

QUEENS TODAY

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

THE CITY WILL LIKELY BREAK ground on its first-ever soccer stadium before the end of the year. During a Community Board 7 meeting last week, officials said that they expect New York City Football Club to officially begin construction on its soccer stadium in Willets Point at some point in the next month. The stadium, which will be the first soccer-only stadium in the city, is expected to open for its first match in 2027.

THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S office released body-worn camera footage from police officers who shot and killed a 65-year-old on Roosevelt Avenue in April. The footage, which was released as part of the AG's investigation into the killing, appears to show the man, Jesus Alberto Nunez Reyes, threatening a woman with a small knife. Several police officers showed up to the scene and told Nunez Reyes to drop the knife. When he didn't, the officers shot Tasers at him, but missed. The 65-year-old then began to walk away toward a group of people. That's when the police officers opened fire on the man's back, sending bullets toward the crowd. Nunez Reyes was killed after being hit in the back three times. The third bullet was fired after he had already fallen to the ground.

THOUGH HE LIKELY WON'T WIN National League MVP, Francisco Lindor has racked up a number of awards for his spectacular 2024 season. Lindor, who slashed .273/.344/.500 with a .844 OPS, 33 home runs, 91 RBI, 107 runs scored and 29 stolen bases, won his fourth Silver Slugger award for his production at the plate last year. He also was named to the All-MLB Second Team. Though Shohei Ohtani will likely take home MVP honors in the NL, Lindor was named as one of three finalists for the award.

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLED A BRUSH fire that broke out in Alley Pond Park last week, PIX11 reported. The fire began around 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday and took around an hour and a half to come under control. It's one of several fires to have broken out in New York City parks over the past several weeks as the city continues to be in a drought. "Remarkably dry conditions in October and so far in November have resulted in a historic amount of brush fires over the last two weeks and we need the public to remain vigilant," FDNY Commissioner Robert Tucker said. "Due to a significant lack of rainfall, the threat of fast spreading brush fires fueled by dry vegetation and windy conditions pose a real threat to our members and our city."



'They need to do more'

Rockaway locals say MTA's plan to keep them moving during A train stoppage won't be enough

Locals and elected officials, including Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers, heard out the MTA's alternative plans for service during the 17-week A train stoppage on Thursday, but left feeling like the transit authority needed to go further. Eagle photo by Ryan Schwach

By Ryan Schwach
Queens Daily Eagle

Following concerns from locals over the MTA's plan to stop all subway service to the Rockaway peninsula for 17 weeks next year, Governor Kathy Hochul said last week that the MTA will bring a number of new and discounted services to help ease the headaches for the peninsula's transit rides.

However, local elected officials and strap-hangers in the far-flung corner of Queens say more will be needed to keep them moving with ease.

On Thursday night, Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers and the MTA held a town hall in

Rockaway to discuss the MTA's long-slated and much needed repairs on the peninsula portion of the A line and to hear out local concerns. At the town hall, the councilmember and several other locals told the MTA it isn't going far enough to accommodate riders during the stoppage.

Starting in January, the MTA will begin to repair outdated tracks and fortify existing infrastructure along the line, much of which was damaged when Hurricane Sandy hit the peninsula hard more than a decade ago.

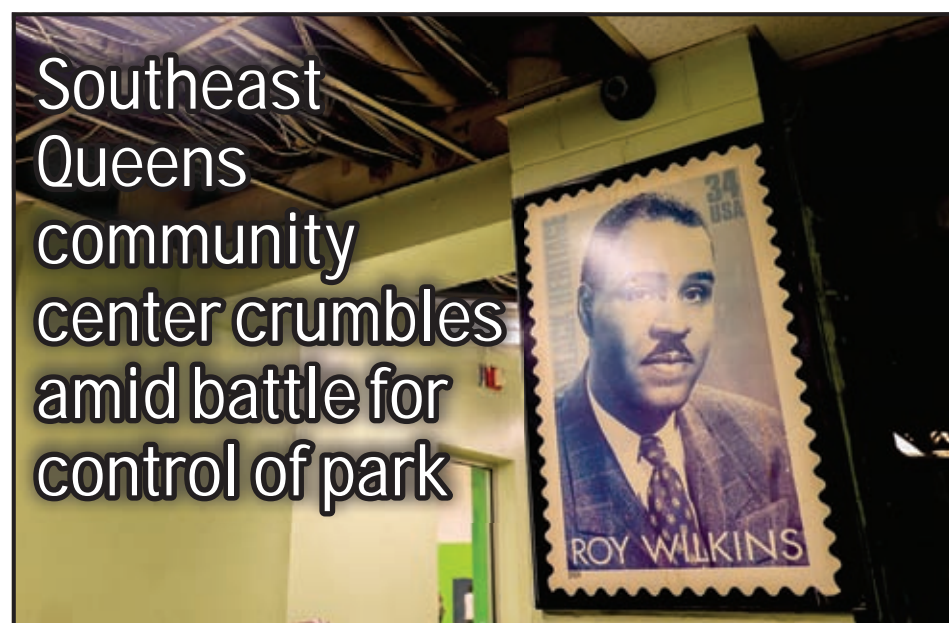
The work – part of the MTA's Rockaway Resiliency Project – will result in a 17-week suspension of A train service to the Rockaways, cutting out a commuting lifeline for many who

are already disconnected from mainland New York City. MTA officials have stressed that there was no way around the full stoppage. Throughout the duration of the repairs, there will be no train tracks for a subway to travel on.

"When we remove [the tracks], there's just going to be air," said Deidre Harvey, the CEO of the Rockaway Resiliency Project. "We're going to be totally demolishing it. There'll just be air. I cannot provide you service."

Just hours before the town hall, Hochul and the MTA announced a slew of service changes they hope will ease concerns for commuters on Rockaway.

Continued on page 16



The Roy Wilkins Recreation Center has been without heat for weeks and has missing ceiling tiles. The building has fallen into disrepair as a community group has fought the city for control over the park the building is located in. Eagle photo by Ryan Schwach

By Ryan Schwach
Queens Daily Eagle

As temperatures begin to fall in New York City, worries have begun to mount in Southeast Queens as one of the only recreational centers in the area has been without heat for weeks.

The lack of heat at the Roy Wilkins Recreation Center, which has been in a general state of disrepair for years, is only one symptom of a larger issue – mismanagement of the park, locals say.

Now, with the winter on the horizon, a local organization with a checkered past has begun to launch an effort to regain control of the park it once managed from the Parks Department, which they claim has skirted its responsibility to keep the park in the community's hands.

Last week, the leadership of the Southern Queens Parks Alliance, a Black-led organization founded in the 1970s following a community push to make the 54-acre space a publicly controlled park, hosted an "emergency town hall" in an effort to get the Parks Department to make needed fixes to the recreation center.

The city agency responded. It told the organization on Thursday that it planned to repair

See story on page 2

Roy Wilkins Park community center falls into disrepair

Continued from page 1

the building's heat by Monday.

But locals argue that promises from the Parks Department will ring hollow as long as Roy Wilkins Park remains in the full control of the city, and not in the hands of the local organization that once managed it.

For decades, the rec center and the park were operated by the Southern Queens Parks Alliance, which also runs youth, adult and senior programming. In addition to some maintenance of the park, SQPA was responsible for doling out park permits and organizing programming.

The original agreement between SQPA and the city was not renewed in 2022 when it expired. For the first time in the park's history, SQPA did not have major control over it. The organization also no longer had access to the funds it generated from granting permits for the park.

Just prior to the agreement's end, a former SQPA manager pleaded guilty to stealing tens of thousands of dollars from the organization, including taxpayer funds given to the organization by the city.

Since the switch, local leaders and elected officials claim that Parks has made it difficult for Southeast Queens residents and organizations to use the park for events. They also allege that the agency has neglected its duties to keep up the rec center, instead focusing its attention on the construction of a new \$93 million community center that is still years away from completion.

The recreational center, which sits in the ground floor of a building that also houses the Black Spectrum Theater, is not only without heat – its ceiling is also missing several panels, leaving some wiring exposed.

SQPA members said the panels had been missing since around May.

"Would you send your five-year-old to an after school program there?" said James Johnson, a community activist who holds an advisory



Local leaders held an "emergency town hall" last week to discuss concerns about Roy Wilkins Park and the rec center with the St. Albans community. Eagle photo by Ryan Schwach

position with the SQPA.

Johnson, along with the SQPA's director, Jermaine Sean Smith, organized the town hall held inside the rec center's building last week.

Even with the Parks Department's promises to fix the heat, Sean Smith said he expects another issue to arise soon. Sean Smith said that there is no heat "most of the time," and that Parks has resisted making any long-term fixes to the building.

"There's no preventive work that's done here," Sean Smith told reporters. "It's all reactive."

Both Sean Smith and Johnson ran for City Council in 2021, losing to now-City Councilmember Nantasha Williams, who also said she was troubled by the building's issues.

"The lack of heat in SQPA spaces is egregious and each winter season I have worked very closely to ensure that these issues are addressed by short-term maintenance," she told the Eagle in a statement. "In the long term, I have spoken to the parks commissioner about the continued need to invest in the existing Recreation Center."

Former SQPA administrators at the town hall last week said they too had often seen the building's heat go out. However, they said that the city has generally been responsive to the outages.

"If I said there was no heat, they sent somebody right away," said Jacqueline Boyce, who ran SQPA for eight years before Sean Smith took over.

"[Parks] told me it was difficult because it's a very old building, and it's hard to heat," she told the Eagle. "It wasn't that the Parks Department... didn't want to help."

The Parks Department told the Eagle that they have been working to fix the issues at the rec center, and that the parts of the ceiling missing were taken out in order to do the repairs.

An issue of control

At the heart of SQPA's frustration with the city is their claim that they no longer have control over the park they once managed.

With the Parks Department fully responsible for the park, SQPA's leadership said Roy Wilkins Park has been more and more difficult

for the community to access. Generally, they said, it feels less welcoming and less a part of the neighborhood.

The town hall organized by Sean Smith and Johnson, who is the son-in-law of Rep. Gregory Meeks, was centered around SQPA's past control over the park, including its authority to provide permitting for events in the park. Now all larger events in the park, including SQPA's, are required to first get the sign-off from the Parks Department – this is the case with all other parks in the city.

"Any permit that Jermaine puts in, it goes to Central in Manhattan," Johnson said. "So, if I just want to take my kids out and the park is nice outside, good weather – I have to put a permit in it to use outside space. On a regular day there are 175 kids in this center."

However, Boyce and other former SQPA administrators said the blame doesn't lie with the Parks Department but with Sean Smith's leadership at the SQPA.

"I couldn't relate to any of those things that he was saying, because they never once did not allow my children to come to the park," Boyce said. "One thing that I learned in my business world is you have to build relationships... You got to have a relationship. If you don't have that, then you don't get anything done."

Sean Smith said the relationship between SQPA and the Parks Department has been "tenuous" since he began asking the agency to make long-term fixes to the recreational center.

Sean Smith and Johnson asserted at the packed Wednesday meeting that Parks had not been responsive to their concerns, and their requests for a new agreement that would give them control of the park have been met with flat refusals.

In May, the organization sent a formal request to the Parks Department requesting they be given priority booking for the park. They also asked to be given the exclusive right to operate the park.

In a July letter sent by the Parks Department to the organization in response, the agency denied each of SQPA's requests.

A Parks Department spokesperson told the Eagle that it has yet to deny any permitting request from the organization.

"Our public parks are spaces for all New Yorkers to enjoy," they said in a statement to the Eagle. "Parks is dedicated to working with all community groups and individuals interested in hosting an event in our parks, including at Roy Wilkins Park."

This week's cases of interest in Queens Criminal Court

CASES OF INTEREST - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Marco Mosquera – K15/ Justice Yavinsky/ Attempted Murder 2° (ADA Salmon) Trial Continues. Charged with pointing gun at police officer spouse, shooting responding officers. Anthony Scalici – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA Ross) Conference. Charged in 2009 cold case demise of his uncle. Adrian Escobar, Jonathan Suarez – K22/ Justice Margulis/ Criminal Poss. of Controlled Substance 2° (ADA Linehan) Conference. Million-dollar drug and gun-trafficking ring takedown. Fei Wu – APN/ Justice Auguste/ Trademark Counterfeiting 1° (ADA Staines) Conference. Charged with million-dollar automotive counterfeiting scheme.

CASES OF INTEREST - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Lindy Jones – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2° (ADA Zawistowski) Conference. Indicted on charges connected

to the death of NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller. Jamil Brown – APN/ Justice Auguste/ Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 2° (ADA Mo) Conference. Charged with running postal theft ring. Tariq Sykes – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Murder 2° (ADA Zawistowski) Conference. Charged with shooting death of female friend. Ashram Lochan – TAP B/ Justice Pandit-Durant/ Murder 2° (ADA Selkove) Conference. Charged in shooting death of 10-year-old boy in Far Rockaway. Henry Gutierrez – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Murder 2° (ADA Amodeo) Conference. Indicted for fatally stabbing his brother. Anthony Sanford – K18/ Justice Zaro/ Criminal Sale of Firearm 1° (ADA Anderson) Conference. Indicted on gun trafficking charges following long-term investigation. Osvaldo Diaz – TAP B/ Justice Pandit-Durant/ Murder 2° (ADA Lasak) Conference. Indicted in machete death of his mother in 2021.

CASES OF INTEREST - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Dariel Herrera – TAP C/ Justice Holder/ Attempted Murder 2° (ADA Sanchez) Conference. Indicted for gunfire exchange in broad daylight. Oneil Thompson – K18/ Justice Zaro/ Kidnapping 2° (ADA McCann) Conference. Charged with home invasion. Shaqem Douglas – K25/ Justice Hartofilis/ Manslaughter 2° (ADA Cox) Conference. Indicted in fatal road rage crash on the Long Island Expressway. Keith Harvey TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2° (ADA Brovner) Conference. Charged with possessing arsenal of assault rifles in residence.

CASES OF INTEREST - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Quiming Wan – TAP D/ Justice Aloise/ Murder 2° (ADA Charles) Sentencing. Convicted of murder and sexual assault of woman found dead in lobby of building. Freddie Berg - K3/ Justice Zoll/ Grand Larceny 2° (ADA Oliveri) Conference. Suspended lawyer charged with bilking home buyers out of more than \$1 million in down payments. Elizabeth Grant – TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Aggravated Cruelty to Animals (ADA Bobko) Conference. Indicted for animal cruelty and other crimes. Kevin Sygney – TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Crim. Poss. of a Controlled Substance 2° (ADA Quinones) Conference. Charged after home search revealed arsenal of drugs and weapons.

Andrew & Angelo Hatzigelis – TAP A/ Justice Cimino/ Crim. Poss. of a Dangerous Weapon 1°

Conference. (ADA Bello) Brothers charged with having ghost gun and homemade bombs. Semone Douglass – K25/ Justice Hartofilis/ Manslaughter 2° (ADA Mavrikis) Conference. Indicted for fatal crash that killed one and injured another.

CASES OF INTEREST - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024 NO CASES OF INTEREST

Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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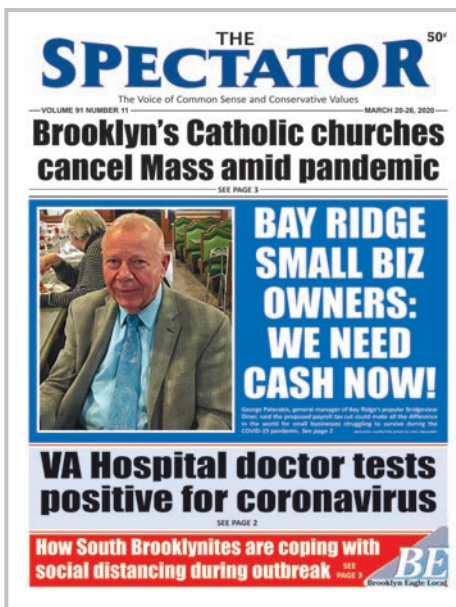
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We hope you will support our efforts in local journalism.

Jen Hopewell,
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Trump presidency looms over New York's ambitious climate agenda

By Samantha Maldonado
THE CITY

With President Donald Trump set to return to the White House, New York is all but on its own to play catch-up with its ambitious, legally mandated climate goals.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, passed in 2019 during Trump's first presidential term, requires the state to have zero-emissions electricity by 2040 and slash greenhouse gas emissions 85% by 2050.

While the state has made some progress — aided in large part by the Biden administration, whose friendly stance toward climate action gave way to smoother offshore wind permitting and tax incentives for cleaner vehicles — it's got a long way to go. Even with that wind at its back, however, New York had already fallen about three years behind its own benchmarks.

"The role of the state is far more important, in that we can no longer rely on the federal government," said Michael Gerrard, director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University. "There's plenty we can do if we have the political will."

Gerrard said Gov. Kathy Hochul should double down on advancing the climate law's aims by following the sweeping policy blueprint that plots out a transition away from fossil fuels for all parts of New York's economy, from home heating and energy sources, to what kinds of cars are on the road. But the state lacks a clear funding source or spending plan to carry that out.

"New York has taken significant steps to implement the Climate Act and we will continue our ongoing efforts to build a clean energy economy," Paul DiMichele, a spokesperson for Hochul, said in a statement.

One person who could help or hinder Hochul's efforts is Lee Zeldin, Trump's appointee to head the Environmental Protection Agency. Zeldin, a former state senator and Congressman representing eastern Long Island, challenged Hochul for governor in 2022 and came within six points of winning. This summer, he called New York's climate law "unrealistic and unobtainable," saying its goals amounted to "pathetic political posturing."

Zeldin said Tuesday that the EPA has the "opportunity to roll back regulations that are forcing businesses to struggle." That echoes some groups in New York that have raised concerns over the impacts and feasibility of the state's climate goals. The Business Council of New York gave Zeldin a "top pro-business score" in 2014 when he was a state senator, while just three years earlier, Environmental Advocates New York awarded him an "Oil Slick" award.

Still, Hochul is holding out hope that her former political rival will remember where he's from: an area vulnerable to flooding and growing more so as sea levels rise, reliant on groundwater as its drinking source, and home to many whose livelihoods depend on a healthy environment.

"Hopefully, these are all factors that the new head of EPA will know, what was happening in his backyard, and try to help solve problems, not create more," Hochul said this week.



Lee Zeldin, then running for governor, speaks with reporters outside the Jackson Heights subway station on Election Day, Nov. 8, 2022. Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

Zeldin does not have a reputation as an environmental champion, though advocates who worked with him locally said he stepped up in crucial times.

Adrienne Esposito, executive director of the Long Island-based Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said she asked Zeldin to publicly oppose Trump's idea to drill for oil off the East Coast. He did, she said, in part because he recognized the harmful impact that would have had on Long Island fishermen.

"When pressed by his constituents on issues that they really cared about, he would be responsive. What I'm worried about now is that his responsiveness will turn away from the public and more towards Trump's agenda," Esposito said.

Regarding Trump, Esposito added, "He traded the industry's bottom lines for public health. When he had to choose between the two, he chose industry. What we need Zeldin to do is fight for the public need above corporate greed."

Rejecting Climate Science

What Zeldin ultimately decides to do if confirmed as head of the EPA may be a question of how closely he hews to Trump's vision.

Trump has long rejected climate science. During his first term, his administration gutted research funding, and the EPA rolled back over 100 policies and rules aimed at lowering planet-warming emissions and protecting the environment.

Perhaps the biggest impact the EPA could have on New York's climate aims is rolling back

Biden-era rules that limit harmful tailpipe emissions. These rules aimed to slash pollution and push the U.S. vehicle market toward electric and hybrid vehicles.

This rule boosted New York's efforts to tackle its largest source of planet-warming emissions: the transportation sector. Hochul issued a directive requiring all cars sold in the state to be zero-emissions — that is, powered by hydrogen or electricity — by 2035.

"Whether we're able to meet the 2035 target, and what happens along the way is mostly out of our hands, it's mostly a federal matter," Gerrard said. "That's the single thing that I think is the greatest problem that the election has for New York's achievement of these climate goals."

One person uniquely poised to nudge the Trump administration toward greater support for electric vehicles is Elon Musk, Trump's confidant, appointee to co-lead a new proposed Department of Government Efficiency, and founder of electric car manufacturer Tesla.

Some New York environmental advocates are pushing for the state to adopt a clean fuel standard, which would require a reduction in the carbon intensity of vehicles, thereby incentivizing a switch from gasoline to a lower-emissions fuels such as biodiesel. The state Senate passed legislation to do so, but the Assembly never held a vote on the measure. Hochul could prioritize state approval of such a standard.

'Dominance,' Renewables Included

Zeldin also promised to "pursue energy dominance" for the U.S., without specifying what kind of energy he wants to be dominant.

"Does that mean only fossil fuels? Trump has been outspoken in opposing offshore wind — do wind and solar and geothermal factor into that equation?" said Judith Enck, a former regional administrator of the EPA. "It's in the EPA wheelhouse. The EPA sometimes issues permits for coal-fired power plants, fracking, pipelines."

One clue: When Zeldin ran for governor, he vowed to overturn New York's ban on fracking and said New York was not "tapping into" a supply of energy, suggesting the state could extract natural gas, which he said would also create jobs.

But clean energy has been a job creator nationwide, and years earlier, Zeldin had recognized its benefits.

"The key is to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, to become more environmentally friendly and pursue clean and green energy," Zeldin said during a 2016 congressional campaign debate against his Democratic challenger.

Environmental advocates say that fulfilling Zeldin's "energy dominance" pledge will have to include renewables in the mix at some level.

"I don't see how the country is energy dominant or energy secure and less reliant on the roller coaster ride of the oil markets if we're not getting more of our energy, including for our vehicles, from electricity and renewable sources," said Julie Tighe, president of the New York League of Conservation Voters.

Zeldin, however, voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, which have been credited with spurring investment in clean energy and manufacturing — including in New York.

Trump has vowed to rescind unspent dollars from the Inflation Reduction Act — a big risk for the state. Already, his transition team is seeking to repeal the IRA's electric vehicle tax credit.

"New York needs to be cognizant of that when it comes to prioritizing the resources it does have to maximize greenhouse gas reduction," said Patrick Orecki, director of state studies at the Citizens Budget Commission, in an email.

He emphasized that while federal dollars and incentives help advance the climate law, the state is ultimately on the hook to find its own funding.

New York is slated to establish a program, known as "cap-and-invest," that would charge polluters for emissions they spew in an effort to incentivize them to emit less and to raise money to pay for climate-related investments. But the state has yet to write regulations for the program — one of several key deadlines in the Climate Act its missed.

"If the state keeps missing climate law milestones, nobody else is coming to our rescue," said Eddie Bautista, executive director of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance. "We're all disappointed and waiting to see if she will start taking climate change mitigation and adaptation with the urgency we need."

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



Traffic moves on the Cross Bronx Expressway near the Boston Road Bridge, July 26, 2024. Credit: Alex Krales/THE CITY



An electric vehicle recharges at City Hall, March 20, 2023. Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

New Federal Rule Makes It as Easy To Cancel A Subscription as To Order a New One

By David Arditi
The Conversation

Signing up for a subscription to a streaming service or newspaper has never been easier.

Canceling it, on the other hand, can be a cumbersome journey involving phone calls, letters or finding the option to cancel buried in a remote menu on an app.

And that's if you remember to cancel in the first place.

Now, thanks to a new rule passed by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, you may have an easier time getting rid of subscriptions you no longer want.

The rule aims to make canceling a subscription as easy as setting one up. The Federal Trade Commission refers to it as "click-to-cancel" under the logic that one click should be able to cancel a subscription.

It will go into effect on April 14, 2025.

The move updates a 1973 regulation called the "Negative Option Rule," which governed subscription services for products like magazines or book-of-the-month clubs — physical items sent over and over. The phrase "negative option" refers to the fact that a subscriber, under the rules of the service, doesn't need to do anything to remain subscribed; if a customer fails to cancel a subscription, a company can charge customers for another year. Silence is acceptance.

The 1973 rule only regulated "prenotification" subscriptions, in which a service would send subscribers a product and, if no action were taken, the customer was responsible for paying for it — a model that Columbia Records used for its Columbia House Record Club, which would periodically send music to subscribers and charge them for it if they didn't return it.

The new rule requires companies that sign up customers online to allow customers to cancel online. Some companies have been forcing customers who had signed up online to cancel over the phone or in person. Under the click-to-cancel rule, companies will no longer be able to force customers to cancel in a different manner.

But I do wonder if this rule is merely a Band-Aid on a broken leg, particularly since more and more companies are starting to see value in making sure customers get locked into regular payments — and, in some cases, never fully own what they buy.



Tesla offers monthly subscription services for features such as longer battery life and improved Wi-Fi connectivity.

Getty Images via The Conversation

Unending consumption

According to the 2021 Subscription Economy Index, the subscription economy had grown by 437% since 2012. And as subscriptions mount, it can be difficult to remember them all, particularly since they usually operate through automatic payments.

Subscriptions services include mainstays like newspapers and magazines. But now there are razor blade, video game, software and meal subscriptions. BMW even briefly required subscriptions in some countries to use features in their cars, such as heated seats, before backing down amid an outcry.

It's all part of a broader shift toward what, in my book on streaming, I call "unending consumption": a business model based on the buyer's constant consumption.

It's constant because consumers pay a recurring charge on autopay. It's consistent because the price is relatively stable.

Companies favor inertia over churn

You can see why this business model has companies salivating.

Most businesses have what's known as a "high churn rate." In other words, a high percentage of their customers only buy from them once or twice before stopping.

Subscriptions, on the other hand, give companies a stream of revenue. In business, this is called "inertia," because once someone subscribes to a service, they tend to continue subscribing.

Before digital streaming, the average music fan spent roughly \$45 per year, adjusted for inflation, on CDs, tapes and records. A Spotify subscription costs \$120 per year. And what happens if you pay for Spotify, but don't use it much during a given month? Spotify receives that \$10 as surplus value.

It's not just media companies turning to subscriptions. In the electric vehicle industry, owners increasingly need subscriptions to access certain features in their cars. For instance, Tesla requires a subscription to extend a vehicle's battery range and use self-driving features.

Technology and society scholars MC Forelle and Aaron Shapiro have coined the term "subscriptionization" to describe how personal vehicles are being transformed into "assets that generate rents for automakers."

Take the short-lived BMW heated seats subscription. When customers purchased their new car, their seats had the heating capability. But they needed to subscribe to a service in order for them to work: Owners could pay \$18 per month, \$180 per year or \$415 over a vehicle's lifetime to use it.

It's easy to see how BMW benefits: Drivers probably only need the heated seats during the coldest months of the year. But how many will forget to cancel? This helps the automaker draw consistent income from the subscription even in warm months.

Free trials and hidden price hikes

This isn't to say that subscriptions can't be convenient. Paying for TV programs every time you want to stream a

show would be tiresome. And purchasing a newspaper on your way to work means not being able to read it before you leave home.

However, I can't help but see a connection between the rise in subscription-based business models and ballooning personal debt in the U.S.

Wages have stagnated for decades, beginning in the 1970s. But Americans keep paying for more subscription-based services, many of which are no longer seen as luxuries, but necessities: internet access, cell phones, Amazon Prime, Netflix, Spotify, Microsoft 365, cloud storage, and on and on. In fact, according to one poll, more than half of subscribers underestimate how much they spend on subscriptions each month, driven by a considerable amount of people who forget about their subscriptions altogether.

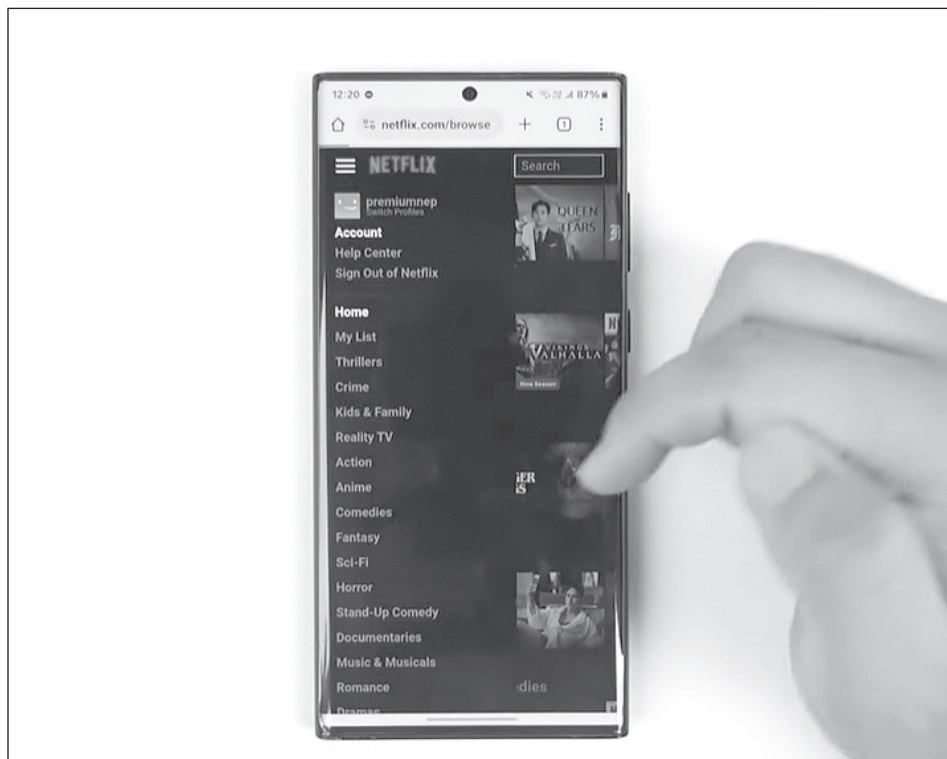
Click-to-cancel promises to help people manage their array of subscription services. But in my view, this fails to address a number of unfair subscription practices.

Giving people a free trial is a strategy businesses use because they know many customers will forget to cancel before the trial period ends — regardless of whether they use the service. The government could remedy this by outlawing having to enter credit card information before the purchase.

People can also end up overpaying through subscriptions that go up in cost without alerting the customers. Amazon's "Subscribe and Save," for example, allows prices for subscribed goods to increase, and the company won't notify the subscriber.

According to one poll, 69% of Americans think there are already too many subscription services available. But companies are nonetheless scrambling to develop their own, whether it's movie studios like Paramount rolling out their own subscription-based streaming services or Hewlett-Packard offering subscriptions for printer ink. Even the most popular app to manage subscriptions, Rocket Money, requires a subscription.

While click-to-cancel will make it easier to get out of byzantine subscription plans, a subscription-based economy seems poised to expand — along with all of the attendant traps to suck consumers in.



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Scholastic Roundup

There's a Real Gridiron in Brooklyn

By Andy Furman
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

It is quite the battle in Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) 3-A football, with the Tigers of Fort Hamilton High School and Brooklyn Tech's Engineers both deadlocked with 7-1 league marks.

South Shore and Curtus High Schools remain undefeated in 4-A with 8-0 records, with Erasmus Hall close with their 7-1 won-loss record.

Transit Tech High is alone in 1-A with a perfect 8-0 slate and Eagle Academy for Men tops 2-A with their 8-0 record.

Fort Hamilton topped Franklin K. Lane last week, 36-28, as junior quarterback Aidan Farley passed for three touchdowns — he was 19-for-28 for 207 yards. Harold "Trey" Marshall, a freshman, ran for two scores — a seven-yard run and a 27-yarder.

Transit Tech whitewashed Evander Childs, 44-0 and plays at George Washington, Sunday (Nov. 17th). The Flying Dutchmen of Erasmus Hall won their fourth straight, beating Lincoln 28-7 last week, and meet Eagle Academy, Saturday (Nov. 16). South Shore High drubbed New Utrecht, 56-8 last week, and the Vikings play at Lincoln, Saturday. The Engineers of Brooklyn Tech had a 21-20 squeaker over Randolph Campus and face Bryant, Saturday.

Claremont International High School and Manhattan Comprehensive split their regular-season contests, but it was Claremont knocking off Comprehensive, 6-4 last week to win the PSAL MPL girls soccer championship at Frederick Douglass Playground, Manhattan. It marked back-to-back titles for Claremont. Gabriela Guerrero Mejia scored the fifth, and proved to be the winning goal, for Claremont. Solano Tixteco scored a hat-trick for Manhattan Comprehensive.

The Manhattan Comprehensive boys

met their Claremont counterparts last week for the PSAL title at Randalls Island. Manhattan Comprehensive won in overtime — on a Bejholn Alerte penalty kick, 1-0.

Kyle Neptune was a member of the 2003 Brooklyn Friends School State Championship team, recording a school record in points with 1,650. He played collegiate basketball at Lehigh under Billy Taylor where he was a member of the Mountain Hawks' 2004 NCAA Tournament team.

On April 20, 2022 — following Jay Wright's retirement — he was named Villanova's head coach. Today, he is feeling some heat. After struggling against Lafayette in last week's opener, it got worse when Villanova lost to Columbia, 90-80. For the record, Columbia's Lions do not have much of a roar — they've won a total of 59 games over the last seven seasons. Neptune is now 35-34 at Villanova. For Columbia, this was the first win over a Big East program since 2012, when the Lions beat Villanova, 75-57. Geronimo Rubio De La Rosa was the star for Columbia with 22 points and a perfect 10-for-10 from the foul line.

Aaniya Telford, a St. Joseph's University, Brooklyn junior via Fontbonne Hall Academy, grabbed eight rebounds in the Bears 92-35 season-opening victory over the City College of New York last Friday at The Hill Center. Mercedes Perez led the Bears with 26 points on 10-of-13 shooting.

The Brooklyn College women dropped their season basketball opener on the road at Stockton University (Galloway, N.J.), 56-42, Saturday. Alina Estrella, a graduate student via James Madison High School, led Brooklyn with a team-high 11 points to go along with eight rebounds, five assists and three steals.

The Brooklyn men dropped a 61-59 heartbreaker in the final seconds against



The Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) logo.

Twitter photo

New Jersey City University's Knights in Jersey City, Saturday. Malik Dale, a senior transfer from Bronx Community College, led the way for Brooklyn with 14 points; fellow senior Stephon McGill added 10 points and six rebounds.

Brooklyn College grad student Frank Ferrante, became the college's first-ever Runner-of-the-Year, as announced by the City University of New York Athletic Conference. First-year head coach, Eric Schrick was named the conference Coach of the Year. Azizjon Sharifov, Yasin Gordon, and Samuel Dufner all earned CUNYAC All-Star accolades for finishing in the top-15 at this year's CUNYAC Championships. In addition, Wali Mohammad was named to the conference's Sportsmanship Team. The Bulldogs took third-place at the 2024 Championships at Van Cortlandt Park — they will compete in the NCAA Regional Championships, Saturday (Nov. 16th) at Stockton University.

Senior Mark Katsev was a multi-sport athlete at Leon M. Goldstein High School, competing for the varsity water polo, swimming, and soccer teams — he was team captain for all three squads. He played club for Greenwich Aquatics, receiving the Grit Award in 2019 and was an Academic All-American for 2020-21. He led his Cadet team at ODP 2019 in scoring with 17 goals over four games, and helped the 16U team at the 2019 Junior Olympics to a sixth-place finish, the highest placing for any team outside of California in that age group.

The Fordham University senior is a member of the Rams' nationally-ranked water polo team that started the season a perfect 24-0. The Rams have already topped Princeton — an NCAA tournament semi-finalist last year — and Harvard. They recently completed a West Coast tour against the likes of the Pacific, UC-Santa Barbara, and San Jose State. In the most recent NCAA RPI poll, they have been

ranked as high as No. 2 in the weekly coach's poll. The Rams' roster has players from Hungary, Italy, Malta, Greece, Spain, and France, as well as one Brooklynite.

Senior Amaya Dowdy led the Northeast Conference with 24 blocks — 1.8 per-game — last season for LIU. She scored 24 points to go along with eight rebounds and two blocks as the Lady Sharks topped Cal State Fullerton, 63-52 for their first win of the season, Sunday afternoon in Brooklyn.

Six Sharks scored double-figures as LIU's men opened their home schedule with an impressive 102-42 victory over Pratt Institute. Senior forward Jamal Fuller led all scorers with 19 points in just 17 minutes of action. Jalen "Roe" Lee added 18 points. Malachi Davis chipped in 13 and a game-high nine assists. Shadrack Lasu grabbed nine rebounds in the win.

The victory marked LIU's first home-opening win since 2022, when they defeated Mount Saint Vincent, 111-50.

The LIU football Sharks host St. Francis University in their home finale, Saturday (Nov. 16) at Bethpage Federal Credit Union Stadium. The Sharks topped Sacred Heart, 28-7 last week in Fairfield as quarterback Ethan Greenwood scored two touchdowns. Pat Bowen rushed for 70 yards, and Michael Lowe and Ludovick Choquette also found the end zone for the Sharks.

An historic 2024 campaign for the St. Joseph's University, Brooklyn men's soccer team came to an end last week, when they fell to No. 1 St. Joseph's (Long Island) 1-0 in the Skyline Conference Championship semifinal. The Bears finish with an 8-7-3 overall record and a 6-3-2 mark in Skyline play. Both are the most in a single-season in program history and under head coach Adam Brunengo.

Junior standout Shelly Quezada scored a game-high 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked two shots but it was not enough as the Medgar Evers women fell in their basketball opener to Farmingdale State College, 58-39, last week.

Giovanna Lisa led the Pratt Institute women's cross-country team to a fourth-place finish and Justin Cai was the top finisher for the men at the 2024 Atlantic East Conference Cross Country Championships, Saturday at the Hudson Valley Sportsdome.

Lisa's time of 27:55.6 was good for 13th place in the field of 41 and earning the first All-Atlantic East honor in their first year in the league. Sarah Cawley (29:47.4) and Reeshane Villkarama (29:56.7) finished back-to-back in 20th and 21st. Finn Powell captured 25th in 31:29.7, and Kathleen Chen completed the scoring in 28th in 32:13.3

Cai turned in a top-20 finish for the men in 19th overall, clocking in at 30:48.9. Andrew Kanga finished in 37th in 36:21.0, Andrew Weiss took 41st in 38:13.8 and Henry Domst placed 44th in 40:04.8 as the Cannoneers did not score in the team competition.

Andy Furman is a Fox Sports Radio national talk show host. Previously, he was a scholastic sports columnist for the Brooklyn Eagle. He may be reached at: andyf@brooklyneagle.com ; Twitter: @AndyFurmanFSR



The Transit Tech varsity football team.

Photo courtesy of Transit Tech



Our World In Pictures

MYANMAR — Keeping the flames of faith burning: Buddhist devotees light candles during the full moon day of Tazaungmone, also known as lighting festival, at a pagoda Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, in Yangon, Myanmar.

Photo: Thein Zaw/AP



SLOVENIA — Airborne contact, athletic intensity: Slovenia's Adam Gnezda Cerin, left, and Norway's Lasse Johnsen go for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Slovenia and Norway at Stozice stadium in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024.

Photo: Darko Bandic/AP



JAKARTA — 'Hugging? There's no hugging in soccer ...': Japan's Reo Hatate battles for the ball against Indonesia's Rafael Struick during their 2026 World Cup Asian 3rd round qualifier soccer match at Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024.

Photo: Achmad Ibrahim/AP



WASHINGTON — Fresh meat for an aggressive new president? Newly-elected House members gather for a freshman class photo on the Capitol steps, in Washington, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024.

Photo: J. Scott Applewhite/AP



Our World In Pictures



INDIA — Whether river or pond, religious celebrations work best in water: Sikh devotees pray while standing in the pond surrounding the Golden Temple as they celebrate the birth anniversary of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak, in Amritsar, India, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. Photo: Prabhjot Gill/AP



PHILADELPHIA — Dramatic moment as ball and left foot cross the goal line: Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley (26) scores during the second half of an NFL football game against the Washington Commanders Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, in Philadelphia. Photo: Matt Slocum/AP



BEIRUT — Moments before an explosion: A bomb dropped from an Israeli jet prepares to hit a building in Tayouneh, Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. Photo: Hassan Ammar/AP



ISRAEL — For brief moments, escape from the intensity of politics and war: Youngsters dive into the Mediterranean sea at the old city walls of Acre, Israel, Friday, Nov. 15, 2024. Photo: Francisco Seco/AP

Congestion pricing plan is back. Here's what it means for public health

By Eliza Fawcett
Healthbeat

Gov. Kathy Hochul revived New York City's congestion pricing plan on Thursday, throwing her support behind a program that aims to reduce pollution, fund the public transit system, and improve residents' health.

Officials framed the return of congestion pricing as a historic win for the environment and for public health. By taxing vehicles entering parts of Manhattan, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority plans to generate billions of dollars to fund transit improvements throughout the city, from extended subway lines to new electric buses and increased accessibility at subway stations.

"New Yorkers want cleaner air, safer streets, and a transit system that works for them," Janno Lieber, chief executive of the MTA, said at a press conference.

Hochul unexpectedly paused congestion pricing in June. She now faces a brief window to implement the plan before the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, who has vowed to kill it.

The plan has faced additional opposition, including lawsuits from New Jersey and local truckers. Some local officials and community organizations have also raised concerns that vehicles diverted from Manhattan will further pollute outer boroughs like the Bronx. The MTA has pledged to fund mitigation measures, including electric truck charging infrastructure, air filtration units in schools near highways, and more green spaces.

The congestion pricing program has three main objectives, Hochul said: to enhance the public transit system, to reduce gridlock — protecting pedestrians and clearing the way for emergency vehicles — and to improve air quality. Under the new plan, most passenger cars would be charged \$9 to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street during peak hours, a reduction from the \$15 fee previously proposed.

New York City Deputy Mayor for Operations Meera Joshi likened the congestion pricing plan to the city's decision to ban smoking in bars and restaurants in the early 2000s — and its compounding health impacts on future generations.

"Our restaurants are thriving, our air is cleaner, and we've saved tens of thousands of lives from lung cancer. More importantly, we created a healthier new normal for this generation," she said. "We once questioned this big culture change, and now we celebrate it. That's how this moment will be remembered, too."

Congestion pricing programs have existed for decades in other cities across the world, including in London and Stockholm, and research suggests a link to health benefits. Both cities saw



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks during a press conference on congestion pricing in New York City on Thursday.

Angela Weiss / AFP via Getty Images

significant reductions in pollution levels after implementing congestion pricing, and in Stockholm, rates of asthma-related doctor visits among young children fell by 6 visits per 10,000 children in the congestion zone, relative to control areas.

Danny Pearlstein, policy and communications director for the Riders Alliance, an organization that advocates for transit users, said congestion pricing would have a clear positive impact on New Yorkers' health.

The program would likely deter car trips into Manhattan, improving air quality and allowing emergency vehicles to navigate the city more quickly, he said. And its revenue would bring significant investments in a more efficient public transportation system.

"Better transit is tied to all sorts of good health outcomes, mostly because it gets people walking," he said.

But some local officials and advocates have raised concerns about the spillover effects of the

plan on outer boroughs. An environmental assessment conducted by the MTA in 2022 found that congestion pricing could lead to a slight increase in pollution in the Bronx, with added truck traffic on the Cross Bronx Expressway.

The MTA has pledged to fund mitigation measures in the Bronx, earmarking \$20 million for an asthma center and case management program and \$15 million to replace diesel-powered trucks at the Hunts Point Produce Market. Officials stressed that those and other mitigation measures would remain fully funded under the new plan.

"They need it," Hochul said of areas like the Bronx. "This is a community that needs the assistance, and I'm proud to deliver it."

Arif Ullah, executive director of South Bronx Unite, an environmental justice nonprofit, said his organization supports congestion pricing in principle — but not at the cost of further polluting the South Bronx, which has among the highest childhood asthma rates in the country.

"We welcome all pollution mitigation measures for the South Bronx and for any pollution-burdened community, but they should not be dangled in front of us as a bargaining chip for adding more pollution to the area," he said.

It's not clear how the revised congestion pricing plan might alter the MTA's projections about traffic flows into the Bronx, Ullah acknowledged. But any local increase in pollution due to congestion pricing would be "unacceptable," he said.

South Bronx Unite began monitoring local air quality a few years ago through dozens of sensors, and Ullah said the organization plans to collect data on the potential impacts of congestion pricing if it is enacted.

New York officials still require final federal approval before congestion pricing can begin, and multiple lawsuits against the plan are pending.

Healthbeat is a nonprofit newsroom covering public health published by Civic News Company and KFF Health News.



Protesters in Brooklyn organized by the Riders Alliance in June condemn Gov. Kathy Hochul's decision to pause the congestion pricing plan.

Eliza Fawcett / Healthbeat

Tom Suozzi, Clarapath, and the biotech boom he didn't disclose

By Will Bredderman
New York Focus

Following back-to-back election losses for Nassau county executive, Tom Suozzi had by all accounts settled into the plush afterlife of a fallen New York politician.

After his first defeat in 2009, he worked as an advisor to Democrat-friendly investment bank Lazard, a consultant to James Dolan's Cablevision empire, and an attorney with a six-figure gig at the politically wired law firm Harris Beach.

In 2014, months after his second defeat, Suozzi became an angel investor in a startup hatched at Nassau County's legendary biology research institute, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Suozzi would later resurrect his political career and become a US Congressperson in 2016. That move came with financial disclosure requirements — but a New York Focus investigation has uncovered that Suozzi failed to provide an accounting of his stake in the startup, called Clarapath, until contacted by this reporter.

Further, after his electoral resuscitation, one of the House district's most powerful stakeholders, the Northwell Health system, became one of Clarapath's biggest boosters: piloting Clarapath's technology at its facilities, investing millions into the company, and even leading a recent round of fundraising. As a consequence, Clarapath's valuation has exploded — and so, experts said, has Suozzi's potential payout when he decides to finally sell his shares.

Even in his years out of office, Suozzi remained Democratic royalty. His father was a state appellate judge and the ex-mayor of Glen Cove, a job that Suozzi himself occupied from 1994 through 2001, before he sat in the powerful county executive chair for the eight years prior to his ouster.

Suozzi had a long relationship with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. He gave his second-ever State of the County address at the facility in 2003, and his administration provided substantial financial assistance to the lab during his tenure as county executive.

In 2011, under the guidance of US Senator Chuck Schumer, venture capitalist Mark Fasciano helped establish an investment fund focused on launching companies out of Long Island's long-standing research institutions. Fasciano was a member of the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council and had served on the transition team for then-incoming governor Andrew Cuomo.

State corporation records show that only days before Suozzi sank \$28,000 into Clarapath, Fasciano registered an entity called MF Clarapath LLC. Around this same time, according to his LinkedIn, he became Clarapath's first CEO.

Fasciano did not respond to repeated requests for comment. Neither did Clarapath's current CEO, Eric Feinstein, nor the company's media team.

At the time Suozzi and Fasciano climbed aboard, Clarapath was a nascent company formed three months prior in Delaware. It didn't apply for a patent on its proprietary product, which seeks to automate biopsy procedures, until five years later, in June 2016. It didn't register to do business in New York until seven months after that.

By that point, Suozzi was in Washington.

In his first financial disclosures as a candidate and newly minted congressman, Suozzi placed the value of his investment in Clarapath in the \$15,000 to \$50,000 range.

But in ensuing years, he declared the value as "undetermined" or "none" — even though he sank an additional \$250,000 into the company in early 2021.

He assessed the company as worthless at the time of his exit from the House in 2023 for an ill-fated gubernatorial run, and then as "unknown" again when he returned after the fleeting, madcap tenure of George Santos.

In the meantime, Clarapath had formed a partnership with Northwell Health — the most powerful force in Long Island's political economy.

As one of Clarapath's primary investors and partners, Northwell piloted Clarapath's signature device — called SectionStar — in its facilities long before it hit the open market. In July of this year, a Northwell subsidiary led a fundraising round that reaped \$36 million for Clarapath.



The Northwell Health system became one of Clarapath's biggest boosters.

Photos: Terry Ballard via Flickr, Antony-22 via Wikimedia Commons. Illustration: Leor Styler

The first record of their partnership dates to late 2018, when the hospital chain's publication *Doctoring* described how they were, at the time, developing SectionStar together.

Quoted at length was Eric Feinstein, then investment director for Northwell Ventures, one of the medical network's for-profit subsidiaries.

By January of the following year, when Suozzi was starting his second term, Feinstein had moved over to become Clarapath's new CEO. In a press release celebrating a \$32 million fundraising round in which Northwell participated, Clarapath named the hospital system as one of just two of its "research and clinical customers" — even though SectionStar had not yet received Food and Drug Administration approval.

Northwell then led the round that brought Clarapath's total fundraising to \$75 million this past summer. Today it controls three of Clarapath's nine board seats (not including the one held by Feinstein), giving it the largest presence of any institution. The two are entwined enough that, on his new company's website, former CEO Fasciano asserts that "Clarapath is now part of Northwell Health."

Northwell wields massive influence in Long Island affairs: With more than 80,000 employees and nearly \$17 billion in annual operating revenue, the healthcare empire is the largest private employer not just in the region but in the entire state.

"This is not your average hospital," said Bill Hammond, senior fellow for health policy at the Empire Center for Public Policy think tank. "This is a goliath of the healthcare world. It would be very hard for an official on Long Island not to have a relationship with them."

Hammond noted that Northwell's expansion over the past generation — adding 23 hospitals and 850 additional facilities — owes much to its political savvy: CEO Michael Dowling served as a top official in late Governor Mario Cuomo's administration and as a confidante to former Governor Andrew Cuomo, sitting on the scion's Medicaid Redesign teams and other executive panels.

Northwell has also hired an array of former politicians, including John Flanagan, the former Republican Senate Majority Leader; ex-Nassau County legislators Kevan Abrahams and Josh Lafazan; one-time Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman; and retired Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

Besides recruiting so many people with political connections, Hammond said, Northwell further amplifies its influence through the Greater

New York Hospital Association trade group and its allies in organized labor.

"You know the phrase, 'the military-industrial complex'?" There is a hospital-industrial complex, and it's intimately intertwined with our political system," Hammond said. "Between the hospitals and the big healthcare labor unions, it's almost like a fourth branch of government at this point."

Northwell told New York Focus it was "not aware of any communications with Representative Suozzi in connection with its decision to invest in Clarapath."

It did not answer questions about when it became aware of his stake in the startup, or what protocols it has in place to deal with how its actions might impact the private finances of public officials.

John Kaehny, executive director of the good government group Reinvent Albany, characterized the Suozzi/Clarapath arrangement as "sleazy" but legal. Northwell Ventures and similar profit-seeking subsidiaries nested within tax-exempt hospitals are also lawful — but he called them "absurd."

"If you allow gigantic nonprofit institutions that are completely reliant on public funds and private insurance to have for-profit arms, that's an invitation for self-dealing," he argued.

"That can be very complicated when you have elected officials, and all kinds of public officials, that have dealings with the nonprofit end of the hospital — maybe even getting them money — and then have separate dealings with the for-profit end for their own personal enrichment."

Kaehny pointed out that New York spends the most per capita on Medicaid of any state in the nation, which he attributed to its hospital-oriented model of care. Northwell, like other hospitals, also receives assistance from the state Dormitory Authority and other state grants.

And as he left Congress for his ill-starred bid for governor, Suozzi obtained a \$2 million federal earmark for a Northwell-run geriatric center. It was among the largest he obtained during his first stint in the House — matched by \$2 million he secured for Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory for its "Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Center for Advanced Cancer Diagnostics." (There is no evidence any of these funds supported Clarapath.)

"Congressman Suozzi has always fought like hell for countless municipalities and not-for-profits in his district," Kim Devlin, Suozzi's campaign advisor, told New York Focus in an emailed statement.

Meanwhile, the value of Suozzi's stake may

only swell as he sits in Congress over the years ahead.

Clarapath's valuation has exploded during Suozzi's time in federal office: In 2021, financial services firm LXL Capital estimated the company's worth to be between \$96 million and \$144 million. After the fresh \$36 million fundraising round this past July, LXL pegged Clarapath in the \$216 million to \$324 million range.

Nicole Bradberry, managing partner of the startup consultancy Sunflower Health Advisors, told New York Focus that an early shareholder can get bought out in a fundraising round, or if a larger firm acquires the entire company.

Even if future fundraising rounds diminish the percentage of a firm an angel investor controls, the company's overall valuation grows — and so does the early stakeholder's eventual payday.

And the biggest possible cash-out comes if the startup becomes a publicly traded company.

"Obviously the reason you go in so early is because that's where the big payoff is," said Bradberry. "The earlier you're in, the bigger the payoff."

Suozzi's repeated failure to assign a dollar figure to his investment provoked questions from D.C. watchdogs contacted by New York Focus, just as Clarapath's ties to major district stakeholders raised eyebrows among New York good government advocates.

House members typically decline to provide a value only for certain classes of unrealized assets, said Virginia Canter, chief ethics counsel for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington: intellectual property rights, benefit plans they can't yet access, or royalty deals for upcoming books.

Canter acknowledged that estimating the worth of a company that isn't publicly traded can be difficult, but argued that Suozzi should be able to obtain a figure from Clarapath. Or he could simply report the money he put down.

"You'd think a company that gets a \$36 million investment" would come up with a way of assessing its own value, she said.

Canter suggested that the House Ethics Committee should flag the report and ask for clarification, though she noted that Suozzi would not be in violation of any rules unless he willfully disregarded that request.

In response, Suozzi's office shared an email it received from the House Ethics Committee, which the congressman contacted after New York Focus reached out. Its guidance largely echoed Canter's: Provide a good-faith estimate of the fair market value or report the amount invested.

The congressman's team maintained that Suozzi has complied with all rules, but added that he would soon update his filings to reflect the money he has put into Clarapath to date.

"As a private citizen, in 2014 Tom invested in a healthcare startup working to make biopsies more accurate and faster," campaign advisor Kim Devlin wrote in a statement. "While the company is private and still a start-up and the value undeterminable, he amended his recent financial disclosure report to make an estimate of the value of the investment."

Suozzi's resulting amended disclosure shows an estimated value of \$250,000 to \$500,000 for his stake in Clarapath, with a note adding that the actual value is "undetermined."

This is not the first time the Democrat has faced scrutiny over missing disclosures. In 2021, the nonprofit Campaign Legal Center filed a complaint against Suozzi with the House Ethics Committee for not legally reporting his stock transactions.

Even after the referral, Business Insider found Suozzi continued to improperly document his portfolio maneuvers.

Still, the Ethics Committee dismissed the complaint, pointing to a lack of proof that these lapses were "knowing and willful." By then, Suozzi had failed in his bid at the governor's mansion, during which time he also failed to submit a complete report on his personal finances to New York state authorities.

He would not do so until late 2023, after Politico flagged the omission while Suozzi made his return run for the House.

Again, he faced no penalties.

2ND DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS, LONGBRIDGE FINANCIAL, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. JENNIFER PHILLIPS A/K/A JENNIFER VOLTNER, AS PRESUMPTIVE HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTTEE OF THE ESTATE OF CECILIA BEUTNER A/K/A CECILIA VOLTNER BEUTNER, DECEASED, ET AL., DEFENDANT(S). PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE DULY ENTERED ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, I, THE UNDERSIGNED REFEREE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION AT THE QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURTHOUSE, ON THE SECOND FLOOR IN COURTROOM 25, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NY 11435 ON DECEMBER 6, 2024 AT 10:00 A.M., PREMISES KNOWN AS 99-77 163RD ROAD, HOWARD BEACH, NY 11414. 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, BLOCK 14246 AND LOT 1218. APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF JUDGMENT IS \$547,996.47 PLUS INTEREST AND COSTS. PREMISES WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO PROVISIONS OF FILED JUDGMENT INDEX #710637/2019. WILLIAM DRISCOLL, ESQ., REFEREE GREENSPOON MARDER, 1345 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, SUITE 2200, NEW YORK, NY 10105, ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

#222546

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, PLAINTIFF, -AGAINST- UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTTEES OF THE ESTATE STEVEN ALEXANDER, IF LIVING, AND IF HE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, OR GENERALLY OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; SUCH UNKNOWN PERSONS BEING HEREIN GENERALLY DESCRIBED AND INTENDED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATION, NAMELY: THE WIFE, WIDOW, HUSBAND, WIDOWER, 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, CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY-INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DEFENDANTS. INDEX NO.: 706192/2023 FILED: OCTOBER 22, 2024 TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT IN THIS ACTION, AND TO SERVE A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER, OR, IF THE COMPLAINT IS NOT SERVED WITH THIS SUMMONS, TO SERVE A NOTICE OF APPEARANCE ON THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS, EXCLUSIVE OF THE DAY OF SERVICE OR WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER COMPLETION OF SERVICE WHERE SERVICE IS MADE IN ANY OTHER MANNER THAN BY PERSONAL DELIVERY WITHIN THE STATE. IN CASE OF YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR OR ANSWER, JUDGMENT WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU BY DEFAULT FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: THE FOREGOING SUMMONS IS SERVED UPON YOU BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT AN AMENDED ORDER OF KEVIN J. KERRIGAN, A JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENS COUNTY DATED OCTOBER 24, 2024 AND EN-

TERED OCTOBER 24, 2024. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT OF THE ABOVE CAPTIONED ACTION IS TO FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$138,684.00 RECORDED IN THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK'S/CITY REGISTER'S OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 10, 2008, IN CRFN#: 2008000435167 COVERING THE PREMISES KNOWN AS 15410 118TH AVENUE, JAMAICA, NY 11434. THEREAFTER, THE CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO CITIBANK, N.A., BY AN ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2012, AND RECORDED WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK ON JANUARY 3, 2013, IN CRFN#: 2013000002002. THE PLAINTIFF IS ALSO THE HOLDER OF A MORTGAGE DATED DECEMBER 13, 2012, EXECUTED BY STEVEN ALEXANDER, DATED DECEMBER 13, 2012, TO SECURE THE SUM OF \$1,676.44 AND RECORDED WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK ON JANUARY 3, 2013, IN CRFN#: 2013000002003. THE MORTGAGE WAS THEN CONSOLIDATED BY A CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 13, 2012, AND RECORDED WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK ON JANUARY 3, 2013, IN CRFN#: 2013000002004, TO FORM A SINGLE LIEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$138,684.00. THE CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE WAS THEN ASSIGNED TO MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. BY AN ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2017, AND RECORDED WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017, IN CRFN#: 2017000428915. THE CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE WAS FURTHER ASSIGNED TO NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER, BY AN ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE DATED DECEMBER 29, 2021, AND RECORDED WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK ON JANUARY 10, 2022, CRFN#: 2022000013389. THEREAFTER, THE CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE WAS ASSIGNED TO NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE BY AN ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE DATED OCTOBER 6, 2023, AND RECORDED WITH THE QUEENS COUNTY CLERK ON OCTOBER 13, 2023, IN CRFN#: 2023000263266. THE RELIEF SOUGHT IN THE WITHIN ACTION IS A FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE 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 ON THE BASIS OF THE FACT THAT THE REAL PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION IS LOCATED WHOLLY WITHIN 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 YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS 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: WESTBURY, NEW YORK, JULY 8, 2024 DRUCKMAN LAW GROUP PLLC, MARIA SIDERIS, ESQ. ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF, 242 DREXEL AVENUE, WESTBURY, NY 11590 (516) 876-0800 WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

#222714

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK INDEX NO. 726556/2022 COUNTY OF QUEENS PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. GEORGE CHUA, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTTEE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD A. CHUA, IF LIVING, AND IF SHE/HE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN IN-

TEREST IN, OR GENERAL OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; SUCH UNKNOWN PERSONS BEING HEREIN GENERALLY DESCRIBED AND INTENDED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATION, NAMELY: THE WIFE, WIDOW, HUSBAND, WIDOWER, 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; LUCY CASTANEDA, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTTEE OF THE ESTATE OF EDWARD A. CHUA, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, OR GENERAL OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; SUCH UNKNOWN PERSONS BEING HEREIN GENERALLY DESCRIBED AND INTENDED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING DESIGNATION, NAMELY: THE WIFE, WIDOW, HUSBAND, WIDOWER, 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; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; LIGAYA SIACHUNGAO; NEIL "DOE"; "JOHN DOE #3" THROUGH "JOHN DOE #12"; THE LAST TEN NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS AND UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, THE PERSONS OR PARTIES INTENDED BEING THE TENANTS, OCCUPANTS, PERSONS OR CORPORATIONS, IF ANY, HAVING OR CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON THE PREMISES, DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT, DEFENDANTS.

PLAINTIFF DESIGNATES QUEENS AS THE PLACE OF TRIAL SITUS OF THE REAL PROPERTY MORTGAGED PREMISES: 5029 45TH STREET, FLUSHING, NY 11377 BLOCK: 2295, LOT: 29 TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS

#222487

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 \$954,225.00 AND INTEREST, RECORDED ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2017, IN CRFN 2017000362514, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK, COVERING PREMISES KNOWN AS 5029 45TH STREET, FLUSHING, NY 11377. 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: SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2024 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF OLUWATOBI ADEDOKUN, ESQ. 900 MERCHANTS CONCOURSE, SUITE 310 WESTBURY, NY 11590 516-280-7675



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Retail sales up solidly in October as Americans showed continued willingness to spend

By Christopher Rugaber and Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press

Americans stepped up their spending at retailers last month in the latest sign that healthy consumer spending is driving the economy's steady growth.

Retail sales rose 0.4% from September to October, the Commerce Department said Friday, a solid increase though less than the previous month's robust 0.8% gain.

A 1.6% jump in sales at auto dealers drove much of the gain. Purchases climbed 2.3% at electronics and appliances stores and 0.7% at restaurants and bars. Though some of October's rise in retail sales reflected higher prices, it mainly indicated increased purchases.

Sales in some categories fell — furniture stores, clothing outlets and drug stores, among them — though economists said that weakness likely resulted, at least in part, from last month's hurricanes. Sales at home and garden stores rose, potentially reflecting rebuilding activity after the storms.

"The moderation in the pace of price growth is allowing consumers to ratchet up spending," said Tim Quinlan, an economist at Wells Fargo. "People may not love how much it costs to go out to eat, but their bar and restaurant spending is growing faster than prices are."

Friday's report arrives as retailers are poised to enter the critically important holiday shopping season in less than two weeks. Analysts envision a solid holiday shopping season, though perhaps not as robust as last year's, with many shoppers under pressure from overall still-high prices despite the easing of inflation.

The latest retail sales figures suggest that the economy is growing briskly again in the current October-December quarter, after having expanded at a sturdy 2.8% annual rate in the previous quarter. Since peaking at 9.1% more than two years ago, inflation has sunk to 2.6%, not far above pre-pandemic levels. And Americans' take-home pay, on average, has surpassed inflation for about 18 months.

Still, the post-pandemic inflation spike has left prices about 20% higher than they were three years ago and dimmed Americans' outlook on the economy. That was a key reason why Donald Trump was able to capitalize on public discontent with the Biden-Harris administration and recapture the White House in last week's election.

Despite high price levels, though, Trump inherits an economy in which spending is strong, growth is solid and unemployment low.

Other recent economic reports have also pointed to a healthy economy. In a sign

that households, whose purchases drive most of the economy, will continue spending, the Conference Board's most recent consumer confidence index posted its biggest monthly gain since 2021. The proportion of consumers who expect a recession in the next 12 months dropped to its lowest point since the board first posed that question in 2022.

One cautionary note is that grocery-store sales barely rose last month, a sign that many Americans may still be struggling to adapt to food prices that are still much higher than they were three years ago.

Lorraine Thompson, who was food shopping this week at a Walmart in Secaucus, New Jersey, said she's not noticing any slowdown in inflation.

"Everything is high," she said. "The meat, the cheese."

Thompson said she's been buying less cheese and has been food shopping more at Walmart because she thinks the prices there are lower than at other supermarkets.

The National Retail Federation has predicted that shoppers will increase their spending in November and December by between 2.5% and 3.5% over the same period a year ago. During the 2023 holiday shopping season, spending had surged by a stronger 3.9% from 2022.

Some retailers say they expect consumers to spend more freely in the coming months. Affirm, a buy-now, pay-later company that has been expanding as more consumers seek online installment loans, last week reported that growth in its active consumers accelerated for a third straight quarter to nearly 20 million.

"Everything we see suggests the consumer feels like they want to be out spending," Michael Linford, Affirm's chief operating officer, told The Associated Press.

Analysts will be dissecting quarterly results next week from Walmart and Target, among others, to gauge how shoppers are navigating still-high prices and to assess their mood after a presidential race that pivoted in large part on voters' discontent with the economy.

One of the first major retailers to report fiscal third quarter earnings was Home Depot, which continues to grapple with a pullback in spending from customers. But the retrenchment was less severe than in the past, and its performance beat Wall Street's expectations.

Home Depot's CEO Edward Decker said that Trump's proposed high tariffs on imports, if implemented, would intensify pressure on the company. But he added that Home Depot sources well more than half its goods domestically and elsewhere in North America.

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The United Nations faces uncertainty as Trump returns to US presidency

By Edith M. Lederer and Jamey Keaten
Associated Press

The United Nations and other international organizations are bracing for four more years of Donald Trump, who famously tweeted before becoming president the first time that the 193-member U.N. was “just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time.”

In his first term, Trump suspended funding for the U.N. health and family planning agencies, withdrew from its cultural organization and top human rights body, and jacked up tariffs on China and even longtime U.S. allies by flaunting the World Trade Organization’s rulebook. The United States is the biggest single donor to the United Nations, paying 22% of its regular budget.

Trump’s take this time on the world body began taking shape this week with his choice of Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York for U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

Stefanik, the fourth-ranking House member, called last month for a “complete reassessment” of U.S. funding for the United Nations and urged a halt to support for its agency for Palestinian refugees, or UNRWA. President Joe Biden paused the funding after UNRWA fired several staffers in Gaza suspected of taking part in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack led by Hamas.

Here’s a look at what Trump 2.0 could mean for global organizations:

‘A theater’ for a conservative agenda

Speculation about Trump’s future policies has already become a parlor game among wags in Washington and beyond, and reading the signals on issues important to the U.N. isn’t always easy.

For example, Trump once called climate change a hoax and has supported the fossil fuel industry but has sidled up to the environmentally minded Elon Musk. His first administration funded breakneck efforts to find a COVID-19 vaccine, but he has allied with anti-vaccine activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

“The funny thing is that Trump does not really have a fixed view of the U.N.,” said Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the International Crisis Group think tank.

Gowan expects that Trump won’t view the world body “as a place to transact serious political business but will instead exploit it as a theater to pursue a conservative global social agenda.”

There are clues from his first term. Trump pulled the U.S. out of the 2015 Paris climate accord and is likely to do it again after President Joe Biden rejoined.

Trump also had the U.S. leave the cultural and educational agency UNESCO and the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, claiming they were biased against Israel. Biden went back to both before recently opting not to seek a second consecutive term on the council.

Trump cut funding for the U.N. population agency for reproductive health services, claiming it was funding abortions. UNFPA says it doesn’t take a position on abortion rights, and the U.S. rejoined.

He had no interest in multilateralism — countries working together to address global challenges — in his first term. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls it “the cornerstone” of the United Nations.

A new ‘Cold War’ world?

The world is a different place than when Trump bellowed “America First” while taking office in 2017: Wars have broken out in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan. North Korea’s nuclear arsenal has grown, and so have fears about Iran’s rapidly advancing atomic program.

The U.N. Security Council — more deeply divided among its veto-wielding permanent members Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S. — has made no progress in resolving those issues. Respect for international law in war zones and hotspots worldwide is in shreds.

“It’s really back to Cold War days,” said John Bolton, a former national security adviser at Trump’s White House.

He said Russia and China are “flying cover” for countries like Iran, which has stirred instability in the Middle East, and North Korea, which has helped Russia in its war in Ukraine. There’s little chance of deals on proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or resolving conflicts involving Russia or China at the council, he said.

Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the U.N., expects Stefanik will have a “tougher time” because of the range of issues facing the Security Council.

“What had been fairly sleepy during the first Trump term is not going to be sleepy at all in the second Trump term,” he said.

The Security Council has been impotent on Ukraine since Russia’s February 2022 invasion because of Russia’s veto power. And it has failed to adopt a resolution with teeth demanding a cease-fire in Gaza because of U.S. support for Israel.

The Crisis Group’s Gowan said Republicans in Congress are “furious” about U.N. criticisms of Israeli policies in Gaza and he expects them to urge Trump to “impose severe budget cuts on the U.N., and he will do so to satisfy his base.”

POSSIBLE IMPACT ON U.N. WORK

The day-to-day aid work of global institutions also faces uncertainty.

In Geneva, home to many U.N. organizations focusing on issues like human rights, migration, telecommunications and weather, some diplomats advise wait-and-see caution and say Trump generally maintained humanitarian aid funding in his first term.

Trade was a different matter. Trump bypassed World Trade Organization rules, imposing tariffs on steel and other goods from allies and rivals alike. Making good on his new threats, like imposing 60% tariffs on goods from China, could upend global trade.

Other ideological standoffs could await, though the international architecture has some built-in protections and momentum.

In a veiled reference to Trump’s victory at the U.N. climate conference in Azerbaijan, Guterres said the “clean energy revolution is here. No group, no business, no government can stop it.”

Allison Chatrchyan, a climate change researcher at the AI-Climate Institute at Cornell University, said global progress in addressing climate change “has been plodding along slowly” thanks to the Paris accord and the U.N. convention on climate change, but Trump’s election “will certainly create a sonic wave through the system.”

“It is highly likely that President Trump will again pull the United States out of the Paris agreement,” though it could only take place after a year under the treaty’s rules, wrote Chatrchyan in an email. “United States leadership, which is sorely needed, will dissipate.”

During COVID-19, when millions of people worldwide were getting sick and dying, Trump lambasted the World Health Organization and suspended funding.

Trump’s second term won’t necessarily resemble the first,



Antonio Guterres, United Nations secretary-general, speaks during a plenary session at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool

said Gian Luca Burci, a former WHO legal counsel. “It may be more extreme, but it may be also more strategic because Trump has learned the system he didn’t really know in the first term.”

If the U.S. leaves WHO, that “opens the whole Pandora’s box, — by stripping the agency of both funding and needed technical expertise — said Burci, a visiting professor of international law at Geneva’s Graduate Institute. “The whole organization is holding its breath — for many reasons.”

But both Gowan and Bolton agree there is one U.N. event Trump is unlikely to miss: the annual gathering of world leaders at the General Assembly, where he has reveled in the global spotlight.

2ND DEPARTMENT / NEW BUSINESS FORMATIONS

THREE FLOWS SOLUTIONS LLC

THREE FLOWS SOLUTIONS LLC. FILED 9/5/24. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL 309 AVE C, NY, NY 10009. PURP: ANY LAWFUL. #222347

3902 WOODSIDE LLC

3902 WOODSIDE LLC. FILED 5/31/24. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL 125-08 25TH AVE, COLLEGE POINT, NY 11356. PURP: ANY LAWFUL. #222346

HIBACHI FAMILY LLC

HIBACHI FAMILY LLC. FILED 9/6/24. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL 6585 111ST AVE, FRESH MEADOWS, NY 11365. PURP: ANY LAWFUL. #222345

LAURA SMITH ANOLIK COACHING LLC

LAURA SMITH ANOLIK COACHING LLC. FILED 9/21/24. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL 21-34 BROADWAY, ASTORIA, NY 11106. PURP: ANY LAWFUL. #222344

9803 OZONE LLC

9803 OZONE LLC. FILED 9/12/24. CTY: QUEENS. SSNY DESIG. FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL 6335 CARLTON ST, REGO PARK, NY 11374. PURP: ANY LAWFUL. #222343

DUN BAYSIDE CF LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DUN BAYSIDE CF LLC. ARTS OF ORG FILED WITH SECY OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 10/10/24. OFFICE LOCATION: QUEENS COUNTY. SSNY DESIGNATED AS AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED AND SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS AGAINST LLC TO: 30-50 WHITESTONE EXPWY, STE. 302, FLUSHING, NY 11354. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACT. #222349

TRANKOSKLA LLC

TRANKOSKLA LLC ARTICLES OF ORG. FILED NY SEC. OF STATE (SSNY) 9/16/24. OFFICE IN QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGN. AGENT OF LLC WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO 3906 47TH ST, FL 1, SUNNYSIDE, NY, 11104. PURPOSE: ANY LAWFUL ACTIVITY. #222355

HATCHIO LLC

HATCHIO LLC ARTS OF ORG. FILED SSNY 09/11/2024 QUEENS CO. SSNY DESIGN AGENT FOR PROCESS & SHALL MAIL TO XIAOYUE HONG 4321 161ST ST, FLUSHING, NY 11358 GENERAL PURPOSE #223198

11103

SLEEPY SMILES LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: SLEEPY SMILES LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 1/24/2024. 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 3272 45TH ST # 1R, ASTORIA, NY, 11103. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #223218

11434

ROCK IN DA ROADS, LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: ROCK IN DA ROADS, LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 9/25/2024. 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 ROCK IN DA ROADS, LLC C/O ALICIA BLACKMON, 153-28 120TH AVE JAMAICA, NY, 11434. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #222339

12207

CAICEDO'S FINECRAFT LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: CAICEDO'S FINECRAFT LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 7/5/2023. 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, SUITE 804 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #220993

JUST CALL ME KIKI LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: JUST CALL ME KIKI LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 10/16/2024. 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 ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #222330

CORE88 LLC

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: CORE88 LLC. ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION FILED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE OF NEW YORK (SSNY) ON 10/16/2024. 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 ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 STATE STREET, SUITE 112 ALBANY, NY, 12207. PURPOSE/CHARACTER OF LLC: ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE. #222354

UGURLU LAW, PLLC

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Martin Scorsese Talks About 'The Saints,' Filmmaking, and What His Next Movie Might Be

By Jack Coyle
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Martin Scorsese was a child growing up in New York's Little Italy, he would gaze up at the figures he saw around St. Patrick's Old Cathedral.

"Who are these people? What is a saint?" Scorsese recalls. "The minute I walk out the door of the cathedral and I don't see any saints. I saw people trying to behave well within a world that was very primal and oppressed by organized crime. As a child, you wonder about the saints: Are they human?"

For decades, Scorsese has pondered a project dedicated to the saints. Now, he's finally realized it in "Martin Scorsese Presents: The Saints," an eight-part docudrama series debuting Sunday on Fox Nation, the streaming service from Fox News Media.

The one-hour episodes, written by Kent Jones and directed by Matti Leshem and Elizabeth Chomko, each chronicle a saint: Joan of Arc, Francis of Assisi, John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Mary Magdalene, Moses the Black, Sebastian and Maximilian Kolbe. Joan of Arc kicks off the series on Sunday, with three weekly installments to follow; the last four will stream closer to Easter next year.

In naturalistic reenactments, followed by brief Scorsese-led discussions with experts, "The Saints" emphasizes that, yes, the saints were very human. They were flawed, imperfect people, which, to Scorsese, only heightens their great sacrifices and gestures of compassion. The Polish priest Kolbe, for example, helped spread antisemitism before WWII, but sheltered Jews and, ultimately, volunteered to die in the place of a man who had been condemned at Auschwitz.

Scorsese, who turns 82 on Sunday, recently met for an interview not long after returning from a trip to his grandfather's hometown in Sicily. He was made an honorary citizen and the experience was still lingering in his mind.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What made you want to make "The Saints"?

SCORSESE: I go back to my early childhood and respect and the sanctuary I found in St. Patrick's Old Cathedral. Not being able to play sports or be a tough guy in the streets. And, you know, the streets were pretty tough down there. I found a sanctuary in that place. It's now a basilica. The first Catholic Cathedral in New York in 1810, 1812. It figures in "Gangs of New York." The Know Nothings and anti-immigration groups attacked it in 1844. Archbishop Hughes fought back. It's a place rife with history. In this contemplation, I was curious about these figures, these statues, and what they represented. They had stories.

AP: Did you understand them then or did they seem divine?

SCORSESE: It took time to think about that and to learn that, no, the point is that they are human. For me, if they were able to do that, it's a good example for us. If you take it and put it in a tough world — if you're in a world of business or Hollywood or politics or whatever — if you're grounded in something which is a real, acting out of compassion and love, this is something that has

to be admired and emulated. They make mistakes. I found that by over-appreciating that person, it almost takes you off the hook. "At least there's someone doing it." Well, what about you? Dorothy Day was quite something but she knew: Don't put that label on me because it gets everyone off the hook.

AP: Some were surprised that you're releasing "The Saints" with Fox Nation. What led you to them?

SCORSESE: I've been wanting to do this for years. I tried doing this back in 1980 with RAI Television in Rome. Then it fell apart and I put the energies into "The Last Temptation of Christ," "Kundun," "Silence" — the ones that were obviously in that realm of what you may call spirituality.

Here, they came by and it was actually going to happen. I said, "Yeah, I'll go with this." They said, "This is the outlet." I said, "Alright, as long as we have the freedom to express what we want." They went with the scripts. They went with the shoot. They went with the cuts. Now what I think is: Do we take these thoughts or expressions and only express them to people who agree with us? It's not going to do us any good. I'm talking about keeping an open mind.

Shooting in Manhattan and shooting in Oklahoma (where "Killers of the Flower Moon" was filmed) are two different things. Being around people on a farm that is one-tenth bigger than the size of Manhattan is very different than being on 63rd Street. You begin to see the world from how they perceive it. Just to understand what daylight and nighttime means in rural areas. That was a revelatory experience being out there for that long.

AP: You've made directly religious films like "Silence" and "The Last Temptation of Christ," but I wonder how you see the role of your faith in filmmaking. How are God and cinema related to you?

SCORSESE: The filmmaking comes from God. It comes from a gift. And that gift is also involved with an energy or a need to tell stories. As a storyteller, somehow there's a grace that's been given to me that's made me obsessive about that. The grace has been through me having that ability but also to fight over the years to create these films. Because each one is a fight. Sometimes you trip, you fall, you hit the canvas, can't get up. You crawl over bleeding and knocked around. They throw some water on you and somehow you make it through. You go to another. Then you go to another. This is grace, it really is.

For me, it's not that cinema is a god. It's the expression of God. Creativity is the expression of God. Something happens in you when it clicks, when it works. Not everybody thinks it works, but maybe you do. But something happens and there's no way of expressing that, except that it's a gift. For me, it's a gift to experience and existing for that moment. So it comes through cinema. It comes through movies. Even a commercial because commercials are not easy. You have to tell a story in less than 45 seconds. My last picture was three hours, 15 minutes. (Laughs) Come on!

AP: In the year since "Killers of the Flower Moon" you've juggled a few different options for your



Martin Scorsese appears at the National Board of Review awards gala in New York on Jan. 11, 2024.

Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP, File

next feature. Where are you right now? Do you expect "The Life of Jesus," from the Shusaku Endo book, to be your next film?

SCORSESE: It's an option but I'm still working on it. There's a very strong possibility of me doing a film version of Marilynne Robinson's "Home," but that's a scheduling issue. There's also a possibility of me going back and dealing with the stories from my mother and father from the past and how they grew up. Stories about immigrants which tied into my trip to Sicily. Right now, there's been a long period after "Killers of the Flower Moon." Even though I don't like getting up early, I'd like to shoot a movie right now. Time is going. I'll be 82. Gotta go.

AP: Are you being guided at all differently in that choice?

SCORSESE: You're guided by: Is it worth doing at this late stage in your life? Can you make it through? Is it worth your time? Because now, the most valuable thing aside from people I love, my family, is time. That's all there is.

AP: Have you seen anything lately that you've liked?

SCORSESE: Some older ones I've been watching. There was one film I liked a great deal I saw two weeks ago called "I Saw the TV Glow." It really was emotionally and psychologically powerful and very moving. It builds on you, in a way. I didn't know who made it. It's this Jane Schoenbrun.

AP: Any older films?

People should see "A Face in the Crowd" over and over again. I think that'd be important.

AP: Do you have any strong feelings about the election?

SCORSESE: Well, of course I have strong feelings. I think you can tell from my work, what I've said over the years. I think it's a great sadness, but at the same time, it's an opportunity. A real opportunity to make changes ultimately, maybe, in the future, never to despair, and to understand the needs of other people, too. Deep introspection is needed at this point. Action? I'm not a politician. I'd be the worst you could imagine. I wouldn't know what actions to take except to continue with dialogue and, somehow, compassion with each other. This is what it's about.

2ND DEPARTMENT / NEW BUSINESS FORMATIONS

ATRION HOLDINGS LLC

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Immigrant workers plead for swift action on pending deportation protection applications

By Claudia Irizarry Aponte
THE CITY

As president-elect Donald Trump vows to carry out “the largest deportation effort in American history,” immigrants are pushing the lame-duck administration of President Joe Biden to quickly approve pending deportation protections.

The calls stem from the anticipated shutdown of a little-known federal program the Biden administration initiated in January 2023 that allows immigrants exploited in the workplace, including those aiding law enforcement probes, to apply for protected status on that basis. Under the program, the Department of Homeland Security can grant discretionary relief from deportation to workers who are victims of or witnesses to labor law violations, from wage theft to discrimination to dangerous jobsite conditions.

That protection, known as deferred action, also allows them to apply for work permits — a path out of the underground economy where danger is commonplace and the threat of deportation keeps workers compliant. While deferred action lasts up to two years, it also allows individuals to apply for Social Security numbers.

Workers whose paperwork is at different phases of the bureaucratic pipeline face what they describe as an existential threat.

As part of their applications, workers must include a letter from an enforcement agency — such as state labor departments or attorneys general — asking the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to consider granting their request for deferred action.

Miriam Galarza is among those still waiting for her application to be approved, after submitting wage theft complaints to the New York State Department of Labor earlier this year against her former employer, KEP Construction. Thirty years after arriving in this country from her native Ecuador, the deferred action program at last gave her the opportunity to apply to work legally.

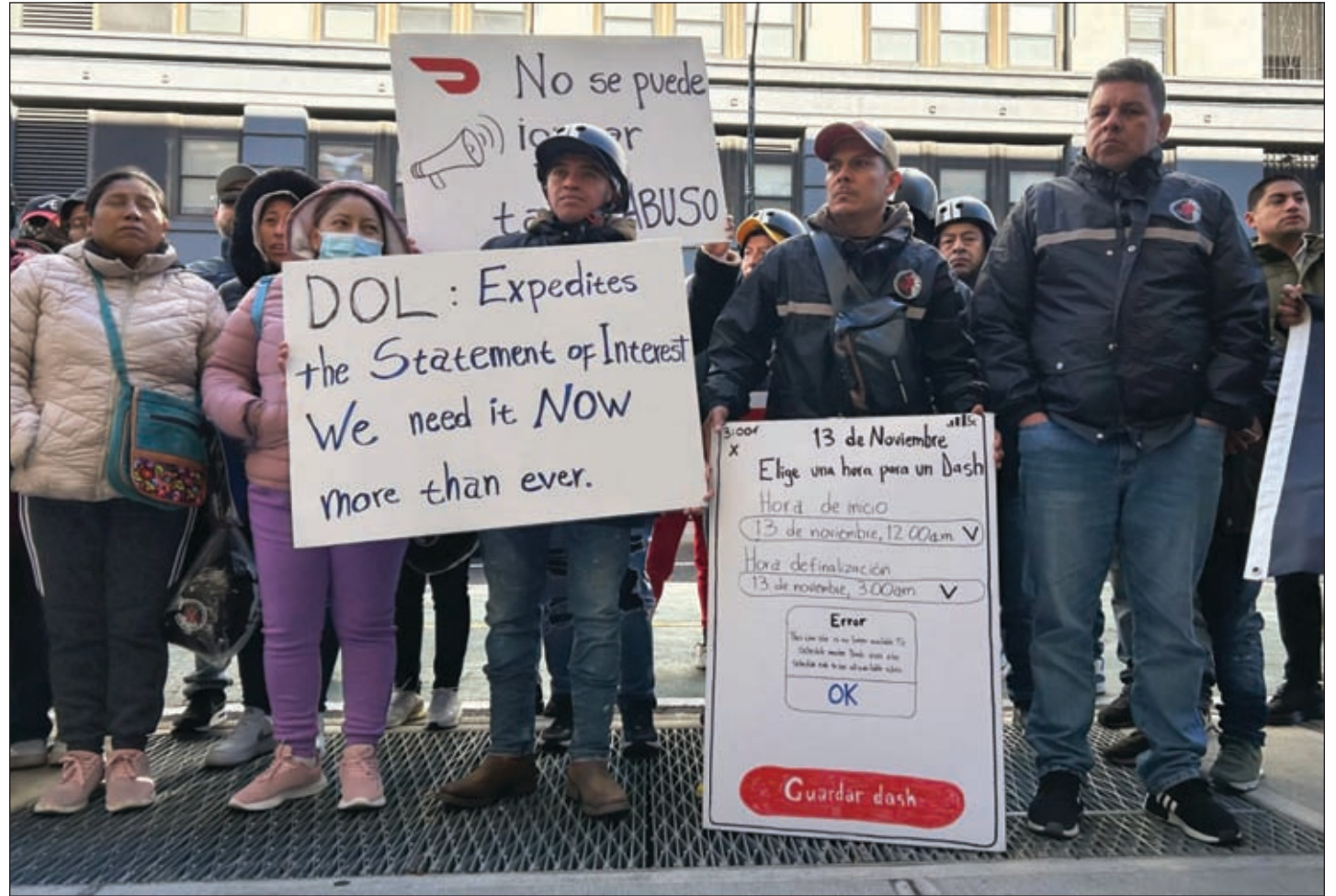
On Wednesday, she was one of about two dozen immigrant workers who rallied outside the Brooklyn office of the Department of Labor urging the state agency to accelerate its review of wage theft cases and to support workers’ pending applications for deferred action.

“That’s why I’m here,” said Galarza. “We need this to move quickly, since we don’t know what will happen with this new administration.”

Predicted to End

Immigration experts say it’s a matter of when, not if, the Trump administration ends the program, known as Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement, or DALE.

During his first term, Trump tried and failed to



Immigrant workers whose deportation protection applications are pending protested outside the state Department of Labor’s Brooklyn office, Nov. 13, 2024.

Credit: Claudia Irizarry Aponte/THE CITY

get the Supreme Court to overturn similar deportation protections for people brought to the country illegally as children, and on the campaign trail he vowed to try again if elected. With a conservative supermajority on the Supreme Court and Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress next year, plus immigration hawks nominated for key cabinet appointments, conditions will be ripe for him to implement his ambitious deportation agenda.

Where Galarza and the other workers with pending cases fit in remains to be seen.

“This is all going to be dependent on what the Trump administration’s priorities are, and they may have multiple priorities,” said Deborah Lee, attorney-in-charge of the Legal Aid Society’s immigration law unit. “But I would say most immigration practitioners do expect that deferred action

is at risk.”

Even people who already have protected status will lose it, along with their work permits, she said.

Workers Justice Project, the Brooklyn-based workers center that organized the rally, said that of its 50 members who have applied for a letter of support from the state Department of Labor for deferred action, only 15 have received approvals so far. The rest are still waiting.

The agency’s understaffed enforcement unit has struggled to pursue wage theft and other cases. A spokesperson for the agency did not respond to a request for comment about the rally.

Among the workers gathered outside of the agency’s Fulton Street office were app-based food delivery workers, construction workers and former employees of a tobacco sweatshop that was

exposed by THE CITY in February and is the subject of ongoing investigations from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and state labor department. One of the former tobacco workers, who identified herself only as Wendy, said that while DHS granted her request for deferred action, her work permit application is still pending with the department.

“God willing, my permit will be granted soon, because I want to keep fighting” to recover unpaid wages, said Wendy. “Because what’s coming for us, with the new Trump administration, will not be easy.”

State Sen. Jessica Ramos (D-Queens), who chairs the chamber’s labor committee, called on Gov. Kathy Hochul to push leadership at the federal level to expedite the pending cases before Trump returns to the White House in January.

“The state is very much aware of the situation, but it would be very helpful for Governor Hochul as a descendant of immigrants herself to help us communicate to the federal government the urgency with which we need these statements of interest. We need them now,” said Ramos, who in September announced her campaign for mayor.

“We know that immigration as it is is backed up, but it’s going to get even more defunded come January, and these folks deserve a fighting chance,” she added.

Trump has vowed to spare no expense in his mass deportation efforts, which some experts estimate could cost taxpayers \$968 billion over the next decade, and to pressure so-called “sanctuary” jurisdictions — New York City among them — to cooperate.

On Tuesday, he announced that he intends to nominate South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem for DHS secretary. Noem has backed his tough immigration talk and as governor made the crisis at the border a central talking point, publicly refusing to accept immigrant refugees during a 2021 influx of migrants at the southern border until after they became American citizens.

“South Dakota won’t be taking any illegal immigrants that the Biden Administration wants to relocate,” she wrote on the social media platform then known as Twitter in April 2021. “My message to illegal immigrants...call me when you’re an American.”

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



A group of undocumented construction laborers had their legal work authorization approved as a result of their work cooperating with law enforcement. Jan. 18, 2024.

Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

Officials and riders want more alternatives during the A train stoppage next year

Continued from page 2

The MTA will now offer free shuttle buses from Howard Beach to all of Rockaway and shuttle trains from the eastside to the westside of the peninsula. Rockaway residents also will be able to ride the LIRR from Far Rockaway for just \$2.75 each way.

“While these construction plans and changes will create a faster and more reliable transportation experience in and out of the Rockaways for our New Yorkers, we are also cognizant of the burden it will have on residents’ commutes,” Hochul said in a statement. “This service plan helps us ensure that we can take care of our residents while transforming their transit experience, and ensuring that we provide fair and reliable transportation alternatives as we carry out the resiliency plan.”

While Rockaway residents and officials acknowledged that the fixes are needed and a stoppage is necessary to facilitate the work, they also asked for more from the MTA to fill the gaps at the town hall on Thursday.

Brooks-Powers, who chairs the Council’s Committee on Transportation, called for the MTA to increase express bus service. She also called for an increase in the overall number of buses and shuttles available on the peninsula. The lawmakers also demanded the LIRR be completely free for Rockaway residents for the duration of the stoppage.

“We have called on the MTA to expand the QM17 and QM16 service hours to ensure that community residents can still utilize public transit to get to and from Manhattan for the day with no direct trains and no direct train service between the peninsula and Manhattan,” said Brooks-Powers.

She called the LIRR a “transit lifeline.”

“We should work to make sure that this option remains available at no additional cost to local residents,” she said.

Most residents who posed questions to MTA officials said they the same thoughts: More buses, more express buses and more ferry service to accommodate locals during the outage.

“They definitely need to do more,” said one Far Rockaway local, Sharmika Davis-Boyd. “The buses are going to be crowded.”

One MTA official called the current plans “the best service we can offer given the resources that we have.”

“We’re going to be monitoring the per-



Starting in January, there will be no A train to the Rockaway peninsula for 17-weeks as the MTA carries out needed track and infrastructure repairs.

Eagle file photo by Ryan Schwach

formance on the buses and trains,” said Hugo Zamora, the general superintendent for service diversions and coordination at New York City Transit. “If something is happening on the bus that needs to be fixed – too many buses, not enough buses, not enough buses for a certain hour, or too many buses – I’m going to be here and my team will be here to make real time decisions.”

That was at least somewhat soothing to some in the audience.

“As long as they are going to do what they’re saying to make sure that things are go-

ing be running smooth as best as their ability, I feel comfortable with it,” said Davis-Boyd, who travels to Manhattan at least three times a week. “It’s going to affect me personally a lot.”

But even after MTA officials promised residents they were doing the best they could, many left unsatisfied.

“I don’t think that they appreciate that this community is going to need multiple options to be able to sustain this, and that’s the frustration,” said local Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson. “They have a lot of alternatives, but I

don’t think it goes far enough.”

Linsey Reeves, an employee at Brooklyn Supreme Court who commutes with her son who goes to school in the same area, said the service changes will throw a wrench into their usual travel.

“We need to be able to keep our jobs and not be tardy and be late and miss out on instruction time through school because of all these changes and plans,” she said. “We love our peninsula but we’re geographically isolated from the rest of Queens. We just want to be able to move around just like everyone else.”

Queens MS-13 member charged in 13-year-old murder case

By Noah Powelson
Queens Daily Eagle

An Ozone Park man and alleged affiliate of the transnational gang MS-13 was indicted last week for a Queens murder prosecutors say he committed over a decade ago.

Roger Morales, a 31-year-old who also went by “Crazy,” “Ciclon” and “Cyclone,” was arrested Thursday morning in connection with the murder of Norman Mizzel, who was killed in his home on June 5, 2011. Several other unnamed MS-13 affiliates were listed as Morales’ co-conspirators in the killing.

According to federal prosecutors, Morales killed Mizzel in an effort to rise through the ranks of the gang that has large cliques in Queens and Long Island.

“As alleged, the defendant and his co-conspirators killed the victim for the twisted purpose of maintaining and increasing their positions in the MS-13 gang,” United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Breon Peace said. “This prosecution reflects the resolve by my Office and our law enforcement partners to bring gang members to justice for their violent crimes and that we will not be deterred by the passage of time.”

At the time of the murder, Morales was part of the Centrales Locos Salvatruchas clique of MS-13, which operates in Queens.

According to the indictment, Morales and his co-conspirators broke into Mizzel’s home when he was away one day during the spring of 2011. Mizzel was a known pot dealer.

At the time, Morales and his co-conspirators allegedly needed to commit a murder to regain standing with MS-13 leadership. The crew chose Mizzel as their victim after he confronted Morales about the robbery.

After obtaining weapons from other MS-13 members, Morales’ crew allegedly arranged a marijuana sale at Mizzel’s home. Mizzel was shot several times through his bedroom window at the time the deal was supposed to take place. His body was not discovered until the next day and an indictment would not come for another 13 years.

A grand jury determined there was probable cause to charge Morales with murder on Nov. 6, 2024.

In a detention memo from the Eastern District of New York to United States Magistrate Judge Robert M. Levy, who presided over Morales’ arraignment, Peace requested Morales be denied bail due to his flight risk and affiliation with organized crime.

In the same memo, several pieces of evidence against Morales were listed, including the victim’s autopsy, ammunition recovered from Morales and his co-conspirators, and social me-



Federal prosecutors arrested an MS-13 gang member for killing a man in Queens in 2011.

Eagle file photo by Rob Abruzzese

dia photographs of the defendants.

Several other previous convictions against Morales were listed in the memo, including attempted burglary and attempted criminal possession of a weapon. Additionally, Morales was recently arrested for domestic violence charges

as recent as 2019.

Morales was ordered to be detained pending trial by Levy.

Morales was charged with murder in-aid-of racketeering. He faces a life sentence if convicted.