, infrastructure, funding public schools and keeping communities safe.", noted Merante. "I tell residents your problems are my problem's and I'm here to help you". I personally become an advocate for them.

Many district residents can attest to this fact. Etta Foldi from Saw Mill River Rd came to Anthony Merante after the road leading up to her home was so dangerously in disrepair that her granddaughter fell and had to be taken to the hospital for treatment. Mrs. Foldi said, "For years we went to City Hall and pleaded to get this fixed. When Anthony Merante became our Councilman he heard our pleas, he met with us and got the road paved. Anthony is a man who really cares about people". Then there is Christine Doerr, a Roberts Avenue resident, who said "Roberts Ave had so many potholes you needed to take Dramamine to drive it. We just got the run-around at City Hall. We reached out to Councilman Merante and he went right to work and got our road paved". Maria Randazzo a resident at the southbound Saw Mill River Parkway Exit 6 (Lockwood Avenue) which had a safety issue. Maria said "Cars come flying off the exit. One even careened into a neighbor's front yard. We called Councilman Merante and he

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2021 Ice Bucket Challenge, Set for August 1, in Memory of Pat Quinn



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts executives and the family of late Yonkers Native Pat Quinn announced today that the 2021 ALS Ice Bucket Challenge will take place on Sunday, August 1, trackside at Empire City Casino. The annual event, co-founded by Quinn after his diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in 2013, became a global phenomenon in 2014 as thousands of people from around the world participated in the challenge on social media.

Though Quinn unfortunately passed away from ALS in November 2020, his drive and determination to find a cure lives on through his family, community and beyond. Leading the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge charge this year is Quinn's dad, Patrick Quinn Sr., who will also pay tribute to his son and ensure his mission continues to live on. Quinn Sr. also released a video encouraging everyone to support the effort, which can be viewed here.

Since 2015, Empire City Casino has hosted the annual challenge in support of Quinn and to continue generating awareness for ALS research (the 2020 challenge was canceled due to the pandemic). Each year, Empire City Casino donates the space, set-up and staffing, as well as over 1,300 pounds of ice. The festivities begin at 1:00 p.m. Ice Bucket Challenge participants can pre-register in-advance online at YonkersNY.gov/IBC.

ALS, often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. With no known cure, Quinn began the Ice Bucket Challenge to put ALS on ice by raising awareness as well as donations for research. The challenge has remained a catalyst of the efforts to find a cure for ALS, with Quinn helping inspire billions of dollars in donations for ALS research, which has helped produce significant discoveries and breakthroughs.

Recently, Major League Baseball (MLB) celebrated the inaugural Lou Gehrig Day to continue raising awareness about ALS.

"Empire City Casino is proud to again host the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and is committed to continuing the legacy of the beloved Yonkers-native Pat Quinn in the fight for awareness and a cure for ALS patients the world over," said Ed Domingo, MGM Resorts Northeast Group Senior Vice President and CFO. "We are incredibly humbled to be part of a community that always shows up and supports each other."

"Pat Quinn's fight and determination to combat this horrible disease has been so inspirational and we are proud to carry on his legacy," said Mayor Spano. "Pat and his organization, Quinn For The Win, have courageously and selflessly turned his battle with ALS into one of the most successful social media fundraising movements this world has ever seen. We encourage everyone to join us on August 1st so we can continue the fight to find a cure for ALS."

"I'm so grateful for the continued support from Mayor Mike Spano, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, and the entire City of Yonkers as we march onward towards a cure. The community that Pat has been able to build to raise awareness for ALS research and his Quinn for the Win Foundation is nothing short of remarkable. Pat laid the groundwork to find a cure, and now it's our job to finish his mission and find a cure to defeat ALS once and for all. I look forward to seeing everyone in August," said Patrick Quinn Sr.

Recent years have also shown significant advances in research. A recent Oregon State University study showed a copper compound can help slow the progression of ALS after recent testing in mice. Just a few short years ago, researchers discovered a new gene associated with ALS that may hold the key to one day finding a cure. Additionally, new technology is allowing individuals affected by ALS to regain their voice. ALS usually strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70. Approximately 20,000 Americans currently suffer from the disease.

For more information, please visit YonkersNY.gov, Quinn4theWin and Facebook.com/QuinnForTheWin

Science Barge Re-Opens July 17



On July 17, Groundwork Hudson Valley will celebrate the re-opening of the Science Barge, which is the only fully functioning demonstration of renewable energy supporting sustainable food production in New York.

The Science Barge is a floating environmental education center on the Hudson River that has been in Yonkers since 2008. The Science Barge grows an abundance of fresh produce including tomatoes, melons, peppers, eggplant, and lettuce with zero net carbon emissions, zero pesticides, and zero runoff.

All of the energy needed to power the Barge is generated by solar panels, wind turbines, and biofuels while the hydroponic greenhouse is irrigated solely by collected rainwater and purified river water, thus operating completely "off the grid." The Science Barge engages in organic growing process which eschew the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The end result is a self-sustaining farm with zero net water consumption, zero greenhouse emissions, and no harmful runoff.

The Science Barge was originally developed by NY Sun Works, an environmental nonprofit who conceived of the barge as a mobile way to demonstrate a prototype for rooftop farming technology. The barge's inaugural tour of New York City took place between May and October of 2007, during which time it hosted around 9,000 curious visitors. In 2008 the barge was purchased by Groundwork Hudson Valley for a grand total of \$2 and moved to its permanent home in Yonkers where it continues to educate school groups, volunteers, and the general public on sustainable growing practices. Produce grown on the Science Barge is donated to a local church.

The greenhouse grows fresh produce including tomatoes, melons, popcorn, peppers, eggplant and lettuce.

The Science Barge is a public education destination and hosts school groups from the tri-state area during the week, and the general public on weekends.

The Science Barge is open for weekday educational programs and field trips for school groups grades 1-12, camps, university-level students, as well as teacher training. There are two full-time sustainability educators with many volunteers assisting. There are tours ranging from 30 minutes to 3 hours with onboard activities as well as a lunch program.

For more information on how to plan your visit to the Science Barge, visit, groundworkhv.org, or call 914-375-2151.

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Yonkers Rising

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Yonkers Street Renamed for Christopher “Tiny” Milano



City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen, right, with Mary Milano center, and State Senator Shelley Mayer left, at street renaming

This week, the City renamed Murray Avenue to Christopher “Tiny” Milano Way in memory of a dedicated and generous resident of the neighborhood. Mr. Milano lived to serve others. The City of Yonkers thanks him and his family for their contributions.

On April 8, 2020, Milano passed away from COVID. He loved his wife Mary of 61 years, who was on hand for the street renaming, along with many other family members and City officials, including Mayor Mike Spano, State Senator Shelley Mayer, City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen, and Councilman John Rubbo and Anthony Merante, Councilmember Shanae Williams and State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins.

Tiny was a veteran of the Korean War. He spent 5 years doing all he could for veterans and encouraged all to help and support them. He was very involved with the senior community centers. He was always organizing many enjoyable day and multi-day trips for all members. He was a retired corrections officer and a member of the Columbus Day Committee.

PART TIME BUS DRIVER WANTED

North Yonkers Preservation & Development Corporation is looking for a part time Bus Driver, to transport seniors to the grocery stores, doctor appointments, special trips, and a shuttle to Lake Ave. A CDL license with a passenger endorsement is required. Please call Angela at 914-423-9754 for information

Stormy Weather



By Eric Schoen

What is going on with the weather we have been experiencing recently? Have you ever seen so many baseball games called on account of inclement weather? The double header featuring 7 inning games? Whose brilliant idea was that?

A separate admission double header featuring a 7 inning game. You don't get your money's worth. This phenomenon was introduced in the middle of the Covid pandemic. Now that it's over, let's bring back 9 inning games, including double headers. By the way the single admission double header is a treat to the fans. After what they want through over the last 15 months they certainly deserve it.

It's good to see so many people back in the stands. People want to get out of the house after being cooped up for so long. But this weather we have been having. What's up?

Did you see the picture of the crazy lady practically swimming through the water to get her subway train. Down the steps, into the murky waters up to her chest, trying to get to a subway that clearly because of the water in the station wasn't getting there. What possesses someone to do what that lady did? Was she trying to prove to her boss that she did everything in her power to get to work?

On the one hand as a boss you like someone dedicated to wade their way through waters to be on time for their job. On the other hand you must question her sanity. Not only was she not going to get her train but that disgusting, dirty water she trod through? I would worry more about picking up a virus from that muddy water than getting Covid 19.

An article in a New York newspaper said that New York City subways are not prepared for global warming. People are so funny when they discuss global warming. You have three 90 degree plus days and global warming is upon us. Never mind the next day is in the 60's and 70's. Come to think of it have you seen Al Gore lately?

Hurricane season was something experienced in Florida, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas but not in our areas. Tornados? That's something Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz experienced. Thunder and lightning seems more plentiful, and you better have an umbrella and a light jacket in the the car to protect yourself.

I'll leave the determination as to what is or isn't global warming to someone with a little more atmospheric knowledge than I have. Prepare for everything as you never know these days what to expect. On to some other topics of the day!

The Surfside Florida Collapse

How many buildings throughout Westchester are over 40 years old. We hear the phrase 'pre-war' buildings. That phrase usually refers to buildings built between 1900 and 1939. Those buildings are over 80 years old. Do we

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A Diverse Workforce for a Diverse County



Dr. Dial Hewitt and his colleagues in the Westchester County Department of Health have been on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic for the past year, working exhausting hours and putting their own health and safety on the line to serve others.

Despite the risks and the challenges they face, the Department's doctors, nurse practitioners, public health nurses, lab techs and support staff remain firmly committed to their mission: protecting the health and safety of the people of Westchester.

"You go into this field because you care about people and you get gratification from helping them," said Hewlett, who is board certified in Internal Medicine and in the sub specialty of Infectious Diseases.

"I am fortunate and blessed to work with such dedicated professionals," he said of his colleagues at WCDOH. Most recently, he has been helping oversee the County's vaccination clinic on Court Street in White Plains.

Hewlett noted that Westchester was ground zero for the Covid-19 pandemic, where an outbreak occurred in New Rochelle.

The virus spread through houses of worship, congregate care settings and other locations – and the Health Department staff mobilized swiftly to respond.

"They were willing to put their lives on the line when we didn't know very much about this disease," Hewlett said of the entire Health Department team. "Whatever we have asked of them, they do it."

Dr. Hewlett has also been involved in outreach to Westchester's minority communities to provide "accurate, scientific information" and encourage people of color to get vaccinated. He said he hopes to alleviate the hesitation of some Black and Latino residents to get the vaccine.

The executive team at the Health Department has been praised for its leadership during the pandemic, including: Dr. Sherlita Amler, commissioner; Renee Recchia, first deputy commissioner; Dr. Hewlett; Dr. Marisa Montecalvo, Dr. Ada Huang and Lori Smittle, PhD (doctor of nursing).

To receive notifications of all upcoming civil service exams, people can sign up to receive email notifications at <https://exams.westchestergov.com/webexam/emailSubscription/subscribe.htm>.

Untermeyer Performing Arts Council Presents Got the Picture-Free Photography Class July 24



Yonkers Rising photographer Donna Davis

The Untermeyer Performing Arts Council will present Got the Picture???, a free two-hour Smartphone Photography Class at 10 am on July 24th at Untermeyer Park. The class will be taught by well-known local photographer Donna Davis. Untermeyer Park is located at 945 North Broadway, Yonkers.

This course is geared toward those who are new to smartphones, want to learn the basics of taking cellphone photos or are looking to improve their skills. The class also will cover sharing and uploading photos.

Ms. Davis, a well-known Yonkers based freelance photographer, works for Yonkers Rising, Yonkers City Hall and many community organizations and associations.

Course attendance is by reservation only; reservations are limited. Call 914-375-3435 to leave your name, phone number and email address on the voice mail. Reservations per call are limited to four people. We will return your call only if you have a seat in the class.

The Untermeyer Performing Arts Council is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to bringing free entertainment to the people of Yonkers.

Our programs are admission free and open to the public.

This program, done in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, is made possible by the Ira Goldman Memorial Fund and Empire City Casino by MGM. Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh and our generous supporters provide additional support for our programs.

For further information, please call the Untermeyer Performing Arts Council's Arts Line at 914-375-3435 or visit our website at www.untermeyerperformingarts.org. For updates, check our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/upac1976/>, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram or follow us on Twitter.

Two Yonkers Students Receive Jandon Scholarships

On Monday evening, the Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated the generosity of the Jandon Foundation and the accomplishments of the 15 recipients of scholarships in the 2021 Jandon Scholars program.

In a video presentation, Alec Cecil, son of Jandon founders Don and Jane Cecil, said, "My sister, Leslie, and I have been honored with the opportunity to continue in our parents' footsteps. My parents were huge believers in the value of education and in assisting others to achieve success in life ... Now to the graduates -- welcome to the community of Jandon Scholars ... You have all achieved much, yet you have much more to do. While this scholarship is a reward for what you have accomplished so far, it is really designed to enhance your opportunity to succeed in college and beyond. Much is now expected of you: to work hard, complete school, pursue careers, families, community service, help others ... Consider this as our investment for the enterprise that is the rest of your life. We hope to be your partners for the next four years and to help you succeed."

The program awards \$12,000 over four years to academically-qualifying Westchester public high school seniors with limited resources to help them realize their dream of a college education. Since the beginning of the program, 320 scholarships have been awarded totaling \$2 million dollars.

The Jandon Scholars program is unique in that it follows students through their college careers. Awards are provided in annual, increasing increments as incentives, and scholarship recipients have access to a network of hundreds of alumni who have come through the program.

Six students from Yonkers were 2021 Jandon scholarship recipients. Diamond Brown, Roosevelt High School Early Childhood Studies -- NYU-Tandon School of Engineering, Malik Hylton, Gorton High School -- Lehman College, Opeyemi Majiyagbe, Riverside High School -- Skidmore College, Evelyn Rios, Riverside High School -- Northeastern University, Nicole Santana, Riverside High School -- Hunter College, and Navaiya Williams, Yonkers Middle High School -- Brown University.

Hudson River Museum Planetarium Opens



The #HRMPlanetarium will be opening to the public on Friday, July 16, after being closed for 15 months! HRM can't wait to welcome you back under the dome to once again experience the mysteries of the moon, the search for life beyond Earth, and the stories that shape our stars. Plus, the planetarium now has all new seats and new carpeting, made possible by dedicated funds from New York State Council on the Arts and the The City of Yonkers through a Community Development Block Grant.

Summer schedule:
Fridays, 6pm—FREE planetarium show each Friday, July 16–August 28, 2021, with a new show offered each week. Made possible by Entergy.

Saturdays & Sundays, 12:30pm and 2pm—Two ticketed shows per day on weekends, featuring favorites like One World, One Sky; Legends of the Night Sky; Earth Moon and Sun; and, of course The Sky Tonight!

Capacity is currently limited to 60 seats per show (50%) and masks will be required in the planetarium until further notice; advance tickets are strongly encouraged. Purchase tickets here: <http://ow.ly/8AZJ50Fr84T>.

Yonkers Teen Pleads Guilty to 2019 Murder of High School Student Marilyn Cotto Martinez




A Yonkers teenager pled guilty on July 8 to Murder in the Second Degree for the killing of 18-year-old Marilyn Cotto-Montanez, pictured top right, as she walked down Morningside Avenue with her nine-year-old sister, District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced. Jamir Thompson, pictured top left, who was 15 at the time of the incident, was firing the gun at another male, but instead shot Ms. Cotto-Montanez, an innocent bystander, in the head.

"One young life was tragically lost and another young life was forever changed on this terrible day," Rocah said. "We will hold accountable those who commit acts of violence and continue to work on the scourge of illegal guns in our communities and fight to keep them out of the hands of young people."

Thompson, now 17, was prosecuted as a Juvenile Offender. He is remanded pending sentencing which is scheduled for September 2, 2021 and faces a sentencing range of nine years to life.

Westchester Family Court Judge Helen Blackwood presided over the plea in the Youth Part. The case was prosecuted by Deputy Bureau Chief Daniel Flecha and Assistant District Attorney Catalina Blanco Buitrago.

Untermeyer Performing Arts Council
Mayor Mike Spano
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World-renowned samba performance company Samba New York! is dedicated to entertaining, educating, and uplifting people of all backgrounds with the exhilarating music and dance of Brazil. Rooted in such styles as carnival samba, pagode, bossa nova, and capoeira, Samba New York! uses its unique cosmopolitan sensibility to bring the samba and other traditional Brazilian art forms into new and unexpected places, inviting people to make samba culture a transformational and fully integrated part of their lives, whether for one moment or a lifetime.

Our programs are admission free and open to the public. Please bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, as we do not provide seating.

Done in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano, and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding is received from ArtsWestchester with support from Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, Empire City Casino by MGM and our loyal arts patrons.

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The Many Members of the Political Flip-Flop Club

By Ann Muro

Now that we have the long-awaited results of the Yonkers Democratic Primary, some political realities may also come into play.

As former chair of the Yonkers Democratic Party and one who has remained active for many years, I was “turned off” by the nature of some of the campaigns. Many who won had been the anticipated victors. Then those who lost may be going through what I always referred to as the “could have, would have, should have” syndrome.

I took issue in particular with one of the campaign pieces sent out against Mike Khader. That was the one that referred to Council President Khader as “Flip Flop Mike.” Now whether or not someone was supporting Mike was not the issue. The piece voters received blasting him for changing parties was one that Mike could have easily addressed. Perhaps “would have, could have, should have” fits right in here.

Mike was not the only “Flip Flopper” There were many past and present that took the same step whether they were local “Flip Floppers,” state “Flip Floppers” and even national “Flip Floppers.”

For your information here are some of the Flip Floppers who either sought nominations or received nominations, were elected or even served long term-

So here goes!!!

- Donald Trump – President
- Bernie Sanders – Vermont Senator
- Mayor Bloomberg – NYC Mayor
- Janet DiFiore – Westchester DA
- Angelo Martinelli – Mayor of Yonkers
- Mike Spano – Mayor of Yonkers
- Hank Spallone – Mayor of Yonkers
- Bernice Spreckman – City Council & County Legislator- 3 times!
- Nader Sayegh – NY Assembly
- John Rubbo – City Council
- David Tubiolo – County Legislator
- Charles Wood – Supreme Court Judge
- Brandon Neider – Former President Young Republicans
- Zehy Jereis – Former Chair Yonkers Republican Party
- Tim Hodges – Candidate 6th Council District
- Mario DeGiorgio – Candidate Mayoral Primary
- Frank Spotorno- Candidate City Council

And the list goes on. Many of these politicians had wonderful, successful careers.

So Mike Khader was not alone; he only joined the “Flip Flop Club”

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Adriaen Van der Donck, the Founding Father of Yonkers

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

Monday July 19th

July 19, 1902: After the Yonkers Common Council Aldermen adopted a resolution giving the new Oak Street firehouse to the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Commission refused to accept the new firehouse until all gas fixtures were installed. They stated strongly it was the duty of the Common Council to finish the building entirely, and they would not accept the building until it was done.

July 19, 1947: Yonkers Commissioner of Health Eugene McGillian called the work at the Palmer Road shaft of the new Delaware Aqueduct during evening hours a health hazard. Many, many residents had complained about the noise from the night shift.

July 19, 1945: A picture of Seaman R. I. Stowell appeared in The Herald Statesman eating with President Truman! The President, on the cruiser Augusta, was heading to the Potsdam Conference. While on the cruiser, Truman liked to sit with the crew and “chow down!”

Tuesday July 20th

July 20, 1935: Alderman Brian Shaefer reported attendance of both children and adults at “Sandy Beach” in South Yonkers on the Hudson actually had increased since the city posted signs warning of pollution!

July 20, 1945: Mrs. Jerome Stein of the Yonkers Red Cross Blood Donor Committee announced Yonkers not only surpassed our quota of 180 pints of blood, it was so good, they had to turn away 25 prospective donors!

July 20, 1946: Colonel Oliver Troster’s suggestion the Yonkers Tercentennial Commission create an official “Yonkers 300” drink for the city’s celebration met with strong opposition. Troster’s choice for our special drink was a “Coke Float,” made by dropping a ball of ice cream into a glass of Coke. Many committee members had not tried it, and thought it sounded terrible!

Wednesday, July 21st

July 21, 1920: Health Commissioner Clarence Buckmaster announced an initiative to study methods to eliminate unnecessary noises in Yonkers; he believed lowering our noise levels would improve and promote the general health of Yonkers residents.

July 21, 1928: Although Yonkers had a terrible storm, the new flume running under the new City Plaza acted like a bed for the Nepperhan River and proved itself to be more than adequate.

July 21, 1930: Because of the continuing heat wave, Tibbetts Brook Park attendance broke all previous records, with 7,345 bathers seeking relief from the 100+ degree heat. The previous record of 5,173 was set on July 4th 1928.

Thursday, July 22nd

July 22, 1781: American and French forces formed a junction on Valentine Hill at daybreak. Abbe Robin offered the first mass in Yonkers to the gathered troops.

July 22, 1935: The head of the Yonkers chapter of the Friends of New German, Walter Obermayer, issued a complaint about the American League Against War and Fascism. He stated they were supporting Communist activities because they planned a parade to protest the impending Italian invasion of Ethiopia.

July 22, 1943: Yonkers learned that one of our own played a big part in building the highway linking Canada to Alaska. Staff Sergeant Albert, who formerly operated a McLean Avenue dairy store, was attached to a Fort Nelson Engineers Regiment. They worked 24-hours a day, despite weather ranging from intense heat to -30 degrees below zero, often without sleep or food. Despite all the hardships, according to Albert, “Each man took pride in every inch of the road.” What made him the proudest? The men and the officers became buddies, unlike life in the typical garrison. He wrote, “I feel very proud of America, when I can see a mass of men—Gentile and Jew, Black, White and Red—getting along as well as we do.”

Friday July 23rd

July 23, 1944: Loring Avenue’s Captain Howard Anhalt won praise for his actions against the enemy near Afus, New Guinea. When his company was halted by heavy enemy machinegun, rifle, grenade and mortar fire, he moved among his men, exposing himself without regard for personal safety, both directing their fire and encouraging them. His courageous leadership was credited with making his company’s attack successful. Major General Fred Walker presented Anhalt the Bronze Star Medal May 1945. for his heroism and service. Captain Anhalt later became commanding officer of the Fifth Company, Third Student Training Regiment, the Infantry School, and also wore the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, American Defense Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon.

continued on pg 7-

DMX Died of “Cocaine Induced Heart Attack;” Yonkers Memorial With Mural at Housing Complex Where He Grew Up

Vulture.com, New York magazines culture website, wrote on July 8 that according to sources at the Westchester County medical examiner’s office, rapper DMX died from a cocaine-induced heart attack. Vulture reporter Victoria Bekiempis writes “DMX6 officially died from a cocaine-induced heart attack that caused a lack of blood circulation to his brain, a source from the Westchester County medical examiner’s office told Vulture. “It was cardiac arrest for a period of time, so there was no circulation to the brain,” the source said, later explaining that acute cocaine intoxication had “caused this chain of events.”

DMX, who grew up in the projects of Yonkers, died on April 9 at the age of 50. He was hospitalized on April 2 with some reports claiming a drug overdose. He remained in a vegetative state until his death on April 9.

According to the Vulture report, the claims of a drug overdose are true. It is very uncommon for causes of death to be leaked from the Westchester County medical examiner’s office before a final report and autopsy are presented to the public.

In Yonkers, a memorial mural will be unveiled on July 13 at the Calcano homes, the housing project where DMX once lived. Artist Floyd Simmons, a.k.a. 90°, and artist Ray Wilcox, executive director of Yonkers Arts, will unveil the mural at that time. The residence at Calcano had asked for a memorial to their most famous former resident.

The leak from the Medical Examiner’s Office also added that the cause of death was based upon documentation furnished by medical professionals and police, and that an autopsy was not performed.

A new DMX song, “X Moves” was humorously released on the day of his passing. In May, a new full album “Exodus,” was released, and was supposed to be the major comeback set of tunes from the legendary rapper.

Photos of the mural in next weeks paper.

Classifieds

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Notice of formation of Daphne Cuts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/10/2021. 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, 59 Fairmont Ave, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of The Vision Junkie 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 The Vision Junkie LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of SaucyGuava, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/21/2021. 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, 332 Palisade Ave Apt C1, Yonkers, NY 10703-2918. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of iFantasy, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 6/8/2021. 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, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of THE LAST PACK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/05/2021. Office: Westchester County, New York. SSNY has been designated as Agent of the LLC upon whom the process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, Joseph A. Candelario 74 Radford Ave., Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Capital Efficient Strategies LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on May 10, 2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 128 Fuller Road Briarcliff Manor NY 10510. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

Notice of Formation of Pumpkin Vine Publishing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 6/11/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Pumpkin Vine Publishing LLC, 22 Boulder Trail, Bronxville, New York 10708. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of MJV Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2021. Office location: 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, 455 Tarrytown Road, Mailbox 1135, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: TRUCK & CAR REPAIR CENTER LLC, LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/01/21. 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: United Corporate Services, Inc. 10 Bank St Ste 560. White Plains, NY 10606. Purpose: any lawful business activity.

Legal Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ("RFP")
Electrical Repair/Services Contract
ERS-2021

The Yonkers Parking Authority is soliciting proposals from Licensed Electricians that are experienced in repairs and service for electrical and data for commercial, industrial and indoor/outdoor parking facilities.

The full Request for Proposal can be picked up at the address below or downloaded from the Parking Authority's website at www.yonkersparkingauthority.com. If you have any questions, you may call the Yonkers Parking Authority at 914-965-2467 or stop at the Yonkers Parking Authority main office located at 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701

To submit a Proposal, the submission must be sealed and plainly marked "RFP for Electrical Repair/Services Contract" on the outside of the mailing envelope as well as the inside sealed envelope, addressed to: The Yonkers Parking Authority, 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 pm on June 20, 2021. All submitted proposals/bids shall be opened at 10:00 am on the first business day following the bid return deadline. Any person or persons that submitted a proposal wishing to attend bid opening may do so.

Faxed or Electronic submissions will not be accepted for the proposal. Once received, submissions will not be returned. All submissions must include a signature.

The Yonkers Parking Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals due to technical specifications or deficiencies, and to accept any proposal that it may deem to be in the best interest of the Yonkers Parking Authority.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

have laws that mandate periodic structural assessments of those buildings?

Are these assessments, if they are done handled by government agencies or coordinated privately by local building owners? Are they reviewed by coop or condo boards, and is it mandated that the information contained in the reports be provided to the owners?

Everyone who was an owner of a unit in the Surfside, Florida collapse was well aware that there were problems with the buildings. They heard of \$100,000 assessments to address the problems that existed, and coughing up that kind of money just wasn't possible for many owners. A large residential building was being built next to the collapsed building, and its' owners offered something like \$400,000 to the owners of the fallen building if they wouldn't challenge the new construction. When a building needs \$12 million in repairs, \$400,000 is simply a drop in the bucket.

The point of this story is to remind those of you who live in pre-war buildings and buildings newer than that to have periodic inspections of your buildings and their structural integrity. What is to say that something like occurred in Surfside, Florida could not occur around here. Granted we don't have as many high rises on top of the ocean like Florida has (everyone wants that ocean view and smell of fresh ocean air) but when you see these new buildings both residential and commercial going up in record time, you wonder how long these buildings are going to last.

There are 2 types of people on coop and condo boards. Those that are retired and are around a lot. They keep their eyes on the property and bring to the attention of those in charge issues of concern. Then there are the young whippersnappers who have never managed anything before and want to show off their potential. I think a lot of people are going to have second thoughts after Florida about sitting on the Board of any organization that manages property people have to live or work in.

Briefs: The Board that governs the New York State Thruway Authority is talking about rebuilding many of the plazas where people dine, stretch their legs and take a leak. Many in the LGBT community are questioning the addition of Chick-fil-A to the plazas as the company has donated to anti-LGBT causes. I'm no fan of Chick-fil-A to begin with, but anyone who knows the chain knows they are closed on Sundays. Isn't that a pretty busy travel day for a roadside restaurant to be closed?

Controversy in New Rochelle regarding building a drive thru Starbucks close to a residential housing complex. Car emissions. Having been through enough Starbucks drive thru locations in my lifetime, I never saw emissions from cars as being a problem. Would the residents rather have an empty eyesore?

A friend wanted to go to Niagara Falls. I said now is not the time to go because the border to Canada is closed. If you have been to Niagara Falls you know the better view is on the Canadian side. So when is Canada going to open the border to American citizen tourists? This is one of the most bizarre things to occur during the pandemic. It's got to be having a real financial impact on both sides of the border!

Maybe someone in Washington read last week's article. The security fencing has been removed around the Capital in Washington, D.C. Maybe soon Americans will get to visit their legislators in the offices.

Glad to see so many young people getting their COVID-19 vaccines at the CVS over the weekend. With the Delta Variant out there New York City announced at press time that COVID cases are going up in areas where people are not vaccinated. Everyone who has not been vaccinated has his or her own reason. And I must admit with news like a small number of people who got the J & J vaccine getting Guillain Barre' syndrome people are as worried as they have ever been. But despite this, it still is important to get vaccinated for you, your loved ones and society.

One in three nursing home staffers not vaccinated. In Pennsylvania inmates are getting vaccinated but prison guards are not. Scary stuff!

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.

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Defamation suit Hezi, continued from pg 1-

and diverting the stolen money for his own illegitimate purposes; harassing and employing intimidation tactics against other members of the department to further his own future ambitions; improperly hosting a ‘beer party’ in his police precinct in violation of departmental rules.”

The alleged bribe to a county leader came at a lunch, that never occurred. Hezi wrote that Mueller and Olson attended the lunch with County Executive George Latimer and a State Senator that Hezi cursed at in his story. .Aris characterized the lunch as an attempt by Mueller and Olson to get Mueller the Westchester County Police Commissioners post, but in fact never happened.

The other claims made against Mueller also never happened, including the Blue Truth story that Olson and Mueller collected \$30,000 from an annual Toughman charity boxing event, and that \$30,000 in cash was donated to the School for Special Needs Children, and given to Len Spano, director of the school, in cash.

Aris also falsely wrote that Olson and Mueller “were complicit in the death of a police officer by denying him medical leave and subjecting him to increased risk of contracting COVID-19,” and that Olson “used city employees and resources to complete personal tasks in violation of the penal law and city including performing work at his home,” and that Olson “routinely drives while intoxicated.”

The sources:

Aris was ordered to reveal his sources to the police officers and the court. Last year, Aris told Yonkers Rising that he would “never, never, never” reveal his sources, revealed two sources to the court: Yonkers Police Detective Ray Montero and former Police Commissioner Charles Gardner. Montero had long been rumored as one of Hezi’s source, but the name of Gardner was a surprise to many including this reporter and will become a shocking revelation to many in Yonkers City Hall and at Yonkers Police Headquarters when this story is shared around the city.

While Hezi claimed in his initial court documents that he had other sources, in a subsequent court document he claims that only Montero and Gardner were his sources and that they had corroborated many of his fictitious postings.

Officers Mueller, Olson, and Moran, through their attorney Andrew Quinn, asked for the original sources of the false stories, resulting in Hezi, through his attorney, Michael Sussman, that he had no original sources, leading to only one conclusion-that the story were not true and made up.

The Deposition:

Police Officers Mueller, Olson and Moran were able to get Aris to sit for an 8 hour deposition, which is described by Judge Lefkowitz in her decision as follows:“During his deposition on March 29, 2021 Aris testified that he never took any journalism courses, he read approximately 10 books about journalism but was unable to recall their names or authors, he is not a member of a professional journalism organization, he was issued press credentials approximately 20 years ago by the now former Yonkers Police Department Commissioner Charles Gardner, that he no longer has those press credentials, and that he was provided those credentials without providing proof that he was a journalist. He further testified that he works for the Tribune which he created about 20 years ago, the Tribune does not have a board of directors, the Tribune does not have any employees other than Aris, the Tribune is without any assets and has only generated revenue in 2020 and 2021 from advertising but that he was not paid by the Tribune. He testified that he has not been paid for almost 20 years and any revenue made by HMI and the Tribune has been reinvested in the companies. He testified that the Tribune is not insured. He testified that he is the only author of the Blue Truth article series for the Tribune and that he is the editor and publisher of the Tribune. He testified that he destroys notes and emails from confidential sources because he is concerned about retribution for his sources. He testified that “[a]ll of my sources are anonymous” and refused to reveal the sources of information relied upon by him in writing articles “because there is retribution in Yonkers.”

“Aris also stated that he did not know the identity of those who commented on his articles, nor could he produce their registrations or IP addresses. He further stated that to the extent that information exists defendants’ webmaster is the only person with access to that information,” writes Lefkowitz.

After the deposition, the plaintiffs argued that Hezi’s failure to identify his sources impeded their ability to present their case. Protecting the identity of a journalist’s sources is protected in New York State by the “Shield Law,” but based on Hezi’s answers, (that he has never been paid by the Yonkers Tribune, that he has no press credentials, and that he does not print an actual newspaper), plaintiffs argued that Hezi was not in fact a journalist.

Judge Lefkowitz writes, “Plaintiffs contend that defendants are unable to invoke the Shield Law to protect their sources because defendants are neither journalists nor a qualifying news agency under the Shield Law. Plaintiffs argue that the Shield Law applies only to professional journalists as defined by the statute. They argue that Aris is not a professional journalist pursuant to this statute because he does not engage in news gathering for gain or livelihood, he is not and has never been a regular employee of a newspaper or news agency as a journalist, and the Tribune does not meet the criteria of a newspaper or news agency that collects and supplies news to subscribing outlets,” writes Judge Lefkowitz, who concluded in her decision that-

“Defendants have failed to establish that the Tribune or HMI fall into one of the news entity categories as defined by the statute. Defendants have admitted that the Tribune is published online and therefore it does not qualify as a newspaper which by the statute’s definition “is printed”. Additionally, there has been no proffer by defendants that it has a paid circulation which is required to be deemed a newspaper or magazine under the statute. Nor have defendants argued, let alone provided evidence that the defendant entities are “news agencies,” “press associations”, or “wire services” as defined by the statute. Other than Aris’ own self-serving statements that he is a journalist, defendants have also failed to show his entitlement to invoke the Shield Law privilege.”

“As reflected by his deposition testimony, he admittedly is not engaged in the activities of the Tribune for gain or livelihood but lives off his savings. He has failed to demonstrate that he is paid by the defendant entities or that he is a regular employee of or otherwise professionally affiliated for gain or livelihood by them. And as previously noted, defendants have failed to show that the Tribune and HMI are qualifying news entities under whose umbrella Aris could invoke the Shield Law privilege.”

The lawsuit has yet to be concluded, but so far that it is safe to say that the decision by Lefkowitz, and the revelation of his sources, or lack thereof, have not gone well for the Publisher of the Yonkers Tribune.

If this case continues on its present course, Hezi will be found guilty of defamation, and the court will impose damages. The three police officers are suing for a combined \$17 Million. Because of his First Amendment right to freedom of expression, Aris can continue to publish the Yonkers Tribune even if he is found guilty of the defamation of Mueller, Olson and Moran. There is no mechanism to make him cease operations.

But if he did in fact fabricate many of the Blue Truth stories, he should not be trusted by his readers and the people of Yonkers. “This lawsuit has always been about what is right and what is wrong. No one should be able to write defamatory lies about people without an honest attempt of verifying the information. We are glad to see this lawsuit move forward, and we look forward to a positive outcome. We hope this gives pause to all of the so-called journalists out there and that they are put on notice that if they print lies about people, they will be held accountable,” said Olson.

Saturday, July 24th

July 24, 1653: Adriaen Van der Donck, who received his law degree in the University of Leyden and was admitted to practice it before the Supreme Court of Holland, received permission to practice law in New Netherlands.

July 24, 1922: Cy Barker, on eof Yonkers youngest pitchers, was signed to play for the semi-pro Federal A. C. Baseball Team by Manager Frank Stiefel.

July 24, 1930: New York City formally gave a portion of the old croton Aqueduct property at the southwest corner of Palisade and Ashburton Avenues to Yonkers. Our city planed to widen what was considered a dangerous intersection.

Sunday July 25th

July 25, 1933: Because of complex immigration regulations, long time Yonkers resident Ignatz Moniec was denied entrance back into the United States and was held at Ellis Island. Although he had lived in Yonkers for twenty-six years, was married and had a daughter, he never became a citizen nor learned to read or write English. He sailed to Poland to visit his family on a six-month permit in 1931; while there, he became seriously ill and could not travel. When recovered, American authorities refused to issue him a visa since he was not naturalized. The US Consul in Warsaw, under the jurisdiction of the State Department, understood his plight and issued a travel visa. When he arrived at Ellis Island run by the Department of Labor, the authorities there would not recognize his State Department visa. His family immediately hired local lawyer Irving Klein, who travelled to Washington to plead the unusual nature of the case, contending the immigration laws were never intended to separate families already residents of the US.

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com. For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, visit yonkershistoricalsociety.org,

Amended Affordable Housing Ordinance Veto, cont. from pg 1-

tential effects on the City if it was to significantly increase the tax subsidy to developers.”

Mayor Spano added, “Ultimately, my decision to veto this amendment is because the Council’s proposal will either shut down our market rate residential construction entirely, or else cost the local property taxpayers millions annually in additional subsidies.”

Mayor Spano’s veto message also cites Yonkers Planning Board’s opposition to the amended AHO. The Board stated that the Council neglected to address the detailed comments issued by the Planning Board and failed to send the amended version back the Board for review. The City also received several amendment opposition letters and statements from Westchester’s leading business groups including Business Council of Westchester, Westchester County Association and affordable housing developer Westhab.

Mayor Spano said, “Yonkers represents 20% of Westchester County’s population, yet we already house over 40% of its subsidized housing stock. I agree we need to revisit our AHO, but we need to be smart about our next steps. I will be submitting a revised plan to the Council that offers the best affordable housing ordinance in Westchester and addresses the needs of our community, while still allowing for investors to continue building in Yonkers.”

In 2013, Mayor Spano and the Yonkers City Council passed the City’ first-ever Affordable Housing Ordinance, ordering 10% of housing units in newly constructed large developments (100 units or more) to be made available to families earning between 40%-100% of Westchester County’s Area Median Income (AMI). In medium-sized developments (between 75 and 99 units), two units are set aside and in small developments (between 21 and 74 units), one unit is set aside. The law does not apply to developments with 20 units or less.

The City Council vote to increase the percentage of affordable housing units in new development projects was 5-2, with the two council republicans, Minority Leader Mike Breen, and councilman Anthony Merante voting no. Five votes are also needed to override the Mayor’s veto.

But our sources inside City Hall say tthat the Mayor would not have vetoed unless he could sway one of the five democrats who supported the increase to now change their votes and support the Mayor’s veto.

Who that councilmember will be is not known, but what is known is that it will not be Council President Mike Khader or Councilmember Shanae Williams, both of who posted their thoughts after the Mayor’s veto.

“As you know on June 23rd, our city council passed the Affordable Housing Ordinance with a 5-2 passing vote. However, this week Mayor Mike Spano vetoed the Affordable Housing Ordinance, which requires developers to set aside 20% of all new units as affordable housing. To say that I am disappointed is an understatement. Why? Because I believe housing is a human right and it is long overdue for us to pass legislation that expands access and eligibility for affordable housing to a greater population of Yonkers residents.

That’s why I look forward to proposing a vote to override this veto in our next regular council session in September, in accordance with City Council procedure. With June 23rd’s passing vote, I anticipate and look forward to a historic and much-needed step towards addressing the affordable housing crisis here in Yonkers,” wrote Council President Khader.

Councilmember Williams wrote, “Since many of you are reaching out regarding: Yonkers Affordable Housing Ordinance that was passed a couple weeks ago 5-2 by the city council and has subsequently been vetoed by the Mayor. People are asking me what’s next... this is the process:

Since we are on summer break we have to get the Council President or 4 members of the council to call a special meeting to bring the veto to the floor to overturn it. And in order for the veto to get overturned, we need at least 5 votes, so all 5 democrats on the council will need to be on the same page again to get this done. If that does not happen, the ordinance dies and in September we can go back to the drawing board to reintroduce a new affordable housing ordinance that everyone will hopefully support.”

Councilman Merante, continued from pg 1-

went right to work for us and had the State DOT install rumble strips”. Claire Gallagher, a community leader said “When our Grassy Sprain Civic Association took on the battle against the planned vast UPS expansion, that would ruin our neighborhood, Anthony stood shoulder to shoulder with us in protests, in the media and in the Council Chamber to rally support for our cause. Anthony was there when we needed him”.

Councilman Merante also proudly points to his record of protecting Yonkers taxpayers. Merante said, “I’m the only Councilmember to Vote No on a Property Tax increase in the 2020/21 budget. As the City Council Budget Chairman, for the 2021/22 budget, I pushed through a 0% tax increase”. Councilman Merante noted “I also refused a taxpayer funded City vehicle. I don’t believe Yonkers taxpayers should be paying for my car.”

Anthony Merante credits his excellent working relationship with Mayor Mike Spano for being an effective Councilman. Merante points out, “Thanks to Mayor Spano, “we earmarked \$2 million to have trees removed and replaced to proactively reduce storm power outage problems”. We also made infrastructure repairs from the Sprain Lake dam to the paving of over 30 roads, repaired the chronic deterioration of the Mile Square Road one lane bridge and had the long-needed Suffolk Trail sanitary sewer line installation completed. We’ve upgraded our parks making renovations to Welty, Richter and Annette Vizzini parks”. Merante acknowledges that Public School funding is of critical importance and is proud that we’ve been able to add \$25 million in funding for to our public schools annually.

Merante concluded, “I’m not the type of Councilman you’re going to find sitting behind a desk. I’m always on the move in my district. My job is to solve problems not to make speeches or make empty promises. I’m not a talker, I’m a doer. Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than the smile on the face of a grateful constituent whose problem I was able to solve”

Merante will be challenged by democrat Tim Hodges and Stella

sss on the WFP.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

July 23, 1944: Loring Avenue’s Captain Howard Anhalt won praise for his actions against the enemy near Afus, New Guinea. When his company was halted by heavy enemy machinegun, rifle, grenade and mortar fire, he moved among his men, exposing himself without regard for personal safety, both directing their fire and encouraging them. His courageous leadership was credited with making his company’s attack successful. Major General Fred Walker presented Anhalt the Bronze Star Medal May 1945. for his heroism and service. Captain Anhalt later became commanding officer of the Fifth Company, Third Student Training Regiment, the Infantry School, and also wore the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, American Defense Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon.

July 23, 1945: Speakers at the New York State Communist Party Convention rebuked Yonkers’ Earl Browder for his policies of “cooperation with capitalists.”



Senator Schumer, with State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, St. John's Hospital staff and STSI members

Schumer, STSI, continued from pg 1-

partner with US Senate Leader Chuck Schumer, NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, Birth from the Earth, Westchester County government, along with various community partners using a collective impact approach to improve outcomes" said Cheryl Brannan, STSI founder.

During the press conference U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, said "The bottom line is that Black women in New York are at an increased risk of complications, injury and worse related to childbirth and that is just not acceptable. The U.S., is falling behind the rest of the developed world when it comes to maternal health outcomes, including right here in New York, irrevocably and unconscionably altering families, communities and failing thousands of children who lose their mothers in preventable circumstances."

Leader Schumer unveiled a comprehensive three-part plan to address the national maternal mortality crisis and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes nationwide and at St. John's Riverside Hospital, the only maternity unit in Yonkers - New York's fourth-largest city.

Schumer said that in the upcoming recovery packages he will first fight to secure major investments found in Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. Second, he will push to make permanent enhancements to Medicaid coverage for pregnant woman and new mothers, including instituting yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage and expanding Medicaid benefits to include doulas and midwives. Finally, Schumer announced that he will push to invest over \$500,000 in the St. John's Riverside Hospital (SJRH) racial equity project, a crucial community-driven, multi-pronged effort to sustain and improve Maternity services in Yonkers, through his congressionally directed spending requests this year.

NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins was also a major advocate at the press conference, and has worked with STSI since they launched a "Maama Kit" Safe birthing Initiative for women in Africa, over a decade ago with the World Health Organization. "Since then, the glaring racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality have fueled a national health crisis, right here in the U.S. We in the New York Senate Democratic Majority are committed to tackle this crisis by passing legislation that addresses the unacceptable disparities in maternal mortality which is especially high among Black women in communities like Yonkers. That is why we championed legislation to extend the postpartum coverage period for Medicaid recipients for one year. I support Senate Majority Leader Schumer's fight to pass the Maternal Health Momnibus Act, the investment in St. John's Riverside Hospital (SJRH) racial equity project and making the extension of Postpartum Medicaid Coverage permanent. These strategies will save lives, empower women and create safe and respectful birthing experiences," said NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

continued at right--



L-R-Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Dr. Paul Antonecchia, Chief Medical Officer, St. John's Riverside Hospital, US Senator Charles Schumer, STSI Founder Cheryl Brannan

St. John's Riverside Hospital was the host of the press conference. "For over 150 years, St. John's Riverside Hospital has strived to provide comprehensive medical and nursing care in a compassionate, professional, respectful and ethical manner to every patient. Recently, with the guidance of St. John's Committee to Address Regional Equity in Healthcare, we seek to address the significant disparities in maternal health outcomes such as maternal mortality, premature births, low birthweight births and our percentage of cesarean sections in our black community," said Ronald J. Corti, President/ CEO at St. John's Riverside Hospital.

STSI and community partners have been partnering with St. John's Riverside Hospital on a Black Maternal Health initiative with interventions designed to promote racial equity and improve birth outcomes for Black women.

STSI looks forward to working with Senator Schumer, Senator Cousins, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Westchester County government and community partners on ending racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health. For more information check out the Still I Rise Report on their website s2si.org

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