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Yonkers Police Commissioner Mueller, Mayor Mike Spano Ask for Changes to Bail Reform & Raise the Age Legislation



Mayor Mike Spano, left and Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller

By Dan Murphy

Several Yonkers elected officials, including Mayor Mike Spano, and members of law enforcement, including Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller, have asked for changes to the criminal justice reforms and bail reforms laws in New York State. Specifically, they are asking for modifications to bail reform and raise the age legislation.

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller said, “in Yonkers, bail reform is affecting property crimes (car breaks ins and shoplifting). Raise the age legislation is impacting our violent crime.”

Mueller said that state legislators worked last summer to make some changes to the criminal justice reform set of laws recently passed, but that a few, additional changes are still needed. “There is a small subset of repeat offenders that commit most of the crimes. We can say that if we made some minor changes to bail reform it would help with property crime. Just give us the tools to deal with that small group.

Mueller said that there is more gun violence from young teenagers, 15, 16 and 17 years old, that are affected by Raise the Age legislation. Many of these cases go to Family Court and the records are sealed. That means the next time they come before a judge, the judge will not know about their prior crimes because their records are sealed. We are asking that the judge be allowed to see the prior criminal history of anyone before the court. Don’t seal the records for the public, but for the judge.

“We respect the reforms but we see a few areas that need improvement. We hope that they will sit down and listen to our concerns, which are based upon the crime data. We have the information, please let us talk to you about it,” said Mueller.

Keith Olson, the President of the Yonkers PBA, and President of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester said, “The huge uptick in violent crime

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2022 Black History Month Series: A Conversation About Music with Crystal Renee



Crystal Renee

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

“Shut up and listen to those who did it before you,” Crystal Renee said. To move forward in the Hip-Hop/Rap culture, we must pay homage to those who came before us. “Respect the knowledge.” Crystal Renee, 28, is a battle rapper from Yonkers, New York. No stranger to hard work, when outside of the ring, she’s either catering with her catering business or working as a nanny. Crystal is a “go-getter, going for her dreams.”

Crystal’s love of music goes back close to 20 years. At nine years old, she performed a song during a competition in her Foxfire Elementary School 5th grade class. The song was a remake that she made of a Missy Elliot song. Her group performed the song and won. The rest is history. Missy Elliot is one of the people that inspire Renee. Elliot grew up in an active church choir family. The Black church is a vital part of Black music.

For centuries, Black Americans used the church to express themselves. Clapping hands, stomping feet, and shouting are some of the ways of self-expression in the church. Gospel music plays a role in Black America to this day. Without the Black church, there would be no Crystal Renee.

Missy Elliott is Renee’s famous inspiration. Her more local inspiration is a young man named Phillip. Phillip “P Bills” Wells introduced Crystal to her first league to have her first battle competition. Afterward, the head of O.T.M known as ChopNGo Ty, scouted her out. Through her lyricism, she was able to earn the nod of many Yonkers folks. P. Bills, QwanDaRebel, Taj_Milli, and Whitted, always pushed and supported her.

What makes Crystal different is that she isn’t afraid to network with her competition. “I try to connect with other local rappers,” she said. A trait like this will put her ahead of the pack. Nicki Minaj once said, “I lead the pack, so my back’s to them.” Renee is still a competitor, though. She will wake up at 3 or 4 a.m. to write lyrics. “Music is my outlet,” she said.

Many young people across the country use music as an escape from reality. Home lives are sometimes in ruin, but music is there to help. Bus rides and train rides are long, but music is there to help. Sometimes you feel upset or down, but music is always there to assist you with whatever you need.

Crystal wants to leave readers with one takeaway. “You could do anything you put your mind to.” She’s determined to live her wildest dreams by any means necessary. With no children and a supporting family, the only thing that can get in the way of Crystal is Crystal. My “family gives props,” she told me. Her uncle tells her, “it’s all on you.”

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

Calling it a “Republican National Coordinated Fear Campaign,” Sen. Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Says No Changes to Bail Reform



Republicans “want to link the fear with democrats being in charge. Our reforms on bail was about misdemeanors and non-violent felonies. Shooting people is still a bailable offense, but no matter what the crime is they blame bail reform,”

*State Senate Majority Leader
Andrea Stewart-Cousins*

By Dan Murphy

At the February 6, 2022 monthly meeting of NYCD16-Indivisible, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins pushed back on critics of the criminal justice, police and bail reforms passed by the democratic majorities in Albany two years ago, and categorized the loud calls for changes to bail reform as a “Republican nationally coordinated campaign of fear.” Sen. Stewart-Cousins also condemned Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano’s remarks about Congressman Jamaal Bowman and that he should be “arrested” for voting against the bipartisan infrastructure bill, and added that Spano was already “running for Congress” and “making calls to donors.”

This was Stewart-Cousins ready to stand up to the attacks made against her leadership and willing to fight to keep the criminal justice and bail reforms made, and explain them to the voters. “It’s very alarming when we find ourselves in a situation when we are echoing the talking points of republicans and finding us at a loss for a rebuttal. It’s clear to me—listen to this—it is very clear to me that this is a republican national coordinated campaign of fear. What happened after George Floyd was the people around the world understood the importance of reforming the police and criminal justice system. People understood we can have justice and maintain peace in our community without brutality.”

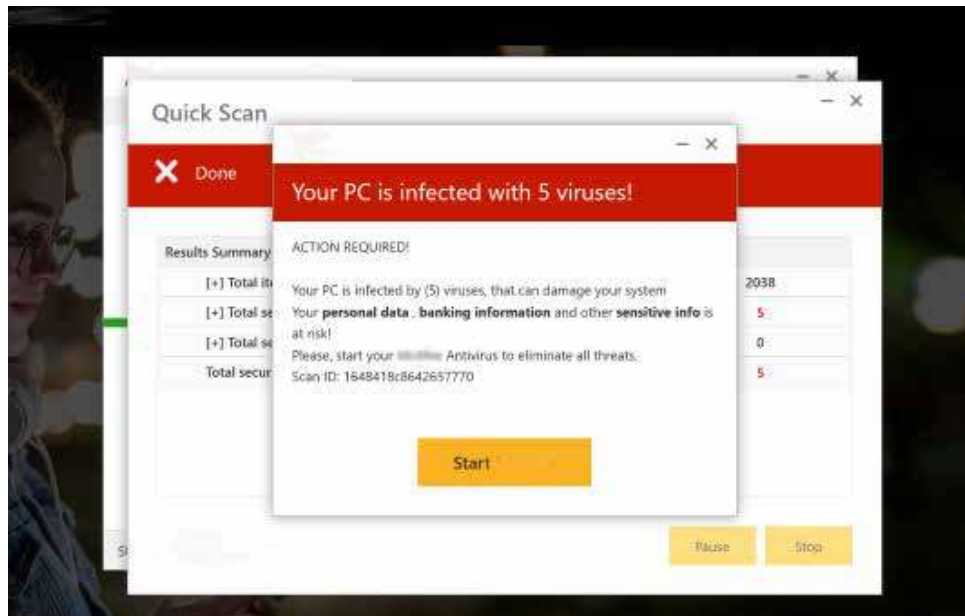
Stewart-Cousins used the interview as a call to action for democrats and progressives to stand up to what she called untrue claims from republicans that blame increases in crime, and gun violence, not only in New York but across the country, on the criminal justice reforms passed in NY.

“Bail reform was done before the George Floyd murder and police reform happened after. They were pissed off that it happened at all, and now we have this backlash and a republican national campaign of fear”

“They are linking crime to bail reform. Crime is going up in some places but not in Westchester, according to the County Executive. Gun violence is a national issue that is not linked at all to bail reform. But the

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Westchester PC Users Group Warns of Growing Computer Malware Virus Threats



A malware warning appears without warning on a browser asking to press the scan “start” button, which would be a mistake.

A Westchester community computer non-profit is warning the public that while home computer virus threats are on the upswing, there are easy, protective measures that all of us can take. The Westchester PC Users Group (WPCUG) alerts that scammers, hackers and other bad actors increasingly employ fake emails, fake alerts that pop up when viewing legitimate websites, telephone scams and anti-virus marketers peppering cyberspace with hard-sell sales messages.

All these literally touch all the homes in the region—and particularly try to trick untrained senior citizens into downloading malicious software. WPCUG president and former career IBMer Pierre Darmon, who is a computer consultant based in White Plains, senses a false sense of security by home users who think that computer viruses are aimed only at big companies and big industry.

Darmon said that all home computer users on websites can encounter a takeover of their web browser software by scammers with large-size messages such as “your computer may be infected” and other chilling warnings.

“This is scary because it makes you think that you’ve lost control of your computer since it is a full-screen message,” says Darmon. “And there’s a worry that the scammers may have done some more serious damage in the background.”

In reality, the scammers have only put the user’s browser in full screen mode that makes it difficult to close the page. WPCUG advises that users can make a safe exit most of the time by pressing on their keyboards Alt-F4 (on Windows) and Cmd-Q (on macOS). That closes the browser altogether and lets users regain control of their computer; after such force-closing, the browser can then be reopened.

Browsers are software to surf the internet such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge for Windows, and Apple Safari for macOS. Malware (a contraction of the phrase “malicious software”) is software that is harmful. One type of malware is a virus, self-replicating software designed to spread from

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Nominations Open for 2022 Yonkers Teacher of The Year



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

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

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

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

Eligibility requirements for selection as Teacher of the Year include employment as a teacher in the Yonkers Public Schools for at least five years; demonstration of dedication to the teaching profession which has led his/her students to both knowledge and understanding; and initiation of new, meaningful programs for either students, teachers or parents, or been innovative in the use of existing programs, and display significant community involvement. The nominations form and sample application are available online at www.yonkersny.gov. Online nominations must be submitted by March 4, 2022 at 5PM.

Latimer Announces Yonkers Joint Bulkhead Rehabilitation for Wastewater Treatment Plant



The Wastewater Treatment Plant in Yonkers, operated by Westchester County

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is pleased to announce his Administration's continued efforts to rehabilitate or rebuild Westchester's aging infrastructure. These efforts create jobs, save the taxpayer money in the long term and create safer, more resilient & better working infrastructure for Westchester's residents.

To this end, Latimer is announcing that a \$6.6M project to rehabilitate and repair a cellular bulkhead at the Yonkers Wastewater Treatment Plant is well underway.

Latimer said: "Piece by piece, we are working to create a more storm resilient County. This project is another sign of our progress. We know that our climate is changing, we know that Westchester residents thrive when quality construction jobs are bountiful and we know fixing infrastructure saves both lives and resources – all of which is accomplished through this endeavor."

The bulkhead, which is a steel sheeting wall that separates the plant from the Hudson River, was an expansion of the Yonkers Joint facility. The expansion was built in 1972 and was constructed on piles directly into the Hudson River. Rehabilitation and repair of the wall is periodically required due to age, weathering, and corrosion due to the salinity of the river water.

DEF Commissioner Vincent Kopicki said: "Under the leadership of County Executive Latimer, we are constantly hard at work to improve our facilities for the betterment of the entire County. This is truly exciting work in our field and the progress we are making is phenomenal."

The work includes the installation of tension rods, anchors, and steel plates, prepping and coating of the steel surfaces, concrete repair, and backfilling of eroded areas. Most of the work is performed on the water facing side of the wall which makes access and working conditions complex. Nevertheless, the work is already approximately 20% complete.

Palisades Prep Boys Basketball Finish Strong, Winning Last 6



The Palisades Prep Boys Basketball team got hot at just the right time. As the team entered February they stood at 7-7 and had to play their final six games in 12 days. Due to covid cancellations from other teams the Phoenix ended up playing five games in the final seven days of the regular season. On February 2nd the boys faced cross-town & league rival YMA. The team got out to an early lead and cruised to a 72-49 win. Louis Martinez had 17 points, while Jalen Brown and Xavier Merrill each added 7. All nine players on the roster scored in the game.

On February 7th the boys were back in action, this time traveling to Lincoln High School in Yonkers in a non-league crossover. The team started slow but was able to gain momentum and win the game 60-42. Louis Martinez led all scorers with 25 points, sophomore Miguel Gonzalez added 13 points and junior forward Yashua Martin added 12 points and 10 rebounds. The very next day the Phoenix were at home to host Children's Village of Dobbs Ferry in a league match-up.

The boys cruised to a 60-34 win, Louis Martinez led all scorers with 15 points, junior forward Jalen Brown had a double-double scoring 13 points and grabbing 13 rebounds. Xavier Merrill added 13 points and 5 assists and point guard Miguel Gonzalez chipped in with 9 points. After a day off the boys traveled to Children's Village for a rematch of league opponents. The Phoenix prevailed again, this time winning 84-52. Junior guard Louis Martinez led all scorers with 26 points while junior forward Xavier Merrill added 21 points. Miguel Gonzalez and Yashua Martin each contributed 12 points in the win.

Then on Saturday February 12th the Phoenix traveled to Dobbs Ferry to face the Greenburgh North Castle Knights. The Phoenix won the first match-up in January but the Knights had won the rest of their league games. Setting up this Saturday afternoon game as a battle for the league championship. The Phoenix had a goal of finishing the league slate undefeated and not sharing the league with the Knights.

In a back and forth game that saw multiple lead changes the Phoenix were able to hold a fourth quarter lead and win 50-46. Two free throws from Louis Martinez with fewer than 20 seconds left in the game helped seal the league championship for Palisades Prep. Martinez finished with 20 points, while teammate Xavier Merrill added 13. The league title is the first for the Phoenix since the 2014-2015 season.

However, the craziest week of the season was not done yet. The boys had to wake up early on Super Bowl Sunday to get in their final game of the season before the deadline to play passed on Monday. Since Gorton HS was scheduled to play Monday, the teams had no other options but play on Sunday. The Phoenix again were in another very tight game, some early adjustments led to an 8 point half time lead. The boys were able to keep that lead for the rest of the game and win 57-47 over the Wolves. Louis Martinez had 19 points to lead the way, Miguel Gonzalez added 15 points and 3 assists. Junior Xavier Merrill added 14 points and 9 rebounds, fellow junior Jalen Brown added 6 points and 13 rebounds and on his birthday Yashua Martin added 3 points and game high 19 rebounds.

The Phoenix finish their regular season at 13-7. Winning their final six games to get way above .500 winning percentage. They wait to hear their playoff opponent but a 13-7 record should ensure a first round home game on Saturday February 19th. The regular season had many highlights, as the team won the Port Chester Tournament, a league title and made it to the Yonkers City Championship game. The team hopes their tough non-league schedule has prepared them for the Class B Sectional Playoffs.

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Mayor Spano Names Golda Solomon Yonkers First Poet Laureate



Mayor Mike Spano with Golda Solomon, Photo by Maurice Mercado

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the appointment of Golda Solomon as the City of Yonkers' first Poet Laureate. The Yonkers Poet Laureate is an unpaid position aimed at encouraging the community to engage with poetry by creating and leading activities that inspire writing and poetry performances.

A Yonkers resident, Golda Solomon has spent the last four decades ministering to, teaching, sharing, and advancing the joy and pleasures of poetry to children as young as 5 and adults as old as 85. Solomon has taken time to perfect her craft by writing poems about Yonkers events/milestones and continues to serve as an advisor and mentor to aspiring young writers and musicians in the City of Yonkers.

"I am proud to appoint Golda Solomon as our first Poet Laureate," said Mayor Spano. "Today, all 50 states have a poet laureate, as do many counties, cities and other jurisdictions, including Westchester County. Solomon's combined passion for the written and spoken word and our city will prove to be a great asset in nurturing Yonkers' flourishing arts."

The objectives of the City of Yonkers Poet Laureate are to:

- Enhance the presence and appreciation of poetry and literary arts in the City of Yonkers
- Raise awareness of the power of literature, poetry, and the spoken word
- Provide a forum for collaborative art forms
- Engage and support an emerging generation of poets and spoken word artists
- Provide access to poetry and literary arts to all sectors of the community
- Encourage the reading and writing of both poetry and the written word

"We are all artists. We are all writers. We are all poets," said Golda Solomon. "I look forward to working with the community by unifying the diverse voices of our city through poetry."

Golda Solomon is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Manhattan College and CUNY (Borough of Manhattan Community College) and has been the Poet in Residence at the Blue Door Art Center in Yonkers for more than a decade where she has developed and executed poetry and writing classes to all ages and creeds. Golda has received grants and honorariums from Poets & Writers, the NEA Yonkers Initiative, Rotary Club, Blue Door Art Center, Groundwork Hudson Valley and Hudson Park that help with her commitment to effecting change in Yonkers through the arts. Additionally, Solomon is a published poet with her collections, Flatbush Cowgirl, Medicine Woman of Jazz, Po' Jazz: Takin' It to the Hollow, First Set and Jazz Riffs and is currently at work on her memoir, "Blues and Black Ink: Found & Lost in Brooklyn."

Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall? You've Got a Friend!



By Eric W. Schoen

The weather last week and this week sure looks like it will continue its craziness. As mom would say, the sudden change in weather is pneumonia weather. But for some strange reason, thank god we never got pneumonia! Over Ground Hog Phil and Staten Island Chuck and the Westchester County bird. But changing temps are hopefully a sign that Spring is on its way and yes, after my Birthday on February 22 things always seem to get better.

Speaking of better, were you a bettor on one of these new Sports Betting apps for the Super Bowl? Close to \$2 Billion Has been bet on sports apps since they became legal in New York earlier this year according to Governor Hochul. Whatever government agency I worked for over the years (won't mention names as Super Bowl pools are technically illegal) everyone always knew that I wanted to participate even though I haven't a clue about Football.

So I saw all these special deals to entice bettors to participate on betting on the big game. When I participated in the pools I would occasionally win not knowing why. I bet on the Rams on 2 apps, \$5 each, expected to win something when they one won and ended up with bupkis! The next day I won \$10 on Cash for Life Lottery game, so now I am even.

My point is how many other schmucks out there bet on the apps not having a clue as to what they were doing? A company called Schneps Media ran a tutorial which I caught a bit of, describing how the betting process worked. But I would highly suggest that New York State have online tutorials because apparently there are a lot of things you can bet on other than the Super Bowl. The state cannot be more interested in revenue generated on sports gambling than on whether people doing the gambling can afford to.

What I did find disconcerting is that both of the apps that I bet on sent me emails the day after the Super Bowl offering deals to bet on other sports, as low as a \$1. I hope this isn't their way to draw people who don't have the money into sports betting. You should not be Betting the rent money in these apps. And our State Legislators and the Governor should put pressure on these companies not to send out these deals. Have an opt in if you want the emails, and an opt out if you don't. Bet with your head not over it!

As for me I'll stick with the \$2 lottery bets where now everyday can win over a million dollars or Cash for Life. They are simple. Either you have the correct numbers or you don't. But that \$1 app bet on basketball looks enticing, and I do know the Knicks usually aren't very good. I bet confidently knowing that my long time friend Assemblyman Nader Sayegh who was on Facebook and other venues talking about betting would have bought me lunch if I didn't win the \$10 Cash for Life to make up for the apps. Maybe he still has the special Roast Beef recipe his Uncle Gus made at the grocery Store down the street from where I grew up. I could use a nice, thick roast beef sandwich on rye with deli mustard as his uncle would make. Fond memories!

Hope you are sitting enjoying your coffee realizing this article is going to be pretty light this week. Masks. We all hate them. The mask mandate was lifted by the Governor for stores and businesses but remember, each individual business can keep the mask mandate in effect. And many have. And you must respect it. I went to Panera at Cross County the day after it was lifted, and the manager was pretty clear when I asked her if masks were needed.

One thing I can't understand. I was picking up a prescription at a pharmacy in a supermarket and a woman walked up picking up numerous prescriptions for her and her friend not wearing a mask. If there is a place where I would consider masking it certainly is at or near a pharmacy. Let's face it. Most people get prescriptions for some health related reason or another. The woman looked like she was in her 70's, more reason to where a mask. I stayed at least 12 feet away from her, and the Pharmacist in our discussion was surprised the lady wasn't masked.

Fake vaccination cards are a problem. There has to be way to detect them and make sure all cards are real. Our technology people have to come up with a solution to this situation.

Walmart and Amazon are dropping mask mandates for fully vaccinated workers. Within the law but I am sure many will still wear them until we know for sure Covid and it's variants are done with. I only wish the date we knew this was sooner than later.

As we go to press another unauthorized tractor trailer was on the FDR holding up traffic. This is not only a Hutchinson River Parkway or Westchester County problem. Thousands of people sit in their cars inconvenienced until the trucks are guided off the parkway. Governor Hochul has got to convene a task force with a finite date to solve this problem. I've given you my solution many times. We can't wait for all commercial vehicles in this country to be outfitted with a commercial vehicle GPS. The traffic stops and inconvenience to drivers have got to be causing the New York Economy millions if not billions of dollars.

The 15 year old Russian Skater who was found to be doped and couldn't pass a drug test should be disqualified forever from Olympics competition. Isn't it sad that Russia is now doping 15 year olds? I hope you join me in wishing our U.S.A. athletes success at the Olympics. Bringing home gold, silver and bronze metals is our way to show China we are not happy with their policies and the way they treat their people. Novak Djokovic. Want to play tennis. Stop being a cry baby and follow the rules!

New York City fired 1400 or less than 1% of their employees this week who remain unvaccinated. You don't follow the rules this is what happens. I have no sympathy and neither do the 99% of workers who did what they had to do!

The at home Covid tests sent by the government are reaching homes. Be on the lookout for them. Porch thieves are stealing them. And as my doctor said, only use them when you have symptoms.

The high Con Edison bills are making people in Yonkers take a second look at Sustainable Westchester. But folks I talk to are opting out as they don't trust the

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The Rotary Club of Yonkers

invites you to compete in its
First Annual Youth Speech Contest

March 28-30, 2022
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Yonkers Riverfront Library
(will switch to Zoom if required)

Deliver a 5-minute speech on the topic
"What I Would Like to See Improved in Yonkers and Why"
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For more information and to register,
visit YonkersRotary.org
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at alangrayjr@gmail.com



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PBA Attorney: Anti-Police Rhetoric Doesn't Help Police in the War on Illegal Guns

Op-Ed by Andrew Quinn, Esq.

Editor's Note: A Westchester attorney who represents PBA's has written an Op-Ed that points the finger at comments made by New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson and Congressman Jamaal Bowman, based on their own words concerning the death of Kamal Flowers by New Rochelle Police Officer Alec McKenna.

Quinn, from The Quinn Law Firm in White Plains writes, "This may be the most painful morning that I can recall in my time of service and one of the most painful that I can recall in my life": New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson on June 6, 2020, the morning after the shooting death of convicted felon Kamal Flowers and before any investigation was begun.

"I'm so upset about another horrific incident in our community. We are going through so much already. There needs to be an immediate state investigation into this police killing of a Black man, Kamal Flowers, in New Rochelle": Candidate Jamaal Bowman on June 6, 2020, also before any investigation into the shooting of Kamal Flowers was conducted.

These were the words of our local elected leaders on the morning after Police Officer Alec McKenna came within a trigger pull of losing his life trying to keep illegal guns off the streets of New Rochelle. If Flowers succeeded in killing Officer McKenna, these same politicians would have been tripping over themselves to get in front of a camera to call him a "hero" who bravely died in the service of the city.

On June 5, 2020, Officer McKenna chased Flowers – a convicted violent felon in possession of an illegal weapon – placing himself at extraordinary risk of death with every step. During the pursuit, Flowers – a parolee released from a lengthy prison stint three months earlier for a gunpoint carjacking – pulled his gun from his waist band and, as his later actions show, would have tried to shoot Officer McKenna with it. Instead, he dropped it to the ground. Rather than shoot, Officer McKenna deployed his taser, with no effect. Flowers grabbed the illegal gun and pointed it directly at Officer McKenna for a second time and fired: later tests confirmed Flowers' his DNA on the trigger. By the Grace of God, the bullet did not discharge and Officer McKenna was spared. Undeterred, Flowers adjusted the cartridge of the weapon and again pointed it directly at Officer McKenna, who was shouting at Flowers "don't do it". Left with no choice, Officer McKenna fired, killing Flowers and saving his own life. Notably, he also took an illegal gun off the streets of New Rochelle: a gun that could have resulted in many more senseless, tragic deaths, like the one that happened recently in New Rochelle's West End.

At a press conference attended by virtually every local elected official in New Rochelle, Mayor Bramson labeled the morning of Flowers' death "one of the most painful that I can recall in my life". Mayor Bramson never once mentioned the extraordinary risk Officer McKenna faced to rid his city of the scourge of illegal guns. No elected leader commended Officer McKenna for the exceptional restraint and bravery he displayed, firing his weapon only after Flowers made it clear that he was intent on carrying out his plan of escaping at any cost – including taking the life of a uniformed police officer. To this day, neither Mayor Bramson nor Congressman Bowman has ever acknowledged that Flowers' illegal 9 mm semi-automatic handgun was recovered at the scene along with several 9mm bullets recovered in his pocket.

We mourn the death of two New York City police officers killed by gunfire last month, once again rightly lauding each of them as a "hero". Yet to this day, not a single elected official in Westchester County has acknowledged Officer McKenna for the bravery he displayed in getting yet another urban weapon of war off the streets. To this day, not one local leader has thanked Officer McKenna for removing another gun from our community. Nor has a single New Rochelle official expressed relief or gratitude that Officer McKenna did not die in the process, though he very nearly did.

Instead, following the horrific shooting death of a 17-year old in New Rochelle, our local elected officials have expressed outrage over the proliferation of guns in Westchester – guns that become available to teenagers who use them to shoot and kill each other. Not surprisingly, news reports indicate that the New Rochelle shooter fired a 9mm semiautomatic handgun – the same gun which nearly killed Officer McKenna.

Mayor Bramson and Congressman Bowman, predictably riding the waves of the shifting political tides, are now lamenting their inability to stem the flow of illegal guns into the hands of teenagers:

"The tragic death of the 16-year-old New Rochelle boy is only made worse by the fact that he was killed by a 16-year-old who was able to get his hands on a gun. The system is failing our youth at every level. We need to do everything in our power to support our youth and their families, address the mental health crisis, and put an end to the influx of guns coming from outside of our state and into the hands of our teenagers. This is unacceptable and cannot be normalized". Congressman Jamaal Bowman on January 27, 2020 commenting on the shooting death of a 16 year old in New Rochelle.

"More broadly, this incident highlights yet again the destructive impact of our nation's lax gun regulations, which flood firearms into the wrong hands and can transform any dispute into a heartbreaking loss". Mayor Noam Bramson on January 27, 2020.

Getting guns off the streets of Westchester is extraordinarily dangerous work. It requires a profound level of bravery, yet is so often overlooked or worse, taken for granted. Since the death of Kamal Flowers, New Rochelle police officers have made forty gun arrests, each time risking their own life in the process. Each time a police officer takes a gun illegally possessed by another from the community, he or she faces the very real risk that they too will be placed in Officer McKenna's dangerous position. Police officers should not be forced to consider whether they want to die a "hero" or live as a "defendant".

It is long past time to once again allow Westchester County police officers to use the tools they already have to stop the violence that is plaguing our communities. The progressive policies of frighteningly liberal District Attorneys who believe that police officers are the problem and not the solution must be soundly and loudly denounced. The citizens who truly care about the safety of all of our county's neighborhoods must come forward and be heard. We must, as law abiding residents who seek to protect all children in all communities, elect leaders who understand that police officers are our greatest weapon in the war on gun violence, who deserve support rather than contempt. We must reject the anti-police rhetoric that is demoralizing police officers and curtailing recruitment.

And it is long past time that someone thank Alec McKenna for his service.
Andrew Quinn, Esq. The Quinn Law Firm, PLLC

Indivisible NYCD 16 Supports Stewart-Cousins and Keeping Bail-Criminal Justice Reforms As Is

Editor's Note: Members of Indivisible NYCD-16 recently wrote a letter criticizing the comments made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano about Congressman Jamaal Bowman. Included in that letter were comments about bail reform. Below are that portions of the letter, which can be found in its entirety at YonkersTimes.com

"Bail Reform is about creating an equitable criminal justice system. #JusticenotFear! Bail Reform only applies to nonviolent felonies and misdemeanors. Historically, poor people who were disproportionately black and brown, were kept in jail because they couldn't afford to pay bail. Our state legislators consulted extensively with district attorneys and judges before putting forth this historic bail reform legislation. It has kept hundreds of thousands of people out of jail who cannot afford to pay bail.

"Ninety eight percent show up for their court hearings. There is NO connection between bail reform and crime rates. There IS a connection between gun violence and crime rates, however. We would love to hear more from our Mayor about getting guns off our streets and engaging in thoughtful conversation with gang members who are associated with most of the shootings in our city. Rep Bowman knows that people want a fair criminal justice system, a living wage, affordable housing, food to eat, public safety & access to good health care during this pandemic.

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

"Most constituents look to our democratically elected officials for reasoned and calm governance in these troubling times. Dog whistle statements from Yonkers Mayor Spano don't reflect the type of leadership that we need from him," wrote Indivisible CDNY16.

March 1 Deadline to Upgrade to Enhanced STAR

March 1 Deadline to Upgrade to the Enhanced STAR Property Tax Exemption For seniors turning 65 this year, the deadline to apply is March 1

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance today reminded seniors that, for most localities, the deadline to apply for greater property tax savings through the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption is March 1.

To be eligible for the 2022 Enhanced STAR property tax exemption, seniors must: currently receive the Basic STAR property tax exemption; have one owner of the property who will be at least 65 years of age by December 31, 2022; and have had 2020 income equal to or below \$92,000.

"We want every eligible senior to receive the increased property tax benefit," said Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller. "To help ensure that seniors don't miss out on this valuable benefit, we recently sent letters to 27,000 seniors who may be eligible for additional savings."

Eligible seniors should apply to their assessor's office by the application due date, which is March 1 in most towns and some cities, but there are exceptions. Seniors should verify their exact due date with their local assessor.

To apply, seniors must provide the following to the assessor: Form RP-425-E, Application for Enhanced STAR Exemption Form RP-425-IVP, Supplement to Form RP-425-E Proof of income: 2020 New York State or federal income tax forms. (If the senior wasn't required to file an income tax return, the assessor can guide them on how to provide proof of income.)

In 2021, 577,000 seniors received a total of more than \$800 million in savings from the Enhanced STAR property tax exemption.

Seniors who receive the STAR credit instead of the STAR exemption don't need to apply or take any other action. The Tax Department will automatically upgrade them to Enhanced STAR if they qualify.

Seniors with questions about the STAR exemption can contact the Tax Department's STAR Hotline from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays: 518-457-2036.

Registration to Open for Westchester County Parks Nature and Muscote Camps

If the freezing temperatures have you thinking about summer plans, look no further than Westchester County Parks' Nature and Muscote Camps for children entering grades one through nine! Muscote Young Farmers Camp registration opens Wednesday, Feb. 16 at noon and Nature Camp registration opens Wednesday, Feb. 23 at noon.

Campers can explore and discover the natural environment of Westchester County with fun, hands-on experiences at our nature centers and Muscote Farm. Each camp will focus on different aspects of nature and teach youngsters about animals, insects, plants and more with a new theme each week. The program runs from Monday, June 27 through Friday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fees are \$350 per camper per week.

Camps will operate outdoors under applicable state guidelines in place at the time camp is in session. Locations:

- Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains- (914) 428-1005
- Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye (914) 967-8720
- Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers (914) 968-5851
- Marshlands Conservancy, Rye (914) 835-4466
- Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River (914) 864-7322
- Muscote Farm, Katonah (914) 864-7282

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "The Westchester County Parks Nature and Muscote Camps not only provide the children of Westchester County with a fun way to spend their summer outdoors, but an opportunity for youngsters to learn and care for the environment and implement those skills into daily life for years to come."

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Local Business Professionals Share Career Insights with YPIE College Students



Melody Madera from New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital shares her educational background and career path with YPIE college students

"Education is really incredibly important for opening doors, and the most important thing you should take away from college and the education experience is learning how to learn," stated Luis Penichet, Vice President & Commercial Banker, JPMorgan Chase

Luis was one of many professionals to share invaluable insights and guidance with a group of college students participating in the Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) College Success program.

YPIE partners with students to ensure they are prepared for success in college and beyond. During the inaugural "YPIE College Success Career Week," students had the opportunity to hear wisdom and network with professionals from many local organizations, including American Express, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital and The Trade Desk.

The purpose of YPIE's Career Week was to expose college and older high school students to careers in various industries, jump-start students' networking opportunities, and provide tangible guidance in resume writing and LinkedIn profile creation.

During four sessions, students met with 18 professionals with roles ranging from banking and accounting to healthcare, communications, UX design, and data analytics. Many of the speakers had similar backgrounds to these students, coming from diverse ethnicities and being the first in their families to attend college.

At the start of each session, professionals gave an overview of their companies and shared their educational background, major, current role, and career pathway.

"When I graduated, I was in the boat that many college graduates are in, I didn't really know what I want to be when I grew up. And, I think that's been actually a blessing because the path is sometimes a zig-zag," said Rebecca Quirke, Manager, Strategy & Business Planning at American Express.

"One of the myths is that you have to have a traditional sort of finance background to be in finance. And that's not the case, said Timothy Thuku, Vice President, Morgan Stanley. "On my team, I have history majors, English majors...it's how you think, how you problem solve, how you approach a situation."

Many of the professionals spoke about the importance of networking, internships, and staying focused on what you are passionate about.

"For me, I really wanted to be thoughtful about aligning my values with the work that I was doing," said Sharmi Sobhan, Community Development Banking Executive Director, JPMorgan Chase.

"Culture, culture, culture, team, team, team -- Internships are very important because they give you an idea of what the culture looks like," added Luis Penichet.

YPIE students will bring diverse perspectives to our future workforce. Many speakers spoke about the realities of being a person of color in the professional world and the importance of making our future workforce more diverse. They also shared many specific resources and programs that might be helpful for students of color.

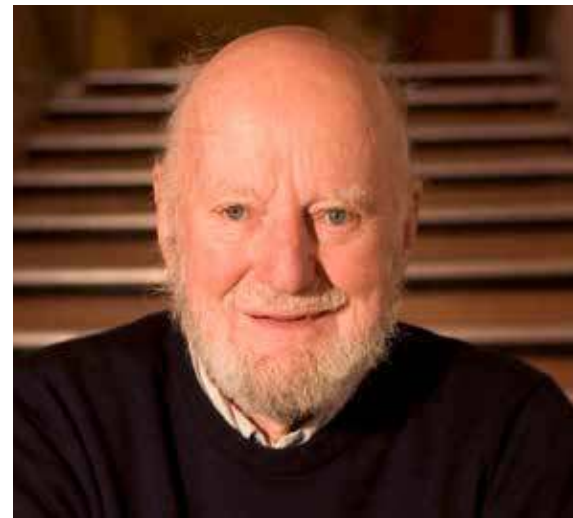
"This session was really eye-opening," said Mona, a Stony Brook University student. "This was a great opportunity for both high school and college students to get insights from professionals," added Natalya, SUNY Brockport College student.

YPIE College Success Career Week was filled with candid reflections, professional revelations, and wisdom that will stay with these students for years to come.

"Look at all the opportunities that are available, speak to guidance counselors at your high school or advisors at your colleges, said Alisa Holland, New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital Manager of Community Affairs. "But all of the things that are involved in college life, what I would say is find people who can support your dreams."

Learn more at ypie.org.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Lawrence Ferlinghetti

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

Monday, February 21st

February 21, 1928: Local officials assured Yonkers drivers that there would be no increase of gasoline prices in our city. Yonkers drivers were paying 20 cents a gallon; Standard Oil had just raised New York City prices from 18 to 19 cents a gallon.

February 21, 1945: Young Men's Chamber of Commerce President John E. Flynn presented details of the City-wide School of Civic Service the organization planned to run. Thirty sessions would be held Thursday evenings at City Hall; city officials would speak about functions of city departments to give attendees a closer look at how Yonkers is governed.

Tuesday, February 22nd

February 22, 1931: Mayor John Fogarty entertained Baroness Helene Nostitz Von Hindenberg, the niece of German President Paul Von Hindenberg, at Yonkers City Hall. Two years later, she was one of 87 authors who signed an Oath of Loyal Support for Adolf Hitler.

February 22, 2021: American poet, painter, social activist, and Yonkers native Lawrence Ferlinghetti passed away. Born on Caroline Avenue, the publisher and owner of the renowned City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco was the first Poet Laureate of San Francisco.

Wednesday, February 23rd

February 23, 1945: After months of red tape delay, State Supreme Court Justice Gerald Nolan ruled former Mayor Benjamin Barnes acted legally appointing Abraham Rosenblum and Dr. William Crocker as Yonkers School Board trustees in 1943, without getting "advice and consent of the Common Council." He said since Yonkers' population was less than 400,000, State Education Law governed the action. Former School Trustee Theodore Kiendl expected to bring the case to a higher court.

February 23, 1946: A letter from former Yonkers newspaper woman Rheta Glueck of Bayley Avenue, Red Cross staff assistant in Germany, arrived in Yonkers. Her biggest concern was the fraternization of the American troops with German woman, mostly because the morale among occupation troops was so low, so the Red Cross was providing as many activities and as much entertainment as possible. She closed her letter with the hope that Yonkers would put the Yonkers Red Cross Fund Campaign "over the top."

Thursday, February 24th

February 24, 1933: Women of the Yonkers Chapter of the Mooseheart Legion held a George Washington Pajama Party.

February 24, 1947 The Regional Plan Association for the tri-state area, predicting approximate 20,000 privately owned planes would be in use in the area, proposed two new airports to serve Yonkers residents. One airport would be in the Town of Greenburgh because of the unavailability of appropriate land in Yonkers. A second smaller field would be in Yonkers on County owned property, on a site such as the Sprain Brook Golf Course.

Friday, February 25th

February 25, 1925: After Federal Prohibition Agents Charles Bench and Michael Sassi raided a saloon and restaurant, they arrested seven men on charges of "possession of intoxicating liquor." A mob of 50 people gathered on Washington Street tried release one of the prisoners and knock evidence to the ground, forcing the agents to draw their guns to get the crowd to back away. Arrested for "interfering with a Federal officer," two women fought agents like "wildcats," tried to smash liquor jugs on the agents while clawing and biting them on their faces and hands.

February 25, 1935: The trial of the Newark men caught at Roosevelt High School with liquor in their truck was suddenly interrupted. The men's attorney Maurice Chachkes had conceded the liquids were alcohol to speed the trial; after hearing testimony from arresting officer Frank Jordon, Chachkes revoked his concession. The liquor had to be taken back to our City Laboratories to be analyzed.

Saturday, February 26th

February 26, 1937: Assistant Corporation Counsel Harold Garrity, who represented Yonkers interests prosecuting Yonkers' anti-shorts ordinance, the blue law that brought international attention to our city, announced Yonkers received formal notice of the tentative date for argument for the case filed against Yonkers on behalf of two New York Daily News reporters, Rose O'Gorman and William Matthias, to test the validity of the ordinance. Yonkers' anti-shorts ordinance was scheduled to be argued before the Court of Appeals on April 15th.

continued on pg 6-

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

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

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Yonkers History , continued from pg 5-

February 26, 1940: The Westchester Grand Jury, under the direction of Westchester DA Walter Ferris, opened an investigation into the operations administrations of the Loehr administration in Yonkers and investigate the findings of the Department of Audit and Control that unearthed illegalities and irregularities. Of the twenty-three Grand Jurors, three were from Yonkers: broker Ludwig Funke, architect Milton McGuire; and H. Armour Smith, Director of the Hudson River Museum. Smith, as Director of the Yonkers Museum, was on the city payroll.

Sunday, February 27th

February 27, 1945: To celebrate their “distinguished service to our country through the patriotic and inspiring use of music to aid the national effort,” Benny Goodman, the “King of Swing,” presented citations from the Music War Council of America to student musicians at four Yonkers schools! The schools recognized were Gorton High School, the High School of Commerce, Hawthorne Junior High School and Franklin Junior High School. Besides the certificates, each school’s music teacher received a signed photograph of Mr. Goodman. These school bands played at war bond drives, scrap paper drives, scrap metal drives, ceremonies honoring men leaving for the service, and other patriotic ceremonies. Goodman spoke about the importance of music in every day lives, how it can be a “spiritual uplifting influence.” He continued that he hoped the people of Yonkers realized “what it means to have fine school musical organizations like these student bands.”

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, or call 914-961-8940.

Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-

government. Con Edison is a wild beast that should have been tamed years ago. Put too much power in one company and you have the highest rates in the country. With talk of higher rates. And those who don’t opt out of Sustainable Westchester will anxiously await to see what their bills look like.

Another homeless career criminal killed an Asian woman this week. And our legislators in Albany sit on their tuchases (rear ends) and do nothing to change the bail situation crippling our State. I just don’t get why they don’t get it!

Attorney General Letitia James will sail to victory over any former official who runs against her. Look at the great work she has done while in office!

Bed Bath and Beyond getting more generous with coupons. \$20 off \$80 just don’t cut the mustard. Shots fired at a Jewish Mayoral Candidate in Louisville. Barely hear about it. Anti-semitism alive and well in this country. U.S. Avocado inspector gets threatened in Mexico. No more Mexican avocados. Thank god we had no avocado shortage Super Bowl Sunday! \$13.45 is the average donation to the Bowman campaign. Wonder why?

For those of you who couldn’t get through on my radio show last week, even my sister could not get through to check on the emotional state of her brother. I love callers. But please, don’t call if you are going to tell me you spoke to Judges and bail reform is not the problem with the crime wave in our midst if you are not big enough to say which judges you spoke to. Did you speak with Judge Wapner? Judge Judy? I know it wasn’t Judge Jeanine!

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

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

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

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

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computer to computer. Viruses typically infect computers through “phishing” (think of “fishing”) whereby users accept a computer prompt ostensibly from reputable sources that really is from scammers; scammers seek unauthorized access to digital devices such as a home computer, often with the aim of hijacking online banking or credit information to make purchases.

“Once you let someone with bad intentions into your machine, it’s usually downhill from there,” says Jonathan Hauff, a computer consultant based in Larchmont NY who is a former WPCUG president and current WPCUG workshop moderator. Regarding telephone calls from scammers, “these are not nice people, though they try to sound nice on the phone. It’s a con game to them. They really are heartless criminals out to take advantage of people, especially older people” who are often too trusting.

On Jan. 27, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued an alert that scams involving online social media climbed a staggering 18-fold from 2017 to 2021.

Here are a few tips to avoid the growing threats of malware and viruses:

When in doubt about a phone or computer message for a bank transaction or online purchase such as with Amazon, don’t use links or phone numbers provided. If from scammers, those connections are not legitimate. Instead, independently dial or connect to a bank/retailer website to check the real status of an account.

Beware of popups messages when browsing websites urging software updates, which are sometimes legitimate but also can be phishing disguised to download malware.

Some computer security firms say that they can remove ransomware, which may be true; but once a ransomware executes a computer takeover, just removing some of the core malware software may not unlock computers and data.

Sometimes legitimate antivirus companies blast hard-sell messages online to push consumers into buying high-price protection. WPCUG recommends simple anti-virus software from reputable companies that typically is offered in a free version to home users or upgraded “premium” version at modest cost.

In what is a rare scam from the most sophisticated hackers, computers infected by malware can be used as listening devices to literally picking up sounds keystrokes from other devices within audio range. These aim to capture passwords being typed and are referred to as an “air gap,” a reference to two computers that are not directly connected.

It’s advised to check with professionals if encountering persistent malware on personal devices, because simply making malware disappear from screens doesn’t necessary mean it’s really gone.

The bad actors are active in several areas, says George Hauss, a Yonkers resident who teaches computer classes at Westchester Community College. They “are basically trying to get information from you such as banking and other financial passwords so they can transfer money out of your accounts. Some are trying to get your personal information for marketing purposes and are more benign so you’ll just get more targeted emails, although those can drive you crazy. Others are hackers who are trying to get into your computer without your consent to extract information or install encryption programs to make the computer inaccessible, and then hold the access for ransom,” said Hauss, a WPCUG member and semi-retired chemist and computer programmer.

Hauff, when speaking to consumer groups about tech, frequently asks the audience by show of hands to see who is doing full backups frequently and also who has ever suffered important data loss. He finds the same hands go up for both questions. “Unfortunately, few people do proper backups on a regular basis unless they have experienced a major data loss themselves,” Hauff observes.

He recommends making backups of personal data as insurance in the event of data loss; this creates a copy of data as of that moment. A full backup, when installing software and external hardware storage devices, can be complicated. But just duplicating personal data is a simple with online subscription backup services and free cloud storage offered by software companies. Having a duplicate of personal photos, Word files and an address book is a blessing in the event of a data loss.

Other safety measures include:

Stay up-to-date on software updates, which will include patches to block the latest viruses.

Realize that ALL software on a home computer needs to be updated, not just the core Microsoft or Apple operating systems. For example, hackers are known to target browsers and their extensions, and specialized home management software (controlling household lights, door cameras, etc.) on smart phones.

If one does get on a phone call or computer connection that raises suspicion, immediately terminate the phone call or the online connection, which means hanging up or shutting down the computer. If challenged by a victim becoming suspicious in a phone conversation, the scammer will simply accelerate installation of malware.

It’s usually better not to respond to suspicious emails and calls (“This is Amazon notifying you that a \$990 purchase billed to your account will be shipped momentarily...”) because doing so confirms to the scammer that contact information is valid. Simply disconnect. Contact Amazon to check without using links or phone numbers provided in the alarming messages.

Don’t use short, easy-to-guess passwords for online accounts, and especially don’t employ identical passwords across multiple accounts, because these are easy to hack. Multi-word phrases that are easy-to-remember (peppered with a few obscure characters) are one way can help keep track of different passwords.

Take the time to set up two-factor authentication (2FA)—security questions—on any account that offers, because that can defeat hackers.

For more information, visit the Westchester PC Users Group (<https://www.wpcug.org/>)

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

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

Notice is hereby given that a license , # pending has been applied for by Dazzles Restaurant & Lounge, Inc to sell liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 130 132 S. 4th Ave. Mt Vernon NY for on premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of HSKickz Company LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/09/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Bainton Street, Yonkers, New York 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of BARK BARK BROTHAS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State (SSNY) on 02/09/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50 Riverdale Avenue, 2H, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Visit YonkersTimes.com for up to date stories, and PDF’s of Yonkers Rising and Westchester Rising.

Con Ed, continued from pg. 8-

“The fact is the State has led us into an energy crisis that is creating a financial emergency for families, seniors on fixed incomes and small businesses,” said Supervisor Matt Slater. “We are facing record inflation and for the State to even consider a rate hike, coming off of a three-year rate hike, during these times just proves how out of touch and insane New York State has become.”

Utilities have argued that normal winter demand for power and fuel, combined with supply chain disruptions, have caused the price spikes in natural gas, which is used to create most of the electricity in New York.”

In a letter, NYS Public Service Commission Chair Rory Christian recommended that ConEd:

Mitigate the recent high customer bills by providing the full values of its hedged commodity procurements to customers in the next billing cycle.

Reassess its approach of forecasting its hedge value in billing cycle updates to reduce the likelihood of dramatic and sudden price volatility.

Improve communication to electric and gas customers to better explain forecasted commodity price changes.

On Feb. 10, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and State Senator Shelley B. Mayer sent a joint letter on Feb. to Consolidated Edison and the Public Service Commission demanding that recent rate increases be suspended and other measures be taken to mitigate the impact of the dramatic jump seen in Con Edison ratepayers’ bills.

“We have grave concerns about the financial shock these high costs will have for our constituents and others across New York State,” said the Senators in their letter. “The rise in charges will result in serious challenges for many New Yorkers, particularly those already struggling to make ends meet.”

Recent spikes in energy prices coinciding with a planned rate increase approved by the Public Service Commission have resulted in some ratepayers’ bills more than doubling between December 2021 and January 2022. Both Senators had opposed the planned rate increase.

In the letter, which is attached to this press release, the Senators said the “situation is unacceptable” and called on the Public Service Commission and Con Edison to take immediate action to provide relief to ratepayers.

“Both the Public Service Commission and Con Edison have a responsibility to ratepayers, and such dramatic and unexpected cost increases demand action on your part in order to fulfill that responsibility,” the Senators wrote.

Congressman Jamaal Bowman stated on Feb. 11,

“Just in the last three days, I have heard from many of our neighbors who are calling and writing in about Con Ed’s outrageous price hikes that have led to New Yorkers receiving energy bills that have doubled or even tripled in price,” said Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D. (NY-16). “To drop these kinds of increases on families at any time is unacceptable, but to do so during a pandemic and in the middle of winter when families are using heaters to stay warm is unconscionable. Con Ed has made record profits while our neighbors, even before the rate increase, were forced to choose between staying warm and paying more or battling the cold to avoid a higher energy bill. While Con Ed points to a rise in fuel prices and jumps to pass this cost onto consumers, this is caused by one thing and one thing only: corporate greed that puts profits before people.”

“Calling out this blatant show of corporate greed is not enough though “I support our community in calling for an investigation into Con Ed’s decision to raise prices on our neighbors and will continue working with the Biden Administration to stop companies like Con Ed from using the increased cost of fuel to implement unfair rate increases on consumers. I am calling on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to protect consumers from high energy costs this winter, and am urging my colleagues to immediately pass my Heating and Cooling Relief Act that will provide millions of people with assistance to pay their energy bills. We also need to have a deeper conversation about access to clean, affordable energy as a human right — not an opportunity for profit — which I believe can be facilitated by public ownership of utilities. I will keep fighting for our neighbors every step of the way.”

The question for Yonkers residents is they have the option of choosing Westchester Power as their energy provider. Currently, the rates offered by Westchester Power are lower than Con Edison. See the graphic on pg 8.

Residents can lock in at a renewable energy rate that is lower than Con Ed, and Con Ed is requesting a rate increase.

While there has been some concern about the fact that residents have to opt out of the new Westchester Power program or they will automatically be opted in, this newspaper has been writing stories for more than a month informing the people of Yonkers about this program.

Mayor Mike Spano explained it saying “A very simple way to look at this is you can lock in a low rate now and avoid any large increases. ‘

Letters to the Editor & Email Comments

To: Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy, Editor

Bravo to Eric Schoen for speaking out against the absurd, shameful attack on Yonkers Mayor Michael Spano and his statement about Rep. Bowman.. This is just a smear tactic effort by Bowman supporters to stop Spano from being a challenger for his Congressional seat. The entire premise was ridiculous: Congress members don’t get ‘arrested’ for how they vote - everyone know this. If Bowman was White NONE of this would be spewed; but because Bowman is Black the word ‘arrest’ can never be mentioned?? And Spano certainly wasn’t ‘calling for Bowman’s arrest’ like some of the biased lunatic media reported.

Furthermore, Mayor Spano has been outstanding in his advocacy, assistance and promotion of the Black community. This pitiful race-baiting hysteria is what will cause Democrats to lose seats in the next election. The public isn’t stupid: If Black leadership yells ‘racist’ every time they don’t like something, the word becomes meaningless; and in this case its truly distressing and sad.

Maria Cortez, Portchester

To The Editor, Dan Murphy, Rising Media Group

It is very distressing to read of Rep Bowman and Senator Stewart Cousins’ baseless attacks on Yonkers Mayor Michael Spano. If I understand them correctly, a white person referring to any black person with the word ‘arrest’ is somehow racist - are they for real? This is just a convenient deflection from Spano’s criticism of Bowman’s questionable vote on Build Back Better. Both need to apologize to Mayor Spano, who is well-known to treat everyone with respect and the utmost consideration - in Yonkers and in all his dealings.

Maria Goodwin, Yonkers

Make Changes to Bail Reform continued from pg. 1-

seen in most of New York and throughout the nation is a very real and extremely complicated problem. There are many factors to be considered when finding a real solution to solving this dilemma. Certainly, the proliferation of guns and the pandemic are among those factors. Other factors include the recently instituted criminal justice reforms including bail reform, raise the age and changes to the discovery laws. But let’s be clear. This should not be portrayed as a partisan problem.

“In a recent interview with NYCD-16 Indivisible, NY Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins stated over and over again that any implication that criminal justice, police and bail reform has led to a rise in crime is nothing more than a “Republican nationally coordinated campaign of fear.” This statement, no matter how often repeated, is simply preposterous. The Senator ignores many facts, including that several notable Democrats are also asking for change to these reforms, specifically bail reform. This includes high profile Dems such as Rep. Tom Suozzi, a candidate for NY Governor and newly elected Mayor of New York City Eric Adams. Both are petitioning Albany for changes to these reforms.

“It is high time that our elected officials honor the rights and needs of crime victims and law-abiding citizens instead of pandering to the wants of criminals. The constant vilification of police officers, who risk their lives day in and day out while protecting all members of our society, must stop as well. If these electeds continue to be tone deaf, they may soon see themselves looking for a new job,” said Olson.

Several elected officials in Westchester have also called for bail reform. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, in a recent interview on the Yonkers Voice with Ru Ros, “I’ve been saying for a while now that while I supported the concept of bail reform because the system has been unfair to black and brown people, especially with cash bail, the law was written with no input from District Attorneys, Mayor’s, law enforcement and judges.

“It took a lot of judicial discretion away. You have to believe in the system and in the ability of judges to make these decisions. The average new yorker is saying what’s going on here? We need to protect the residents of our city, some of who where guns are, can’t walk out of their home when it gets dark.”

“Under the old laws, there was an ability to keep some repeat offenders in jail. Some of our leaders are saying its a republican thing. That’s insane. Eric Adams, (NYC Mayor) and the Mayors of Syracuse and Rochester, and me, are all saying that we need to take another look at these laws. We are on the front lines and we see what’s happening,” said Mayor Spano.

County Legislator James Nolan said, “I wrote a letter to the Governor and our Albany representatives to recommend that they repeal or amend to The Cashless Bail Reform, The Raise The Age Law and other criminal justice laws. The revolving door of crime needs to come to an end and it must come now. Innocent people are becoming victimized more and more. I will not stand by and allow the constituents I represent of District 15, Westchester County, and New York State live in fear.

“This past week, I discussed the laws with my fellow Westchester County Board of Legislators members. My brother was murdered by someone that shouldn’t have been released, I have attended funerals for people I have never met to support the families because I know the pain, and the District I represent have spoken which I have no problem to speak up for them. Westchester County and New York State residents deserves to live in a safer community.

“I have spoke to many local officials and these repeals and changes are recommended to reduce crime and protect the innocent in our community. Repeal or amend The Cashless Bail Reform to allow the Judges to have discretion if they should release an individual or hold them especially for violent offenders. Repeal or amend The Raise The Age Law so that only the Judges can see the arrest history of the minor so that they can properly hand down a sentence. Fix the family court so that they can sentence the minor correctly,” said Nolan.

Yonkers City Councilman Mike Breen said, “These violent crimes committed with illegal guns have been occurring on a regular basis and the NYS legislators who refuse to change our laws to protect the law abiding are to blame. Day after day we are under attack by those that have no fear of punishment. The NYS legislature must act NOW before more innocent lives are lost.”

Stewart-Cousins, Bail Reform continued from pg. 1-

national republicans are saying don’t look at the pandemic and the proliferation of guns. Let’s look at progressive democrats who wanted to change the criminal justice system. They want to take the focus off guns and stoke fear and create a republican backlash. And democrats in NY State and nationally are in danger of losing their majorities if we don’t respond head on to this effort.”

“They want to link the fear with democrats being in charge. Our reforms on bail was about misdemeanors and non-violent felonies. Shooting people is still aailable offense, but no matter what the crime is they blame bail reform,” said Stewart-Cousins, who contrasted two criminal cases that most New Yorkers know about. Kalief Browder and Kyle Rittenhouse.

“Kalief Browder was held in jail for three years at Rikers Island because he was accused of stealing a backpack and didn’t have money (for bail). He ultimately killed himself. We will not criminalize poverty for non-violent misdemeanor offenses. Kyle Rittenhouse shot at three people and killed two people and he was out on bail. “

“It is clear that the police are not happy, but if we can’t beat back this effort, and allow people who are accused of non-violent offenses and misdemeanors to keep their jobs and keep their homes and keep their families while they await their court date, then we won’t be able to start having other conversations, if we can’t step up now.”

“The reality is that black and brown kids have been suspended from school and put on a pipeline to prison over the years. Black people are disproportionately overcharged and oversentenced. We can’t have justice and equality without changes in the system,” said Stewart-Cousins.

“I will sit down with any clear minded person to help make things better, but I will not respond to the republican coordinated campaign that refuses to understand the impact of the pandemic and guns, and refuses to pass a voting rights act, and is taking back women’s rights. We are not the problem, they are suppressing our votes and it has to stop.”

“Do not be fooled by this coordinated republican campaign of fear. Crime is up nationally, not because of bail reform in New York. They refuse to recognize the proliferation of guns.

“You know who the vigilantes are (in the police department) now. Your mad that we did the 50a reform that put police records out there, but if they would weed out there own bad apples, i wouldn’t have to do it. But there is no willingness to do it. They don’t want to change it from inside, and they are mad when its changed from the outside,” said Stewart-Cousins.

“I don’t think there is any kind of national democratic strategy, but there are people like me who have a national voice. I will try to hammer the message. It needs to be crystalized on a grass roots level. We have to be clear that this is a national republican coordinated effort of fear, and they want to get us out of office.

“Joe Biden hasn’t been able to figure out his message. We (democrats) are all over the place. If we don’t correct this nothing else is going to happen. We are the only people who are going to destroy our ability to lead. Push back hard, because right now we could get wiped out nationally and in terms of the senate, here in New York,” said Stewart-Cousins.

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

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Yonkers Own Mary J Blige Performs at Super Bowl 56



Mary J. Blige, performs at Super Bowl 56, photo from the NFL

Yonkers native, singer, actress and songwriter Mary J. Blige, who was the only woman to perform at Super Bowl 56 on Feb. 13. After her performance, which many are calling among her best, and a new studio album recently released, titled, "Good Morning Gorgeous," Blige's career is on the rise. But as she explained in interviews before her performance with Dr. Dre, Eminem, Snoop Dogg and Kendrick Lamar, the lead single from her 15th album titled "Rent Money" is personal. Blige was forced to pay her ex-husband and former manager, Martin "Kendu" Isaacs, \$30,000 a month in alimony in 2017. "Rent money is [about] when I first got divorced. I had to give up all this alimony, and I had to go on tour, and make all the money back to pay. I didn't have no money to pay my rent." Blige 51, is known as the "Queen of Hip-Hop Soul," and her Super Bowl performance did not disappoint. But she also dazzled fans with her bodysuit, which featured 10,000 Swarovski crystals, and was designed by Peter Dundas. Blige sang two of her old school classics, "Family Affair" and "No More Drama," from 2001, at the halftime show at SoFi Stadium in LA. The 9 time grammy winner has been getting nothing but praise for her performance and her outfit. Some declaring that "she won" the rap battle for best Super Bowl performance. Regardless of who won, except for the Rams who won the game, Yonkers is proud!

Yonkers Downtown BID Restaurant Week is Here, Feb. 15-March 1



The Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront Business Improvement District is once again hosting the exciting and delicious Yonkers Downtown Restaurant Week. This year's event will be taking place from February 15th through March 1st, offering \$20 lunch or \$40 dinner meals with dine-in, takeout and delivery options available. View each restaurant's menus for their specific offerings. From Mexican to Italian and America to Irish, the twelve participating restaurants highlight the wide variety of dining options that are available in Yonkers Downtown. "We couldn't be more excited to welcome residents and visitors to sample the array of cultural cuisines we have here in Yonkers Downtown," said Sara Brody, Executive Director of the YDWBID. "After last year's successful takeout spin, we have decided to offer both in-person dining and takeout/delivery so there is an option for everyone. As the numbers of covid cases are continuing to drop in our area, more people are feeling comfortable dining out. It is more important than ever it to support and advance the small businesses we know and love." With this year's event offering both in-person dining, delivery and takeout options, Yonkers Downtown Restaurant Week truly offers something for everyone's food cravings and comfortability. The takeout option is a great alternative for those who want to spend a cozy night at home or are not comfortable dining inside. Diners looking to make reservations or place a takeout order must call the restaurants directly and mention Yonkers Downtown Restaurant Week. Those looking to do delivery must order directly on the DoorDash app. Yonkers Downtown Restaurant Week is proudly sponsored by DoorDash. Enjoy 30% off your first order on DoorDash with code YRW30. Discount code is only valid from Feb 15 - Mar 1. 2022 Participating Restaurants Include: Dolphin, Dos Marias, Francey Brady's, Giovanni's IV, Guapo, La Bella Havana, Metate Restaurant, Off The Hook, The Pizza Place, X2O Xaviars on the Hudson, Yonkers Brewing Co., Zuppa To explore the full list of restaurants and learn more about special menu promotions being offered visit

<https://yonkersdowntown.com/yonkersrestaurantweek/>

Westchester Power Give Yonkers Residents Cheaper, Greener Alternative to Con Ed Rate Hikes

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| WESTCHESTER POWER | | |
| | | |
| 8.7¢ kWh | 7.3¢ kWh | 16.0¢ kWh* |
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| (18 months fixed rate) | | *Rate as of February 2022 |



HEY YONKERS NEIGHBORS!

Yonkers is joining the Westchester Power Community Energy Program. Come learn more at these convenient sessions....

Join us for a Community Energy Information Session to learn about the Westchester Power Program, the importance of community energy, and how your potential participation will help to reduce emissions and create a more vibrant, healthy community.

Where: On ZOOM, of course!
When: Biweekly Drop-Ins @ 12 + 6PM on Wednesday January 19, February 16, March 2, March 30
All sessions include Spanish speaking support.
Join on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/YonkersCleanEnergyInfo>

“A very simple way to look at this is you can lock in a low rate now and avoid any large increases.”
 -Mayor Mike Spano

By Dan Murphy

The outrage to a proposed 17% Con Edison rate hike has spread across Westchester and New York State, at the same time as residents in Yonkers are being offered a renewable energy rate from Westchester Power that is less than Con Ed's rate, even before the new rate increase goes into effect. Governor Kathy Hochul urged Con Edison to review their billing practices and better communicate with New Yorkers after the recent surge in energy costs in New York State left many already struggling New Yorkers surprised, through a letter from Public Service Commission (PSC), and also announced increased relief efforts to reach low-income New Yorkers about millions of dollars in aid available. "The extreme utility bill increases we are seeing across the state come at a time when New Yorkers are already struggling financially following the COVID-19 pandemic," Governor Hochul said. "Even though the spike we are seeing in electricity, natural gas and fuel prices were predicted and are due to severe winter weather, I am calling on Con Ed to review their billing practices because we must take unified action to provide relief for New Yorkers, especially our most vulnerable residents." This winter the cost of natural gas, which is used to heat homes and generate electricity, has risen sharply resulting in a significant increase — sometimes more than doubling — of the supply component of customer electric and/or natural gas bills as compared to prior months. These bill increases are being driven by a global increase in natural gas commodity prices due to higher domestic usage because of colder-than-normal weather, increased economic activity, and increased international demand for natural gas. Some residents in Yorktown have seen their Con Ed bills double over the winter, resulting in a rally on Feb. 11 to condemn skyrocketing utility rates and demanded answers, transparency, and accountability. "The fact is the State has led us into an energy crisis that is creating a financial emergency for families, seniors on fixed incomes and small businesses," said Supervisor Matt Slater. "We are facing record inflation and for the State to even

Hey Yonkers Neighbors!

Join us for a Community Energy Information Session to learn about the Westchester Power Program, the importance of community energy, and how Yonker's potential participation will help to reduce emissions and create a more vibrant, healthy community.

Where: On ZOOM, of course!
When: February 22nd, 2021
Time: 6PM

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/yonkersfeb22>