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Friday July 8, 2022

## Palisades Preparatory High School Valedictorian, Salutatorian Heading to Lehman



**Palisades Prep. Valedictorian Brianne Barredo, left and Salutatorian Vanessa Vidal-Salgado, right**

Congratulations to the 2022 Valedictorian and Salutatorian from Palisades Prep High School. Valedictorian Brianne G. Barredo, will graduate with a weighted grade point average of 99.29.

Her favorite teacher was Ms. Frisik, 9th grade Global History, and her favorite subject is Math.

Brianne was a member of the Emergency Medical Services Cadet Program, and was honored by Majority Leader Senator Stewart-Cousins and Senator Mayer's with the Citizenship Award.

Barredo's community service work includes volunteering as a Summer Reading Buddy, participating in The Purpose Driven Scholar program sponsored by Unilever, serving as a caretaker and 4th grade Math, English and Science tutor

Brianne plans to major in Nursing. She was accepted to a dozen colleges and will attend Lehman College in the fall. "I would like to become a nurse and eventually get my masters and make my way to being a nurse practitioner."

What do you like most about your school? "I love the support from peers-even if we aren't close. We aren't a tight knit group, but we do respect and support each other regardless of where we stand."

Any words of wisdom or advice for younger students? "The only way to grow is to challenge yourself. You will always be your #1 competitor, and the only person that can push yourself is you! Your mind can be a powerful thing-use it to the best of your abilities!"

Palisades Prep Salutatorian Vanessa Vidal-Salgado will graduate with a 97.3% GPA. Her favorite teacher was Laura, Vushaj 9th grade Century Honors English and 12th grade S.U.P.A, and her favorite subject is English.

In addition to her academic success, Vanessa is a hard worker outside of her studies. "I am part of the Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE). I tutor and babysit kids around my neighborhood who need extra help in their studies. It is also a significant help to parents that struggle with working and keeping up with stuff. I

*continued on pg 4-*

## Yonkers Police, DEA, Bust Gun Pipeline, Make Firearm Trafficking Arrests, Seize 33 Guns



### "IRON PIPELINE" FIREARMS TRAFFICKING



On June 30, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Yonkers Police Commissioner Chris Sapienza, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah, and DEA Special Agent in Charge Frank A. Tarentino III announced a series of arrests in a multi-agency investigation into illegal firearms trafficking.

Earlier in 2022, the Yonkers Police Department Narcotics Unit initiated a joint investigation with members of DEA Group D-43, New York City Police Department, New York State Police, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office into the illegal interstate trafficking of firearms to Yonkers. The investigation focused on the trafficking of "ghost guns;" partially furnished, non-serialized, and untraceable firearms that can be easily assembled to become fully functioning firearms at home with parts that can be bought online and through various retailers. These "ghost guns" are designed to avoid gun laws and regulations.

On June 24, 2022, Detectives arrested Jose Gregory OLIVO-FELIZ (27) of Yonkers, Pedro Junior OLIVIO-FELIZ (21) of Yonkers, and Idanis LORA-ESPINAL (30) of Washington, D.C., in connection with this investigation. During those arrests, Netaly A. PENA-CAMILO (25) of Washington, D.C., allegedly fled from arresting officers but was later located in Washington, D.C., and apprehended on June 29, 2022, by members of the investigative team with the assistance of the FBI, DEA Washington Division, and the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia. All four defendants have been arraigned in Yonkers City Court and are currently held without bail.

This joint investigation resulted in the seizure of TWO conventional firearms and 31 "ghost guns" that were allegedly purchased and assembled in Washington, D.C., before being transported to Yonkers for sale. The investigation shut down an alleged "Iron Pipeline" of illegal firearms from Washington, D.C., to Yonkers, NY.

"The Yonkers PD is doing a tremendous job in reducing gun violence by

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## Congratulations to the 2022 Yonkers Idol and Yonkers Junior Idol



**Yonkers Junior Idol Jaliheh Le Cruise, left and Yonkers Idol Darrin Sanders**

Congratulations to the 2022 Yonkers Idol, Darin Sanders, and Yonkers Junior Idol Jaliheh Le Cruise, pictured above. The pair competed in the annual competition, and while all of the contestants were great, Darin and Jaliheh outshined them all. The event showed "how much amazing talent in the City of Yonkers," said Councilman John Rubbo.

The mistress of ceremonies was Marian Marji Congratulations to all of the contestants:

Junior Idol contestants: Abigail Gutierrez, Jalileh Le'Cruise,

Idol Contestants: Sofia Santana, Mary-Lynn Israel, Darrin Sanders, Amanda Gentile.

The Idol judges this year were, Steve Sansone, Yonkers Parks Commissioner, Singer/Marketing Associate Olivia Hunter, Yon Zweibon, Professional Costumer, Peter Dilorio, System Project Manager, and Singer/Songwriter Joyce Henry. MJ Territo and Olivia Hunter also provided vocal coaching to the contestants.

2021 Junior Idol winner Carly Tauber was a special guest to top off a great night of music and song.

Darin and Jaliheh will now represent the City and perform at various functions and events throughout the year.

Be on the lookout for both and after you hear them sing you will know why they are your Idol and Junior Idol for 2022.

## Westchester High School Student Donates Dance Costumes to Youth Theatre Interactions



**L-R-Ty Powell (Executive Director of YTI), Isabel Lavery, Genia Flammia (President of the Board of YTI) and Marion Archer (Artistic Director of Revelators) with dance costumes collected and donated by Lavery**

*By Dan Murphy*

Isabel Lavery, a rising senior at Croton Harmon High School, was able to collect 130 dance costumes that were donated by Westchester families to benefit Youth Theatre Interactions (YTI) in Yonkers and Revelators Dance Troupe in Mt. Vernon. The dance costumes donated were of high quality and in great condition with a retail value of over \$10,000.

"I've been a dancer since I was four and I have my costume from my first performance. I kept them and they are piling up in my closet. I thought what a better way to put them to good use and give it to someone and give it a second life and hopefully they will love it like I did," said Lavery, who presented the costumes on June 25 at the new home of YTI, at 68 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers.

"I contacted dance schools and stores that I know in Westchester, and asked if they would put a bin out for customers to see and donate costumes. We ended up working with Ms. Dancewear in Mohegan Lake and Repertoire Dance Shop in Scarsdale - my two favorite shops!" said Lavery.

ArtsWestchester, a non-profit supporting the arts in Westchester, has been incredibly supportive of Isabel's costume drive. "ArtsWestchester was a tremendous help with the drive. Sue Abbott helped me find recipients for the donated costumes. She reached out to dance schools. Youth Theater Interactions in Yonkers, and Revelators Dance Troupe were the recipients we worked with - both great local institutions. Without ArtsWestchester, Star2Star could not have happened! They connected me with the studios and helped me polish the concept to a working model, which caused an increase in donations and support," said Lavery.

All of the 130 costumes came from generous donations. "I even had a neighbor, who dropped off 16 costumes at my house towards the end of the drive!"

Youth Theatre Interactions, Inc. (YTI) is a non-profit that provides professional instruction in the performing arts to Westchester County youth. With the support and participation of their parents, YTI nurtures creativity and pride in accomplishment while fostering discipline, confidence, and critical thinking in young people.

Revelators Dance Troupe, located in Mt. Vernon, is a 501(c)3 multi-disciplinary arts education organization providing a safe artistic outlet for young people. They offer quality programming aimed to inspire, strengthen and develop young people and educate through dance.

Both organizations were grateful for Isabel's hard work and generosity. "It's important to recognize and celebrate positive efforts by our youth. Isabel's efforts will impact so many other children. She shared fond memories of her dancing and we will share those stories with the hope that they inspire another child to "pay it forward", said Genie Flammia, YTI Board President.

We hope that this story inspires our readers to help others and give back to the Westchester community. "This costume drive has reminded me how much I love

*continued on pg 4-*



## County Beaches and Pools Free This Summer For Westchester Residents



Beginning Tuesday, July 5, Glen Island Beach fees will be waived, Monday through Thursday, through Thursday, September 1. The latest move to ease inflation costs for residents will be at Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle and also at the County's pools, Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains and Sprain Ridge and The Brook at Tibbetts in Yonkers. Croton Point Beach in Croton-on-Hudson is open weekends only, and Willson's Woods in Mount Vernon is currently free daily.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "As costs continue to rise, the County is taking measures to ease the burden facing residents. Visiting pools and beaches during the summer should be a stress-free experience, and I look forward to families coming out this summer to enjoy their time together."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said: "Our pools and beaches are a local destination our residents look forward to visiting each summer. I'm happy we are able to take these steps to ensure our residents don't miss out this year."

The beaches and pools are accessible by the Bee-Line Bus, which is free to ride this summer, through Labor Day, Monday, September 5.

Earlier this week Latimer announced other measures taken by the County to ease the burden facing County residents' wallets. These actions include:

**Funding for Feeding Westchester:** Increasing funding to Feeding Westchester by \$700,000, which doubles what is included in the 2022 budget and covers the increased cost of food and fuel. Feeding Westchester has experienced an increase this year to \$0.71 per pound across the foods they provide, compared to \$0.60 per pound last year. Overall, they are seeing an 18% year over year increase in food costs. The additional \$700,000 for Feeding Westchester will enable them to support 883,838 people. In addition, the average food package provided by a food pantry has a value of approximately \$60 saving a family \$240/month.

**Sales Tax:** Westchester County has the ability to lower/eliminate the sales tax on residential energy on a quarterly basis. The County needs to adopt a local law and notify NYS Tax and Finance 90 days ahead of implementation. The County is proposing eliminating the sales tax for the quarter beginning December 1. This time period would cover the start of the heating season. The sales tax elimination covers home heating oil, propane, natural gas, electric, coal and wood for residential heating purposes. It covers homeowners as well as rental units. Renters or landlords would be eligible depending on the structure of the unit's heat and electric use.

All four pools and Glen Island Beach are open daily, 11 a.m. through 6:30 p.m.; last admission at 6 p.m.; proof of residency is required. Croton Point Beach is open weekends only and Mondays, July 4 and Labor Day, Sept. 5. Parking fees at Glen Island and The Brook at Tibbetts still apply during the time admission fees are waived. Visit parks.westchestergov.com or call: 914-864-PARK, for more info.

## Mayor Spano Appoints Sonja Smash as Yonkers First Equity Officer



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced his appointment of diversity and inclusion specialist Sonja Smash, pictured left, as the City's first-ever Equity Officer. Smash will lead efforts to create new administrative procedures and policies that proactively implement strategies promoting equity and inclusion in the City of Yonkers.

"I am excited to welcome Sonja and this new position to our administration," said Mayor Spano. "As we continue to celebrate diversity in Yonkers, Sonja's expertise coupled with her enthusiasm will bring unlimited possibilities to better diversifying our workforce and ensuring our policies are accessible and equitable for all."

As the City of Yonkers Equity Officer, Smash will develop a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) strategy for the City to fully integrate into the City's culture, mission and operations and will recommend policies and programs related to recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion, training and outreach in support of DEIA. Smash also will collaborate with the City of Yonkers' Health Equity Taskforce in the City's approach to reducing and improving access to better health.

Smash joins the City of Yonkers with over 10 years of human resources and diversity and inclusion experience. Currently, Smash serves as Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging/Business Operations for Gigi Gilliard Development where she provides solutions-focused HR guidance and collaborates with cross-functional teams on key DEI initiatives and training. Previously, Smash was Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and served as Manager of Higher Education and Communications for Say Yes to Education. Smash holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science in Communications from College of New Rochelle. She is also certified in Diversity & Inclusion by ESSEC, the National Equity Project and Rutgers University. Smash is currently pursuing a Diversity and Inclusion Professional Certificate from Cornell University.

Sonja Smash commented, "Thank you, Mayor Spano for this pioneering appointment, I'm honored to be the City's first Equity Officer. I am passionate about the work of Equity and Inclusion and I look forward to partnering with the Mayor and his administration, the Health Equity Taskforce and, City stakeholders to foster a more inclusive and equitable city for all. I applaud Mayor Spano for taking this extraordinary step in the City's journey towards equity and inclusion. This journey will require courageous conversations and transformational transparency to close the equity gaps. This journey is 'OUR' journey, and we are committed to working with residents and stakeholders across the city to bring about equitable and sustainable impact for all," said Smash, who began her new position on June 1.

Notice of formation of Color It Black, LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2022. 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 Color It Black LLC, 33 Cliffside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful activity.



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\*Source: Based on WOC follow-up survey

NOT SHOWN: Evan Gaines, MD; Vishal A. Mehta, MD; Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Daniel Shein, MD; David Shein, MD; Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



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## Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority Opens Wait List for Vouchers

First Time in 10 Years

**Low-income residents seeking housing must apply by July 13. Lottery to be held August 2 and 3.**

For the first time in more than 10 years, The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers will be opening its waiting list for Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) for affordable housing.

MHACY is seeking to add 3,000 people to its waiting list for affordable housing vouchers. The vouchers are provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and subsidize rental units in market rate buildings for income-qualifying tenants.

The deadline for residents to apply for the list is July 13. A public lottery will be held on August 2 and 3 to draw the names of those who will be eligible to receive vouchers as they become available.

"Housing is key to the vitality of any city. In addition to the thousands of units of new market rate housing that are going up, we have renovated MHACY housing and are now making more affordable housing available through the use of these vouchers in partnership with building owners," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "This three-prong approach ensures that we provide a full-spectrum of housing, and renew our commitment to provide safe, affordable housing for working families."

Wilson Kimball, MHACY's President and CEO, said that because the list had been closed for so long, it took years of preparation to update it to make sure that it was current and accurate.

"Opening the MHACY waiting list has been 10 years in the making. Two years ago, MHACY's waiting list had an overwhelming number of names. MHACY has spent the last two years updating the list to remove those no longer interested and working with families to find housing. Our partnership with Mayor Spano and the City of Yonkers on several affordable housing issues helped us reach this day. And nothing would have been possible without the support of the Board of Commissioners of MHACY."

Chairman of the MHACY Board of Commissioners James Landy added, "Opening our waiting list is momentous as it allows people needing rental assistance the chance to find affordable decent housing that has become out of reach for so many. We are very proud to afford Yonkers residents this opportunity."

Pre-applications for vouchers are being accepted through July 13 at MHACY's Central Office at 1511 Central Park Avenue and can be mailed there but must be postmarked by July 13th at 11:59 pm. The pre-applications can be found on the MHACY website at mhacy.org. They can also be picked up at the following locations during office hours:

MHACY's Central Office at 1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers Riverfront Library – 1 Larkin Center  
Yonkers Grinton Will Library – 1500 Central Park Avenue  
Westchester Disabled on the Move, Inc. – 984 North Broadway Suite 400  
Family Service Society of Yonkers – 30 South Broadway  
City of Yonkers Department of Veteran Services – 120 New Main Street  
The Office for the Aging – Peter Chema Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue

Pre applicants must be income eligible. To meet U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements families' incomes must not exceed the following: Family size:

1 person – \$48,550; 2 people – \$55,450 ; 3 people – \$62,400 ; 4 people – \$69,300  
5 people – \$74,850; 6 people – \$80,400; 7 people – \$85,950 ; 8 people – \$91,500

If the applicant has a disability and requires a reasonable accommodation to submit a pre-application, they can call MHACY at 914-517-1184. For more information visit [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org).

Formation of LNE CONSTRUCTION, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/21/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to James Saisa, 25 Harvard Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## Does Anyone Have Manners Anymore?



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Summer is here. The television and radio meteorologists had Saturday of the holiday weekend with locusts coming from the sky and it ended up being a gorgeous sunny day. Where they get their information from God only knows. But then again he's responsible for the weather and there isn't much we can do about it other than waste a BBQ day at the movies.

One thing I have noticed even before the pandemic but especially as Covid has taken its toll on us is the loss of manners, actually loss of a civilized society. People are so obsessed with speeding to get where they have to go that they drive on the striped lines on the road honking their horns like maniacs and zooming around other cars just to be a couple of seconds ahead. This is even on roadways where the posted speed limits are clear as a whistle.

Where do these speeders have to go? Is it worth the risk of driving over the limits and risking your life to get to where you have to go one minute ahead of the person in front of you? I think not. All we see on the road are accidents caused by dangerous drivers. And the faster they go, the worse gas mileage they get. Bottom line: go slower, save gas and be safer.

And if you are not going fast enough for the driver behind, apply the brakes. They get a quick lesson you mean business and might not be Speedy Gonzalez zooming around town.

No one has any manners anymore. So I thought I would review some of the common manners just as a refresher course. I went to the gym, a man had one good leg and one leg missing, and the idiots didn't open the door for him or at least hold the door as he got in and out of the gym. Pray god you never find yourself in that situation.

Did people forget how to say please and thank you? Thank you if someone does something nice and please before taking something that is not yours even if it is to borrow it.

If someone is in conversation, do not interrupt them without saying excuse me. So many of us are in a rush and simply interject our thoughts, or interject our thoughts in other people's conversations.

If you have doubt about something, ask permission. Don't just take everything for granted. Maybe the plastic bags and flyer in a grocery cart by the bathroom in a supermarket belong to someone going to the bathroom. You don't bring your grocery cart in the bathroom. Someone recently took my marked up Stop and Shop flyer and some plastic bags that I was going to use to bag my groceries right out of my cart as I spent a minute using the facilities. If the nickel for a paper bag is going to break you, then you better examine your budgetary spending. And there are plenty of flyers or circulars listing sales in the front of the store.

Think negative opinions to yourself. Don't think everyone wants to converse with you. Only add something in if it will help the person you know like someone buying 2 packages of a product when they can get a third one free. Many times however the person you are interacting with doesn't have room in the freezer or fridge for the third item, so if someone suggests a special to you and you are in this predicament simply say thank you!

Don't comment on people's physical characteristics unless it is a compliment. In the aforementioned situation with the man who lost his leg, he might not want you to know how he lost it. And frankly it's none of your business.

When people ask how you are, tell them. But make sure to ask them how they are. We all go through ups and down, and if someone is down try to cheer them up. Nothing better than when one has a positive mood!

When you are going to someone's house for a play date or for dinner, bring them something they will enjoy. Whether it's a box of candy or cake or a simple toy for a child, bringing them something could guarantee a visit back. And make sure you offer to clean up. Let them say no!

Knock on closed doors. Wait till you see if there is anyone before you enter. Don't talk loud while you are waiting to see if the coast is clear.

When making a phone call always introduce yourself first. Then after you have established who you are, ask for the person you are calling for.

Plain, old fashion hand written notes can be just as nice as a fancy card. Whether it's to celebrate someone's Birthday or simply to say hello. In this age of email, sometimes it's nice to get a penned note with a more personal feeling to it that the recipient can display for all to see.

Never use foul language even if you know the party you are talking to. Everyone knows the foul words and will think less of you if you use them.

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## Yonkers Police Arrest Bronx Man in Homicide Investigation



*William Pryor*

On July 1, Yonkers Police Commissioner Chris Sapienza announced the arrest of William PRYOR (22) of the Bronx, NY in relation to a homicide investigation. On March 3, 2022, Yonkers Police Officers and Detectives responded to 284 Riverdale Avenue in Yonkers, NY on a report of a person who had been shot. Upon arrival, Police units found a male, later identified as Marquis Muniz (29) of Yonkers, NY, deceased in the apartment with several apparent gunshot wounds. A crime scene was established and a homicide investigation was commenced. The investigation revealed that Muniz had a roommate, PRYOR, and that a dispute ensued leading to Muniz being shot. It was also determined that PRYOR allegedly stole Muniz's phone during the incident. On June 30, 2022, Yonkers Police Detectives with the assistance of the Peekskill Police Department and the United States Marshall's Service located PRYOR leaving a residence in Montrose, NY. PRYOR was subsequently placed under arrest without incident.

PRYOR was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Murder in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, and Petit Larceny. On July 1, 2022, PRYOR was arraigned before Judge Susan Cacace in Westchester County Court and is currently being held without bail. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, "Amazing work by our Yonkers Police Officers and Detectives both in the initial response to this incident and in the lengthy and tedious investigation that took place in the several months afterwards. Thank you to our Law Enforcement partners in Peekskill and with the U.S. Marshall's Service for your assistance in helping us apprehend the offender of this heinous and violent crime. The Yonkers Police Department will work tirelessly to combat all violent crime and apprehend the perpetrators who wish to commit those acts in this City."

### *Palisades Prep Val Sal, continued from pg 1-*

work at IHOP as well."

Vidal-Salgado will also be attending Lehman College in the fall after being accepted to more than 20 colleges. "I want to attend Lehman for two years and then transfer to Iona College. I am part of the ACE program at Lehman they will be a significant help to help me get on track with my plans. I want to major in business to learn how to manage, coordinate, and analyze a business. I want to be on track to get my associates degree and bachelor's in business. I feel like majoring in business is competitive but will be worth it"

How did you like Palisades Preparatory School? "I enjoyed the teachers/staff and the library. I enjoy the personalities and diversity at my school. Every one of my teachers gives great pep talks and life lessons. They have more experience and knowledge which I learn and listen from them. They each come from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and religions. It is nice to view other people's perspectives on life."

Advice to young students? "There's beauty in the struggle" I feel like students sometimes forget the fact that it is okay to feel emotional about things. We deserve a break sometimes. Just know we might struggle with some things right now but at the end we will be fine, and the beauty will come out in every lesson."

### *Dance Costume donations, continued from pg 1-*

helping others. In my early years of dance, I was fortunate enough to have others there supporting me, and as I wrap up high school, it feels like it's my turn to do the same for others. Helping young students on the path to becoming well rounded artists thrills me! Even here in NY, the dance community is small, so we have to support one another along the way!

I have been dancing since I can remember. I've always done ballet, but ever since joining the Pre Professional Program at Steps on Broadway, I've added classes in Horton, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop, Afro Dance, and many other styles. It is something I want to build on in college, too!

Any advice to young dancers? "Don't stop doing what makes you happy, and don't be afraid to branch out – the dance world is bigger than your one school, and there are many ways to keep dance in your life. I have always danced because it makes me feel strong and brings me so much joy, and I can't imagine it any other way. It's my favorite way to express myself, and that's something you can always work on.

"And do not be hard on yourself – part of dance is critiquing your own work. You become your worst critic, and sometimes that makes it hard to stay positive. You are amazing as you are, and dance is just another way to communicate."

## County Board Approves, Latimer Signs, Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act

On June 27, the Board of Legislators voted to approve a law ensuring safe access to reproductive health care facilities. The measure passed by a 15-2 vote. Westchester County Executive George Latimer signed the act into law immediately after its approval by the Board.

The new law, which takes effect immediately, will protect health care workers and patients seeking medical treatment from being obstructed from entering or exiting a reproductive health care facility and from harassing behavior from persons within specific distances of the premises. It enacts a 25-foot no-harassment zone around the facility's perimeter and establishes the designation of an 8-foot personal space bubble surrounding the person within 100 feet of the facility.

As the nation reels from the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, the need to codify stronger anti-harassment legislation for reproductive health patients, providers, and staff while preserving the free speech of legitimate protestors is more critical now than ever. The decision will likely result in an increase of out-of-state residents seeking reproductive health care and, conversely, an increase in anti-choice protesting.

Chairwoman Catherine Borgia (D – Cortlandt, Croton on Hudson, Ossining, Briarcliff Manor, Peekskill), one of the original sponsors said, "Women will be looking to New York for sanctuary to reclaim their bodily autonomy, and we want to say Westchester is ready. Any person who travels to our County seeking reproductive care can access it safely without intimidation or provocation. I hope other counties can see the urgency and importance of this law and consider it for their jurisdictions, as well."

Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D – Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington), main sponsor of the bill, said, "The road to getting this act passed was very long and arduous. However, it's led us to a strong, well-balanced piece of legislation that safeguards the rights of patients to receive their care without infringing on protected free speech. I am more than happy to finally see that hard work come to fruition. I thank our County Executive George Latimer for his unwavering support and understanding that this bill could not wait another minute without being signed."

Majority Leader Christopher Johnson (D – Yonkers) said, "As Americans, we are founded on the beliefs and principles that we are a society with inherent rights and freedoms. We are free to live, worship, and speak as long as we remain peaceful and law-abiding. This bill mutually protects and respects one's right to privacy, right to choose, and right to protest equally and fairly."

County Executive George Latimer said, "We want to protect the women who need these services from aggressive advocacy that exceeds free speech and becomes intimidation and interference with their personal safety."

Read the legislation at: <https://bit.ly/3bjScYb>. County Legislators James Nolan and Mararet Cunzio voted no.

### CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 5:15pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

### LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF SPACE WITHIN THE CRISFIELD STREET PUMP STATION

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

MIKE SPANO, Mayor, Date: July 5, 2022

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# Former YPD Commissioner Mueller Named Chief of MTA Police



On June 29, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced the appointment of former Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller, left, as the MTA Chief of Police. Mueller comes to the MTA following 28 years of service at the Yonkers Police Department.

Mueller will oversee the more than 1,000-member MTA Police Department that is responsible for patrolling and securing the MTA's operating region that stretches from Montauk to Poughkeepsie.

Mueller began his law enforcement career in 1992 with the NYPD, joining Yonkers PD in 1994 as an officer in the 4th Precinct. Mueller rose the ranks over the years, leading up to his 2019 appointment as Police Commissioner.

Among his many credentials during his recent 10 years at Yonkers PD, the City of Yonkers saw a 45% reduction in crime through a hyper focused, precision policing philosophy. This reduction has been credited to focused community engagement by officers, a program Mueller pushed during his time as the Commanding Officer of the 4th Precinct.

"Yonkers is the second largest city in the MTA region, and the Chief understands many of the same issues we are facing," said MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber. "His experience in leading and developing police operations, and his ability to effect positive change was what made him such a strong candidate."

"John Mueller is everything the MTA needs to lead a growing police force that riders depend on to keep our transportation system safe," said MTA Chief Safety Officer Patrick Warren. "John's experience in leading and developing police operations, and ability to effect positive change was what made him such a strong candidate. In his time at Yonkers PD, he understood the importance of community collaboration that built trust and helped reduce crime nearly in half in the third largest city in the state."

"I am honored and excited to be joining the officers of the MTA Police Department whose outstanding reputation is well known," said Incoming Chief of MTA Police John Mueller. "Together we will demonstrate the skills and professionalism, listening to our riders concerns and addressing those concerns, as we strive to make the MTA system the safest transit system in the country."

Chief Mueller brings with him a passion to improve the quality of life and safety to MTA riders as exemplified in volunteer activities that support a variety of civic organizations including the Pleasantville Strong, a substance abuse prevention program for adolescents that he founded. Born and raised in Yonkers, Mueller holds a graduate degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, has attended the Police Executive Research Forum, the United States Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Defense and Homeland Security and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He has been married to his wife Donna for 28 years. The couple has three sons: Jack, Sean, and Shane.

"John has been a devoted public servant to the City of Yonkers," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "John helped our residents feel safer. I'm happy to see John's ascent to MTA Chief of Police, a great responsibility and honor. I can personally attest that MTA riders' and employees' well-being are in good hands. I wish John well in this exciting new chapter."

"I have known John Mueller since he served in Yonkers' 4th Precinct, and I know he has the experience, temperament, and commitment to be a strong leader for the MTA Police," said Senator Shelley B. Mayer.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said, "John Mueller brings expertise, leadership and a commitment to innovation to the M.T.A. and I congratulate him on his appointment," said Assemblyman Nader Sayegh. "Yonkers is one of the nation's safest cities of our size, and John's focus on modern policing-methods and increased community engagement that produced results in Yonkers will serve the riders of the M.T.A. well."

"John Mueller is an exemplary police officer in every way, serving 28 years for the residents of our city with honor and respect," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "As Commissioner, he strategically led Yonkers Finest to become one of the top police departments in the nation, making us one the safest cities of our size with his laser-focus approach to fighting crime, including increased community engagement and precision policing." *continued on pg 7-*

# On This Day in Yonkers History ...



Yonkers photographer Rudolph Eickemeyer

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

Monday, July 11th

July 11, 1931: James Butler's Empire City racetrack at Central and Yonkers Avenue opened its 22-day meeting with the Empire City Handicap. Butler, who completed extensive renovations of the track during its off-season, raced his own horse Questionnaire for the big stake.

July 11, 1939: Barney Connett did the first salt water test of his homemade 11-foot fish-shaped submarine off Ludlow Dock! The sub, just big enough for the 43-year old man, was launched in the company of about 50 bystanders, including newsreel cameramen, newspaper reporters and YPD!

Tuesday, July 12

July 12, 1950: The Federation of Yonkers Athletic Clubs held a parade and welcome home ceremony for Stan Bielat, winner of the National Public Links Golf Championship! Mayor Kristen Kristensen proclaimed "Stan Bielat Day in Yonkers, and our Athletic Clubs, Civic groups and veterans organizations participated in the parade on South Broadway. Organized by Federation President Edward Crowley and Treasurer Abe Cohen, the main ceremony was held at Larkin Plaza.

July 12, 1954: Yonkers resident Earl Browder, former National Secretary of the Communist Party, and his wife Raissa Irene Browder, appeared in Federal Court on charges they falsified information on Mrs. Browder's citizenship application in 1949. They had stated she never was a member of the Communist Party. The Browders, who lived at 7 Highland Avenue, were free on \$2500 bail each; if convicted, they each faced five years in jail.

Wednesday, July 13th

July 13, 1891: Yonkers Board of Health won its suit against John Copcutt, preventing him from drawing off the Nepperhan River below the level of the dams. Copcutt fought the Board of Health for many years, but all levels of the courts backed Yonkers' decision.

All dams on the Nepperhan were demolished soon after, by order of the Board of Health. They were condemned on the basis that they caused the river to threaten the life of the people of Yonkers because of the extreme pollution and filth they created.

July 13, 1930: Demolition of the Flagg Building to make way for W. T. Grant Company's new store on the site was completed, following surmounting a series of difficulties. The new store would be two stories and cost \$200,000.

Thursday July 14th

July 14, 1875: Father Slevin, Pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception (St. Mary's), held a Festival at Rollins Grove to support the "Free Schools of the Church of the Immaculate Conception." Tickets were 50 cents each, and included a picnic and entertainment!

July 14, 1954: Employees at the Benson and Hedges Yonkers plant, manufacturers of Parliament cigarettes, received a letter announcing the "definite possibility" of moving the factory to Richmond, Virginia. Purchased in early 1953 from the Smith Carpet Mills, Benson and Hedges manufactured king-size Parliaments here. Their building was sold to Otis in 1956.

Friday, July 15th

July 15, 1920: Alan Helffrich was selected for the US Olympic Team; this made Helffrich, a "half-miler," the third Yonkers man to be selected as an Olympic team member. Helffrich won gold as part of the 4x400 meter Men's Relay Race. The first Yonkers man on the US team was Thomas Morrissey in 1908, who later joined the Yonkers Police Department. Second was track star Thomas Barden, selected for the 1916 US Olympic team; those games were canceled because of WW I. Barden later joined the Yonkers Fire Department, rising to the rank of Captain.

July 15, 1929: The United States government acquired most of the photographs taken by Rudolf Eickemeyer to exhibit them in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. The collection included portraits and studies made by Eickemeyer and a display of the medals and awards he won for his work.

At the time, Eickemeyer was long-term chairman of the Municipal Art Commission, president of the Yonkers Art Association and a trustee of the Yonkers Museum of Science and Art.

*continued on pg 6-*

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AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:  
THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible). PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS

# 5727A – Area Variance – Andrew Maniglia of Ginsburg Development, on behalf of Pier LLC 70, owner, on premises known as 70 Pier Street, Block: 146, Lot: 1.4, Zone: M (B24085)

# 5785 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Casino Hospitality LLC, owner, on premises known as 651 Bronx River Road, Block: 5226, Lot: 17.21, Zone: BR (B28653)

# 5788 – Use & Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Hampshire Management Company Number 30, LLC, owner, on premises known as 1111 aka 1113 Central Park Avenue, Block: 5425, Lot: 100, Zone: OL (B30224)

# 5789 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of CCNA Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 470 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 2073, Lot: 1, Zone: I (B20313)

# 5790 – Area Variance – James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR (B30132)

# 5791 – Area Variance – Kyle Pustola, on behalf of Hudson View Building #4 LLC, owner, on premises known as 29 Wells Avenue, Block: 2009, Lot: 1, Zone: D-IRT (B29483)

NEW HEARINGS

# 5793 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of City North LLC, owner, on premises known as 376 Hawthorne Avenue, Block: 150, Lot: 16, Zone: T (B29137)

# 5794 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Mathew Valade, P.E., on behalf of NYC DEP, owner, on premises known as 100 Central Park Avenue, Block: 8002, Lot: 1, Zone: T (B30519)

# 5795 – Area Variance – Keith P. Brown, Esq., on behalf of McDonald’s Corporation, owner, on premises known as 155 South Broadway, Block: 188, Lot: 11, Zone: SBCE (B21666)

# 5796 – Use & Area Variance – Matthew Bruton, P.E., on behalf of Carp Yonkers LLC, owner, on premises known as 587 Tuckahoe Road, Block: 4453, Lot: 6.31, Zone: B (B30522)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI CHAIRMAN, ZBA

CORPORATION NOTICE  
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 5:00pm, Mayor’s Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW IN RELATION TO AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF A PORTION OF UNMAPPED PORTIONS OF SAW MILL RIVER ROAD TO 1270 SAW MILL ASSOCIATES LLC.

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk’s office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City’s Website.

MIKE SPANO, Mayor, Date: July 5, 2022

Notice of formation of Sweeney Tech, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/16/2022. 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, 14 Alta Place, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Sutton E.L.S Ent, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/2021. 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, 103 McLean Avenue Apt.# 3b, Yonkers NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of LaceMafia LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/20/2022. 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.

Articles of Organization (DOM-PROF.LLC). Komosinski Law, PLLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 4/19/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of DOM-PROF.LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to Richard F. Komosinski, Esquire, 30 Emmett Pl., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: The practice of Law.

Notice of formation of J Troncoso Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2022. 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, P.O. Box 1434 Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: General Construction

DISH Wireless LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 636 Palisade Ave., Yonkers, Westchester County, NY. The new facility will consist of the collocation of antennas at a top height of approx. 68ft on the 70.9ft building (80ft 3in to the highest appurtenance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to:

Project 6122005841 - JD EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (203) 231-6643.

**Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-**

Saturday, July 16th

July 16, 1939: Yonkers City Court Interpreter Charles Civello received a cable telling him his son-in-law Lew Yancey of Lawrence Street had safely landed in London. Yancey had made a non-stop flight across the Atlantic with co-pilot Russell Roger; the flight originated in Buffalo.

July 16, 1943: Corporation Council Paul Bleakley announced the City of Yonkers had dropped its plan to appeal Supreme Court Justice Gerald Nolan’ Poultry Ruling. This ended a long-running controversy after Health Commissioner McGillian revoked Max Braun’s license for a live poultry market at 50 Riverdale Avenue; the license was revoked on the grounds zoning laws had changed. Justice Nolan upheld Braun’s contention that since the property had been used for a poultry market before the zoning laws were enacted, he was entitled to a “nonconforming use of the premises.”

Sunday, July 17th

July 17, 1936: Yonkers Police began a manhunt after thirty-year-old John Hendron was shot by a hold-up man in a wooded district on Scarsdale Road. Hendron stopped the car to turn around. A masked man came out from the trees, leaned in an open window, whacked Hendron on the head, and then shot him. The robber then grabbed Hendron’s coat and ran. Hendron flagged down a motorist who brought him to White Plains Hospital. The Tuckahoe woman with him stayed in the car, screaming and honking the car’s horn until a radio police car found her.

July 17, 1943: Staff Sergeant Edward Graham of North Broadway, with 42 bombing missions under his belt, was tail gunner on the “Dirty Girty,” the first American Flying Fortress Bomber to land in Sicily. It was an unexpected landing, as the plane had two engines disabled by enemy fire. The bomber safely put down at a landing strip Allied troops had captured just days earlier.

**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.**

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*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

At McDonalds, a fast food restaurant or a friend's barbecue, clean up after yourself. The workers or your friend's family are not servants who have to pick up after you!

Don't call a person mean names. Only use a nickname if you know the person and the nickname is not negative in nature. People will think more of you if you use their proper name.

Don't make fun of someone. Don't switch languages to talk about other people. You never know if they are acquainted with the language you are speaking and will get truly offended. Nowadays many people speak more than one language, even Americans who are known to speak only English.

If an event (play, movie, concert, children's event) is boring, sit through it. The performers are doing their best, quite often have rehearsed for months and deserve your respect. Don't talk when you are at the movies. It's not like home where only family and friends are present.

If you bump into someone say excuse me. Look at the jerk that slapped former Mayor Giuliani, a 78 year old man on the back. The video is so clear that what the man did was wrong. Why would the other store employees have gone after him as they did. Something like a slap on the bag can kill someone in a fragile state.

Particularly in this age of Covid, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Never pick your nose, scabs or cut your fingernails in public. These are things done in the privacy of your home or bathroom, not for others to see.

Hold the door for the next person. If you do and they don't thank you, simply say 'you are welcome' as a reminder that a thank you was in order.

If you come across someone working on something you are not familiar with, ask if you can help to learn what that person is doing. It's important to learn something new everyday! When a person older than you asks you to do something, do it with a smile! Don't grumble or ignore the person. You will get old one day too! When a person helps you thank them. They will be more apt to help you again!

Use eating utensils properly. If you don't know how to ask. I was at a political dinner one time and a prominent politician was served a tough steak. The person had no qualms asking me to help them so as to not get the steak all over the place. Keep napkins on your lap, and elbows off the table. Don't reach for things. Ask to have them passed.

Are these things habits adults should have. In fact, many of them I adapted from a friend who teaches etiquette to 3 year olds. But as you know and can see, they certainly apply to the adults we deal with.

Wash your hands with soap and water and sing Happy Birthday twice. In this environment that's something we all can agree upon to keep us safe and healthy!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisyonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show alternating Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, WVOX.com click listen or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

***Gun Pipeline Busted, continued from pg 1-***

getting these illegal guns off our streets and out of the hands of those who want to cause harm," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "YPD's proactive approach is working, but we need to remain vigilant to ensure these ghost guns do not infiltrate our neighborhoods. I commend the collaborative efforts of the joint agencies who worked with our Narcotics Unit to help stem the growing gun and drug pipeline that is plaguing our nation. Let these arrests serve as a message that Yonkers does and will not tolerate these guns in our community."

Yonkers Police Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, "This investigation shows the amazing work that can be accomplished when highly-skilled investigators collaborate toward the ultimate goal of public safety. Because of the efforts of these Detectives and their supervisors, more than 30 guns have been removed from the streets of Yonkers and its surrounding communities. I applaud the hard work in this lengthy and successful investigation by our Yonkers Police Narcotics Unit and our partners in the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York City Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, as well as the agencies in the Washington, D.C. area for a job well done."

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah stated: "The proliferation of illegal firearms, like ghost guns, flowing into New York from out of state is a grave threat to the safety of our communities. I'm grateful to the Yonkers Police Department and the numerous state, local, and federal partners who pursued this investigation and who work with us every day to rid our streets of illegal guns. As promised, I will use the full force of my office to prosecute gun crimes and gun traffickers."

The felony complaint, filed in Yonkers City Court, charges Olivo-Feliz, Lora-Espinal and Pena-Camilo with Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the First Degree, Criminal Sale of a Firearm in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the First Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree.

Idanis LORA-ESPINAL is charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the First Degree.

As alleged in the felony complaint, a total of 31 ghost guns and two conventional firearms were sold on five separate occasions between April 28, 2022, and June 24, 2022, as detailed below: On five occasions between April 28, 2022, and June 24, 2022, Jose Gregorio OLIVO-FELIZ was in possession of and sold a total of 31 ghost guns and two conventional firearms in the City of Yonkers.

On two occasions between May 6, 2022, and May 13, 2022, Pedro Junior OLIVO-FELIZ was in possession of and sold a total of 10 ghost guns in the City of Yonkers. On two occasions between May 6, 2022, and June 24, 2022, Netaly A. PENA-CAMILO was in possession of and sold a total of 26 ghost guns in the City of Yonkers. On June 24, 2022, at approximately 10:30 a.m., Idanis LORA-ESPINAL was in possession of 19 ghost guns in the City of Yonkers.

***Mueller Named MTA Police Chief, continued from pg 5-***

"When I was elected, John Mueller was one of the police officers that I reached out to because I wanted to bridge the gap between the community and the police department. John took that mission head on," said Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz. "He made a very impactful statement on Yonkers, and while it was sad to see him go, we're confident the city's progress can continue because he has trained the people underneath him so well.

Lt. Charles Walker, Yonkers Police Department and President of Yonkers Guardians Association said, "John's work in the aftermath of the George Floyd incident is what I am most proud of. He set the tone, leading from the front on how police and the communities they serve can work cohesively to impact necessary change. That willingness to hear people out and work with community organizations will serve him well wherever he goes."

Karen Edmondson, Former NAACP President of the Yonkers Branch. "John welcomed outside advice to improve community relationships and thought of innovative ways to address diversity concerns within the police department. This showed me just how progressive a police commissioner he was, and I know he will bring those same values and approaches with him to the MTA."



YONKERS IDA

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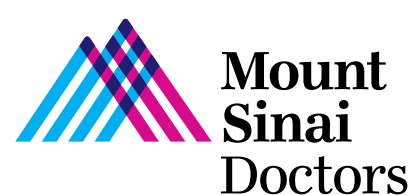
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