

QUEENS TODAY

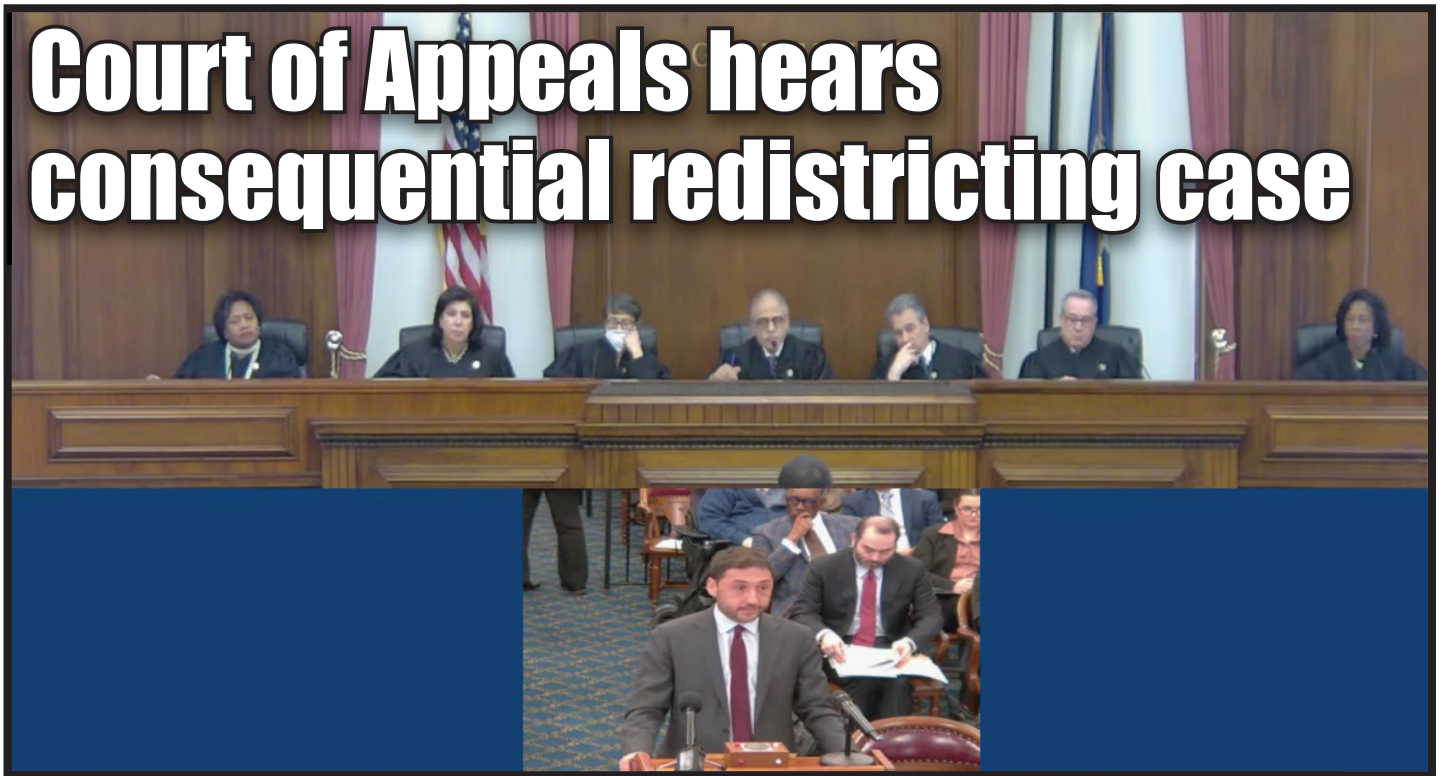
NOVEMBER 16, 2023

THE LANDLORD ACCUSED OF STAB-bing three people to death over a tenant dispute in St. Albans has been charged with first and second-degree murder, reports the Daily News. David Daniel, a 54-year-old man, was hit with the murder charges as well as weapons charges in Queens Criminal Court on Wednesday, and told reporters as he was taken out of the 113th Precinct that he was under “a lot of pressure.” Daniel showed up to the precinct on Tuesday morning, telling officers he “did something bad” and gave them his address where they found the two women and one man dead with multiple stab wounds. One of the victims has been identified as 51-year-old Colleen Ceasar Field, who may have been dating Daniel and owed him back rent. The Daily News reports that the couple downstairs had not paid rent since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANOTHER CITY TEEN IS DEAD AF-ter possibly subway surfing on a Queens E Train on Tuesday, the Daily News reports. The 19-year-old was found unconscious when the Manhattan-bound E train he was riding on pulled into the Sutphin Blvd.-Archer Avenue station in Jamaica at about 9 p.m. The teen had a massive head injury and was taken to Jamaica Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. It is unknown for certain if the teen was subway surfing, a dangerous practice which has killed five teenagers in the five boroughs this year, or if he hit his head while walking between cars.

MAYOR ERIC ADAMS HELPED BREAK ground on East End Studios, a new film and TV complex in Sunnyside that hopes to bring around 1,000 construction and 750 full-time jobs to the area, Deadline reports. The groundbreaking of the studio, which came days after the SAG-AFTRA strike ended, marks the second major film studio popping up in Queens, the other being the Robert De Niro-family backed Wildflower Studios in Astoria. “Thanks to SAG-AFTRA and the Writers Guild of America securing fair deals for their workers, film and TV production is back in New York City — helping more than 185,000 New Yorkers get back to work,” said Adams. “New York City is back, but our work is not done until every New Yorker has a pathway to success. We’re thrilled to see East End Studios bringing...jobs to the city and joining the ecosystem of successful local production spaces that are continuing to elevate Western Queens as a worthy rival of Hollywood.” The 340,000-square foot, \$275 million campus will include three soundstages and is expected to be completed in 2025.

Court of Appeals hears consequential redistricting case



The Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in *Hoffmann v. the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission*, a consequential redistricting case, on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. Screenshot via Court of Appeals

By Jacob Kaye
Queens Daily Eagle

The Court of Appeals on Wednesday heard arguments about whether or not New York’s congressional districts will be redrawn for the third time in the past two years, restarting a redistricting process that has been marred by partisan squabbles, multiple lawsuits and general confusion about where the state’s congressional lines stand.

It was the second time that the state’s top court heard oral arguments about potential constitutional violations that occurred during the state’s messy, once-a-decade redistricting process last year. However, the court and the attorneys arguing before them seemed closer to

reaching any type of consensus about when that violation actually occurred.

Since the end of 2021, New Yorkers have been presented with several draft district maps, a map drawn by the state’s legislature and a map drawn by a court-appointed “special master.” Should the state’s Democrats get their way, a new congressional district map from the state’s Independent Redistricting Commission could be presented to voters soon.

The question of whether or not a new map will be drawn and put in place for the congressional races through the remainder of the decade now rests with the state’s highest court.

The decision will likely have serious implications on national politics. Last year, Re-

publicans were able to flip four congressional districts in New York and help give the GOP a majority in the House of Representatives under the map drawn by the special master.

Should the Court of Appeals rule in the state Democrats’ favor, as many as six seats could be flipped into blue districts, aiding Democrats in their efforts to gain a majority in D.C.

For nearly two hours on Wednesday, Court of Appeals Judges Shirley Troutman, Jenny Rivera, Madeline Singas, Anthony Cannataro, Michael Garcia, Chief Judge Rowan Wilson and Appellate Division Justice Dianne Renwick — who was brought up to the court for the case after newly-appointed Court of Appeals Judge

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Governor signs Diwali school holiday bill into law

Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law a bill put forth by Queens pols that established Diwali as a holiday for city schools. Eagle photo by Ryan Schwach

By Ryan Schwach
Queens Daily Eagle

After years of advocacy, the governor signed into law a bill that looks to make Diwali a holiday for New York City public school students.

On Tuesday night in Flushing, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law the bill, which was sponsored by Queens electeds, State Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar and State Senator Joseph Addabbo. The bill signing, although a historic moment for many Diwali observers in New York City, marks another event in a tenuous and sometimes confusing process to get the holiday on the books.

“For so long, many South Asian New Yorkers have had to celebrate their most important holidays in part, or late at night because parents worked and children were at school,” Hochul said at the Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing. “I know that it’s been difficult — this is an important meaningful holiday.”

“We are here today for one reason, to say, ‘No more,’” Hochul added.

Diwali, a major holiday celebrated by mem-
See story on page 2

Bill that makes Diwali a school holiday signed into law

Continued from page 1

bers of the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain faiths, as well as a number of other members of the South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities, is a multi-day festival that celebrates the power of light over darkness.

The holiday is celebrated by the families of around 200,000 public school students in New York City, who were forced each year to choose between celebrating their faith or going to school.

The bill was a particular priority for Rajkumar, its lead and assembly sponsor.

"One year ago, I stood here on this stage, and said that I was going to do the impossible, I was going to need to add a school holiday in the city of New York," she said. "And today, I'm proud to stand up for you and say we won,"

"We made history," she added.

Rajkumar, the first South Asian and Hindu woman elected to the state legislature, pushed hard to get the bill passed in the waning hours of the last legislative session, her colleague Addabbo said, in part due to heavy enthusiasm from locals and advocates.

"We will be seen and heard and recognized as part of a gorgeous mosaic, that is our city and country," Rajkumar said. "We finally said to over 600,000, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain Americans across New York City, we see you."

Addabbo, who sponsored the bill on the Senate side, said during his remarks that "the wait is over."

The wait for getting the governor's signature was a long one.

Years of advocacy and unkept promises from elected officials, including Mayor Eric Adams, turned what many saw as a simple political gesture into something of a political mess.

On the campaign trail, then-candidate Adams promised he would make a Diwali school holiday on his first day in office, a promise he didn't follow through on.

A little less than a year later, Adams stood alongside Rajkumar and Schools Chancellor David Banks and said that the task was a little more complicated than he had anticipated.

By law, the city's Department Of Education is required to give students at least 180 days of instruction, and Adams said that the only way to implement the holiday would be to first find a different holiday to swap it with, a process that could only be done at the state level.

"We found a way to do it," Adams said at that event. "Chancellor Banks and his team sat down looked at the requirement of school days and instead of looking from a place of deficit we look for a place of surplus, and because of



State Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar was the main sponsor of a bill that establishes Diwali as a holiday for city schools.

Photo via Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

that we were able to identify a way of using legislation partnering with the assemblywoman to identify the days that we can use to have this important holiday – a Diwali holiday without our young people missing days of school in the process."

The initial draft of Rajkumar's bill included the axing of Brooklyn-Queens Day and adding Diwali, but as the most recent legislative session came to a close, that stipulation was stripped from the bill due to some support for the little-known holiday.

"There were some people who were passionate about Brooklyn-Queens Day, they didn't want to give it up," Addabbo told the Eagle in June, declining to specify which legislators fought for the continuation of the holiday.

The final version of the bill did not include the elimination of Brooklyn-Queens Day, and didn't identify a day to swap Diwali with, which Adams initially said was necessary. The final bill left it up to the city's Department of Education to determine how the holiday would make it into the school's calendar.

Those questions, exacerbated by celebrations over the bill's passing from Rajkumar and others, led to confusion as to where the bill stood.

There was even confusion this year, with some locals assuming that the Diwali holiday was already set in stone earlier this month, when the holiday took place.

"I think there was confusion as to whether or not the governor had already signed the bill," said Aminta Kilawan-Narine Founder of the South Queens Women's March and a vocal Diwali holiday advocate. "I definitely think they're people who really did think it was a done deal, and to be fair, we were really close."

The question that remained however, is without the stipulation that Brooklyn-Queens Day or some other school holiday would be swapped out for Diwali, how would Diwali be put into the 180-day schedule?

According to the recently released public school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, Friday, Nov. 1 is currently marked as a day off for school students to observe Diwali – and all the other holidays remain intact.

A spokesperson for the Department of Education told the Eagle that next year the school system worked out in a way that Diwali could be added without infringing on the mandated 180-day schedule.

"When it falls on the weekdays, [Diwali]

will be observed," the spokesperson said.

As for future years, where the schedule may not allow for a Diwali holiday, the spokesperson said the department will "make sure we are compliant with the laws."

Regardless of any remaining questions or hesitance, with the governor's signing of the bill and some strong political weight behind it, even once-skeptical advocates were excited that students will have off for Diwali next year.

"I finally do feel comfortable saying affirmatively that Diwali will be a New York City public school holiday next year," said Kilawan-Narine. "I was one of the people that was like, 'Well, it's not a done deal yet.'"

"Now I'm excited to finally say I do believe it's a done deal," she added.

New leadership and members appointed to court system's LGBTQ commission

By Robert Abruzzese
Queens Daily Eagle

Chief Judge Rowan Wilson announced on Wednesday new members and leadership appointed to the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission, which is tasked with advocating for LGBTQ issues within the legal community.

Hon. Grace M. Hanlon, a Supreme Court justice in the Eighth Judicial District, will serve as the new upstate co-chair, succeeding Hon. Joanne M. Winslow, and will join downstate co-chair Hon. Karen Lupuloff, a supervising judge in New York County Family Court in leading the commission.

Newly appointed members include Hon. Seth M. Marnin and Hon. Javier E. Vargas, both recently confirmed as Court of Claims judges.

"I am delighted to announce the appointments of these three outstanding jurists to the Failla Commission, whose work is so crucial to the court system's efforts to ensure equal access to justice and foster a diverse, inclusive work environment," Wilson said. "I am confident that Justice Hanlon, together with Judge Lupuloff, will lead the commission further along that critically important path and am deeply grateful to the Commission's members for their hard work and commitment toward that end."

The Failla Commission, established in De-

ember 2016, has been tasked with addressing LGBTQ concerns in the courts and the legal profession. It strives for equal participation and access for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, according to the Unified Court System.

The commission's initiatives range from enhancing judicial diversity to ensuring fair treatment of LGBTQ litigants in the courts. Collaboration with LGBTQ advocacy groups, bar associations and community organizations remains a key aspect of its mission to foster a more equitable and supportive environment within the state's legal system.

Hanlon was the first openly LGBTQ justice elected to the Supreme Court in the Eighth Judicial District.

Marnin, recognized as New York's first transgender judge and the first transgender man to serve in such a capacity in the U.S., previously held various influential roles in legal education and civil rights.

Vargas, who served in the Family Court in Kings County before his elevation, became the first openly gay and Latino judge on the Court of Claims.

Miller, who joined the Touro Law Center faculty in 2006, has been recognized for her teaching in areas such as Contracts, Business



Hon. Javier Vargas is a newly appointed member of the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission. Eagle file photos by Robert Abruzzese

Organizations and Employment Law, earning the accolade of "Professor of the Year" twice. Miller has played a vital role in the LGBTQ legal community as a past president of LeGaL, the LGBTQ Bar Association of Greater New York, and remains actively involved in its foundation, according to court leadership.

PUBLISHERS:

Michael Nussbaum J.D. Hasty
Michael@queenspublicmedia.com Jdh@queenspublicmedia.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Jacob Kaye
Jacobk@queenspublicmedia.com

REPORTER

Ryan Schwach
Ryans@queenspublicmedia.com

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Kat Ramus
Kat@queenspublicmedia.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING MANAGER

Gina Osnovich
Legals@queenspublicmedia.com

SALES ASSOCIATE

Nadia Hack
Nadia@queenspublicmedia.com

INTERN

Lauren Berardi
Lauren@queenspublicmedia.com

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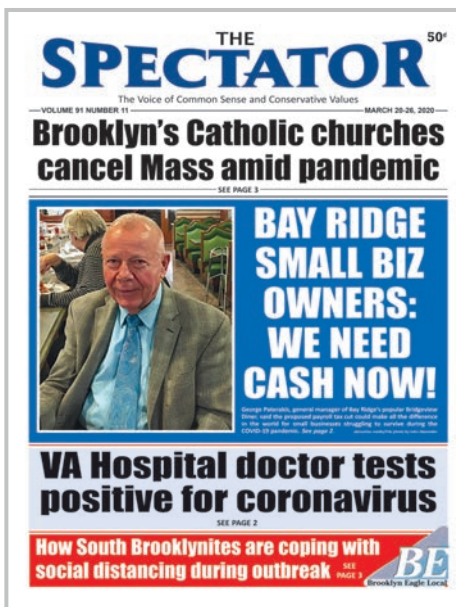
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BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE, of course, goes back to 1841.

We hope you will support our efforts in local journalism.

Jen Hopewell,
 Assistant to the Publisher
jdh@brooklyneagle.com



Mayor's Asian affairs liaison raised big money — and big questions about her conduct

By Yoav Gonen, Bianca Pallaro, Katie Honan, Tom Robbins and Haidee Chu
THE CITY

In March 2021, a 33-year-old tech worker from Flushing, Queens, joined Eric Adams' mayoral campaign as a volunteer, working regularly with an effusive and understatedly powerful member of Adams's inner circle named Winnie Greco.

Shortly after Adams got to City Hall, Greco, by then on the city payroll as the mayor's \$100,000-a-year director of Asian affairs, promised the tech worker a job in the administration on the condition that he volunteer once more, he recently told THE CITY — this time on a kitchen renovation in her Bronx home.

After two months of shuttling a pair of local contractors to the small, white-shingled house and doing tasks that included buying, unloading, and stacking supplies from Home Depot, he was hired in July 2022 as a \$62,215-a-year program coordinator at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Then things soured, he said, when he refused some of Greco's requests to do renovation work on city time and he stopped responding to her directives to come to her office to help respond to her emails and translate English-language messages into Chinese.

After 12 months on the job, he was fired.

At roughly the same time the tech worker was volunteering on Adams' campaign, a Chinese-American business executive became a supporter as well, making significant in-kind contributions to the effort. (Both people asked THE CITY to withhold their names. The executive out of fear of retribution and the tech worker so as not to hurt his current job search.)

Requests from Greco, a prolific volunteer Adams fundraiser, for more support continued after the mayor's election, the executive said, and included an appeal for a \$10,000 donation as the price of admission to a Chinese-focused government event with Adams at Gracie Mansion.

The executive was willing to support the new mayor, but told THE CITY that Greco asked that the check be made out to a nonprofit she founded a decade earlier to construct an ornamental Chinese-themed "Friendship Archway" in Brooklyn's Sunset Park in partnership with a Beijing borough government — a project Adams has championed relentlessly.

The executive told THE CITY that five other people confided that they too had been approached by Greco in a similar fashion.

The two accounts, made in detailed interviews over the past two months, raise questions about whether one of Adams's most trusted advisers and biggest fundraisers has potentially violated city ethics rules.

The allegations were shared with THE CITY in the weeks before the FBI raided the Brooklyn home of 25-year-old Brianna Suggs, Adams's chief campaign fundraiser, as part of a probe of



City Hall Asian Affairs advisor Winnie Greco speaks with Mayor Eric Adams at a community event in Flushing, May 31, 2023.
Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

whether his 2021 mayoral campaign engaged in illegal fundraising involving money from Turkey.

Adams has defended Suggs, and said last week that his campaign's conduct was guided by his frequent morning reminders that, "We've got to follow the law."

Adams' campaign spokesperson Evan Thies said Greco, a volunteer, had no official role in the 2021 campaign, wasn't paid by the campaign and had no hiring authority in the administration.

When asked about Greco's alleged behavior since joining the administration, mayoral spokesperson Charles Lutvak said, "Our administration will always follow the law, and we always expect all our employees to adhere to the strictest ethical guidelines."

Speaking of Greco, Lutvak continued, "Throughout the time Mayor Adams has known Winnie, she has been a faithful public servant and advocate for her community. He is not aware of any inappropriate behavior whatsoever, and she strongly denies any allegations of illegal behavior."

He added, "This matter is under review," but, in response to multiple queries, wouldn't say what is being reviewed and by which entity.

Greco referred all questions from THE CITY to the mayor's office.

Lutvak characterized the tech worker as a junior staffer who was terminated for "documented cause," but wouldn't provide specific details after multiple queries from THE CITY, which reviewed the worker's annual performance review

from May this year and his weekly work-track-update.

"This simply appears to be trumped up accusations by a disgruntled former employee who tried and failed to get his job back," Lutvak said.

Both the tech worker and the business executive supported their accounts with documentary evidence.

The campaign volunteer shared screenshots of his work on the Bronx house — including on weekdays after he started his government position — as well as a text message in which he told his boss he was helping Greco with her emails.

The business person shared a copy of a signed check whose date correlates with the purported Greco meeting.

Richard Briffault, former chair of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, said he's not aware of any rule or decision that specifically deals with the situation described by the business executive, but pointed to a prohibition on improper use of a city position to fundraise for private charities.

"This could violate City Charter section 2604.b.2 — 'No public servant shall engage in any business, transaction or private employment . . . which is in conflict with the proper discharge on his or her official duties,'" said Briffault, a law professor at Columbia University.

He said the allegations described by the tech worker appear more clear-cut.

"What's obvious is that it's clearly in viola-

tion of the city's ethics rules for a public servant to force a subordinate to do personal errands for them whether it's on work time or not on work time," he said.

From Fundraiser to Family

Before Greco joined city government the day after Adams' Jan. 1, 2022, swearing-in, she was an "Honorary Ambassador to the Brooklyn Borough President" when Adams held the office from 2014 to 2021, per a spokesperson at the time.

She was also a prolific fundraiser, unpaid by either Borough Hall or Adams' campaigns, with the might to reportedly help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Adams' campaign in a single night.

In her eight-year volunteer role with the borough president, Greco pitched Chinese government officials, business people and others for meetings and public appearances with Adams. Some of the business people would later host fundraisers for Adams' mayoral campaign.

For years, Greco, who emigrated from Fujian province in China and whose Chinese name is Zheng Qirong, would also shepherd Adams and other New York elected officials and business people on trips to China — dating back to a 1998 excursion with two dozen state lawmakers that lasted 15 days, according to an online posting from a corporation founded by Greco.

Now, ensconced in an administration that runs much like a family, Greco is part of its core.

She was one of only about a dozen associates onstage with Adams at his mayoral swearing-in ceremony at Times Square in the early hours of Jan. 1, 2022.

Earlier this year, she traveled to a work-related gathering in San Francisco, along with Adams' son, Jordan Coleman, as reported by Documented.

And while she has often operated behind the scenes, Greco's influence has become most visible at Gracie Mansion, where Chinese holiday events — like the one described by the business executive who told THE CITY of the \$10,000 donation request — bring throngs of business and provincial association leaders, many of them campaign contributors seeking to gain access to Adams.

At a recent celebration of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival at the mayor's official residence, Adams' chief confidant and top political advisor at City Hall, Ingrid Lewis-Martin, called Greco her "baby sister."

She then introduced Greco's mother, who was visiting from Hong Kong, to the crowd — and to the mayor.

"I have the pleasure of introducing Winnie's mom to her son, her son who this sister right here, Winnie, worked in partnership with a number of you and me to help elevate to become the 110th mayor of the City of New York — our Eric Adams," she told the crowd.

Lewis-Martin then said to Adams, who was standing off stage, "Come out here and meet your mom."

Money, Money, Money

As Adams positioned himself for a run for mayor in his second term at Borough Hall, the role of Chinese-American donors, with Greco's help as a volunteer fundraiser, began to emerge in a critical way. This was the moment, early in a campaign, when a mayoral hopeful seeks to establish his gravitas with a display of fundraising might.

Adams' first large fundraiser was held on April 18, 2018, at the Royal Queen Restaurant in Flushing's New World Mall, and was organized by Greco according to sources in the Chinese-American community.

Records obtained by THE CITY show the Adams campaign reported the Queens event bringing in \$21,900 from 31 donors, mostly Chinese Americans. (City Campaign Finance Board records show an additional \$40,000 received that day from largely Chinese-American donors, but the Adams' campaign didn't link the donations to the event.)

When Adams experienced a major setback that June — committing a political blunder that turned some of his Chinese-American supporters against him — he tapped Greco to bail him out.



Mayor Eric Adams poses with advisor Winnie Greco at the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival at Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Aug. 12, 2023.
Credit: Caroline Rubinstein-Willis/Mayoral Photography

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As the US Begins to Build Offshore Wind Farms, Questions Remain About Impact

By *Erin Meyer-Gutbrod*
and *David Nowacek*
The Conversation

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior and regulates offshore energy production, asked the National Academies to conduct this study. Regulators wanted to better understand how installing and operating offshore, fixed-bottom wind turbine generators would affect physical oceanographic processes, such as tides, waves and currents, and in turn how those changes could affect the ecosystem.

For example, offshore wind turbines decrease wind speeds behind them, and the presence of their structures makes the water more turbulent. These changes could affect ocean currents, surface wind speeds and other factors that influence hydrodynamics – the structure and movement of the water around the turbines.

The Nantucket Shoals region is a large, shallow area in the Atlantic that extends south of Cape Cod. Our report focused on it because this is the first large-scale offshore wind farm area in the U.S., and the region has been included in several recent hydrodynamic modeling studies.

Why are North Atlantic right whales of special concern?

North Atlantic right whales are critically endangered. Scientists estimate that the population is down to just 356 animals.

This species was almost driven to extinction after centuries of commercial whaling. Even though the whales have been protected from whaling for almost 100 years, they are still accidentally killed when they are hit by vessels or become entangled in fishing gear. These two sources of mortality are responsible for most documented juvenile and adult right whale deaths over the past 25 years.

There are options for protecting them, such as slowing or rerouting boats, shortening the fishing season or even modifying fishing gear to make it more whale-safe. However, regulators need to know where the whales are going to be and when they'll be there, so they can put those protections in place.

It's usually hard to figure out where whales are – they have a large habitat and spend most of their time below the surface of the water, where observers can't see them. Recently it's gotten even harder, because climate change is causing whales to shift where and when they feed.

Currently, right whales are spending more time around the Nantucket Shoals region. This means scientists and managers need to make sure that wind energy development in the area is happening safely and that threats to whales in the area are reduced.

How might offshore wind farms affect right whales in the study area?

Right whales are filter feeders that consume huge quantities of tiny zooplankton. The whales need to find large, dense patches of zooplankton at appropriate water depths in order to feed. Altering waves, tides and currents in ways that affect where their prey are located could affect whale feeding or cause the whales to change foraging habitats.

We concluded that it is critical to consistently monitor



Three wind turbines stand in the water off Block Island, R.I., the nation's first offshore wind farm AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, File



Land-based wind turbines in Atlantic City, N.J., turned on July 20, 2023. AP Photo/Wayne Parry

right whales and their prey within and outside the region, because we don't know whether wind development will cause an increase, a decrease or no change to their zooplankton prey. Consistent monitoring will allow managers to mitigate potential negative impacts on the whales.

Researchers will need to collect data during all phases of wind farm construction and operation and develop robust models to determine whether wind farms will affect prey availability for right whales in the study area. Even once they do this research, it will still be difficult to isolate potential impacts from wind farms.

There is a tremendous amount of both natural and human-driven variability and change in this region, including tides, seasonal changes in water temperature and long-term ocean warming driven by climate change. Climate-driven shifts in prey in distant regions, such as the Bay of Fun-

dy or the Gulf of St. Lawrence, may also change how right whales use the Nantucket Shoals region.

Development of the first wind energy farms in the Nantucket Shoals region is a valuable opportunity to better understand hydrodynamic impacts of turbines on marine ecosystems. We expect that it will help guide future development of wind farms along the U.S. East Coast.

What are the most important knowledge gaps?

Few studies have been done to understand hydrodynamics around wind energy turbines, and those that exist focus on European offshore wind farms in the North Sea, where conditions are different from Nantucket Shoals. Large turbines of the size planned for the Nantucket Shoals region have not been built yet in U.S. waters.

Researchers have tried to model the hydrodynamic impacts of turbines, but their results don't always agree with each other. There's a need for more work to compare different types of models with each other, and with actual observations in the ocean, to make sure that they represent key processes like tides, stratification, turbulence and drag correctly.

The most accurate outputs will likely come from using a range of models. Oceanographers might start with models that predict what happens as water moves past a single turbine. These results then would inform models that predict the effects of an entire wind farm. Then results from wind farm-scale models would be incorporated into models that predict regional ocean circulation.

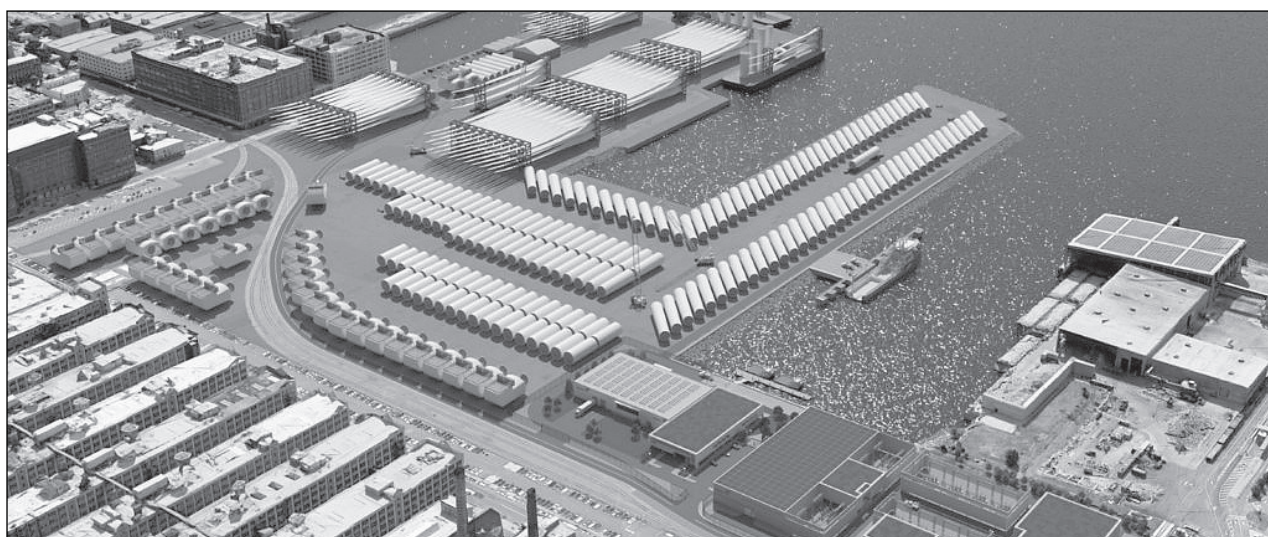
There are also a lot of knowledge gaps on the biology side, including questions about what species of zooplankton are in the Nantucket Shoals region, where they come from and what makes them aggregate into patches that are dense enough for right whales to eat. Right whale feeding in the Nantucket Shoals region isn't well understood, so scientists need more observations to determine which zooplankton types are targeted by right whales and where and when the whales feed.

Does the report call for slowing offshore wind development until these questions are answered?

No, and we were not asked to provide recommendations for how the wind industry should proceed with construction.

Nantucket Shoals is one of many regions where large-scale wind farms will be built in U.S. waters over the coming decades. Our committee advised federal regulators and other relevant organizations to conduct observational and modeling research to better understand hydrodynamic and ecological processes before, during and after wind farm construction. These studies will be critical for understanding and addressing environmental impacts from offshore wind farm development.

Erin L Meyer-Gutbrod is assistant professor of earth, ocean and environment at the University of South Carolina. Douglas Nowacek is professor of conservation technology in environment and engineering at Duke University.



This rendering shows what the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park will look like when it becomes a staging and assembly facility for wind turbines. Rendering courtesy of Equinor

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Dinwiddie does in Magic in fourth

Nets run past Orlando to improve to 2-1 in NBA Cup play

By John Torenli, Sports Editor
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Spencer Dinwiddie shot the Nets right back into serious contention for a berth in the NBA Cup's knockout rounds.

Having split its first two road contests in the league's newly created In-Season Tournament, Brooklyn was desperate to climb back above .500 and remain in the hunt for the top spot in Eastern Conference Group C Tuesday night at Downtown's Barclays Center.

Dinwiddie answered the call when it mattered most, scoring 12 of his season-high 29 points in the fourth quarter by nailing every shot he took as the Nets rallied for a 124-104 rout of the Orlando Magic in front of 17,361 satisfied customers on the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush.

Deadlocked at 84-84 with just under a minute left in the third quarter, Brooklyn (6-1, 2-1 NBA Cup) went on a 19-5 burst highlighted by Dinwiddie's pinpoint accuracy.

The 6-foot-5 guard, always a fan favorite and enjoying his second stint here after arriving back in Brooklyn in the deal that sent Kyrie Irving to Dallas in February, buried a 25-footer to give the Nets a 100-89 cushion with 8:13 left in the fourth quarter.

Dinwiddie converted a three-point play, drilled another 3-pointer and capped his perfect period with a 24-footer that stretched the advantage to 116-97.

"Just playing some pick-and-roll and getting some mismatches," said Dinwiddie, who finished 10-of-18 from the floor, 5-of-10 from 3-point range and 4-of-6 at the line while handing out nine assists.

"I was fortunate enough to hit some shots," he added modestly.

The Nets, who won their third in a row at Barclays after losing their first three home games, went on a 37-16 run spanning the final two quarters against the Magic (5-5, 0-1), who fell flat over the final 12 minutes to drop their tournament debut.

Brooklyn made the most of Orlando's 14 giveaways, burning the Magic for 29 points off turnovers.

"I think the game was a little closer than it ended up being," said Orlando's Franz Wagner, who amassed 21 points and eight rebounds. "I think a lot of turnovers, and they got open shots in transition. Offensively, we lost our flow a bit."



Nets guard Spencer Dinwiddie rose to the fourth-quarter challenge Tuesday night in Downtown Brooklyn.

AP Photo by Frank Franklin II

The Nets regained theirs thanks to Dinwiddie, who filled in at the point for injured starter Ben Simmons (back).

"Obviously (Dinwiddie) had a great quarter," said Cam Johnson, who scored 21 points on 7-of-11 shooting in the best of his three games since returning from a calf injury that shelved him for two weeks.

"Really gave us a big lift with some timely buckets," he added. "That kind of hurts the other team's confidence. Guys played well across the board."

Mikal Bridges had 21 points and Brooklyn's "Bench Mob" continued to show off the Nets' depth with Cam Thomas (ankle) out of action as well.

Reserves Royce O'Neale, Lonnie Walker IV and Day'Ron Sharpe combined for 35 points with each drilling four 3-pointers. Sharpe also ripped down a game-high 10 rebounds for Brooklyn, which held a 44-37 advantage on the boards.

"I thought (Sharpe's) minutes were very valuable tonight for our group on both ends of the floor," Nets coach Jacque Vaughn said.

The Nets are only behind Boston (1-0) in Group C and will close out their stage slate Nov. 28 here against Toronto.

Only the top team in each of the six groups will advance to the knockout round with one squad from each

conference qualifying for a wild-card spot.

Though Brooklyn struggled to sneak past Washington Sunday afternoon due to porous shooting from long range, it found its 3-point touch on its NBA Cup floor, designed specifically for tournament play.

The Nets sank an eye-popping 49% (19-of-39) of their shots from beyond the arc after going 12-for-49 against the Wizards.

"A really good response and effort from our guys," Vaughn gushed after his team closed out a 2-0 homestand with its third win in four games. "We talked about being better tonight on both ends of the floor, and our guys were definitely better."

NOTHING BUT NET: Simmons, who missed the previous three games due to an apparent hip injury, had an MRI exam this week that revealed a nerve impingement in the lower left side of his back, according to the Associated Press. He will miss at least another week before being reevaluated by the Nets training staff. "Ben was day-to-day. He was improving," Vaughn said. "It got to a point where obviously he wasn't playing, so we wanted to be extremely thorough, so (he) got an MRI ... which showed a left-side impingement." ... Brooklyn boasts a 16-4 mark against Orlando here at Barclays Center. ... The Nets will be in Miami Thursday night before flying back to host Philadelphia here Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m.



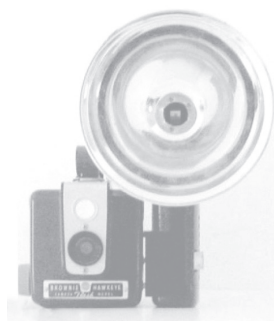
Mikal Bridges and the Nets got their 3-point shooting touch back against the Magic Tuesday at Barclays Center.

AP Photo by Frank Franklin II



Royce O'Neale points the Nets to victory as he and his fellow reserves bolstered Brooklyn to a 2-1 mark in NBA Cup play Tuesday.

AP Photo by Frank Franklin II



Our World In Pictures

DALLAS — All strong Texas affiliations somehow boil down to horses: Former United States President George W. Bush, left, holds up a shirt with First Lady Laura Bush during an NCAA college basketball game between SMU and Texas A&M in Dallas, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

Photo: LM Otero/AP



LONDON — Public and outspoken — critics prod the Supreme Court: A Protester stands outside the Supreme Court in London, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. Britain's Supreme Court has ruled that the government's contentious plan to send some migrants on a one-way trip to Rwanda is illegal.

Photo: Kirsty Wigglesworth/AP



LOS ANGELES — Still surreal — the continuing visions of an empty freeway in the middle of LA: Smoke rises from a small fire as motorists exit through a ramp off Interstate 10, where a section of the freeway is closed due to a recent fire in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. It will take at least three weeks to repair the freeway damaged in an unrelated arson fire, the California governor said Tuesday, leaving the city already accustomed to soul-crushing traffic without part of a vital artery that serves hundreds of thousands of people daily.

Photo: Jae C. Hong/AP



LONDON — Ramifications of a ruckus — it's about oil: Climate activist Greta Thunberg, center, arrives at the Westminster Magistrates Court, in London, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, where she has to appear, following her charges with a public order offense after she was arrested while taking part in a protest against a conference in London described as "the Oscars of oil."

Photo: Alberto Pezzali/AP



Our World In Pictures



VATICAN — Behind those flowers is the beatific face of a popular pontiff: Pope Francis is presented with a bunch of flowers by the faithful during the weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023.

Photo: Gregorio Borgia/AP



BUENOS AIRES — An expert warms up — he's allowed to kiss the ball but not touch with his arms: Argentina's Lionel Messi controls the ball during a training session of the national soccer team before a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026, against Uruguay, at the Argentina Soccer Association facilities in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

Photo: Gustavo Garelo/AP



MUMBAI — Airborne celebration of a "century": India's Virat Kohli celebrates his century during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup first semifinal match between India and New Zealand in Mumbai, India, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. Kohli hit his record 50th century in one-day internationals at the Cricket World Cup on Wednesday, surpassing the mark he shared with countryman Sachin Tendulkar.

Photo: Rafiq Maqbool/AP



ILLINOIS — 'Gimme the ball, gimme the ball, gimme the ball': Illinois forward Coleman Hawkins (33) fouls Marquette forward Oso Ighodaro as he tries to wrestle the ball from Ighodaro during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, in Champaign, Ill.

Photo: Charles Rex Arbogast/AP

Mayor's Asian affairs liaison raised big money — and big questions about her conduct

Continued from page 3

His woes began when he exuberantly backed then-Mayor Bill de Blasio's call for the state legislature to abolish the entrance exam for the city's specialized high schools, in which Chinese students have excelled, but which has yielded a disproportionately small share of Black and Latino students.

Against a backlash of fundraiser cancellations by Chinese-American groups, Greco quickly assembled a meeting at Park Asia restaurant in Sunset Park, where Adams tried to make amends to an angry audience.

With Greco seated nearby, Adams sought to use the meeting to stake out a middle ground. But after the pushback continued, Adams reversed his position on the entrance exam just days later, telling Chinese news outlets it should remain in place.

"My goal is not to disappoint friends," he told one outlet.

Suddenly the fundraisers were back on — and so was the financial muscle-flexing, with two 2019 events organized by Greco generating over \$45,000, plus nearly \$200,000 in potential matching funds, according to campaign finance records.

One of those fundraisers, held Oct. 10, brought in \$32,400 from dozens of \$250 contributions — the maximum amount eligible for the Campaign Finance Board's \$8-to-\$1 public matching funds program. Nine of the donations came through money orders, a relatively hard-to-trace form of payment.

As THE CITY previously reported, a college graduate said two of the money orders were forged in his and his father's names, with his father's occupation listed as "housewife."

In 2021, after Adams' primary runoff victory, when donors were eager to give to a man who was poised to gain control of City Hall's levers for at least the next four years, Greco helped assemble a new group, multiple sources said, that hosted a string of fundraisers for the Adams campaign over the next six months — the Alliance of Asian American Friends.

That July 2, the Alliance hosted a "Thank you banquet" for Adams, again at the Royal Queen Restaurant, with over 100 attendees.

Greco, Alliance president Tian Ji Li and Adams sat down next to each other at the main table, a video of the event shows.

"Big applause for Winnie Greco, who for the past three years has been a liaison, she's been our ambassador, she's the one who talks to us, and she's the one who promotes Adams in our community," Li, who formerly employed Greco at one of his Chinatown stores, said to the crowd in Mandarin. "Thank you! You are the most important one."

The group's fundraising hit its apex at a party in Queens on Dec. 12, 2021, after Adams had already won the mayoralty.

According to two major Chinese-language newspapers in the US, US China Press and Sing Tao Daily, and two sources in the Chinese-American community, guests said the event, attended by Greco, Li, Adams and his brother Bernard, raised over \$400,000 for Adams' transition.

An Adams 2021 campaign official said the total received on that date was far less, but a review of Campaign Finance Board records shows a number of donors who attended the event — including Li — made \$5,100 contributions in the days beforehand.

While the Alliance operated, Greco worked for months from a campaign office inside the New World Mall, according to the mall's building manager, Shastri Etwaroo, and the tech worker who worked there with her.

Campaign finance laws require that rent for such offices be recorded at fair market price as a campaign expenditure. But Adams campaign filings show no rent payments on the space and an Adams campaign official said the campaign has no records of the office.

The mall is owned by Lian Wu Shao, chairman of JMart supermarkets, who hosted a fundraiser for Adams at his home on Aug. 8, 2021, that was the subject of an investigation by THE CITY. The event brought in nearly \$55,000 from over 200 donors — many of them low-wage JMart or mall workers, or people listed as unemployed who donated exactly \$249 or \$250 each, the max-

imum amount to qualify for the City's matching fund program.

One mall worker told THE CITY she was reimbursed for her donation of \$249, while a JMart worker said she thought her contribution had gone to an infrastructure project rather than a mayoral campaign, and almost a dozen others claimed they donated at the behest of or with encouragement from mall managers raising questions about potential straw donations.

Shao didn't respond to multiple phone calls seeking comment.

Greco also used an office on nearby Main Street, in a building owned by Li, from June to October, according to the former tech worker. Adams campaign filings show only a single \$1,800 payment covering a portion of the June 2021 rent on that space, covering 22 days.

Asked about the lease and the rent paid by the Adams campaign, Li said that a 22-day lease at the office would have cost around \$20,000.

"These numbers you're telling me, I don't understand what you're talking about," he said.

The Adams campaign said the office was only used for a short while during the primary but didn't specify the time.

The Archway

After years of forging ties between New York elected officials and China — most notably through the international trips and signing of "sister city" agreements — Greco turned her attention to a singular project that would come to dominate her attention, and Adams', during their time at Borough Hall.

She pitched both Adams and his predecessor at Borough Hall, Marty Markowitz, on a plan that would see the Chaoyang District government in Beijing gift and ship an ornate 40-foot archway to the main drag of Brooklyn's Chinatown, spanning 8th Avenue near 61st Street.

Her vision called for the Beijing district government to pay for the cost of constructing and shipping the main structure, while local nonprofits — including one that she founded in 2012 — would cover the cost of maintaining it.

The plan initially required no funding from the city government, records show.

Greco's tenacious advocacy on the archway started almost immediately when Adams became borough president in 2014. It included raising funds from the Chinese-American community that she said would pay for the maintenance.

She used her nonprofit, the Sino-America NY Brooklyn Archway Association — for which she actively fundraised while volunteering at Brooklyn Borough Hall — to cover \$7,000 in costs for her first trip with Adams to China in May 2014, according to an Adams spokesperson at the time.

On that trip, Adams signed sister city agreements with Yiwu and with Chaoyang, the Beijing borough set to gift the archway to Brooklyn, an internal Borough Hall memo shows.

On the same trip, a stop in the Gulou district of Fuzhou included a meeting with Lu Jianwang, president of the Manhattan-based American Changle Association. Earlier this year, the FBI arrested Lu and another Changle leader, with federal prosecutors alleging they were operating a spy station on behalf of the Chinese government that monitored Chinese-American immigrants.

According to the Department of Justice, Jianwang and an associate conspired to act as agents of the Chinese government and also obstructed justice by destroying evidence, including communications with a Chinese official, when the FBI confronted them in 2022.

Last year, the Director of National Intelligence issued a memo advising local U.S. officials to carefully scrutinize overtures from the Chinese government, including proposals to create "sister city" partnerships with U.S. municipalities.

But many residents of the city's Chinese neighborhoods look at such relationships as expressions of ethnic pride rather than the ploys of an American global rival. One prominent elected official likened the agreements and China excursions as akin to the trips to Ireland or Israel sponsored by local Irish and Jewish groups.

After that first trip to China with Greco, Adams pressed for the archway with City Hall at every turn, to the point that a former high-ranking official in de Blasio's administration characterized

him as "obsessed" with it.

In 2017, de Blasio and Adams announced that the archway would soon be arriving pending a traffic study by the DOT. But in January 2020, City Hall said that the Chinese government had rescinded its offer of gifting the archway — seemingly derailing the project.

Greco's archway group reported raising more than \$221,000 between 2013 and 2018, according to available IRS filings, but said it spent most of that money on fundraising events along the way.

Then Greco's nonprofit stopped filing its required IRS statements after 2018, although the fundraising for the archway continued, according to multiple Chinese-American community leaders.

In mid-2019, Greco circulated a poster on WeChat advertising a groundbreaking ceremony for the archway that had been planned for October of that year, with some seats going for \$50,000 and a number for donations of \$100,000, according to a screenshot viewed by THE CITY.

The fundraiser was ultimately canceled, and it's not clear whether any funds had been collected.

In May 2022, the IRS revoked the archway nonprofit's tax-exempt status over its failure to file financial statements in each of the prior three years, an IRS database shows.

Robin Mui, publisher of the Sing Tao US newspapers, who is friends with Adams and Greco, told THE CITY that he's running the archway group since Greco can't while on the government payroll.

Mui said he recently spoke to Adams and got the green light to move forward with the archway. "He said, 'Let's get on it,'" Mui told THE CITY. "I'm going to mobilize the community and ask them to donate. I don't think that will be a problem."

At the same time, a budget snapshot for the city Department of Transportation shows completion of the archway isn't expected until April 2029 — which would be Adams' last year in office should he win a second term.

Mui was required by the U.S. State Department to register the newspaper as a foreign agent in 2021, but on the registration form, he argued that the U.S. segment of the Hong-Kong based publication is editorially independent.

He told THE CITY a change in ownership in Hong Kong sparked the registration requirement, with which he had no choice but to comply.

Multiple sources told THE CITY that Chinese-American community members have been trying to figure out how much was raised for the archway organization and how the money was spent. They say the lack of any visible movement toward construction — particularly with its two biggest proponents now at City Hall — is a sore point.

Queenie Ho, chair of a Brooklyn neighborhood advisory board, said she believed Greco's main engagement with the Chinese-American community was almost exclusively related to fundraising.

"She is always asking for donations. If she is not raising funds, then we don't see her," said Ho.

"Different Chinese organizations participated in those fundraising events for Eric Adams. But



A rendering of a "Friendship Archway" that was supposed to be gifted from Beijing to Brooklyn's Chinatown.

Credit: Public Design Commission



Winnie Greco speaks at a Gracie Mansion Lunar New Year celebration, Feb. 8, 2022.

Credit: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

even after he got elected as a New York City mayor, the archway on 8th Ave of Brooklyn was never installed," she added. "We Chinese communities feel manipulated, used, and dumped."

In the Halls of Power

Even after joining city government, Greco has continued to appear at fundraisers for Adams — now for his 2025 re-election efforts.

In June, she attended one in Manhattan, along with Adams, where donations were made from a number of people whose LLC was subsequently awarded the management of the East Broadway Mall, according to the publication Documented.

On a recent Friday evening, Greco could be seen making the rounds at a Sunset Park restaurant event honoring a local nonprofit, giving a peck on the cheek to a local community leader, and embracing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez in a long hug.

Across the street from the restaurant, her red Cadillac XT5 was parked with a placard in the window that read, "THIS VEHICLE IS ON OFFICIAL NYPD BUSINESS."

A City Hall spokesperson said city agencies issue parking placards to staff who conduct official business, but he didn't address the placard's claim regarding police work.

After assuming her administration position, Greco was joined at City Hall by her niece, Wai Ying Cheng, a recent college graduate, who was hired on the same day, and assigned to the mayor's office at a salary of \$80,000.

This June, Cheng became a scheduler for the mayor, with a pay hike to \$120,000 — \$20,000 more than her aunt, the city's Director of Asian Affairs, receives, payroll records show. Lutvak, the mayoral spokesperson, called Cheng "an integral and high-performing member of the team."

It wasn't until May 2022, according to the tech worker who said he'd done work on Greco's home, that Greco began to land him interviews with people at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

He was hired two months later, according to city personnel records. But even afterward, the worker said, Greco continued to ask him to clean her kitchen and take out the debris from her home renovations — this time while on the city clock.

He says he tried to complete most of the requests on weekends but declined a few times to go to her house when asked to go during work hours.

He also says he informed his supervisors, including deputy commissioner Miosotis Muñoz and assistant commissioner Erick Salgado, every time he was called out of the office to Greco's desk located three floors up in the same building, where he helped her read and reply to emails she received.

"I felt obligated to help her. Two weeks after I began working at MOIA she said to me, 'Do you know how much effort I made to get you hired?'" he told THE CITY.

In March of this year, the former tech worker got a three-month warning from Muñoz and Salgado. He was terminated on June 26.

Salgado didn't respond to messages seeking comment and Muñoz referred questions to the MOIA press office, which referred questions to City Hall.

But the tech worker said he recalls one of his weekly meetings with Salgado that took place in April, during which he asked Salgado what he could do to improve his performance.

He says the reply he got back from Salgado was: "Be good to Winnie."

THE CITY is an independent, nonprofit news outlet dedicated to hard-hitting reporting that serves the people of New York.

Some NYC families struggle to use pandemic food benefits, as millions of dollars remain unspent

By Julian Shen-Berro
Chalkbeat

Myrna Mangual, a parent coordinator at P.S. 35 in the Bronx, hears from at least 10 parents a week who are confused about how to access pandemic food benefits.

The benefits — known as the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, or P-EBT — went out to all public school families and others in New York City, with several installments issued since 2020. Intended to cover the costs of meals usually provided for free at school, the funds have been praised by advocates, who have called the program a lifesaver for many of the city's struggling families.

But for some of the parents Mangual works with, the money hasn't been easy to use.

Those families aren't alone, as tens of millions of dollars in potential New York City benefits remain unused. In the city, families of at least 90,000 eligible children had not redeemed a recent allotment of the pandemic food benefits as of last month, according to state data previously shared with Chalkbeat.

Those funds, which total at least \$35 million, could begin to expire after December if they continue to go unspent.

Some families at P.S. 35 never received their state-issued P-EBT cards, while others say they didn't see certain disbursements added to their accounts. When calling the state's P-EBT helpline, some parents say they've had trouble reaching anyone who can provide assistance, often stumbling on the automated responses or experiencing long wait times to speak to an agent, before eventually turning elsewhere for answers.

Mangual, however, said she doesn't know how to help the families at her school — where more than 95% of students come from low-income backgrounds and nearly a quarter are English-language learners, according to city data. She said she's never received training on how to guide families through using the benefits.

"This is where my frustration comes from," she said. "We know nothing."

In total, New York's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, or OTDA, has issued \$6.3 billion in P-EBT benefits, with about 60% going directly to SNAP households with existing EBT accounts, while others received the funds on state-issued P-EBT cards.

The state maintains detailed P-EBT information on its website and operates a phone helpline at 1-833-452-0096. OTDA officials said they've provided information on each phase of the benefits to the state's Education Department, which then distributed that information to local school districts.

The city's Education Department said it has promoted information about the benefits on its website as well as on social media, and referred families with questions to OTDA.

Still, parents, schools, and community organizations say there's been a disconnect, and many families aren't receiving the information they need to take advantage of the benefits. Difficulties accessing the funds come as the need for them is especially high.

Nearly 75% of New Yorkers felt it was harder to afford groceries than a year prior, while more than half worried they would be unable to pay their food costs if faced with an unexpected \$500 expense, according to a survey conducted by No Kid Hungry New York in April.

Stephanie Wu Winter, a senior program manager for No Kid Hungry, stressed the urgent need for the benefits.

"We're glad these programs are being stood up and recognize it's no small task to administer them," she said in a statement. "But there's a clear opportunity to increase outreach to families and give them direct lines of communication to understand what benefits they're eligible for and when they'll receive them. There's time to get this right, but only if we move quickly."

Education consultant David Rubel wants to see ramped up publicity before it's too late, fearing the unspent money could be roughly \$46 million across the two most recent disbursements.

"Parents did not know they had more P-EBT dollars coming due to minimal publicity," said Rubel, who obtained the data on unused benefits through a public records request.



Parents, schools, and community organizations say many New York City families aren't receiving the information they need to take advantage of pandemic food benefits.

José A. Alvarado Jr. for Chalkbeat

Families say it's hard to get help

Carol Jackson, a Queens parent, said she received a text message in July notifying her that she'd soon receive a P-EBT card in the mail, but it never arrived.

As a SNAP recipient at the time, she should have seen her P-EBT benefits added directly to her existing account, but Jackson added she wasn't sure whether the benefits were ever provided there, either.

She tried calling the helpline, but couldn't get through to an agent, she said.

Meanwhile, Lynn Lu, a Manhattan parent and professor at the CUNY School of Law, said she experienced difficulties accessing the benefits last year on one of her children's P-EBT cards, after they switched schools. She tried calling for assistance to check the balance on the card or figure out how to get it replaced, but wasn't able to get a clear answer.

As part of her work at CUNY, she teaches a law school clinic where they represent clients in maintaining public assistance, like SNAP. But even as a member of listservs discussing such benefits, Lu said she was only "dimly aware" that another disbursement of P-EBT funds had rolled out this fall.

"It does raise this question of: How is word getting out to the general public?" she said, adding she couldn't recall her children's schools ever saying anything about the pandemic food benefits.

All families with valid phone numbers on file with their school district should receive a text message whenever new benefits become available, according to state officials. But some families said they never received such messages, even if they got initial notifications about their P-EBT cards.

In a statement, Anthony Farmer, a spokesperson for OTDA, said the agency has "worked tirelessly" to distribute the benefits to millions of residents across the state.

"The agency also conducted extensive public outreach and worked closely with advocacy organizations across the state to ensure eligible families are aware of these benefits and could take steps to redeem them," he said.

More recent allotments will continue to be sent out to families through the end of December — including the at least \$391 per child sent out for the summer of 2022 and the 2021-22 school year, as well as the \$120 per child distributed for the summer of 2023 — according to OTDA.

One school reports widespread issues

Officials at the Lexington School for the Deaf in Queens say families at the school have not received P-EBT funds since the first disbursement

in 2020. The school, which receives free meals through the city's Education Department, serves students who are deaf from across the five boroughs.

Lori Glick, a social worker at the school, said families desperately need the extra support.

"There's not enough food at home," she said. "From the minute the announcement is made, they're waiting for this money."

State officials did not comment on the school's specific situation, but said that not all children were eligible for all phases of P-EBT. For example, some of the allotments were based on COVID-related absences during the school year. Officials urged families with questions to call the P-EBT helpline.

Staff at the school said they remain unsure why families haven't received more recent allotments of benefits.

"Honestly, it makes it look like we're not doing something," said Laura Cruz, the school's director of pupil personnel services. "The families, they work with us, but then they get a little frustrated like, 'What is Lexington not doing?' And I don't know if there's something that we're not doing."

Community organizations report language barriers, other challenges

Both the P-EBT helpline and OTDA website offer information in languages other than English. Callers to the helpline can receive assistance from either an agent who speaks their native language or through an interpreter, while information posted online can be translated via a function at the bottom of the webpage, officials said.

But for some families with limited proficiency in English, using the benefits remains a constant struggle, said Wei Zhang, a program supervisor at the Chinese-American Planning Council.

Zhang works primarily with Chinese American families in Brooklyn who have children with disabilities and who have faced unemployment or been limited to part-time work since the onset of the pandemic. Many parents that he works with speak little English, making it hard for them to seek out help.

There's been consistent confusion about how to activate P-EBT cards, how to use the benefits, and when more funds will be added, said Zhang, who has had to translate information about the benefits for families.

P-EBT can be particularly essential for those who earn just enough to be ineligible for SNAP benefits, added Mary Soriano and Sindy Rivera, senior case managers at WHEDco, a community development organization in the south Bronx.

"Pretty much all of their income is going towards rent, utilities, or child care," Soriano said of the families they work with. "The pandemic EBT, as well as regular SNAP benefits, is what helps them feed their family — their children — every single day."

But the vast majority of families they work with speak limited English, and some do not have consistent access to phones or computers, further complicating their ability to learn about and access their benefits.

Confusion surrounding the benefits has also been exacerbated by scams intended to steal them, like skimming or phishing, Zhang said. He's seen families in Brooklyn lose their P-EBT benefits to such scams.

State officials have advised all EBT card holders, including P-EBT cardholders, to "remain vigilant" about potential scams. Taking basic precautions — like carefully inspecting point-of-sale devices, changing PINs regularly, and reviewing transaction history often — can help protect the benefits.

While the state received federal approval to replace stolen SNAP benefits in some circumstances earlier this year, P-EBT benefits are not eligible for replacement under federal guidelines, officials said.

Other states face P-EBT distribution issues

New York isn't the only state to face hurdles in getting families to spend the federal benefits. In Maine, distribution of P-EBT cards this year spurred confusion among families and some school administrators. In California, nearly \$1 billion in benefits remained unspent as of July. Meanwhile, in Mississippi, more than 14,000 families had their cards deactivated by mistake in 2021.

Benefit scams, too, have occurred across the country.

Though some families in New York City have encountered difficulties, most stress the benefits remain important.

Mangual, the parent coordinator, said she wished there were more avenues for parents to seek help. If schools had a point person to turn to for answers within their district, for example, it would be far easier to assist families, she said.

To Lu, the Manhattan parent, one of New York's strengths during the pandemic was a pre-established "expectation that everyone is going to be able to get nutrition assistance through school, without any stigma."

"That message is great," she said. "But even when you do something helpful, there's still going to be glitches."

2ND DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION

FILE NO. 2020-686/E THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD FREE AND INDEPENDENT, TO: ALICE MANNING, MICHAEL MCGOVERN, MICHAEL THOMAS MCGOVERN, ANTHONY MCGOVERN, JANET DANIELS, THE TAX ADVISORS GROUP OF LONG ISLAND, THE UNKNOWN DISTRIBUTEES LEGATEES, DEVISEES, HEIRS AT LAW AND ASSIGNEES OF FRANCES CELLA, DECEASED, OR THEIR ESTATES, IF ANY THERE BE, WHOSE NAMES, PLACED OF RESIDENCE AND POST OFFICE ADDRESSES ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PETITIONER AND CANNOT WITH DUE DILIGENCE BE ASCERTAINED. RONALD SULLIVAN AND JOHN ROMANO, IF LIVING AND IF DEAD, TO THEIR HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN AND DISTRIBUTEES WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN AND IF THEY DIED SUBSEQUENT TO THE DECEDENT HEREIN, TO THEIR EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, LEGATEES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED AFTER DUE DILIGENCE. A COPY OF THIS CITATION AND THE ACCOUNTING, AS WELL AS ALL AMENDMENTS TO IT, IF ANY, SHALL BE SERVED ON THE GUARDIANS AD LITEM, PETER METIS, ESQ. AND ____ ESQ. BEING THE PERSONS INTERESTED AS CREDITORS, LEGATEES, DISTRIBUTEES OR OTHERWISE IN THE ESTATE OF FRANCES CELLA, DECEASED, WHO AT THE TIME OF DEATH WAS A RESIDENT OF 271-11 76TH AVENUE, NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 11040 SEND GREETING: UPON THE PETITION OF ANNE B. COPPERSMITH RESIDING AT 143 EARLE STREET, WESTBURY, NEW YORK 11590, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF FRANCES CELLA, DECEASED, YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE BEFORE THE SURROGATE AT THE SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, TO BE HELD AT 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, CITY OF JAMAICA, AND STATE OF NEW YORK, ON JANUARY 11, 2024 AT 9:30 O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON, WHY THE ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNE B. COPPERSMITH, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF SAID DECEASED, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED, SHOULD NOT BE JUDICIALLY SETTLED. FURTHER RELIEF SOUGHT: 1. THAT THE COMMISSIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, ANNE B. COPPERSMITH, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,275.58 BE APPROVED; 2. THAT THE LEGAL FEES OF MAHON, MAHON, KERINS & O'BRIEN, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,396.41 OF WHICH \$13,896.41 HAS BEEN PAID AND \$12,500.00 OF WHICH IS UNPAID, BE APPROVED; 3. THAT THE ACCOUNTING FEES OF THE TAX ADVISORS GROUP OF LONG ISLAND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,350.00 OF WHICH \$350.00 HAS BEEN PAID AND \$2,000.00 OF WHICH IS UNPAID, BE APPROVED; 4. THAT THE BOOKKEEPING FEES OF MARGUERITE DOSSENA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75.00, OF WHICH \$75.00 HAS BEEN PAID AND \$0.00 OF WHICH IS UNPAID, BE APPROVED; 5. THAT 25% OF THE NET ESTATE BE PAID TO ANNE B. COPPERSMITH, AS RESIDUARY BENEFICIARY; 6. THAT 25% OF THE NET ESTATE BE PAID TO ALICE MANNING, AS RESIDUARY BENEFICIARY; 7. THAT 25% OF THE NET ESTATE BE PAID TO MICHAEL MCGOVERN AS RESIDUARY BENEFICIARY; 8. THAT 12.5% OF THE NET ESTATE BE PAID TO MICHAEL THOMAS MCGOVERN AS RESIDUARY BENEFICIARY; 9. THAT 12.5% OF THE NET ESTATE BE PAID TO ANTHONY MCGOVERN AS RESIDUARY BENEFICIARY; 10. THAT THE ACCOUNTING OF THE PETITIONER BE APPROVED AND THAT SHE BE RELEASED FROM LIABILITY AS TO ALL ITEMS REPORTED IN THE ACCOUNTING. 11. THAT THE INSTRUMENT DATED APRIL 5, 2017 PURPORTING TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF FRANCES CELLA AND FILED WITH THE COURT BE DENIED PROBATE. AND THAT PROCESS BE ISSUED TO ALL NECESSARY PARTIES WHO HAVE NOT APPEARED TO SHOW CAUSE WHY THE RELIEF REQUESTED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED; AND THAT AN ORDER BE GRANTED DIRECTING THE SERVICE OF PROCESS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SCPA ARTICLE 3 UPON SUCH PERSONS NAMED IN PARAGRAPH (6) WHOSE NAMES OR WHEREABOUTS

ARE UNKNOWN AND CANNOT BE ASCERTAINED OR WHO MAY BE PERSONS ON WHOM SERVICE BY PERSONAL DELIVERY CANNOT BE MADE. DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 HON. PETER J. KELLY SURROGATE, QUEENS COUNTY JANET EDWARDS TUCKER CLERK OF THE SURROGATE'S COURT TTRORNEY ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER: LAWRENCE MAHON, ESQ. 254 NASSAU BOULEVARD SOUTH, GARDEN CITY SOUTH, NEW YORK 11530 (516) 538-1111 LMAHON@MMKOLAW.COM THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT OBLIGED TO APPEAR IN PERSON. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED THAT YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED UNLESS YOU FILE FORMAL LEGAL, VERIFIED OBJECTIONS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY-AT-LAW APPEAR FOR YOU.

#212147

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NA, SUCCESSOR TO THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, NA, AS TRUSTEE, FOR THE CHASE MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION MULTI-CLASS MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-S2, PLAINTIFF AGAINST YU FANG ZHANG; YONG GUANG LIN; ET AL., DEFENDANT(S) PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED OCTOBER 24, 2018 I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE STEPS OF QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 15, 2023 AT 10:30AM, PREMISES KNOWN AS 226-10 59TH AVENUE, OAKLAND GARDENS, NY 11364. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BLOCK 7522 LOT 40. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT \$873,258.15 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX# 705813/2016. THE AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE COVID-19 POLICIES CONCERNING PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF FORECLOSED PROPERTY ESTABLISHED BY THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. DAVID I. WEPRIEN, ESQ., REFEREE LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP F/K/A SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF 175 MILE CROSSING BOULEVARD ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14624 (877) 430-4792 DATED: OCTOBER 2, 2023

#212141

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., PLAINTIFF AGAINST DAWN BROWN; DOUGLAS BROWN A/K/A DOUGLAS D. BROWN; ET AL., DEFENDANT(S) PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED NOVEMBER 23, 2018 I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE STEPS OF QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 15, 2023 AT 10:45AM, PREMISES KNOWN AS 144-32 159TH STREET, JAMAICA, NY 11434. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BLOCK 15013 LOT 45. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT \$594,805.28 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX# 725749/2021 FKA 14698/14. THE AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE COVID-19 POLICIES CONCERNING PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF FORECLOSED PROPERTY ESTABLISHED BY THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. PHILIP L. BASKERVILLE, ESQ., REFEREE LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP F/K/A SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF 175 MILE CROSSING BOULEVARD ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14624 (877) 430-4792 DATED: OCTOBER 5, 2023

#212142

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATE-HOLDERS OF CWALT, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2004-28CB, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-28CB, PLAINTIFF AGAINST LUIS E. MARTINEZ, ET AL DEFENDANT(S) ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF(S) STERN & EISENBERG, P.C., 20 COMMERCE DRIVE, SUITE 230, CRANFORD, NJ 07016. PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE ENTERED NOVEMBER 13, 2019, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER AT STEPS OF QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 8, 2023 AT 10:45 AM. PREMISES KNOWN AS 102-48 A/K/A 10248 NICOLLS AVENUE, CORONA A/K/A FLUSHING, NY 11386. BLOCK 1983 LOT 24. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$727,036.74 PLUS INTEREST, FEES, AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX NO 703734/2014. FOR SALE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.AUCTION.COM OR CALL (800) 280-2832. DURING THE COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY, BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH ALL GOVERNMENTAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF THE SALE INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO WEARING FACE COVERINGS AND MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING (AT LEAST 6-FEET APART) DURING THE AUCTION, WHILE TENDERING DEPOSIT AND ANY SUBSEQUENT CLOSING. SHOULD A BIDDER FAIL TO COMPLY, THE REFEREE MAY REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANY BID, CANCEL THE CLOSING AND HOLD THE BIDDER IN DEFAULT. BIDDERS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE FORECLOSURE AUCTION RULES AND COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY RULES ISSUED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THIS COUNTY IN ADDITION TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE TERMS OF SALE. REFEREE WILL ONLY ACCEPT A CERTIFIED BANK CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE REFEREE. LESLIE FEIFER, ESQ., REFEREE FILE # 701.069789-1

#212069

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON CORPORATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET MORTGAGE INVESTMENTS II INC. MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-AR6, PLAINTIFF AGAINST NARASH RAMTAHAL; PRANDAI RAMTAHAL; ET AL., DEFENDANT(S) PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED MAY 8, 2019 I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE STEPS OF QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 8, 2023 AT 11:30AM, PREMISES KNOWN AS 104-28 94TH AVENUE, RICHMOND HILL, NY 11416. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE FOURTH WARD OF THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK, BLOCK 9385 LOT 9. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT \$1,258,530.75 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX# 707356/2014. THE AUCTION WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE COVID-19 POLICIES CONCERNING PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF FORECLOSED PROPERTY ESTABLISHED BY THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. MARTHA TAYLOR, ESQ., REFEREE LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP F/K/A SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC ATTORNEY(S) FOR THE PLAINTIFF 175 MILE CROSSING BOULEVARD ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14624 (877) 430-4792 DATED: OCTOBER 5, 2023

#212064

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT QUEENS COUNTY US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST, PLAINTIFF AGAINST LORRAINE PITTS AKA LORRAINE ROSS AS HEIR AND CO-ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF GARY J. BODIE, ET AL DEFENDANT(S) ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF(S) KNUCKLES, KOMOSINSKI & MANFRO, LLP, 565 TAXTER ROAD, SUITE 590, ELMSFORD, NY 10523. PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE ENTERED MAY 22, 2023, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER AT STEPS OF QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 1, 2023 AT 10:15 AM. PREMISES KNOWN AS 14703 130TH AVE, JAMAICA, NY 11436. BLOCK 12106 LOT 69. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$456,968.35 PLUS INTEREST, FEES, AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX NO 702097/2022. THE FORECLOSURE SALE WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 11TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S COVID-19 POLICIES AND FORECLOSURE AUCTION RULES. THE REFEREE SHALL ENFORCE ANY RULES IN PLACE REGARDING FACIAL COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING. CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE SALE. CERTIFIED FUNDS ONLY, MADE PAYMENT TO THE REFEREE. MICHAEL A. CERVINI, ESQ., REFEREE 2296-004245

#211922

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS GOLDEN BRIDGE, LLC D/B/A GOLDEN BRIDGE FUNDING, LLC; PLAINTIFF V. FREDERIKA MANAGEMENT CORP.; ET AL.; DEFENDANTS. ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: HASBANI & LIGHT, P.C., 450 7TH AVE, SUITE 1408, NY, NY 10123; (212) 643-6677 PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE GRANTED HEREIN ON 10/16/2023, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER IN THE QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME AND COUNTY COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 15, 2023 AT 12:15 PM PREMISES KNOWN AS 95-20 150TH STREET, JAMAICA, NY 11435 BLOCK: 9679 LOT: 66 ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK. AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE. SOLD SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN SAID JUDGMENT AND TERMS OF SALE. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: \$914,001.33 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. INDEX NUMBER: 715396/2020 LINDA A MULE, ESQ., REFEREE

#211925

New York sues PepsiCo in effort to hold it responsible for litter that winds up in rivers



New York state sued PepsiCo this week, alleging the food giant is partly responsible for litter that winds up in bodies of water that supply Buffalo with drinking water.

AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File

By Mayssoon Khan

The Associated Press

New York state sued PepsiCo on Wednesday in an effort to hold the soda-and-snack food giant partly responsible for litter that winds up in bodies of water that supply the city of Buffalo with drinking water.

The lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court by Attorney General Letitia James, accuses the company and its Frito-Lay subsidiaries of creating a public nuisance by making a huge number of plastic bottles and wrappers, some of which inevitably wind up falling or blowing into the Buffalo River after they are discarded by customers.

Simply by making so much plastic, the company is hurting the environment, the lawsuit argues.

"No company is too big to ensure that their products do not damage our environment and public health. All New Yorkers have a basic right to clean water, yet PepsiCo's irresponsible packaging and marketing endanger Buffalo's water supply, environment, and public health," James said in a statement.

PepsiCo said in a statement that it was serious about "plastic reduction and effective recycling." It didn't directly comment on the lawsuit's claim that it was legally responsible for keeping garbage out of the Buffalo River.

PepsiCo, which is headquartered in New York, produces and packages at least 85 different beverage brands including Gatorade and Pepsi products, and at least 25 snack food brands that mostly come in plastic containers meant to be thrown away or recycled once they are empty.

In past years, the company has repeatedly pledged that it would make meaningful strides to reduce its use of plastics.

The lawsuit alleges that the opposite is happening, and

that PepsiCo misled the public about its efforts to combat plastic pollution.

Litter from many sources winds up in the Buffalo River, but the attorney general's office said a 2022 survey identified PepsiCo as the single largest identifiable contributor to the plastic waste contaminating the Buffalo River. Of the 1,916 pieces of plastic waste containing an identifiable brand, 17.1% were produced by PepsiCo, according to the survey. McDonald's came in a distant second, the lawsuit said.

Researchers say that some discarded plastic breaks down into tiny particles, called microplastics, small enough to be ingested. Microplastics have been found in Lake Erie, which serves as Buffalo's drinking water supply, as well as in fish species that are known to inhabit the lake, according to the lawsuit.

The Buffalo River, which empties into Lake Erie, was once considered one of the most polluted rivers in the United States, though restoration efforts begun in 1989 have been restoring its ecosystem.

James, a Democrat, wants PepsiCo to warn customers about the potential health and environmental risks of its packaging. It also wants the court to force the company to develop a plan to keep its packaging out of the Buffalo River.

The lawsuit also seeks financial penalties and restitution.

"Our Buffalo community fought for over 50 years to secure hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up toxic pollution, improve habitat, and restore communities around the Buffalo River," said Jill Jedlicka, executive director of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, in a statement. "We will not sit idly by as our waterways become polluted again, this time from ever-growing single-use plastic pollution."

2ND DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS JDRM LLC DBPP, SM, SKP & JD LLC; PLAINTIFF V. MOYNU Z. CHOWDURY; ET AL.; DEFENDANTS. ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: HASBANI & LIGHT, P.C., 450 7TH AVE, SUITE 1408, NY, NY 10123; (212) 643-6677 PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE GRANTED HEREIN ON 3/22/2020, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER IN THE QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME AND COUNTY COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 15, 2023, AT 12:00 PM PREMISES KNOWN AS 31-15 80TH STREET, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11370 BLOCK: 1151 LOT: 50 ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK. AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE. SOLD SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN SAID JUDGMENT AND TERMS OF SALE. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT: \$553,182.08 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. INDEX NUMBER: 724520/2020 BARRY M. GOLDSTEIN, ESQ., REFEREE #211926

NOTICE OF SALE OF COOPERATIVE APARTMENT SECURITY

BY VIRTUE OF A DEFAULT PLEASE TAKE

NOTICE: BY VIRTUE OF A DEFAULT UNDER A SECURITY AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 13, 2009, EXECUTED BY SIDNEY COCA AND HAYDEE COCA ("DEBTOR"), AS ASSIGNED TO CITIBANK, N.A. ("SECURED PARTY"), SAID SECURED PARTY, BY AUCTIONEER(S): JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, TERENCE GEE, RICHARD J. CANTWELL, OR STEPHAN G. MARCELIN, WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC SALE OF THE SECURITY CONSISTING OF 535 SHARES OF STOCK OF CELTIC PARK OWNERS, INC. ("CORPORATION"), AND ALL RIGHT, TITLE, AND INTEREST IN AND TO A PROPRIETARY LEASE BETWEEN SAID CORPORATION AND DEBTOR FOR THE APARTMENT KNOWN AS 48-02 43RD STREET, UNIT 5C, WOODSIDE, NY 11377, TOGETHER WITH ALL FIXTURES AND ARTICLES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY NOW OR HEREAFTER AFFIXED TO OR USED IN CONNECTION WITH SAID APARTMENT ON DECEMBER 1, 2023 AT 9:30 AM ON THE STEPS OF QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435, IN SATISFACTION OF AN INDEBTEDNESS IN THE UNPAID PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$147,950.89, PLUS INTEREST, LATE FEES, ATTORNEY FEES, MAINTENANCE IN ARREARS, AND ALL OTHER ADVANCED CHARGES. THE APARTMENT IS SOLD "AS IS" AND POSSESSION TO BE OBTAINED BY THE PURCHASER. SAID SALE IS SUBJECT TO RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CORPORATION, PAYMENT OF ALLS UMS DUE, IF ANY,

TO CELTIC PARK OWNERS, INC., AND THE CONSENT IF NECESSARY, OF SAID CORPORATION; ANY EXISTING TENANCY; PAYMENT OF ALL EXPENSES AND FEES OF THE SECURED PARTY WITH RESPECT THERETO; TERMS OF SALE AND AUCTIONEER'S FEES; FLIP-TAX; STATE, CITY, AND COUNTY TRANSFER TAX. THE SECURED PARTY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO BID. TERMS: AN OFFICIAL BANK OR CERTIFIED CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO STERN & EISENBERG, P.C., AS ATTORNEYS FOR THE SECURED PARTY FOR TEN (10%) PERCENT OF PRICE BID. NO CASH ACCEPTED. BALANCE SHALL BE DUE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS. ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED PARTY: STERN & EISENBERG, P.C. 20 COMMERCE DRIVE, SUITE 230 CRANFORD, NJ 07016 P. 516-630-0288 F. 732-726-8719 DATED: OCTOBER 25, 2023 FIRM FILE NO. NY202300000163-1 #212068

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK INDEX NO. 706099/2013 COUNTY OF QUEENS CIT BANK, N.A. F/K/A ONEWEST BANK N.A. F/K/A ONEWEST BANK. FSB PLAINTIFF, VS. LAUREN CAUSEY, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES E. FILES A/K/A JAMES FILES A/K/A JAMES EDWARD FILES; BRIAN FILES, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES E. FILES A/K/A JAMES EDWARD FILES; ERIK FILES, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES E. FILES A/K/A JAMES EDWARD FILES; RONALD FILES, JR., AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES E. FILES A/K/A JAMES EDWARD FILES; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO THE ESTATE OF JAMES E. FILES A/K/A JAMES EDWARD FILES; ANY AND ALL PERSONS DERIVING INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON, OR TITLE TO SAID REAL PROPERTY BY, THROUGH OR UNDER THEM, OR EITHER OF THEM, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE WIVES, WIDOWS, HUSBANDS, WIDOWERS, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF SUCH DECEASED, ANY AND ALL PERSONS DERIVING INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON, OR TITLE TO SAID REAL PROPERTY BY, THROUGH OR UNDER THEM, OR EITHER OF THEM, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE WIVES, WIDOWS, HUSBANDS, WIDOWERS, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS AND ASSIGNS, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES, EXCEPT AS STATED, ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF; NEW YORK

STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PLAINTIFF DESIGNATES QUEENS AS THE PLACE OF TRIAL SITUS OF THE REAL PROPERTY MORTGAGED PREMISES: 17733 LESLIE ROAD, JAMAICA, NY 11434 BLOCK 12484, LOT 100 DEFENDANTS. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED ACTION AND TO SERVE A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER ON THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS OF THE SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS, EXCLUSIVE OF THE DAY OF SERVICE, OR WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER SERVICE OF THE SAME IS COMPLETE WHERE SERVICE IS MADE IN ANY MANNER OTHER THAN BY PERSONAL DELIVERY WITHIN THE STATE. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IF DESIGNATED AS A DEFENDANT IN THIS ACTION, MAY ANSWER OR APPEAR WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS OF SERVICE. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR TO ANSWER WILL RESULT IN A JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU BY DEFAULT FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. IN THE EVENT THAT A DEFICIENCY BALANCE REMAINS FROM THE SALE PROCEEDS, A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT OF THE ABOVE CAPTION ACTION IS TO FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE TO SECURE THE SUM OF \$544,185.00 AND INTEREST, RECORDED ON JANUARY 08, 2007, IN CRFN: 2007000012233, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK., COVERING PREMISES KNOWN AS 17733 LESLIE ROAD, JA-

MAICA, NY 11434 THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE WITHIN ACTION IS A FINAL JUDGMENT DIRECTING THE SALE OF THE PREMISES DESCRIBED ABOVE TO SATISFY THE DEBT SECURED BY THE MORTGAGE DESCRIBED ABOVE. QUEENS COUNTY IS DESIGNATED AS THE PLACE OF TRIAL BECAUSE THE REAL PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION IS LOCATED IN SAID COUNTY. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: JUNE 29, 2023 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF ARIC H. PEYMANN, ESQ. 900 MERCHANTS CONCOURSE, SUITE 310 WESTBURY, NY 11590 516-280-7675 #211660

2ND DEPARTMENT / New Business Formations

BROELLE MEDIA LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BROELLE MEDIA LLC. ART. OF ORG. FILED SEC'Y OF STATE (SSNY) 9/22/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: 30-42 38TH STREET, APT 1, QUEENS, NY 11103. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITIES. #211166

CIMINERA DOUGLSTON LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CIMINERA DOUGLSTON LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 10/3/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: C/O THE LLC, 83-08 260TH ST, FLORAL PARK, NY 11004. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #211326

LEAD WITH GRACE DOG TRAINING LLC

LEAD WITH GRACE DOG TRAINING LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 08/02/23. OFFICE: QUEENS 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, 82-39 62ND AVENUE, MIDDLE VILLAGE, NY 11379. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #211468

JG ROSEDALE, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF JG ROSEDALE, LLC, A DOMESTIC LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SSNY ON 10/03/23. OFFICE LOCATION QUEENS CO. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 240-01 144TH AVE., ROSEDALE, NY, 11422. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #211464

SERENE SPACES NYC DOULA SERVICES LLC

SERENE SPACES NYC DOULA SERVICES LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 10/03/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY IS DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: 218-20 85TH AVENUE QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11427 PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACT OR ACTIVITY. #211457

MELECH MANN LLC

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF MELECH MANN LLC, A FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 6/20/2023. LLC ORGANIZED IN OH ON 5/15/2018. NY OFFICE LOCATION: KINGS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO: THE LLC 1032 BAY 24TH ST, FAR ROCKAWAY, NY. OFFICE ADDRESS IN JURISDICTION OF ORGANIZATION: THE LLC 1032 BAY 24TH ST., FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691. COPY OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION ON FILE WITH SECY. OF STATE OF OH, 22 NORTH 4TH STREET, 16TH FLOOR COLUMBUS OH 43215. PURPOSE OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #211477

SOUTH SHORE GOLF LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SOUTH SHORE GOLF LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 8/21/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL/EMAIL PROCESS TO: C/O ROBERT SMITH, 101 FOREST PARK DRIVE, WOODHAVEN, NY 11421, FORESTGOLF@VERIZON.NET. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #210136

LA TOURETTE GOLF LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LA TOURETTE GOLF LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 8/25/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL/EMAIL PROCESS TO: C/O ROBERT SMITH, 101 FOREST PARK DRIVE, WOODHAVEN, NY 11421, FORESTGOLF@VERIZON.NET. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #211575

ZIGGLE WORLD LLC

ZIGGLE WORLD LLC FILED 10/23/23. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL TO: 3125 UNION ST., FLUSHING, NY 11354. PURP: ANY LAWFUL. #211668

DA'VINE PROPERTIES, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DA'VINE PROPERTIES, LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 10/16/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. PRINC. OFFICE OF LLC: 2028 SUMMER ROSE LN., MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29579. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO C/O JULIE KESSLER LLP, 60 E. 42ND ST., 46TH FL., NY, NY 10165. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #211669

F R K TAXI LLC

F R K TAXI LLC, ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 10/23/2023. OFFICE LOC: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: MD FARUQUE HOSSAIN KHAN, 8906 213TH ST, QUEENS VILLAGE, NY 11427. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #211681

ENDEAVOUR 28 LLC

ENDEAVOUR 28 LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 3/7/2016. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 5-28 49 AVE 2ND FL, LONG ISLAND, NY 11101. GENERAL PURPOSE #211692

QUEENS 91-13 LLC

A NOTICE OF FORMATION OF QUEENS 91-13 LLC, ART. OF ORG. FILED SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 09/18/2023. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 91-13 JAMAICA AVE, WOODHAVEN, NY 11421. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #211684

9415 85 AVE LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 9415 85 AVE LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK SSNY ON 10/27/2023. OFFICE LOCATED IN QUEENS. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF ANY PROCESS SERVED AGAINST THE LLC 5623 203RD ST, OAKLAND GARDENS, NY 11364. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #212019

B.LIT STUDIO LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF B.LIT STUDIO LLC ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 09/20/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO CORPORATION SERVICE CO., 80 STATE ST., ALBANY, NY 12207-2543. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #212062

124 STAR LLC

124 STAR LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH THE SSNY ON 11/01/23. OFFICE: QUEENS 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, 104-10 124TH STREET, RICHMOND HILL, NY 11418. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #212079

GC GARDEN LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF GC GARDEN LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK SSNY ON 10/27/2023. OFFICE LOCATED IN QUEENS. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF ANY PROCESS SERVED AGAINST THE LLC 86-23 57TH ROAD, ELMHURST, NY 11373. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #212020

NEW PROPERTY 888 LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEW PROPERTY 888 LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK SSNY ON 10/26/2023. OFFICE LOCATED IN QUEENS. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF ANY PROCESS SERVED AGAINST THE LLC 7358 PARKLANE RD. COLUMBIA, SC 29223. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #212018

NEW PROPERTY 666 LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEW PROPERTY 666 LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK SSNY ON 10/26/2023. OFFICE LOCATED IN QUEENS. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF ANY PROCESS SERVED AGAINST THE LLC 1927 BROAD RIVER RD, COLUMBIA, SC 29210. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #212017

COURTLANDT MANOR VIEWS DEVELOPER LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF COURTLANDT MANOR VIEWS DEVELOPER LLC. ARTS. OF ORG. FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE (SSNY) ON 10/31/23. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO: C/O INFINITE HORIZONS, LLC, 142-05 ROCKAWAY BLVD, JAMAICA, NY 11436. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #212134

TRAINS MEADOW LLC

TRAINS MEADOW LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 9/13/2023. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO TERE-SA POZO, 95-24 37TH AVE, JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372. GENERAL PURPOSE #212299

10555 87TH STREET LLC

10555 87TH STREET LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 11/13/2023. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 89-11 107TH AVE, OZONE PARK, NY 11417. GENERAL PURPOSE #212305

I.S.C HOME INSPECTIONS LLC

I.S.C HOME INSPECTIONS LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 6/20/2023. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO 905 166TH ST, UNIT 2D, WHITESTONE, NY 11357. GENERAL PURPOSE #212311

KENDALL PRICE REALTY, LLC

KENDALL PRICE REALTY, LLC, ARTS OF ORG. FILED WITH SEC. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) 4/21/2023. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST MAY BE SERVED & SHALL MAIL PROCESS TO ESSIE KENDALL, 1549 EASTERN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN, NY 11233. GENERAL PURPOSE #212315

11370 KELLY BEAUTY SPA NEW YORK LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: KELLY BEAUTY SPA NEW YORK LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 7/19/2023. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 7008 31ST AVE FL. 2 EAST ELMHURST, NY, 11370. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #211661

LA BRAZA LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: LA BRAZA LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 10/31/2023. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS JOHN PATRICIO SEGARRA 8003 24TH AVE, EAST ELMHURST, NY, 11370. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #212283



FOR HELP IN PREPARATION AND FILING OF ALL YOUR LEGAL NOTICE NEEDS, EMAIL LEGALS@QUEENS PUBLICMEDIA.COM



Our World In Pictures

Actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson hugs a Capitol Police Officer as he leaves the Capitol after meeting with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, in Washington. AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin



Demonstrators stage outside of the Chinese Consulate to protest the participation in the APEC Summit of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, in San Francisco.

AP Photo/Tony Avelar

2ND DEPARTMENT / New Business Formations

11691 MILKY WEIGH LACTATION, LLC

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF MILKY WEIGH LACTATION, LLC, A FOREIGN LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FILED WITH SECY. OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 7/26/2023. LLC ORGANIZED IN OH ON 12/18/2018. NY OFFICE LOCATION:

KINGS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO: THE LLC, 1032 BAY 24TH STREET FAR ROCKAWAY, NY, 11691. OFFICE ADDRESS IN JURISDICTION OF ORGANIZATION: THE LLC, 1032 BAY 24TH STREET, FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691. COPY OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION ON FILE WITH SECY. OF STATE OF OH, 22 NORTH 4TH STREET, 16TH

FLOOR COLUMBUS OH 43215. PURPOSE OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #211476

12207 LOTUS LEO LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: LOTUS LEO LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 7/18/2023. NY OFFICE LOCATION:

QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. 54 STATE STREET, STE 804 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL

PURPOSE.

#211908

12260 OPTIM SQUARE LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: OPTIM SQUARE LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 10/12/2023. NY OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY HAS BEEN

DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. THE POST OFFICE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS AGAINST THE LLC SERVED UPON HIM/HER IS REGISTERED AGENT SOLUTIONS, INC. 99 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 700 ALBANY, NY, 12260. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

#211447

Principal ‘covered up’ after second grader brought knife to target classmate, say parents

By Haidee Chu
and Claudia Irizarry Aponte
THE CITY

Parents are calling for the ouster of the controversial principal of P.S. 398 in Queens, who did not inform them on the day that a student brought a kitchen knife to school and told other kids he intended to use it at lunchtime to attack a fellow second-grader he may have considered a romantic rival.

The principal, Erica Ureña-Thus, waited three days before notifying the school community about “an incident of a sharp kitchen object” — while telling them that “nothing untoward was found.” She then took an additional two days to speak with the school’s parents about it, according to multiple sources who spoke with THE CITY.

At least two other students saw the second grader with the knife during the school day on Nov. 1, and a staff member confiscated it from him after one of those students told an adult what they had seen. The staff member in turn referred the matter to Ureña-Thus.

Two days later, the boy who’d brought it — and who’d remained at the school — physically threatened one of the classmates who’d seen him with the weapon, according to that child’s mother.

The day after that, a Saturday, Ureña-Thus finally notified the school community, including the parents of the affected children, with a message posted on P.S. 398’s internal communications board, which was reviewed by THE CITY.

(THE CITY is withholding the names of the students, who are all second graders, to respect their privacy. THE CITY was not able to contact the parents of the boy who allegedly brought the knife and made the threats, because he has not been named by the school.)

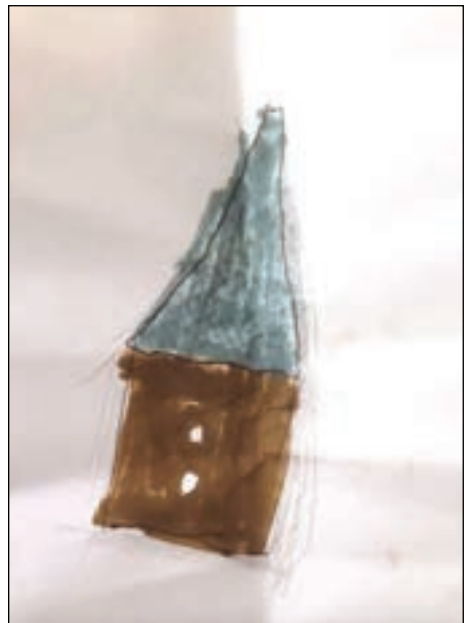
Two mothers — Sarah Wu, who believes her son was the intended target of the boy who brought the knife, and Mary, whose daughter saw the boy with the knife — said that public message was the first time they had heard directly from school administration about the incident at all. (Mary spoke on the condition that THE CITY would withhold her last name.)

“I am trying to be strong for my kids, and also for all the parents’ kids who stood up and saved my son’s life,” said Wu, who told THE CITY she only learned about the knife when a parent approached her during pick-up on Friday. “This is not what a little minor should go through in the public school system.”

She added that her son still does not know about the other boy’s plan to attack him with a knife.

Two sources said that Ureña-Thus — who did not return THE CITY’s requests for comment about the incident that became the main topic of discussion at a meeting of the District 30 Community Education Monday night — told teachers not to discuss the incident at all, citing student privacy protocols.

“My daughter is not OK,” Mary, speaking in her native Spanish, told THE CITY. She added that the boy with the weapon told her daughter that he had intended to harm Wu’s son because he saw him as a rival for another student’s affection.



P.S. 398 in Jackson Heights, Aug. 28, 2023.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY



Principal Erica Ureña-Thus speaks at P.S. 398 in Jackson Heights in October 2022.

Credit: P.S. 398

She continued: “Since this all happened, she doesn’t smile, all she wants to do is sleep, she won’t even eat her favorite meals, she’s afraid of leaving the house.”

The school community was not formally notified of the subsequent threat made by the boy who brought the knife. Mary received a letter on Nov. 10, the following Friday, from Ureña-Thus informing her that the school’s internal investigation had substantiated that the boy had indeed threatened her daughter.

In a Nov. 8 email chain in which the principal, district administrators and a DOE attorney discussed how to respond to parents, District 30 Deputy Superintendent William Fahey asked:

“I am wondering why we are using ‘nothing untoward found’ (meaning nothing unexpected or unusual) when a knife or toy gun was found. Parents right now are e-mailing about ‘nothing untoward’ being found — stating a knife was found.”

THE CITY obtained those emails hours after this article was first published. Later in the chain, DOE Senior Field Counsel Sarah Marx advises against giving parents more “detail/context,” since “People will believe what they want to believe.”

She went on, “I am concerned about liability and further inflaming people with giving out more information.”

The Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, the principal’s union, did not respond to THE CITY’s questions.

Department of Education spokesperson Chyann Tull told THE CITY that “Our district superintendent assigned staff to support onsite at the school daily, reviewing protocols, and looks forward to next step interventions that best serve everyone,” while “the borough safety director is also onsite reviewing safety systems and structures, performing an analysis of the school’s safety plan.”

She added that “High-quality care and education for our students is at the center of our efforts, and we will continue to support collaboration between schools and families as we forge a path forward.”

In an email to parents on Nov. 10, the same day that Ureña-Thus substantiated the boy’s threat, Community School District 30 superintendent Lisa Hidalgo referred to the knife as a “weapon,” reporting that “it was confiscated and nothing else was found.”

Without saying any further about the boy involved in that “incident,” she acknowledged “a lack of timely communication to families from the school” that she said “resulted in speculation that led to fear and misinformation circulating within the school community.”

‘Huge, Huge Red Flag’

As THE CITY previously reported, teachers sounded the alarm earlier this year about an allegedly “hostile” and unhealthy environment at P.S. 398, which they say affects students of the school, noting then a “downward trend of disorganization and lack of communication.” The DOE said at the time that it “takes all allegations seriously, and are conducting a thorough review” of accusations teachers have leveled against the



A P.S. 398 student drew what appears to be a knife brought to school by a classmate.

Credit: Obtained by THE CITY

Ureña-Thus since June.

More than a thousand parents and supporters have since signed a petition — which dates back to October — demanding that Ureña-Thus be removed.

Now, some parents are furious about what they deemed to be Ureña-Thus’ failure to immediately inform them of the student’s potentially violent actions — and about the Education Department’s disinterest in reacting to that failure with appropriate haste.

“It was covered up, no one knew,” said Merly, the aunt of the boy who was allegedly targeted.

PTA president Victoria Medelius said she was upset with Ureña-Thus’ late and limited communication, and was concerned that the principal had failed to follow proper safety protocols.

“I think there’s trauma for some of the children, and there’s a lot of trauma from parents,” said Medelius, because Ureña-Thus “never really told us the full story.”

In her Saturday notice to parents three days after the boy brought the knife — which Ureña-Thus told Wu in a meeting another two days later was “for cutting meat” — she wrote that the school safety team and the school safety agent had “conducted their investigation” into the boy with the knife.

But that doesn’t track with how others in the school community described the events to THE CITY.

Wu said Ureña-Thus had told her that school safety had not been involved on the day he brought the knife to school because they had found no cause for concern, according to a Nov. 6 email to the principal from Wu recapping a meeting that day and reviewed by THE CITY.

Medelius recalled that the school safety agent had been unaware of the knife incident until a parent informed her of the event on Nov. 3.

“That’s a huge, huge red flag,” Medelius told THE CITY. “A lot of parents are using the term gaslighting because it’s just what it feels like.”

Mary, for example, said she learned of the knife incident not from the school but from her daughter at pick up, who told her mom she’d had a bad day.

In art class, her daughter explained, a classmate opened his lunchbox and showed her his knife, telling her he intended to use it to hurt another boy during the lunch period. She told her mother that she scolded the boy and said she would tell on him, according to Mary’s recollection of her conversation with her daughter.

After she pressed for details, Mary’s daughter told her the student brought a sharp knife that looked like a household kitchen knife “that I’m not allowed to use.” A colored drawing the girl made for school administrators who interviewed her that day, which was obtained by THE CITY, portrays what appears to be a sharp knife with a wooden handle.

But it was another student, who saw the knife during lunch later in the day, who ultimately alerted a school aide, according to sources with knowledge of the situation. The aide then brought the knife to Ureña-Thus, who subsequently returned it to the student’s parent, “who denied packing it,” according to the Nov. 6 email to the principal from Wu.

“I think my son could have died, because if the parent never told me... I won’t tell him to be careful, to be aware of your surroundings,” said Wu, whose son is the intended target according to the accounts of other kids. “I feel like I’m living in a world that I don’t believe in anymore.”

‘The Safety and Well Being of All Children’

In an email addressed to Wu on Nov. 10 after the parent wrote to the school to express her concerns about her son’s safety, assistant principal Mondal Trisha said the administration has “conducted our investigation” on the knife incident, without saying what result that investigation had reached.

“We have developed a plan of action to support the student who has made the threat,” Trisha wrote, adding that if Wu’s son “is feeling unsafe, we can take measures to ensure he is comfortable in his learning environment.”

The school’s investigation into the subsequent threats also substantiated Mary’s daughter’s claims, Ureña-Thus acknowledged in a separate Nov. 10 letter addressed to Mary. The school also found that the student’s threat constituted a violation of DOE rules against “student-to-student discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying,” but did not constitute “student-to-student harassment.”

“Appropriate disciplinary and restorative measures have been taken to ensure the safety and well being of all children in our school community,” Ureña-Thus wrote.

Mary received that letter through a teacher at the school, she said, not directly from the principal, noting that the letter did not say what specific measures the school was taking, and did not offer resources or support for her daughter.

“No one [at the school] has told me what my daughter’s rights are or offered mental health resources,” Mary said, noting that her daughter has suffered night terrors since the incident and even required a trip to the emergency room to treat her anxiety.

“As parents, this has been very difficult for us. We just want answers.”

The United Federation of Teachers, the union representing teachers and other school staff, also criticized the school administration’s response.

“Staff members were gravely concerned that the P.S. 398 administration did not properly address a safety incident nor provide staff or parents with timely information,” union spokesperson Alison Gendar said in a statement. “It is DOE’s responsibility to provide a safe school environment for students and staff.”

Since the incidents, Wu said she’s been struggling to explain to her son how he had been put in harm’s way. The mother added that she’s “still trying to prepare myself to have that conversation with him when it comes to it.”

“I feel so hopeless. I think I’m just nobody,” said Wu, who is calling for Ureña-Thus to resign. “This says a lot about our city, our system ... I don’t know why nobody’s listening.”

THE CITY is an independent, nonprofit news outlet dedicated to hard-hitting reporting that serves the people of New York.

Redistricting case again comes before Court of Appeals

Continued from page 1

Caitlin Halligan recused herself from the case – heard arguments in *Hoffmann v. the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission*.

The case was brought by state Democrats, including Governor Kathy Hochul and State Attorney General Letitia James, and argues that the 2022 congressional map drawn by the court-appointed special master was only meant to be used in the 2022 congressional election, and not in the remaining four congressional elections slated for the rest of the decade.

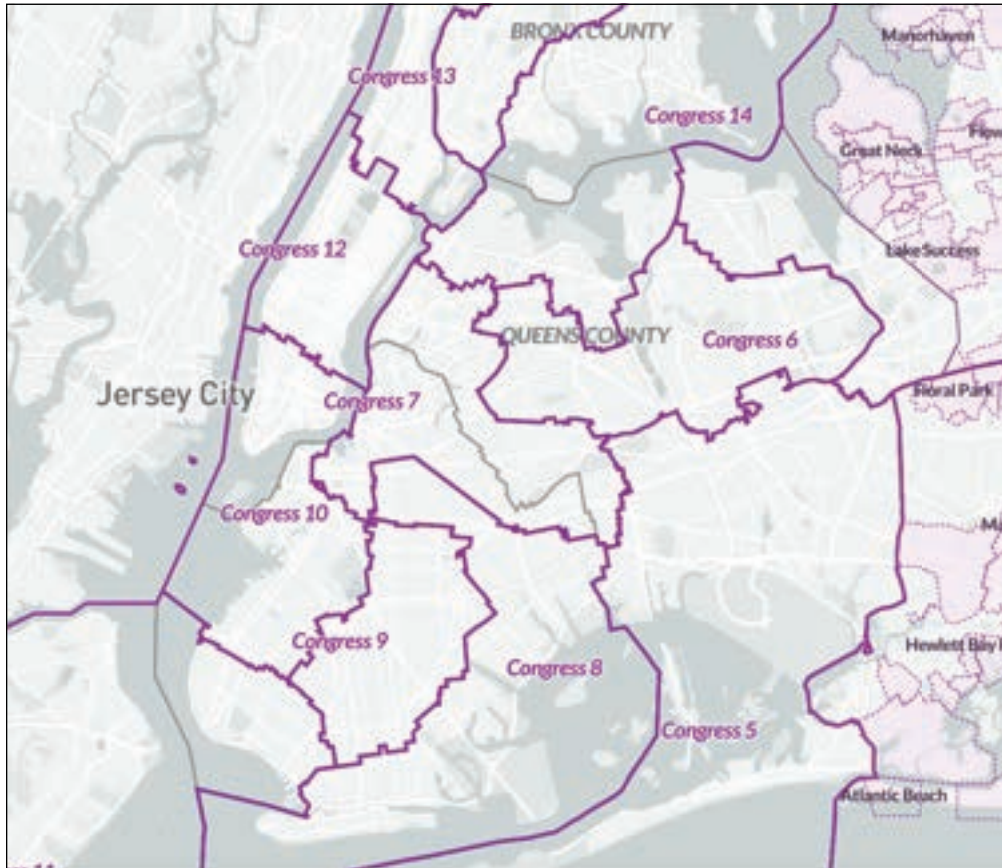
Issues with the state's redistricting process began relatively quickly. After beginning to collect public testimony to inform their draft maps in 2021, the Independent Redistricting Commission, which was created in 2014 by a constitutional amendment in an effort to take map drawing powers out of the hands of the legislature, reached a standstill.

Required to submit a final map to the legislature for approval at the start of 2022, the IRC said that its members had reached a partisan deadlock, and told lawmakers that they wouldn't be submitting a map at all.

As per a state law separate from the constitutional amendment creating the commission, state lawmakers took it upon themselves to draw and enact a set of congressional, Assembly and State Senate district maps.

Those maps were challenged in court by a group of Republicans, who claimed that the maps drawn by the lawmakers violated the constitution in two ways – because they were gerrymandered to favor Democratic incumbents and candidates and because they were drawn outside of the constitutionally-mandated process.

The case, known as *Harkenrider v. Hochul*, made its way to the Court of Appeals, which sided with the Republicans who brought the case. Following the top court's decision, a lower court appointed a special master to draw the maps, which would go on to be enacted and



New York's congressional districts could again be redrawn should the Court of Appeals rule in favor of a group of Democrats challenging the lines drawn by a court-appointed special master in 2022.
Map via Redistricting and You/CUNY Graduate Center

used in last year's elections.

While the Democrats arguing for new maps in the case heard by the court on Wednesday said that they don't take issue with the current maps, they argued that New Yorkers were denied their right to a map from the IRC, which should be allowed a second shot at drawing the state's congressional districts.

"We are not challenging the maps, but the remedy that was ordered in *Harkenrider* did

not cure the procedural violation at issue in this case, which was the failure of the IRC to send a [final] map to the legislature," said Aria Branch, an attorney representing the Democrats in the case.

But several of the Court of Appeals judges who ruled in favor of the Republicans in the previous case, including Cannataro, Garcia and Singas, were skeptical.

During one exchange, Cannataro argued

that if New Yorkers deserved a map from the IRC, the petitioners should have brought a case the moment lawmakers began drawing district lines in 2022.

"What you said at the top of your argument is that you've come here to vindicate the IRC process," Cannataro said. "The promulgation of the maps on February 3 completely took the IRC out of the picture, so, it seems as if you want to kind of have it both ways."

"Do you want the IRC process or do you just want to set up maps that complies or conforms to what you think the maps should be?" he added.

In response, Branch said that the "petitioners want to live in districts that are drawn according to the IRC legislative process."

"But that didn't happen last time," Garcia said. "You didn't challenge it because you thought, 'Okay, they can do it, the legislature can do this.' If the be all and end really is the IRC, those maps weren't drawn by the IRC."

The Court of Appeals is expected to issue a decision in the case in the coming weeks.

The make-up of the state's top court is significantly different than it was when a redistricting case last came before the court.

No longer is the court led by former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, who presided over a conservative majority, which also included Garcia, Singas and Cannataro, over the past several years.

It's now led by Wilson, who wrote the dissenting opinion in the *Harkenrider v. Hochul*, and argued that the constitution had not been violated when lawmakers took it upon themselves to draw district lines after the IRC had failed to submit a final map.

Troutman and Rivera also ruled in the minority in the case, making Renwick, who is sitting on the court for the case in place of Halligan, the tie-breaking vote.

Should the court rule in favor of the petitioners, ordering a new map to be drawn by the IRC, the commission would likely begin the process of drawing new maps ahead of the 2024 election immediately.

Appellate Division symposium in Brooklyn explores the impact of AI on law

By Robert Abruzzese, Courthouse Editor
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

The Appellate Division, Second Department, presented a symposium on artificial intelligence on Tuesday titled "Contemplating the Future of Artificial Intelligence."

Co-chaired by Justices Angela Iannacci and Deborah Dowling, the event, held at the courthouse in Brooklyn, brought together legal representatives from across the district's ten counties, including district administrative judges, district attorneys and the president of the New York State Bar Association.

Presiding Justice Hector LaSalle opened the symposium, highlighting the crucial juncture at which the legal community stands regarding AI. He stressed the importance of providing guardrails against AI's harmful effects and the need for active engagement from all stakeholders in the legal community.

"The AI revolution is already having an impact on court practice and the legal profession in New York, throughout our nation and across the globe," said LaSalle.

The symposium featured insights from Benjamin Liebman, Matthew Stepka, Dorothy Auth and Luca Melchionna.

Liebman, a professor at Columbia Law School and director of the Hong Yen Chang Center for Chinese Legal Studies, provided an international perspective on the role of AI in the Chinese legal system, underlining its global impact.

Stepka, a managing partner at Machina Ven-

tures and a lecturer at UC Berkeley, combined his engineering background with legal insights to explore AI's transformative potential across industries, including the legal sector.

Auth, a partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft with extensive experience in patent litigation and intellectual property, shared practical applications and limitations of AI in legal practice.

Melchionna, a transactional attorney with a focus on regulatory, compliance, and corporate law, and chair of the Technology and Venture Law Committee of the New York State Bar Association, delved into AI's regulatory landscape.

During the nearly four-hour symposium, Stepka, an engineer and former art student, demystified AI, explaining its data-driven nature and the emergent behaviors it can exhibit. He addressed the implications of AI in legal research and document generation, cautioning against complacency and advocating for a more active review process of AI-generated outputs.

The potential risks he identified included lack of transparency, bias in training data, and unequal access to AI tools.

Stepka shed light on AI's mathematical foundations and its ability to reflect societal trends, both good and bad.

"It is not magic, it is mathematics on a massive scale," he said. "Because of the data, it is a mirror to our society which can have some bad outcomes."

Stepka discussed the inherent unpredictability and bias in AI systems, stressing the need for

careful consideration in their legal application.

"AI has inputs and outputs and there is a black box in the middle, which is where the unpredictability happens," he said. "Because it is data-driven, it can mirror societal biases, which is a concern for the law."

Auth discussed the judicial orders emerging in response to AI's use in legal filings and the broader implications for privacy and bias.

Auth also addressed the challenges and responsibilities that come with incorporating AI in legal work, underscoring the need for attorneys to verify the accuracy of AI-generated content.

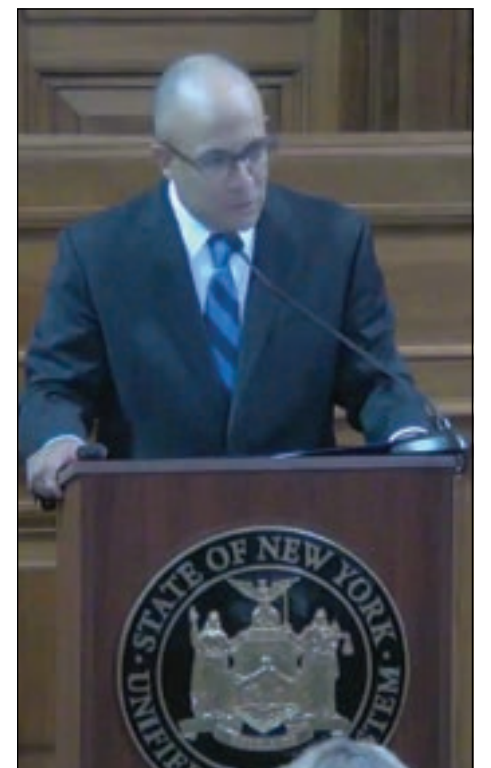
"Our firm has blocked the use of ChatGPT for work assignments, at least for now," Auth said. "I think that's a cautious but wise thing to do until we better understand how this technology can be used."

In response to a question about billing and time efficiency with AI, Stepka discussed the potential for AI to streamline legal processes, leading to reduced costs.

"If you do use AI and it takes a lot less time, how do you deal with that?" he said. "The positive is that it will take a lot less time and the costs will go down."

The symposium delved into AI's impact on traditional legal roles, including the potential for AI to increase predictability in law, thereby affecting the roles of mediators and arbitrators.

"This technology isn't going to replace lawyers," Melchionna said. "It will help them."



Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle, speaking at the Appellate Division symposium on artificial intelligence in Brooklyn.

Screenshot via the Appellate Division, Second Department