

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday March 24, 2023

## A Lovely Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade!



Grand Marshal Brendan Fitzgerald, left, and the Aides at the 66th Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Avenue, March 18, 2023



All Photos by Donna Davis-Above, the Yonkers Police Department marching proudly up McLean Avenue. Below, Pipes and Drums of the Police Emerald Society of Westchester



Below: Sacred Heart High School Yonkers marchers



## Irish Minister Vists YMA Academy in Yonkers

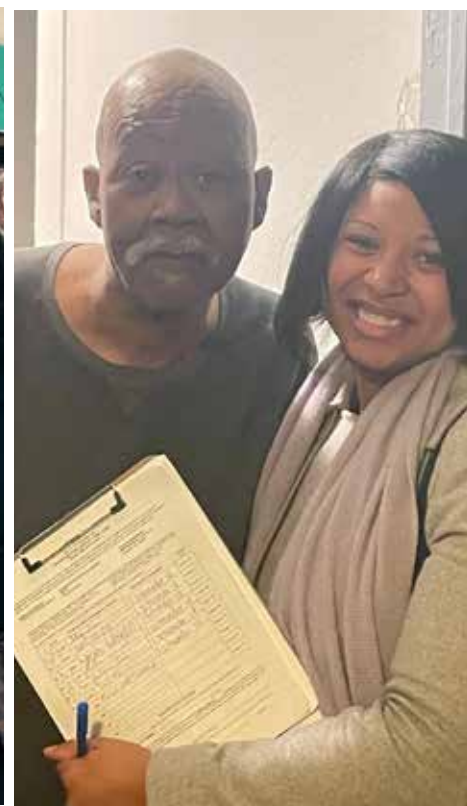


Students and staff at Yonkers Montessori Adacemy, YMA, in Yonkers welcomed Irish Minister of Education Norma Foley. Mayor Mike Spano, YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, BOE President Rev. Steve Lopez joined in welcoming Minister Foley for a tour of the school. Students shared gifts and signs they made for Foley. After the visit to the school, located close to McLean Avenue, Foley visited the Irish Emerald Isle of Yonkers.

## The Race for Yonkers Mayor: Collecting Signatures, in the Quiet Before the Storm



Above Mayor Mike Spano with Councilman Anthony Merante, the republican candidate for Mayor. Below, left-Congressman Jamaal Bowman with Margaret Fountain-Coleman, democratic candidate for Mayor. Bottom right-Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac, collecting signatures for her candidacy for Mayor



## See Story on Page 2

## ISIS Supporter Arrested for Threats Made to Mayor Spano, YPD for St. Pat's Parade



Ridon Kola, holding an Axe, in one of his threats against Mayor Spano and the YPD said, in direct messages to Yonkers Police "I will crucify Yonkers cops and their bosses all along McLean ave. It will be a horror scene."

By Dan Murphy

Days before the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade, the FBI arrested Ridon Kola, a resident of Yonkers, for making threats against the Yonkers police and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. According the US Attorney Damian Williams, the threats, to kill Yonkers Police and Mayor Spano, while expressing his support for radical islamic extremism and terrorist attacks, were serious enough to warrant his arrest.

"RIDON KOLA was arrested on (March 17), based on a criminal Complaint filed in White Plains federal court charging KOLA with making threatening interstate communications, in which KOLA threatened to kill officers of the YPD and the Mayor of Yonkers. U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "As alleged, Ridon Kola posted threats on social media against law enforcement, stating his support for ISIS and his intention to murder numerous police officers. Undeterred after questioning from law enforcement, Kola's conduct escalated, as he continued to assure police his threats would be carried out. Threatening violence against police or to undermine public safety will not be tolerated, as Kola now stands charged and faces prison time for his threats against our dedicated law enforcement partners tasked with keeping us safe."

FBI Assistant Director Michael J. Driscoll said: "As we allege today, Kola, who has demonstrated support for radical Islamic extremism and terrorist attacks, made a series of threats to the lives of law enforcement and others, and now he will be forced to face the consequences of his actions. Counterterrorism remains the FBI's top priority, and through our NY JTTF, we remain committed to keeping all New Yorkers safe from acts of terror."

YPD Commissioner Christopher Sapienza said: "The safety of our residents, our community, and the members of our Police Department is paramount; every threat is investigated to the fullest extent possible. Thankfully, due to the outstanding collaborative efforts of the FBI's New York Joint Terrorism Task Force and our Yonkers Police Intelligence Division, our City will enjoy a safe Saint Patrick's Day parade tomorrow free from intimidation by bad actors."

As alleged in the Complaint unsealed today: KOLA has engaged in escalat-

continued on pg 6-



## Legislator Tubiolo Announces Funding for Aisling Irish Center



**L-R: Lauren McCormack, Theresa C. Reilly, Legislator David Tubiolo, Sandra Feeney-Charles, Ailish Conneely, Naomi Hanson**

Westchester County Legislator David Tubiolo, District 14 (Yonkers and Mount Vernon), is delighted to announce that the Aisling Irish Community Center on McLean Avenue has received Community Based Organization funding in the amount of \$26,750.00 from Westchester County.

The Aisling Irish Community Center is a centripetal force in promoting and preserving Irish Culture in Yonkers. The Center offers classes in the Gaelic language and traditional Irish dancing. Additionally, they offer movie nights and lunches for seniors, sponsoring 5K charity runs and holiday toy drives. Legislator Tubiolo is proud to continue to support Aisling’s community programs, adding, “I’m delighted to have been able to procure this funding for such a vital organization that helps so many people in our community.” Aisling’s Executive Director Sandra Feeney-Charles added, “The Aisling Irish Community and Cultural Center is indebted to County Legislator, David Tubiolo, and the entire Westchester County Board of Legislators for its continued support of our programs reaching over 15,000 people in Westchester each year.”

Aisling is a staple of the City of Yonkers’ Emerald Mile, offering many social services in mental health, employment, and housing.

## Petitions for Yonkers Mayor

By Dan Murphy

The three major democratic candidates for Mayor of Yonkers are out collecting signatures to get on the ballot for a June democratic primary. Mayor Mike Spano is running for a fourth-term. Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac is also running for Mayor, as is Margaret Fountain-Coleman. One thousand valid democratic voters are required on a petition for Mayor. Mayor Spano’s campaign has already collected several thousand signatures. Pineda-Isaac’s campaign quickly got to 1,000 and are now working on another 1,000 to withstand a challenge to their petitions. Margaret Fountain-Coleman’s campaign has close to the 1,000 required and is working on collecting at least another 500.

The current deadline to collect and file petitions is April 5, but that deadline might be extended to April 11. Two other democratic candidates, comedian Prince Robinson, and Blogger Freddy Vazquez are also said to be out there trying to get on the ballot. If they can get to 1,000 welcome to the race.

Waiting on the republican side is Councilman Anthony Merante, who is making his first run for Yonkers Mayor. Merante is not expected to have a republican opponent in a GOP Primary for Mayor.

## Eagle Scout from Yonkers Honored with “Jack von Hoene” Day



Yonkers resident Jack von Hoene, a student at Iona Prep and a member of Boy Scout Troop 16, recently completed his Eagle Scout project, which consisted of building a “Little Free Library” at PS 121 in the Bronx. Jack, designed and held a book drive to stock the library, was commended for his dedication to community by Mayor Mike Spano.

Mayor Spano attended Jack’s Eagle Scout ceremony and presented him with a proclamation declaring March 12, “Jack von Hoene Day” in Yonkers. The resolution said that Jack was a role model.

Mayor Spano added, “Earning the rank of Eagle Scout takes determination, courage, and leadership. Congratulations to Jack von Hoene of Troop 16! Jack built a free little library for P.S. 121 in the Bronx, working 70 hours collaborating with other scout volunteers for his project. Thank you, Jack for working to make our New York community a better place, I was happy to be a part of your ceremony.”

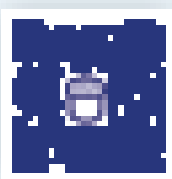


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## Assemblyman Sayegh Supports Law to Crack Down on Criminals Who Assault Retail Workers



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh speaking at a Protect Our Stores Rally at the State Capitol

Video footage of criminals assaulting retail workers is now a staple of nightly television newscasts. To crack down on criminals assaulting store owners and workers, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh is co-sponsoring new laws to stiffen penalties for those convicted of these assaults.

“New York State needs to approve the Protect Our Retail Stores and Workers Legislation to hold individuals, especially repeat offenders, accountable for their crimes. I call upon my Assembly and State Senate colleagues to pass the Protect Our Stores Legislation and send it to the Governor for approval.”

Assemblyman Sayegh is co-sponsoring the Protect Our Retail Stores and Workers Legislation, a package of three bills.

Assembly Bill A5260 will make assaulting a retail employee or owner a class D felony. The proposal would put retail workers in the same protected category as police, firefighters, paramedics and other front-line workers. The legislation would allow judges to set bail for those accused. Currently, most are charged with second-degree assault, a crime not bail eligible. Additionally, this would bring a stiffer jail sentence upon conviction.

Assembly Bill A1504 creates a new crime, fostering the sale of stolen goods. This would make it a crime to run an online marketplace where the operator knows or should know that the goods offered for sale were stolen. These marketplaces have made it easy for criminals to sell stolen goods.

Assembly Bill A4121 goes after repeat offenders as it provides that a prior conviction within the past two years for petit larceny shall raise a subsequent offense to grand larceny in the fourth degree.

Assemblyman Sayegh has also advocated for State funding to assist store owners in installing and updating security cameras & systems to fight crime.

## YPS Employee Arrested for Public Lewdness, then Fired Same Day

Members of the Yonkers Police Department were notified by the Yonkers Public Schools administration of a complaint of inappropriate conduct involving an employee of the Yonkers Public Schools system. The Yonkers Police Intelligence Unit initiated a criminal investigation.

Investigation yielded that on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023, at approximately 11 AM, the subject of the investigation allegedly exposed his intimate parts in a lewd manner to a 58-year-old female. The incident occurred in a rented private office located in the Yonkers PAL at 127 North Broadway. No other people were present in the office nor was the incident visible outside the office.

Arrested earlier today was Rafael PENA, a 57-year-old resident of Yonkers. PENA was a Program Specialist for the Yonkers Public Schools; he was separated from employment on February 28th. PENA began working for the district in 2014. PENA is being charged with one count of Public Lewdness, a Class B Misdemeanor in the New York State Penal Law. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

## Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Thank you Congressman Bowman for standing up for your constituents! House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and his fellow Republicans are threatening to drive the US to default on our debts if they don't get their way. Their goal is to slash Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other vital programs.

Right now many working-class Americans are struggling with inflation and rising costs of living. Any cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid would only threaten the livelihoods of millions, and pull the rug out from underneath all of us who have paid into the programs – not to mention the risks of a recession and job losses if Republicans force the government to default on its debt.

Congressman Bowman signed the congressional letter from Reps. Boyle, Jayapal, and Kuster calling for a clean vote to avoid a default on our debts and opposing any cuts to Social Security and Medicare and other programs our community relies on.

When our representatives stand up for the people, rather than corporate interests or their own pockets, we prosper. Thank you Congressman Bowman for standing up for us! We have your back because you have ours!

Sincerely, Joseph De Feo, Yonkers

## CITY OF YONKERS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Yonkers City Council will hold a public hearing on the Petition on March 28, 2023, at the City Council Chamber, located at 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter, pursuant to Section 43-165 of the City Code of the City of Yonkers, to consider A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING GENERAL ORDINANCE NO.4-2000, ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 43 OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, AND THE ACCOMPANYING ZONING MAP BY AMENDING SAID MAP BY CHANGING THE ZONE CLASSIFICATION OF 21 SCARSDALE ROAD, ALSO KNOWN AS SECTION 4, BLOCK 4544, LOT 1, AS SHOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, FROM THE CURRENT “I” ZONE DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION TO AN “A” ZONE DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION.

All parties in interest and citizens will be heard by the Board at said public hearing scheduled at said time.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS

DATED: March 15, 2023

## May I See Your Resume?

By Eric Wolf Schoen



A lot of little goodies coming out of the County Legislature and County Executive lately. Now they are working on the George Santos legislation. If you don't know who Mr. Santos is, he is the Congressman from Long Island and Queens whose resume is so filled with misinformation, better word is lies that got elected to Congress in November of 2022.

The powers in White Plains want to require background checks on individuals running for office before they are on the ballot. These background checks would be done by an impartial County Board of Ethics or some panel of non-partisan people and if the candidate didn't pass the mustard test they would be off the ballot.

Now wait a minute. Isn't the role of the political parties to vet the candidates they are nominating by petition to run for office? Let's be clear here. In the Santos case he was nominated by nominators in Long Island and Queens. Let's just say there are some politically smart people there. This is not Omaha or Utah though I think the electors in those two places would have done a better job of vetting the candidates they were putting on the ballot.

Why should taxpayer resources (lawyers, office space, staff to do background checks, etc.) be used to check a candidate's background. By doing it this way you are politicizing an already political process. The role of the political leadership is to vet the political candidates. If they are incapable of doing so they should resign and bring in other political leaders to do the job. In Queens and Long Island there are people savvy enough to do a background check without the resources of the cash strapped county. What do you think? Let me know.,

## Saving Electricity via Efficient Light Bulbs

I visited a friend recently who complained his electric bill was \$800 a month and except for short visits by his kids and grandkids he was the only one in the house. I checked to see if he was using energy efficient light bulbs and he was not. So I did a little research for him. Mind you I have been using the energy efficient light bulb since before my mother passed over 30 years ago.

When mom was alive the energy efficient bulbs were bulky things, did not fit into all light fixtures and they gave off a weird light not perfect for reading. They for the most part gave off 60 watts and could not be used in a fixture that was rated for a light bulb above 60 watts.

These many years later the bulbs use 14Watts of energy and the most powerful of the bulbs gives off 100 watts, high enough for most lamps and sockets. What this means is that if your appliance is rated at a maximum 60 watts bulb these bulbs can be used in fixture as long as it is lower than 60 watts which is 99% of lamps and light sockets.

And the light coming off of the bulb is much brighter and clearer, avoiding the problems mom use to have 30 years ago. Next question is where do you get these energy efficient bulbs. I went on the Con Edison website and they recommended the Dollar Tree store, yes the store where with inflation everything is now \$1.25. Not only do these bulbs use that much electricity but they also last a long time so no need to pull out the bulbs and replace them with a new bulb quite as often. Quite often on your bill Con Edison runs specials on the bulbs making them cheaper.

Now you don't have to worry about safety as the bulbs are as safe as regular light bulbs. Let's say you replace 10 bulbs in your house with energy saving bulbs. If you save \$30 a month which is realistic you have made your \$12.50 investment back in a month and then some.

Con Edison has many different types of bulbs to fit everything from your regular lamps to spotlights. The list on the website will tell you various places to go to get the bulbs that you need. This is a no brainer, you have nothing to lose and your Savings are clear as a whistle on your electricity bill as long as you don't have a major power increase.

We haven't got the numbers from Sustainable Westchester yet as to how much savings each household is receiving using their services. I would like to see that number and I would like to see the organization sell lightbulbs and do a 6 month comparison to see how much the energy bill goes down. That would be a suitable comparison for me as to how well we and they are doing.

*continued on pg 5-*

**Buying Comics!**  
Looking for 1960s-1990s. I PAY CASH!  
Please call 914-646-1718. Located in Yonkers

**Yonkers Idol**  
Mayor Mike Spano  
the City of Yonkers, Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
and Undermyer Performing Arts Council  
presents the  
**15th Annual Yonkers Idol Search**  
A free and exciting three round city-wide singing competition.  
Yonkers Junior Idol Search (ages 10-14)  
Yonkers Idol Search (ages 15-19)  
**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**  
Register at [register.capturepoint.com/yonkers](http://register.capturepoint.com/yonkers)

**General Information:**  
This is a competition for Yonkers Residents Only - PROOF OF AGE AND ADDRESS REQUIRED.  
Winner is awarded the title for a year and participation in a variety of citywide events and programs.  
Audition Date: April 1, 2023 at 5pm @ Lincoln High School.  
Final Showdate:  
JUNIOR IDOL contestants must be at least 10 years of age & not have reached their 15th birthday by 1/1/23  
IDOL contestants must be at least 15 years of age & not having reached their 20th birthday by 1/1/23.

Call for further information 914.377.6450

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE FACILITY WITHOUT CHECKING IN AND PROVIDING DOCUMENTS TO PARKS STAFF.



Read it All Online, at  
[Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)



## Cold Case Closed: Florida Man Sentenced to 20 Years for 2005 Murder of Angel Serbay

On March 17, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a Florida man was sentenced to 20 years to life in state prison for the 2005 murder of Yonkers resident Angel Serbay.

DA Rocah said: "Angel Serbay was murdered and inhumanely left on the side of the road, and now 18 years later we have gotten justice for her family, friends and community. Today's sentence holds this defendant accountable for his heinous crime. Our Cold Case Bureau remains committed to solving the hundreds of open homicides in Westchester County."

On September 3, 2005, Christopher Gonzalez, 41, strangled the 25-year-old victim to death and disposed of the victim's body in a sheet on the shoulder of the Sprain Brook Parkway in Greenburgh, where she was discovered by a passerby who contacted the New York State Police.

An investigation conducted jointly by the New York State Police and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) forensically linked the victim's death to a 2000 Bronx cold case, and the defendant's DNA ultimately connected him to both murders. The defendant was located in Florida by the NYPD and New York State Police and extradited to the Bronx on December 8, 2017. The defendant, who was in the custody of the NYC Department of Corrections, was arrested on his charges in Westchester County on May 16, 2019.

On January 18, 2023, the defendant pleaded guilty to Murder in the Second Degree.

In a statement read in court, the victim's mother said: "While I am grateful that her murderer, Christopher Gonzalez, was eventually caught and am thankful that law enforcement never gave up on catching him, the years of waiting have taken a toll on me and have been excruciating...I do not forgive Christopher Gonzalez. I believe him to be an evil, ruthless, soulless man."

The District Attorney thanked the New York State Police, the NYPD, the Collier County Sheriff's Office and the Bronx District Attorney's Office for their assistance in this case. The case was before Judge Robert Neary in Westchester County Court, and was prosecuted by Major Crimes Bureau Chief Nadine Nagler and Bureau Chief James Bavero, both of the Trials and Investigations Division..

## Manhattanville College Creates a Division of DEI

Cindy Long Porter, Ed.D, to lead Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Cindy Long Porter Ed.D

On March 21, Manhattanville College announced the creation of a distinct Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Division to be led by Cindy Porter, Ed.D., as Vice President. The new division and Dr. Porter's role is a testament to the college's commitment to its ongoing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion on its campus.

The division will include all of Title IX, Center for Inclusion as well some oversight of the Sister Mary T. Clark Center for Religion and Social Justice and employee recruitment efforts. In addition, this division will have responsibility to work with the grants office to secure significant grant funding as we seek to serve all our populations in one inclusive community.

In her work as Chief Diversity Officer at Manhattanville, Porter has played a crucial role in the development of a comprehensive Roadmap toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which lays out a strategic plan for the college's DEI initiatives and advances the college's efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive community for all students, faculty, and staff. The document is reviewed and updated annually around five ongoing priorities: addressing the composition of the community, closing equity gaps, enhancing the cultural competence of the community through education and resources, creating a sense of belonging, and enhancing collaboration and communication.

In her new role as Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Community Building, Porter will continue to lead the Presidential Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which meets to discuss and solve issues related to DEI, as well as developing and implementing initiatives and programs that promote a more inclusive campus community. She will also work closely with college leadership and stakeholders to ensure that DEI remain a central focus of Manhattanville's strategic planning and decision-making.

"I am honored to take on this new role and am excited to continue working with the Manhattanville community to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion," said Dr. Porter. "We have made great progress over the past few years, but there is still much work to be done. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that Manhattanville remains a welcoming and inclusive place for all."

Louise Feroe, Ph.D, Interim President of Manhattanville College, praised Dr. Porter's work and expressed her enthusiasm for her promotion. "The goal with this move is to make Manhattanville's efforts to build an inclusive community of students, faculty, and staff part of the organizational structure of the college with the leadership of a Vice President who will bring the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to all facets of what we do," said Feroe. "Cindy has been a valuable member of our community, and I am delighted that she will be taking on this new role. Her leadership and expertise have been instrumental in advancing our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, and I am confident that she will make an even more significant impact in her new position."

## Westchester Mourns Hutch Midnight Car Crash That Killed Five Kids; Driver Had No License



Zahnyiah Cross, 12; Shawnell Cross, 11 both died in car crash March 19

By Dan Murphy

Calling it "One of the worst days of my tenure," Westchester County executive George Latimer shared the news with Westchester residents that five children were killed in an auto accident on the Hutchinson Parkway on March 19.

"This was a horrific accident, and accident site. We do not believe that speed was a factor. It is believed that the driver was distracted or fell asleep. There were no other vehicles involved. We don't know answers to certain questions, but right now we mourn the loss and pray for the family," said Latimer.

The five members of the car that were killed were identified as: Malik Smith, 16, who was the driver of the car; Anthony Billips Jr., 17; Zahnyiah Cross, 12; Shawnell Cross, 11; Andrew Billips, 8.

One passenger in the car, 9-year-old Abraham Billips, was in the rear of the SUV and survived, exiting through a shattered rear window.

The driver Malik Smith, did not have a drivers license or a permit. Smith was a student at a school in Brooklyn, and was driving his cousins to their new home in Derby Ct. The car was traveling northbound on the Hutchinson Parkway when it swerved off the road and struck a large rock and then a tree, causing the car to go up into flames.

Further reporting found that the car was a rental, and that Smith did not have permission to drive it. The accident occurred after midnight in the early hours of Sunday.

Latimer called for residents asking questions to be patient, as toxicology reports and a determination on whether all of the passengers were wearing a seat-belt, are determined.

A GoFundMePage has been set up by some of the family to pay for funeral

expenses-At [www.gofundme.com/f/our-5-children](http://www.gofundme.com/f/our-5-children)

"Hi, my name is Da'Shawna Cross I am making a fundraiser to help bury our children we lost, we as parents lost 5 of our children in a very tragic accident and need help deeply with giving them a great home going service, please anything will help we just want to put our babies to rest," writes Cross on the GoFundMe page.

All of the young persons in the car were related and were close, according to Malik Smith Sr. "I told him, his mother told him, his older brothers told him: Stop driving without a license, without a permit. Anything happens, you get pulled over, you get in trouble for these things. Stop doing this," he told the Daily News

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ENH Assets Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/22 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 : ENH Assets Limited Liability Company 465 Tuckahoe Road #1189 Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

### Public Notice:

The Yonkers Workforce Development Board, hereinafter referred to as YWDB, is requesting proposals to provide education, employment, training and other workforce preparation services for Youth under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. An electronic copy of the RFP may be downloaded at <https://www.yonkersny.gov/> click onto Government, Departments, Workforce Development Board, and Year Round Youth Program RFP.

The YWDB will determine the number of awards based on the quality and innovations of the proposals received.

### RFP Procurement Schedule

(Dates subject to change with notice from the YWDB)

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| RFP Issue Date:                | March 20, 2023 |
| Bidders Informational Session: | March 27, 2023 |
| RFP Questions Due:             | March 31, 2023 |
| Proposal Due Date:             | April 14, 2023 |
| Grant Award Date:              | June 12, 2023  |
| Contract Start Date:           | July 1, 2023   |
| Contract End Date:             | June 30, 2024  |

## Letter to the Editor:

God Bless Amara Valerio! Mr. Murphy, thanks for writing the story about Amara Valerio, and for writing the whole story about what happened to her and her decency in walking away from a very unfortunate incident.

I was one of the parents in attendance at the YMA Graduation when the incident occurred between Amara and the other student a few years ago. I was shocked at what happened, as were all of the families in attendance. We always wondered what happened and were never given an answer.

Good Karma is another saying I believe in and Amara is getting that back to her now with her success on American Idol. I will be watching her every song.

One other thing about the girl who interrupted Amara. After she took the mic, she posted several nasty videos on Instagram in which she disrespected the school that she attended, YMA, the Principal, the teachers and even some of the students.

Clearly she had no respect for the hard work that the educators at the school invested in her, and that was the reason she took the mic from Amara, to show that disrespect to all. Which makes me wonder even more today, why did they let her get away with it?  
-Ruth B., Yonkers

Editor's Note: We are withholding Ruth's last name at her request.

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## Councilmember Pineda-Isaac Calls on Mayor Spano to Approve Paid Family Leave Expansion

*Introduces Resolution to Increase Access and Coverage of Paid Family Leave Benefits for City Employees*

On March 22, Yonkers City Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac (D-2) announced the introduction of a resolution which aims to expand paid family leave benefits for City employees. Currently, the City of Yonkers offers a limited number of paid days off for City employees not represented by a union, and the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) only provides for unpaid leave. The Councilmember's Resolution is aimed at extending the duration of fully paid leave as well as expanding eligibility to more City employees.

"Like many working people, our city's employees feel the stress of trying to meet their work and family responsibilities, and face financial hardships when their only option is to take unpaid family leave," said Councilmember Pineda-Isaac.

"The City of Yonkers has made few accommodations for the impact this has on families and it's long overdue for the Mayor to act. Yonkers is behind the times and we need to catch up."

Earlier this year, Governor Kathy Hochul launched an initiative to offer fully paid parental leave benefits to New York State employees that would result in 10,000 unrepresented State employees becoming eligible to receive 12 weeks of fully paid leave to use for bonding with a newborn, fostered, or adopted child. The City of Yonkers has not followed suit, leaving its non-unionized employees without the same parental leave benefits that will now be offered at the State level.

"Life's conflicting demands are even more acute at the birth or adoption of a child, or when a child, spouse, or domestic partner or parent has a serious illness," said Councilmember Pineda-Isaac. "Women frequently are the primary caretakers within their immediate and extended families in addition to their participation in the paid labor force. Those who keep our city running each day should not be put in a position where they have to choose between a paycheck and caring for their family."

"Paid parental leave is long overdue for employees of the City of Yonkers. Allowing paid time off to care for a newborn or a loved one is a fundamental best practice for employers in this day and age. I commend Councilmember Pineda-Isaac for championing this cause and bringing employment practices in the City of Yonkers into the 21st century", said Eileen O'Connor, cofounder of NYCD16-Indivisible.

The City will investigate the costs and benefits associated with the implementation of such a policy, which may prove modest if funded through insurance as outline in the FMLA. Many employers already offer up to 12 weeks of paid family leave as a standard benefit to their employees. The City of Yonkers now has the opportunity to catch up with the times and reverse its backwards approach to paid family leave benefits for its employees. The City Council's Resolution calls upon Mayor Spano and his Administration to review and consider increasing and expanding paid family leave for employees of the City, so that they can finally be afforded the same basic paid leave benefits provided by many other employers.

### Letter to the Editor:

How sad, Mr. Murphy, that the effort of our state's elected officials "to protect safe access to medication abortions" is presented in your article of 12 February as a step forward in the protection of human rights. For the truth of the matter is that every abortion puts an end to a human life at one or another stage of its development in utero. Each one of us alive today traversed every one of those stages; and we live because we weren't 'terminated' at any one of them.

*Sincerely, John Favareau, Yonkers*

*Eric Schoen--continued from pg 3-*

#### Spring is Here

If spring is here and it means due to climate change we won't have snow, sleet and freezing rain I don't know about you but I am all for it. I don't think lousy weather is a result of climate change. The world goes through periods and this year we hit the jackpot.

#### 5 Kids Killed on the Hutch

16 year old driver with no driver's license. 5 kids killed. Again I wonder, where were the parents?

Briefs: Let's make sure that if we are going to indict the President we have legitimate grounds to do so. Why embarrass the country for no reason! Do you trust your Bank to hold onto your money with banks going in and out? Is the \$250,000 of government insurance truly enough. These 'Concierge' banks like Signature bank. Are they really watching our money? Must we have baseball players playing in international leagues 2 weeks prior to the start of the baseball season in the United States getting hurt and out for the season. Want to get a free 5 pound box of matzah. The minimum is \$40, no \$25 as in the past at Stop and Shop. Free Easter Ham? \$400 in grocery receipts at ShopRite. Talk about inflation!

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

## On This Day in Yonkers History..



*Assemblyman from Yonkers, Malcolm Wilson. He later became the only NY Governor from Yonkers*

*By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, 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, March 27th

March 27, 1927: Our New York State Champions returned home! Although the Terrace City did not have much time to arrange a welcome, team members John Acropolis, Dave Smith, Al Smith, Mike Mikuliak, Cony DeSalvo, Frank Kosky, George Alotrico, Coach Ira Huber and Manager Fred Palmer were met at the Yonkers Train Station by more than 2,000 people. Blaring horns and cheers led them on a triumphant march to Yonkers High. Official welcomes by Mayor William Walsh and Board of Ed trustees were swept away by the excitement of students rushing to celebrate the champs! Captain Acropolis attributed the win to the "heartly support of the Yonkers people and the efforts of Coach Huber," adding, team members said "We got to win this game for the folks back home." Coach Huber credited John Acropolis, saying, "We had to play the two hardest teams in the tournament, but we came through and it was due to Acropolis and his teammates." The evening closed with a snake dance, truly making a stellar event in Yonkers High's history.

Tuesday, March 28th

March 28, 1932: Although the Yonkers counsel objected strenuously, the Yonkers "dump suit" trial started. Former Children's Court Judge Benjamin Moore, former City Treasurer Frederick Breithack and contractor George T. Kelly sought a \$289,000 damage award from Yonkers for the deterioration of property on Nepperhan Avenue, north of Lake Avenue. Plaintiffs claimed city dumping caused the alleged damage, and wanted an injunction to stop all future dumping. First witness was former DPW Commissioner George Herzog of Pier Street, questioned about dumping on the site while he was in office. He testified Yonkers issued permits for dumping by private interests, such as Alexander Smith, Yonkers Lighting, and several contractors. He stated about 50,000 cubic yards of trash would have to be removed to restore the property by the river.

Special Counsel for Yonkers Albert Jordan objected to the entire proceeding, and wanted the complaint dismissed on grounds this type of litigation must be started within three months of the the date of the offense; Justice Morschauer reserved decision. A second Jordan objection was DPW acts were not "binding upon the city;" he was overruled.

Wednesday, March 29th

March 29, 1927: The de Merveaux flogging law suit against former Yonkers resident J. Stuart Blackton went to the jury. Blackton lost but the jury awarded the plaintiff only \$500 instead of the \$25,000 asked. Blackton's attorney said the jury had not taken the allegations very seriously.

March 29, 1932: Yonkers Special Counsel Albert Jordan for the "dump suit" was hit with a severe reprimand from Supreme Court Justice Morschauer, hearing the case without a jury. Morschauer reprimanded Jordan for alleging discrimination against our city, adding, he had "not been insulted in this way in a long time." Jordan complained he made "more than 50 objections" that were not sustained. Morschauer pulled the previous days record and read out a large number of Jordan's objections that were sustained.

Thursday, March 30th

March 30, 1941: The efforts of Assemblyman Malcolm Wilson resulted in the elimination of the 25-cent charge for all adult visitors to Yonkers' historic Manor Hall.

March 30, 1946: After a heated argument with Cyrus Lewis, Counsel for the operators of Grassy Sprain Golf Club who leased the club from Yonkers, Mayor Frank told Lewis to tell his clients to "stop trespassing" on property on the eastern border of the course. At the time it was dedicated as a city park. Even though it officially was a city park, the course managers were charging golfers to use that portion of the course. Lewis strongly protested Yonkers leasing the 15th and 16th holes to the veterans without consulting his clients, the house managers, and felt Yonkers was giving them the runaround.

*continued on pg 6-*

Notice of formation of Cake Bar By Charlene, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1 Glenwood avenue, 18E, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

### In Home Personal Training

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### Miscellaneous

Do you have boxes of old comic books lying around? Turn them into cash. Call, text or write George and I will come get them. 917-652-9128; gbrook@pipeline.com

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### *St. Patrick's Day Parade Threat, continued from pg 1-*

ing threats of violence against, among others, law enforcement, culminating in recent online threats against the YPD in connection with the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day parade scheduled for Saturday, March 18. KOLA's posts demonstrate support for radical Islamic extremism and terrorist attacks. In a recent threatening post, KOLA displayed himself with an axe.

On November 19, 2021, KOLA posted to a YPD official social media account a message in Albanian that translated to the following: "I am going to slaughter you little girls."

On December 5, 2021, KOLA posted to the same YPD social media account a message stating that: "Starting tomorrow I will start killing your officers just so u know who is doing it, Ridon Kola Albanian blood," and that he would also kill the Mayor of Yonkers.

Following those threats, in December 2021, YPD detectives interviewed KOLA at his residence. KOLA admitted to making the threatening posts but claimed he had no plans to harm YPD officers or the Mayor. Based on his demeanor, YPD subsequently issued a warning to officers to exercise diligence and caution in any encounters with KOLA. Beginning in early 2023, and continuing in the days leading up to the planned St. Patrick's Day parade, KOLA has escalated his threats against the YPD and other government officials and has expressed his support for violent Islamic extremism and terrorist attacks.

In January 2023, KOLA posted multiple statements expressing support for "jihad," or "to war against non-Muslims," and the establishment of a "caliphate," and depicting the raised index finger gesture used by jihadist groups, including the terrorist organization the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham ("ISIS").

On March 6, 2023, appearing to reference YPD's prior interview of KOLA, KOLA sent a direct message to the YPD social media account stating: "I'm looking for that officer that came to my house and threatened me and my family to kill us. I'm going to burn the world until I find him Vallahi [by God], no matter what happens to me there will never be peace in this country anymore! Allahu Ekber." The phrase "Allahu Ekber" is one form of an Arabic phrase meaning "God is great," which radical Islamic extremists have proclaimed in connection with the commission of terrorist attacks.

The next day, March 7, 2023, KOLA posted a statement praising Sayfullo Saipov, the recently convicted perpetrator of a terrorist attack for ISIS in which Saipov used a truck on Halloween in 2017 to murder eight victims and injure many more on a bike bath in lower Manhattan. KOLA referred to Saipov as "my BROTHER."

As of March 9, 2023, KOLA's social media account profile included the statement, "Now is personal America and the world!!!" and a threat to burn "cia fbi nsa police jud[g]es alive w their families too!"

Also on March 9, KOLA sent two direct messages to the YPD social media account stating: "First people to be crucified will be the Yonkers rats Vallahi. Allahu Ekber"; and "I will crucify Yonkers cops and their bosses all along McLean ave. It will be a horror scene . . . Allahu Ekber." McLean Avenue in Yonkers is part of the route for the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade taking place on March 18, and numerous YPD officers will be posted to the parade route along that street. KOLA's residence is in the area of the parade route.

Three days later, on March 12, 2023, KOLA posted to his social media feed a photograph of himself holding an axe with a statement in Albanian, translated to the following: "Come on Judas, I'm waiting for you."

KOLA, 32, of Yonkers, New York, is charged with making threatening interstate communications, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

Mayor Mike Spano said, "I want to commend our Yonkers Police Department, FBI, NYPD, Joint Terrorism Task Force, and all agencies involved in thwarting this threat. We rely on their expertise, skill, and knowledge to ensure our safety. Yonkers is proud to host one of New York's largest St. Patrick's Day parades and threats like this will not intimidate us from celebrating the many contributions of our Irish American community. I look forward to proudly leading the parade tomorrow and ask all to meet me on McLean for the festive celebration."

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

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

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

- Bid 6931 - Opening date: 4/7/2023: Purchase of 36 Friedrich CCW15B10, 18"H; window air conditioners; 5 Friedrich KCM18A30 ac 20,000 BtuH Cool, 230V air conditioners; and 4 portable air conditioners, 12000Btuh, 120V, Tripp Lite SRCOOL 12k, or Yonkers approved equals (KAS).
- Bid 6930 - Opening date: 4/14/2023: Twelve-month contract to purchase up to 75 Magniflood Battery Park, or Yonkers approved equal, post top LED light lanterns as needed. (NG).
- Bid 6934 - Opening date: 4/7/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase various Kennedy fire hydrant parts as needed (AC).
- Bid 6942 - Opening date: 4/7/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase various brands of water distribution parts as needed (AC).
- Bid 6929 - Opening date: 4/14/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase Toyota vehicle repair parts and repair services as needed (FB).
- Bid 6943 - Opening date: 4/14/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase American LaFrance fire apparatus repair parts and repair services as needed (FB).
- Bid 6941 - Opening date: 4/14/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide brass cleaning and maintenance services as needed at City Hall. (NG).
- Bid 6940 - Opening date: 4/7/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide on-call exterminating of City owned lots and catch basins (FB).
- Bid 6935 - Opening date 4/14/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide inspections and repair services, as needed, for aerial bucket trucks (FB).
- Bid 6932 - Opening date: 4/21/2023: Construction of locker rooms at the E. J. Murray Memorial Skating Center at 348 Tuckahoe Road (AC).
- Bid 6933 - Opening date: 4/21/2023: 2023 Traffic Signal Improvement contract - installation of traffic signals at 3 intersections: Hawthorne Avenue at Valentine Lane, Caryl Avenue at Saratoga Avenue and Bronx River Road at Scotti Park. The project also consists of the installation of an all-way Red flasher at the intersection of Park Hill Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, as well as loop detector installations at the intersection of McLean Avenue and Tibbetts Road (FB).
- Bid 6926 - Opening date: 4/28/2023: Sudbury Drive Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project (KS).
- Bid 6936 - Opening date: 4/28/2023: Yonkers School District High-tech Security Upgrades at Lincoln High School - Single Prime General Construction Electrical Contract (DC).
- Bid 6937 - Opening date: 4/28/2023: Yonkers School District High-tech Security Upgrades at Charles E. Gorton High School - Single Prime General Construction Electrical Contract (DC).
- Bid 6938 - Opening date: 4/28/2023: Yonkers School District High-tech Security Upgrades at Yonkers Montessori Academy - Single Prime General Construction Electrical Contract (DC).
- Bid 6939 - Opening date: 4/28/2023: Yonkers School District High-tech Security Upgrades at Barack Obama School for Social Justice - Single Prime General Construction Electrical Contract (DC).
- Bid 6944 - Opening date 4/7/2023: Furnish and plant 95 trees throughout the City by end of May 2023 (KS).
- Bid 6945 - Opening date 4/14/2023: Purchase of Texas Instruments, or Yonkers approved equals, calculators: TI-84 Plus CE EZ-Spot Graphing Calculator - Teacher Pack (10 calculators) (qty=45); TI-34 MultiView EZ-Spot Scientific Calculator - Teacher Pack (10 calculators) (qty=47); TI-108 Basic Calculator - Teacher Pack (10 calculators) (qty=24); TI-108 Basic Calculator (qty=5) (LC).
- Bid 6946 - Opening date 4/14/2023: Twenty-four month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and repairs to the City's fuel dispensing systems and bulk storage tanks at various City locations as-needed (KS).

### *Yonkers Rising*

**PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the City of Yonkers as Official weekly newspaper with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com). Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com). Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com).**

Notice of Formation of CR8TIONZ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1434 Western Ave, Suite 1 #7811 Albany, NY 12203 . Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of BERNACCHIA TUTORING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/13/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Jessica Bernacchia, 7 Floral Lane, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Friday, March 31st

March 31, 1927: Although Blackton's attorney took out an insanity warrant against fencing master Gerard De Merveaux after the trial, he couldn't be served; process servers couldn't find him.

March 31, 1943: At a City Hall conference, City Manager William Walsh told Habirshaw Plant Superintendent Earle Michell his employees must stop all-night and all-day parking near the plant; Mitchell asked ten days to work out a suitable plan. Residents near the plant complained for months about the hazards of long-term employee parking; they parked on both sides of the narrow streets, making it difficult for emergency vehicles like firetrucks to pass.

Saturday, April 1st

April 1, 1933: More than a year later, the Nepperhan Avenue "dump suit" was decided against Yonkers in a ruling handed down by the Appellate Division. The decision awarded the owner \$45,000 for damages caused by illegal use of their land for dumping.

April 1, 1955: Fayette S. Dunn, Secretary of Otis Elevator Company, reassured the members of the Yonkers Rotary Club, the thought of "immediately leaving Yonkers has been put aside."

Sunday, April 2nd

April 2, 1923: Noted song writer and theatrical producer George M. Cohan sang and danced to benefit St. Joseph's Hospital; not only did he address the audience, he sang songs from "Little Nellie Kelly," his production on Broadway, and gave a dance exhibition!

April 2, 1939: Gustave Segschneider of Belmont Avenue turned 90 and shared a few of his tips for a long life. He loved dancing and strong cigars, and staying up late was his "fountain of youth!"

He particularly enjoyed the company of young people, and had many neighborhood children for friends. He was not a fan of beer, but thought a glass of whiskey every now and then was a very good thing!

***Questions or comments? Email [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com). For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website [www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org).***



**2023-Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade on McLean-Photos by Donna Davis**



County Mayor Society, one of 26 Counties of Ireland represented



Yonkers Fire Department Pipes & Drums



L-R-elected officials: State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, Councilmember Shanae Williams, County Exec. George Latimer, Deputy County Exec. Ken Jenkins, County Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels and David Tubiolo



Another large crowd came out for this year's parade!



top-St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band, from County Cavan Ireland



top right-Irish Free School of Dancers



L-R-City Councilman Mike Breen, Vietnam Vet Ed Dingee, County Legislator James Nolan



right-an Irish Wolfhound, always a favorite for this reporter



# Citizen Vigilance Center

## Good Government: The Solution Starts Here



### Coming Soon To New York

A new We The People of New York Citizen Vigilance Center office building (*photo left*) designed after Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home Monticello, to be constructed on a 5.3 acre site in upstate New York. Fully staffed to watch and hold governments accountable in the capital and every town, city county and school district and wherever government policy is made.

The We The People Congress is a nationwide, non-partisan, not-for-profit membership organization of constitutional activists committed to "institutionalizing" citizen vigilance through civic education, monitoring of governments, and organizing grassroots programs of civic resistance to confront and repel tyranny. It is legally and institutionally separate from the We The People Foundation for Constitutional Education, but closely connected by a mutuality of purpose and coordinated operations plans.

#### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

To develop a nation-wide network of informed and responsible citizens capable of holding government accountable by compelling government officials - at all levels - to obey our federal and state constitutions, with full reliance on the rights of the people and obligations of the government under the Petition Clause of the First Amendment.

#### 2023 OBJECTIVES

Establish an affiliate of the WTPC Congress in each State, including a Board of Directors. Establish a web site and a bank account for each State affiliate. Select a site for the Citizen Vigilance Center in each State. Each Citizen Vigilance Center is to look like Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia (See photo above). Begin the process of securing an army of supporting members in each State, say 2-3 percent of the State's population over the age of 18. Designate a State Coordinator, Regional Coordinators and County Coordinators and begin choosing and training the State's Constitution Monitors.





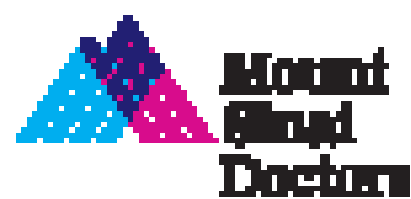
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