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Council Passes on Affordable Housing Ordinance Override of Spano Veto Negotiation Likely for Increase to 13%



The Yonkers City Council declined to vote on an override of Mayor Mike Spano's veto of an increase in the Affordable Housing Ordinance from its current 10% to 20%. The AFO sets the number of affordable housing units that developers have to build for new development projects.

Mayor Spano vetoed the AFO in July. "While I support enhancing our affordable housing stock, the ordinance passed by the Council fails to address the fiscal concerns raised by the report, such as what means are available to increase public subsidies necessitated by the AHO," Mayor Spano stated in his veto message.

"The Council also presented no alternative analysis or narrative that disagreed with HR&A's findings, nor did they prepare an analysis regarding the potential effects on the City if it was to significantly increase the tax subsidy to developers."

Since then, the City Council had been discussing an override of the Mayor's veto. This would require 5 of the 7 councilmembers to vote yes to override.

At the council meeting held last week, the override vote was planned and City Council Minority Leader Mike Been had placed the item up for debate.

But democrats on the council adjourned and then tabled the item. Because the item is now tabled, it appears that the council will let the override die in committee. Councilman Breen and Councilman Merante were set to vote no, and no word on what the other councilmembers had in mind.

Mayor Spano had cited an independent report conducted by HR&A Advisors, Inc. stating the proposed amendment is infeasible without significant public subsidy.

According to HR&A, which has worked with cities throughout the United States to develop affordable housing ordinances, the proposed amended AHO will result in a halt to new market rate housing construction absent a City tax subsidy that would be double that of which is currently granted to market rate developers. HR&A issued and presented the comprehensive analysis, which included feedback from community stakeholders and developers, to the Yonkers City Council before its vote in June. Spano's veto message also cites Yonkers Planning Board's opposition to the amended AHO. The AHO was first passed in 2013.

Negotiations could have all sides agree on a number for an affordable housing rate. Two numbers tossed out include 13% or 16%.

Yonkers Assemblyman Nader Sayegh Meets with King Abdullah of Jordan



L-R-Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Sena Sayegh

New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the first Jordanian-American elected to the State Assembly, met with King Abdullah II of Jordan Tuesday in New York City. King Abdullah II is here for the United Nations General Assembly's meeting of World Leaders.

"Today, with my wife Sana, I had the distinct honor of meeting King Abdullah II of Jordan on his working visit to New York. The King and I spoke extensively about issues impacting Jordanian-Americans in the United States and abroad. As a pro-western ally, Jordan plays a significant role in maintaining regional stability in the Middle East, warmly accepting millions of refugees from neighboring ongoing conflicts."

Assemblyman Sayegh presented King Abdulla II with several Resolutions, Citations, and Proclamations that he has introduced, celebrating Jordanian and Arab American heritage here in New York State, including the joint Senate Assembly Proclamation honoring Jordan for its 75th year of Independence. In addition to meeting with King Abdullah II, the Assemblyman also met with Dina Kawar, Jordan's Ambassador to the United States, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ayman Safadi, Mohammad AlZaben, Supervisor of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the Kings Chief of Staff, Dr. Jafar Hassan.

"As the highest Jordanian-American elected official in New York and the country, it was an honor to meet with this acclaimed leader from my ancestral nation. King Abdullah II promised continued cooperation with the United States and welcomed an invitation to meet with local community representatives and City of Yonkers State, Federal and local representatives."

New Yonkers Charter High School Opens



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano cuts the ribbon on CSEE High School

On Sept. 15, the Charter School of Educational Excellence celebrated the opening of Yonkers' first new public high school in decades, which was the culmination of 16 years of effort by a dedicated group of volunteers.

The \$27 million new building at 220 Warburton Ave. achieves the vision by the founders of the CSEE to create a K-12 school that provides educational choices for families of all economic backgrounds in Yonkers and the surrounding communities.

"With the opening of this new facility, our school will offer families access to a learning community that will nurture their children from the beginning of their educational journey until they reach college age," said Eduardo LaGuerre, the CSEE's founder and chairman of the Board of Trustees. "I am grateful to our board members, teachers and parents who supported us through the past 16 years as we expanded from a small school with 250 students in a former strip mall to a vibrant, state-of-the-art campus that accommodates 1,126 students."

The 76,000-square-foot high school includes a competition-size soccer field and oversized classrooms. The high school will offer culinary arts, automobile technology and health sciences programs that will allow graduating students to acquire immediate employment. For the students seeking to continue their studies, the CSEE's curriculum will include up to 24 college credits.

The student body is expected to reach 1,026 children in the fall. About half the students are from Yonkers, with the rest predominantly from Mount Vernon and the Bronx. The CSEE began phasing in high school grades in 2019 and this fall the high school will have grades 9 through 11. The 12th-grade cohort will be introduced in the fall of 2022.

From its opening in 2005, the CSEE's mission is to empower children to excel. Consequently, students performed better on state assessment exams than their counterparts in the Yonkers Public Schools for the last six years. The NYS Education Department designated the CSEE as an exceptional Reward School.

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Mount Sinai's Prostate Cancer Expert Urges Men Over 55 to Get Tested



Dr. Vannita Simma-Chiang

By Dan Murphy

September is National Prostate Health Month (NPHM), and a time to highlight the importance of prostate health and early detection of prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in men in the United States. About 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 30,000 men in the US will die every year from prostate cancer.

We spoke with Dr. Vannita Simma-Chiang, of Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester, and Assistant Professor of Urology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, to discuss options for middle aged and high-risk men of getting tested for Prostate Cancer and treatment options.

"Prostate cancer, as with all cancers, is an abnormal growth of cells in the body, which originate in the prostate. While there are different types of prostate cancer, the one that we know about most is adenocarcinoma, which is the most common and prevalent type of prostate cancer," said Dr. Simma-Chiang.

"Most Urologist based studies have found that the risk of prostate cancer is more likely in men over the age of 55. African American men have a higher rate of prostate cancer, with studies finding 1 in 6 African American males will be diagnosed at some point in their lives. Non-Hispanic, white men also have the 2nd highest rate of Prostate cancer. And while Asian-American and Latino men have a lower rate of prostate cancer, it doesn't mean its zero.

"We have also noticed in studies a link to being overweight in your 50's with a greater risk of prostate cancer. These are all findings that we should be aware of."

What are the signs and symptoms that men can look out for to prevent prostate cancer? "Most Prostate Cancer is asymptomatic. Most men don't experience any symptoms at all. That's why it is so important to have a screening before reaching the later stages of prostate cancer, where lots of

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Two Alzheimer's Awareness Events Westchester Sept. 25

Prelude for Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's Oct. 3,



Two Alzheimer's Awareness events are planned on Saturday, Sept. 25, ahead of the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Westchester and Rockland counties in October.

From 6-8 p.m. at Horan's Landing in Sleepy Hollow, there will be a Bridge Lighting Watch Party featuring food trucks and a DJ — ultimately culminating in the lighting of the Mario Cuomo Bridge in purple for Alzheimer's Awareness.

At 8 p.m. that night, the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill will also host an Alzheimer's Awareness Evening during its "Gypsy" concert celebrating the music of Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac. The Alzheimer's Association will have a table at the event with staff on hand to talk about the organization's programs, services and fundraisers.

The Paramount's manager said the theater was happy to help raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease. "Paramount Hudson Valley Arts is proud to partner with organizations that make a difference in the welfare of our community," said George De Feis, General Manager at Paramount Hudson Valley Arts. "The Alzheimer's Association brings awareness and resources to those impacted by this horrible disease. We are happy to shine a spotlight on them during one of our live music performances."

"The Alzheimer's Association is thrilled to partner with the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater to spread awareness of the disease," said David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "We want families affected by dementia to know we're there for them as research continues to find a cure. We are looking forward to a fun and informative night at Paramount Hudson Valley Theater."

The Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at Westchester Community College, with check-in starting at 1 p.m. and the opening ceremony at 2 p.m. followed by the walk. The Rockland Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, Oct 10, at Boulder Stadium in Pomona with check-in starting at 9 a.m. and the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. followed by the walk. The walks will be held in person, observing safety protocols, but participants can also choose to participate remotely at the locations of their choice. More information about all five Hudson Valley walks is available at HudsonValleyWalks.org.

Yonkers Bowl This Friday, and Both Teams Need a Win



Yonkers Force running back Gavin Thomas #10, photo by DocWszolek

By Phil Foley

Yes Yonkers football fans the big game will take place this Friday night, September 24th, at Roosevelt HS. Kick off will be at 6pm. Seating for the game is very limited and if you need to buy a ticket you must go to a local Yonkers HS and buy one! Jim Rose the Yonkers Athletic Director has informed me that tickets are extremely scarce as seating for this game is very limited.

The teams played two games last weekend Mamaroneck HS defeated the Yonkers Force last Friday night at Mamaroneck HS 41-8. Atticus Oelkers rushed for 52 yards. Ryan Joseph had 30 yards rushing and 1 touchdown! Also for the Force Mahamed Ali had a fumble recovery.

Last Saturday the Yonkers Brave lost to Mount Vernon HS by the score of 30-0. Both teams are getting better each week and we hope this week's game is a good one.

I know the players and the coaching staffs will give 100% on the field! Good luck to Coaches Anthony Fava of the Yonkers Force and Vic Chiappa of the Yonkers Force too!

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Yonkers Office for the Aging Launches Robotic Pet Pilot Program to Help Social Isolation



Mayor Mike Spano today announced the Yonkers Office for the Aging (YOFA) has joined the New York State Office for the Aging and Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services for its new robotic pet program. The initiative is aimed at addressing social isolation and depression amongst aging Yonkers residents.

Through the program, each participant is given either a robotic pet cat or dog, designed by Joy for All Companion Pets, that have life-like qualities including sound and movement. The cat pets open and close their eyes, purrs, lifts their paw, opens their mouth, moves their head and body, and have synthetic, soft, brushable fur. The dog pets bark, move and respond to voices.

“Social isolation and loneliness can affect the physical and mental health of older adults, including those with cognitive impairment,” said Mayor Spano. “I am elated to know that the Yonkers Office for the Aging decided to introduce a program to our seniors that brings fun and play, during this time when it is needed most.”

Through case management services, YOFA program participants are selected based on:

- Ø Their score on a loneliness scale
- Ø Their expressed level of interest in receiving a robotic cat or dog
- Ø Whether they are clients of Yonkers Office for the Aging’s case management system

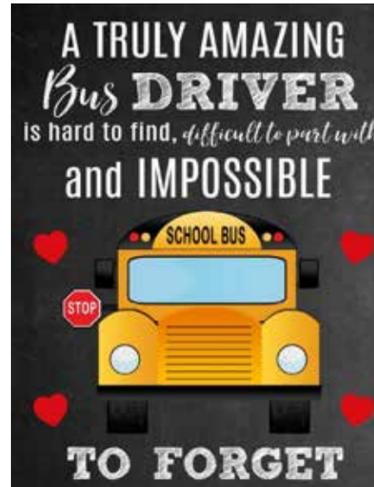
All participants will be re-evaluated at various stages and will keep their pets.

“Social Isolation has been a major challenge during the pandemic, especially for our seniors who are some of our most vulnerable residents,” said Westchester County Executive, George Latimer. “These pets have brought them much joy and comfort during a time of need, and we are happy to partner with the New York State Office for the Aging and Yonkers on this important initiative, to address depression and loneliness among our seniors.”

New York State Office for the Aging Director, Greg Olsen added, “The use of animatronic pets to combat social isolation and loneliness among older adults has been well established. We are thrilled to partner with the Yonkers Office for the Aging to distribute these pets to socially isolated

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It Isn't Easy Being A School Bus Driver



By Eric W. Schoen

School is back in session. Fortunately, most students are learning in classrooms and not remotely. There is nothing like students being live in class receiving instruction from a teacher who cares about them. Unfortunately, across the country there is a shortage of school bus drivers. Sadly, this shortage was to be expected.

After you read this article I want you to think seriously if you would want to be a school bus driver. Particularly with Covid still very much a presence. Many school bus drivers are retirees who enjoy the interaction with students. Do you really think these retirees, many in their late 60's, 70's and older want to be driving students and interacting with parents in the midst of a pandemic?

For most school bus drivers driving a school bus is a part time job. The pay is not great, the hours force you to wake up early, have a long break mid-day and come back to take students home dropping off your bus just in time for dinner. If you drive a bus on country roads it's not that bad and you don't hit traffic.

But in a city like Yonkers with all of the hills where cars are allowed to park on both sides of the street particularly in hilly areas where there is little room to maneuver, driving a small 15 passenger bus let alone a 45 passenger bus is no easy task. Dealing with cars that are double parked or parked illegally makes the job of a bus driver that much more difficult, and need I tell you that in our fast paced environment interactions with those parked where they shouldn't be is no fun.

Let's for a minute step back and see how the child gets assigned to a school bus. He or she must be enrolled in school. For some strange reason, parents who have moved, who have kids turning school age or decided to take their children out of private schools think about enrolling their kids in Public Schools on Labor Day and the week before it. This is just not a Yonkers thing. It happens in New York City, most big cities in America and many smaller districts.

Late registration keeps bus assignment staff and computers working to the last minute days if not hours before school begins. A parent who had registered their child for PreK the week before school begins called to complain to a friend of mine that the district didn't have a PreK seat for the child. I was far from surprised. Many PreK seats are in private schools, and just like it's hard to find a teacher in the public schools at the last minute private schools cannot plan for PreK and find a classroom and staff the day before school begins.

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VISIT THE NEW WESTCHESTER COUNTY 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL AT KENSICO DAM PLAZA

The Westchester County 9/11 First Responders Memorial is made up of granite stones set on a stone veneer wall.

Each stone is etched with the names of the Westchester County 9/11 First Responders who passed from 9/11 related illnesses.

“There’s No Vaccine for Hunger” Help Feeding Westchester During Hunger Action Month

Hunger Action Month Campaign Aims to Inspire the Westchester Community to Get Involved and Ensure that Food Isn’t an Impossible Choice for Our Neighbors Facing Hunger

For Hunger Action Month® this September, Feeding Westchester joins Feeding America and other network member food banks to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of people facing the impossible choice of hunger. Food banks around the country are working to make a real and lasting impact on food insecurity in their communities, and they are asking for the public’s support.

September marks the 14th year Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization with a nationwide network of 200 food banks, including Feeding Westchester and its nearly 300 community partners and meal programs, has organized the annual call to action. This year’s campaign presents the impossible choices that millions of Americans – including hundreds of thousands right here in Westchester – must make between food and other basic needs.

“This Hunger Action Month, we continue to see an incredibly increased need – one that has not diminished – for food across Westchester County,” said Karen C. Erren, President and CEO of Feeding Westchester. “The support of our community – donors, volunteers, advocates, corporate partners, community groups, retail recovery partners – is critical as we strive to educate and inspire others to get involved in hunger relief, and join us in our shared mission to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger.”

During the month of September, the Westchester community can get involved in the movement by learning, committing, and speaking up about ways to ending hunger, including:

Take the challenge to help us Fill 30 Bins in 30 Days by donating food to our Hunger Action Month Food Drive Throughout the month, or on Hunger Action Day, Friday, September 17, wear orange to show your support for hunger relief – take a photo, share it on social, and hashtag #FeedingWestchester #HungerActionMonth

Use your voice to advocate for local, state, and federal policies that support your neighbors in need, like ending child hunger

Join us at local events, including Paws Crossed Animal Rescue’s 6th Annual Paws Crossed Day on Sunday, September 19 at 12 p.m. in Elmsford, and Westchester Magazine’s Wine & Food Festival Grand Tasting Village on Saturday, September 25 at 12 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla

“For many, a daily meal is a simple choice of what to eat,” said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. “For people facing hunger, a daily meal poses a very different type of choice. It’s often an impossible decision between food or other crucial needs, such as electricity, childcare, or medicine. Nobody should be forced to make a choice to go hungry. With the public’s support, we can come together to help people achieve long-term food security, so they no longer have to make such tough decisions.”

Hunger Action Month is a time to mobilize to alleviate and end hunger. You can choose to donate or advocate. You can choose to volunteer or raise awareness. You can choose to help end hunger. Learn more about how you can take action today by visiting feedingwestchester.org/hungeractionmonth.

Every \$1 donated to Feeding Westchester provides up to three meals for local children, seniors, and families struggling with hunger. To find help, or to give help, visit feedingwestchester.org or call (914) 923-1100. For the latest news and updates, follow @FeedingWestchester on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and @FeedWestchester on Twitter.

Hunger will persist in Westchester County, which this year had eight communities ranked on Bloomberg News’ 200 richest places in the U.S., the most of any county in the country. Westchester is home to Fortune 500 executives, to Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and MasterCard, IBM and Pepsico. But it, too, is also a place where the coronavirus took food off the tables of families who had never known that feeling before.

By one estimate, at the height of the crisis, one in five Westchester residents did not have enough to eat. And if it can happen in Westchester, it can happen anywhere. As one food banker puts it: “There’s no vaccine for hunger.”

SBA Opens Business Recovery Center in Westchester for Businesses Affected by Ida

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today the opening of a Business Recovery Center (BRC) at the New York Power Authority building in White Plains, New York on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 9 a.m. to provide one-on-one assistance to businesses and residents in submitting a disaster loan application for the remnants of Hurricane Ida on Sept. 1-3, 2021.

Businesses, homeowners, renters and private nonprofit organizations in the New York counties of Bronx, Kings, Nassau, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk and Westchester are eligible to apply for physical disaster loans and for Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans: New York, Orange, Putnam and Rockland in New York; Fairfield in Connecticut; and Bergen in New Jersey.

The SBA Business Recovery Center-Westchester County is located in the New York Power Authority Building, 123 Main Street, White Plains, NY 10601. They opened on September 21, with hours of Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday

Customer Service Representatives will be available at the BRC to answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist business owners, homeowners and renters in completing their applications. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA has established protocols to help protect the health and safety of the public. All visitors to the BRC are encouraged to wear a face mask.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a sump pump, elevation, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 2.855 percent for businesses, 2 percent for nonprofit organizations and 1.563 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>, and should apply under SBA declaration # 17147, not for the COVID-19 incident.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or emailing DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 4, 2021. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 6, 2022.

Send us your letters, opinions, photos and stories to risingmediagroup@gmail.com

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Attend a Tuesday meeting 7:30 - 9:00 PM to find out more.
Sacred Heart Church Hall, 40 Convent Ave, Yonkers
For more information email troop12yonkers@gmail.com

Letters to Yonkers Rising

The human race is used to dominating the earth, often conquering or vanishing any creature or object that gets in its way. However, something new has dominated the earth, something inanimate, and that is plastic.

According to an article published by The Nature Conservancy in July of 2021, if current trends continue, about 12 billion metric tons of plastic waste will be in our landfills or polluting the environment by 2050. That amount is 4 billion more than the human population which is about 8 billion. This issue needs to be confronted and we must find ways to not only reduce the amount of plastic production but also plastic consumption.

Ideally plastic production should be terminated completely but corporations aren't ready to lose the billions of dollars they make polluting our planet. However this is not meant to discourage others yet show others how we can make significant changes locally and globally. For starters we have to stop consuming single use plastics, these are the most harmful since they are discarded almost immediately. We can convert to buying glass items which can later be repurposed. We can also bring our own utensils to eateries when dining out.

Most importantly, we must refrain absolutely from using plastic bags. Reusable bags, especially cloth ones, are the best to use when grocery shopping. When shopping, always look for an alternative to plastic and if there aren't any available or they are too expensive, second hand stores are an amazing option. The prices at secondhand stores are very affordable and one can truly find unique and durable pieces that won't be harmful and pollute our planet. I urge you all to take direct action and replace plastic in your lives. Plastic isn't a necessity and it definitely should not occupy more space on our planet than we do.

Thank you for your acknowledgement.
Natalie Maldonado Smith, former Yonkers resident and college student

Letter to the Editor:

Tim Hodges "concerns" are an irresponsible load of nonsense. Raccoons and skunks are not predators, and coyotes are more likely to run away from humans. The real danger in Yonkers, as with almost everywhere else, is human encroachment into wild spaces. Do you not have any compassion? If you happen to see any of these so-called predators, it's most likely because people have disturbed or destroyed their home environment, or these poor creatures are hungry. Additionally, misguided and cruel attempts to "remove" species only results in more of the same species repopulating the area. People need to learn to share, be kind, and ignore this kind of ill-informed rhetoric.

Thank you. *Christina D, New Rochelle*

Former Forever 21 Employee Gets No Jail Time for Secretly Recording Women in Dressing Room



Heriberto Polanco

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Bronx resident Heriberto Polanco pled guilty to unlawful surveillance on Tuesday after he secretly recorded women in dressing rooms while he worked at Forever 21 at the Cross County Center in Yonkers.

Polanco, 27, pled guilty on September 14, 2021, to three counts of Unlawful Surveillance in the Second Degree, a felony. According to his plea agreement, Polanco will receive probationary supervision with sex offender specific conditions and will be required to register as a sex offender.

On August 28, 2019, at approximately 7:15 p.m., a customer at Forever 21 at the Cross County Center in Yonkers was trying on clothes in a unisex dressing room when she noticed a cell phone sitting on top of a sneaker outside her room with the camera lens aimed directly at her. The victim screamed and immediately called Yonkers Police, who identified Polanco, an employee, as a suspect after the victim's sister reported seeing Polanco running out of the dressing rooms.

On September 10, 2019, Polanco admitted to Yonkers Police that he placed his phone under the victim's dressing room in an attempt to record her changing. He also admitted to recording other female customers in the Forever 21 dressing rooms without their permission during August 2019.

"The predatory behavior Heriberto Polanco displayed is incredibly disturbing and unacceptable," DA Rocah said. "Everyone should have the expectation of privacy when they enter a changing room in a store, and Mr. Polanco violated that on numerous occasions."

The case is before Judge Susan Cacace in Westchester County Court and is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Marissa Morra-Wynn. Polanco is scheduled to be sentenced on December 7, 2021.

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



Former President Teddy Roosevelt in Yonkers, 1914

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

Monday, September 27th

September 27, 1854: Captain James E. Luce of Yonkers was involved in a fatal collision with another steamship off the shore of Newfoundland. His ship, the SS Arctic, a transatlantic mail and passenger paddle steamship known for its speed and luxury, sank four hours after colliding in the fog with the French steamer SS Vesta. Not realizing the Arctic's damage, Luce tried to help the Vesta, but headed towards shore as soon as he discovered his ship was "seriously holed" below the waterline. Luce launched the lifeboats, but the lifeboat capacity was 180, less than half of the passengers and crew on board. Only two lifeboats reached shore; a passing ship picked up a third as well as a few passengers floating on makeshift rafts. Of the 400 people on the ship, only 24-male passengers and 61-crew members survived; all women and children perished. Captain Luce followed tradition and went down with the ship; somehow he managed to surface and was rescued two days later, clinging to wreckage of the paddle-wheel box. Although exonerated from responsibility with testimonials to his "noble and heroic conduct," he retired from the sea afterwards.

Tuesday, September 28th

September 28, 1915: Alexander Smith Cochran entertained the 56 members of the Yonkers' GAR Kitching Post attending the national encampment of the Civil War Veterans' Association in Washington.

September 28, 1950: Max Alth of Riverdale Avenue wrote an article for American Home Magazine, comparing Halloween in Yonkers before the PAL Ragamuffin Parade with the celebrations after the parade started. He stated the number of police calls, brush fires, false alarms and other incidents of vandalism dropped substantially, noting the 1949 Ragamuffin Parade had 11,000 children participating and 70,000 spectators along the parade route.

Wednesday, September 29th

September 29, 1913: City Judge Joseph Beall went to Albany to testify in the Sulzer impeachment proceedings. Sulzer, Governor of New York, attempted to institute a series of reforms such as investigations into corruption in the State Legislature. He refused to follow Tammany "suggestions" for state appointments, considered a major threat to the organization. Accusations against the Governor included perjury in an 1890 lawsuit and involvement in fraudulent companies in Cuba. He was accused of using campaign money to purchase stock, a charge his wife admitted right before the hearings. At the same time, a model from Philadelphia sued him for breach of promise, swearing he had promised to marry her in 1903; Sulzer claimed this was a "frame-up."

September 29, 1918: After the Yonkers Chapter of the Red Cross issued an urgent appeal for clothing for destitute Belgians, more than 500 Boy Scouts scoured the city, looking for available clothing.

Thursday, September 30th

September 30, 1925: Thieves committed a daring robbery of \$2,000 worth of meats from the Morris Company storehouse at 6 Ashburton Avenue. They drove their truck into a side entrance and used cable pulleys to swing huge pieces of pork and quarters of beef onto their truck.

September 30, 1935: Three Portuguese societies presented the City of Yonkers a bronze statue symbolizing the liberty of Portugal in a ceremony held at the Polish Community Center. The statue was designed and created by Joseph Ferreira, an employee at St. John's Riverside Hospital.

September 30, 1951: After negotiations failed between IEWU Local 453 and Otis Elevator, nearly 2,000 workers, both production and office employees, went on strike and shut down the Yonkers plant.

Friday October 1st

October 1, 1910 Office Thomas McCaul fired two shots and caught a man attempting to enter the home of world famous actor Jefferson DeAngelis on Sunnyside Drive. Assemblyman George Rigby, Alanson Prim and Arthur Lawrence, neighbors of the noted actor, joined in the chase of the miscreant.

DeAngelis was a 19th-20th century stage actor who specialized in comedy and acrobatic clowning, achieving fame both in vaudeville and on Broadway. One of his better-known performances was in the hit 1927 Broadway play "The Royal Family" by Edna Ferber. He occasionally appeared in silent films and shorts. De Angelis wrote his autobiography in 1931 titled A Vagabond Trouper with Alvin E. Harlow.

October 1, 1920: October 1, 1921: National League umpire Bill Klem returned to his home at 610 South Broadway after officiating the inter-city series in Chicago. Upon arriving home, he received word he was appointed to be an umpire in the World's Series for the tenth year!

Saturday, October 2nd

October 2, 1916: Yonkers Public Schools reopened for the fall term after a three-

continued on pg 7-

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Notice of formation of Tint Skincare, LLC filed with the SSNY on 8/23/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 137 Alexander Street, #2269, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Erin Lyles, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/30/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 23 Addison Street, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Mastering Every Available Network, LLC. Arts. of Org filed with SSNY on May 11, 2021, office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to P.O. Box 22, Mount Vernon New York 10551, Purpose: any unlawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 8th Street LLC filed with United States Corporation Agents, INC 7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn, NY, 11228 ,USA on 6-29-2021. Office Westchester County. The United States Corporation Agents, INC .Designated as agent off LLC upon whom process against it may be served. United States Corporation Agents, INC shall mail copy of process to the LLC 300 Mamaroneck Ave unit 522 White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose : Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Sol Hairstylist, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 06/25/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 92 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Sosa Cleaning Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/10/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 40 Post Street, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 5:00pm, Mayor’s Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF

YONKERS, ENTITLED ‘VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’ IN REGARDS TO DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR TOWING AND IMPOUNDED VEHICLES.

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor
Date: September 21, 2021

Yonkers Seniors , continued from pg 3-

older New Yorkers that we know will improve their quality of life.” Director of Yonkers Office for the Aging, Kelly Chiarella added, “These robotic pets are an innovative means to reduce our seniors’ loneliness while also improving their health and well-being. When making wellness calls and assessments, our YOFA case managers make it a point to ask about their pets. We hope the robotic pets help to bring joy, comfort and companionship.”

Yonkers Office for the Aging also combats social isolation through their four congregate nutrition programs that serve as social hubs. YOFA continues to provide monthly virtual activities to clients who choose to participate online. For additional information, contact Yonkers Office for the Aging at (914) 377-6822.

Yonkers Office for the Aging provides services to Yonkers residents 60 years of age and over. There is no fee for any Office for the Aging service. Voluntary contributions are suggested for meals and transportation. Programs are funded by the City of Yonkers and federal and state grants through NYS and Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

Charter School High School , continued from pg 1-

According to assessment results posted on the New York State Education Department’s website, 80 percent of the CSEE’s third graders and 72 percent of eighth graders scored at proficient levels in English language arts exams.

At the Yonkers Public Schools, 40 percent of third graders and 32 percent of eighth graders scored at proficient levels in English language arts exams, according to the state’s website.

The CSEE is a public school open to any school-aged New York child. The CSEE is funded through payments made by public school districts where the attending students live.

The new high school was built on the grounds of the former Our Lady of the Rosary Church, which the charter school bought from the New York Archdiocese for \$3.2 million. Due to asbestos contamination, the school was unable to preserve the church building as it had originally intended.

As the successes at CSEE continue, Dr. Eduardo LaGuerre, founder and chairman of the Board of Trustees, Charter School of Educational Excellence, wrote the following editorial. Titled *New high school’s opening is a victory for everyone in Yonkers*, LaGuerre writes, “Next month the Charter School of Educational Excellence will open a \$27 million state-of-the-art high school in Yonkers, the city’s first new public high school building in decades.

Aside from the significance of the new construction, the opening of the 78,000-square-foot high school at 220 Warburton Ave. fulfills a vision that inspired me and my co-founders almost 20 years ago to launch a public charter school in Yonkers. Despite years of opposition, we have successfully delivered school choice, educational equity, and high academic standards to low-income families. It is important to understand that the Charter School of Educational Excellence is a PUBLIC school, and any child resident of New York is eligible to attend. The money follows the child.

School choice is a controversial concept that our society has debated for decades, but the reality for many low-income families is that they have diminishing choices. Prior to our school’s launch, the only budget-friendly alternative to public schools was parochial schools. Yet the relatively low tuitions at Yonkers’ former parochial schools were still unmanageable for many working-class families.

Today, there are even fewer low-cost alternatives to public schools. Our new high school—built at no additional cost to taxpayers—is located on the grounds of the former Our Lady of the Rosary Church, which closed its parochial school years before we opened. Since the 2005 opening of our elementary school, we have seen the closure of parochial schools in Yonkers’ poorest neighborhoods, including St. Denis, St. Bartholomew, St. Casimir, St. Mary, and Mount Carmel-St. Anthony. Now, more than ever, the Charter School of Educational Excellence is a vital option for families seeking alternatives.

The opening of the high school allows us to provide desperately needed educational equity to Yonkers’ children. The state-of-the-art building will provide students with 24 college credits and our programs include an auto technology lab, culinary arts training kitchen, technology and science labs, an art studio, a gym, and a band practice room. Almost 90 percent of our students receive reduced or free lunches, and they deserve a dignified learning environment free of leaking roofs and crumbling bricks.

The new structures at our Warburton Avenue campus set the stage for our most important mission: academic rigor and accomplishment. Over the years we have seen tremendous results from our teaching methods. CSEE is one of the state’s highest academic achieving schools and it has received Reward School and Recognition School designations from the New York State Education Department for the last six years.

According to assessment results posted on the New York State Education Department’s website, 80 percent of our third graders and 72 percent of our eighth graders scored at proficient levels in English language arts exams. Statewide, 52.3 percent of third graders and 47.7 percent of eighth graders scored at proficient levels in English language arts exams in 2019, according to the state’s website.

As we prepare to welcome our first 11th grade class to the new high school, our commitment to school choice, educational equity and academics is unwavering. Yonkers’ families have watched our teachers, parents and supporters transform a dilapidated, empty supermarket into an elementary school and then the community watched us build a new middle school and high school. For so many reasons, that is a Yonkers success story that everyone should celebrate, writes Dr. LaGuerre. Congratulations.



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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Registration in most districts starts in November or December, sometimes earlier. So unless a last minute family move occurs there is plenty of time to get your child registered for school without waiting until the last minute.

Yonkers has a system of choice. Parents can select the schools they want their child to go to. This came about due to the Integration of schools. Basically for those that don't know, when I attended Yonkers Public Schools in the 60's and 70's living on the West side of town there were fewer opportunities for my peers than students who lived on the east side of town. Years and millions of dollars later Yonkers was forced to adopt an Integration plan to provide the same opportunities to students on the west side of town that those east of the Hudson River Received.

Families with school age children in the 60's and 70's were moving from south west Yonkers to north East Yonkers. So the Board of Education closed numerous south side schools and turned them into housing or community centers. So when the school aged population shifted back to the West side of town, there were not enough seats to accommodate all the children. That's why until Yonkers builds more schools on the West side of town you will always have busing in our fair city. This costs a lot of money and inconveniences a lot of people. Basically don't drive in Yonkers between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Getting back to school bus drivers, last year with kids learning there were not many kids on school buses. Now with most students back, big buses are filled with 40-45 students. Many do not have monitors, not for a lack of budgeted positions but because the monitors often in their 60's and 70's and many younger don't want to be in a school bus in the middle of a pandemic. Lack of a monitor makes the driver the only adult on the bus.

The driver has to keep track of students coming in and leaving the bus. Younger students require someone to meet them at the bus for drop off. With Covid students should have assigned seats, be masked at all times facing forward, and not be getting up and down to greet their friends. If you as a child rode a school bus did you sit like a lamb and not misbehave? I doubt it. So its not easy, particularly with no monitors for the school bus drivers to keep all the students on good behavior following Covid rules.

Parents are told where they and their children should meet the school bus. Drivers try their best to be on time. If it's raining that's not an excuse to stay in the house or under covered shelter until the bus comes. We have umbrellas. Raincoats. When kids are being picked up and dropped off they and their parents need to be on the correct side of the street. How many times have I seen parents running out of their homes across the street from the bus stop to bring their children to the bus or pick them up. These precious minutes delay the bus from making scheduled stops upsetting other parents and students along the route.

Children should be at bus stops in the morning 10 minutes before the bus is due. Late kids delay things for everyone. Parents should have a buddy system with another parent so they can tell the driver if little Joey is not going to be riding the bus that day due to illness or other reason. Those minutes while a bus driver out of the goodness of his/her heart waits for a child to show up delays the bus for everyone. Make sure your child knows what bus he or she should be on and if need be put a string around the child's neck with his/her name and bus written on a piece of paper. With the pandemic craziness there is more need to do this now than ever.

As a parent you want the bus driver to focus on the road and on the safety of your child. Simply nothing is more important. Bringing the driver a bottle of water on a hot day or a cup of hot coffee on a cold day with a piece of the fresh Bundt cake you made is always a nice gesture.

Bus companies are short on mechanics specially trained to repair vehicles that often get extra mileage as drivers are called upon to do extra routes. Schools are short on staff to answer calls from parents, so if the bus is running 5 minutes late chill and let those with true emergencies get through. Usually after a few weeks things start to run smoothly. If they by chance don't say something to the bus driver, monitor, School Administrator and/or Transportation Department.

With the pandemic we are going through everyone needs to take it easy and a few weeks after school begins the kinks will be worked out. This is by far not the first year a school bus is late. By the way, be on time to pick your kids up from the bus stop. Nothing worse or scarier from the child's point of view to be taken to an unfamiliar place at Central Office to wait for a parent or guardian to be picked up. And please, don't tell the person who calls you to tell you the child is at Central Office to send your kid home in a bus or cab. Parents who brought the kids into the world need to take some responsibility for their well being!

Bus transportation in a city like Yonkers is a privilege. When I went to Elementary school through Junior High through High School you either walked, took a public bus or if fortunate had a parent that took you maybe one way.

It isn't easy being a School Bus Driver. Want the job? If you meet the qualifications there are plenty of openings!

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

Mt. Sinai Doctors Westchester, Prostate Cancer Awareness, continued below from pg 1-

symptoms can be exhibited. They include patients noticing slower stream and difficulty urinating, or a greater urgency in frequency. Blood in some patient's urine, painful ejaculation, pain in your pelvis, bone pain, weight loss, back pain, and an inability to urinate are all symptoms that men can experience," said Dr. Simma-Chiang.

How can men prevent prostate cancer? "I tell all of my patients that the healthier you are the better chance you have at preventing Prostate Cancer. That means, exercising regularly, and eating healthy, with fruits and vegetables in your diet."

"Men that are overweight have a greater risk of prostate cancer. Physical activity and weight loss improves energy and self-esteem and increases your muscle strength and bone health. By eating lower fat content, limiting your sugars and processed fats, and increasing your consumption of vegetables. That's the best way to do what you can to prevent Prostate Cancer," said Dr. Simma-Chiang.

All men over the age of 55 should be tested for prostate cancer. And the way to get tested is through a PSA test and a Digital Rectal Exam, DRE. "A PSA test is a blood test to look at the PSA level proteins produced by glandular tissue. It is a test that can be done with your annual physical, depending on your health. The standard of care to detect for prostate cancer is through a PSA and a digital rectal exam."

Dr. Simma-Chiang also recommends that men with a family history of cancer should also get tested before the age of 55. "We recommend screening earlier, with men that have a family history of cancer and in high-risk populations. If you are age 40 or older and have a history of prostate cancer in your family, you should consider a PSA screening and exam. Studies show that patients with a family history have twice the risk."

Some patients are apprehensive about taking a prostate cancer screening and exam. But Dr. Simma-Chiang explains "it is worth it and for your own health, to go through a diagnosis and a physical exam. It's what we do and it's for your own health."

"After a man's first PSA test, we can check your PSA annually. We want to spare our patients from the anxiety and discomfort, but we also want to diagnose you earlier, instead of waiting until we are unable to offer a curative treatment," said Dr. Simma-Chiang, who wants males over the age of 55 to get tested to avoid a missed diagnosis, or not catching prostate cancer early enough. Most prostate cancers are slow growing and do not spread to other parts of the body, as long as we can diagnose it early enough."

The types of treatment for prostate cancer depend on the stage of cancer, and whether the cancer is local, within the prostate, or advanced, outside the prostate. If the prostate cancer is local, surgery and radiation are the two most common treatment options. Hormone therapy is an additional option for an advanced prostate cancer diagnosis.

The good news is that Prostate Cancer is a curable disease. "Most definitely, if caught early, surgery and radiation can be curative. And while we are getting better at detection, COVID has impacted all of us in the medical community from treating our patients. Now that we are vaccinated, it's important to come in and get tested. It's time to come in and have peace of mind. Most patients want to know because knowledge is power. I'm here to help patients navigate what are the best options for them."

While technology and medical research continues to look for alternative methods to test for Prostate Cancer, including an option where patients can provide a urination sample to detect for Prostate Cancer, Dr. Simma-Chiang says "we are not there yet. And until we get there, the only reliable testing options are a PSA and a DRE."

"We like to have a conversation with our male patients ages 55-69 and en "We like to have a conversation with our male patients ages 55-69 and engage in shared decision making. It's important to have this conversation with each patient and decide whether to do screening. We are here to help educate patients and explain that it is beneficial to start screening. Most patients say yes and agree, after their conversation with their doctor.

The message from Dr. Simma-Chiang during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is "If you are a man, age 55-69, talk to your primary care doctor about getting a PSA and a DRE. If you have a man in your life age 55-69, encourage them to get tested."

Vannita Simma-Chiang, M.D., is a Board-Certified Urologist, Assistant Professor, and Associate Residency Program Director in the Department of Urology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She graduated with Honors Distinction from Brown University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology. She then received her medical doctorate (M.D.) from the Keck School of Medicine and continued on to complete her Urology Residency with the USC Institute of Urology in Los Angeles, CA. She completed a Voiding Dysfunction/Female Urology Fellowship at NYP-Weill Cornell. She then joined the faculty at Mount Sinai West/Morningside in 2017.

She is also a member of the AUA (American Urological Association), the Society of Women in Urology (SWIU), Society of Urodynamics, Female Urology, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU), and the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS). She is also a member of the Brown University President's Advisory Council on Biology and Medicine..

To make an appointment, visit <https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/westchester>.

Sprain Ridge Garale Sale Seeks Sellers

The Westchester County Parks popular Garage Sale returns to a new location, Sprain Ridge Park in Yonkers, Saturday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is seeking families who are looking to sell their items that no longer spark joy. This sale is for individuals and families who want to sell their unwanted items, such as clothing, household items, electronics, furniture, toys, books and sporting goods. No professional antiques or collectible dealers are allowed. Spaces are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis. Price is \$75 for a 160-square foot space and is nonrefundable. Sellers must provide their own tables, chairs, canopies and anything else necessary for display; no electrical hook-ups are available. Gates open and set-up begins at 6:30 a.m.; booths must remain open until 3 p.m. A \$20 cash refundable deposit will be required at check-in that day; it will be returned at the end of the day, pending inspection of the site by park staff.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "The Westchester County Parks Garage Sale is a beloved tradition that residents look forward to every year. As last year did not allow for it to happen, I'm thrilled for it to reopen safely and in its new location at Sprain Ridge Park in Yonkers."

Admission and parking for shoppers at the Sprain Ridge Garage Sale are free. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 3. Sprain Ridge Park is located at 149 Jackson Avenue in Yonkers. For more information and a registration form, go to parks.westchestergov.com or call (914) 231-3450.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

week delay because of the danger of infantile paralysis. Many parents had not let their children leave their homes during the summer because of the seriousness of the Yonkers polio epidemic.

October 2, 1945: People of Yonkers were delighted to see a very large picture of Seaman First Class Richard Stowell chatting with President Harry Truman at the crew's mess table on the USS Augusta on the front cover of All Hands, a Bureau of Naval Personnel Information publication. The Herald Statesman had published a similar photo a few months earlier.

Sunday, October 3rd

October 3, 1873: Mrs. Herriot, mother of Doctor George Herriot passed away in the house where she was born. Located on Broadway near New Main Street, she often spoke of seeing General Washington "ride up the lane in the direction of the present Park Hill Avenue."

October 3, 1914: Theodore Roosevelt and Alfred E. Smith spoke at Philipsburgh Hall to kickoff an automobile campaign tour for Frederick Davenport and the Progressive ticket.

October 3, 1917: Former Yonkers letter carrier James Skowronski of Ingram Street was on the Navy's Submarine Chaser 22 when it docked at the City Pier. Skowronski was the Quartermaster on the sub.

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

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