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State's top court affirms public workers' right to sue their unions

But it dismissed a claim brought by a city lifeguard

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
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The state's top court has affirmed the right of individual unionized public employees to sue their unions for injunctive relief, finding that legal precedent circumscribes union members' right to sue only when they're seeking monetary damages.

But in their unanimous March 14 opinion, the seven judges of New York State Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's decision to dismiss a lawsuit brought by a city lifeguard against a District Council 37 local, finding that Local 461 did not overstep its constitution when barring seasonal lifeguards from running in the local's 2021 leadership election.

The lifeguard, Edwin Agramonte, had sued after a slate of seasonal lifeguards with which he was running was barred from participating in the election and from voting. The union represents nearly 1,200 rank-and-file lifeguards at the city's beaches and pools but only the lifeguards who work year-round — they number fewer than 30 — are able to vote or run in the leadership elections.

Just 22 lifeguards voted in that election and Agramonte, who was out of the country, received no votes. Arthur Schwartz, Agramonte's attorney, lamented that the court ultimately dismissed the suit, saying the judges missed a chance to empower rank-and-file union workers and ensure the lo-

cal's processes are fair and democratic. "It's unfortunate that we lost with respect to aiding democracy in Local 461," he said.

But Schwartz said the court's affirmation of public employees' right to sue their unions represented a "major victory for union members in every union in New York."

Agramonte said he was "happy" with the opinion even though his suit was dismissed. "At least we got something," he said. "I thought they weren't going to give us anything at all."

District Council 37 did not respond to a request for comment regarding the court's findings.

'Troubling implications'

The judges found that case precedent from 1951, which permits union members to sue their unions only if every member of the union is affected, should not be applied to cases where the worker bringing a claim is seeking only injunctive relief — such as the overturning and re-running of an election, as Agramonte sought — and not monetary damages.

Broadening that precedent to bar suits from union members seeking injunctive relief would have "troubling implications," the opinion, written by Judge Michael J. Garcia, reads.

"Respondents do not seriously dispute that, if Martin precludes petitioners' claim here, union members would have no recourse to the courts even when incumbent union officials are allegedly manipulating elections to maintain power," Garcia wrote. "Applying Martin to bar suits seeking to compel union officials to abide by their respective union constitutions and bylaws would have 'far-reaching consequences' and risk 'stiffl[ing] all criticism' and democracy 'within the union.'"

The decision echoes Schwartz's reasoning before the court last month. But the seven Appeals Court judges were otherwise sympathetic to arguments by DC 37's lawyer, Hanan Kolko, regarding disputes over Local 461's constitution, which requires that seasonal lifeguards remain in good standing for the entirety of the preceding year to either vote or run in leadership election.

"According to respondents, the union reasonably interpreted its constitutions in determining that the seasonal lifeguards in ques-

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Courtesy of Edwin Agramonte

The New York State Court of Appeals ruled against city lifeguard Edwin Agramonte last week, dismissing a suit he brought against Local 461 of District Council 37 focusing on the union's 2021 leadership elections. But the state's high court affirmed the right of union members to sue if they are not seeking monetary damages.



Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

Communications Workers of America Local 1180 members, Mayor Eric Adams, several members of the City Council and women's advocate groups rallied at City Hall March 12, this year's Equal Pay Day. CWA Local 1180, which filed the lawsuit that prompted the creation of a law requiring the city to report pay data for city employees, wants to enhance the statute by mandating data from additional agencies and requiring agencies with high wage gaps to 'self-correct.'

Gender pay gap remains no closer to narrowing

Unions, Council seek stronger laws

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
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New York may be the state with the third-smallest gender wage gap, but women still earn just 88 cents for every dollar earned by men, advocates emphasized at a rally spotlighting Equal Pay Day.

Mayor Eric Adams, members of the City Council, Communications Workers of America Local 1180, and women's advocate groups, among them PowHer New York, gathered at City Hall March 12 to push for

stronger city and state laws to address the pay disparity.

The average woman in the state loses \$11,000 in income each year because of the gap, with women of color earning as much as \$34,000 less than their white male counterparts, according to Beverly Neufeld, the president of PowHer New York.

"We're here because women have not seen the money. Women deserve our dollar; it's the least we can do," Council Speaker Adrienne Adams said during the rally.

Equal Pay Day, March 12 this year, represents how far into the year the average median woman would have had to work in order to have earned what the average median man had

earned the previous year. But Black women's Equal Pay Day will only be July 9, while for Latina women it won't be until Oct. 3.

Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, who chairs the labor committee and co-chairs the women's caucus, noted that women of color earned on average 34 cents less than every dollar earned by men.

"So what are we telling women of color in our city when we're saying you're not worth that same dollar that your male counterpart is worth?" she asked.

Although the city and state have

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Staten Island University Hospital nurses vote to authorize strike

Northwell, union appear far apart on agreement

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
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Nurses at Staten Island University Hospital say they're sick of being asked to take on several roles at once because of persistent understaffing, and have voted in favor of going on strike, the New York State Nurses Association said last week.

The contract for about 1,300 nurses at the Staten Island hospi-

tal expires March 31. NYSNA and Northwell Health, which runs the facility, have been bargaining since December, but the nurses said that their demands for significant raises and safe-staffing ratios have been rejected.

More than 97 percent of nurses who participated in the strike vote approved taking action unless the two sides reach a fair contract agreement.

During a March 13 rally outside of the hospital's Ocean Breeze facility, nurse Adriana DeLeon said she's one of the most experienced

in her units despite only having worked there for two years.

"That is because the turnover rate is ridiculous. People are leaving where they're paying them more, people are leaving where they're treating them better," she said. "I'm here to stand up for our community, for our patients, because they deserve better."

The base pay for nurses at Staten Island University Hospital is \$11,573 less than the average nurse salary

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NYSNA

Nurses rallied for a fair contract outside of Staten Island University Hospital in Ocean Breeze on March 13. The New York State Nurses Association announced that nurses at the facility overwhelmingly voted to authorize a strike.

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Workers at community nonprofits call for full restoration of composting program

Another 75 could be laid off by summer

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
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Workers who support New York City's community composting ecosystem rallied on the steps of City Hall last week to call on Mayor Eric Adams and the City Council to fully fund the eight nonprofits that collect and process food scraps around the city.

To comply with the initial 5-percent budget cut called for by the Adams administration last year, the Department of Sanitation cut the entirety of the \$3 million community composting budget. Dozens of workers at Big Reuse, the Queens Botanical Garden and other composting nonprofits had already been laid off as a result.

Composting workers at GrowNYC who are unionized with the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union were also set to lose their jobs because of the cuts until an anonymous donor stepped in and funded those jobs. However, GrowNYC management has told the unionized employees, who call themselves the GrowNYC Workers Collective, that the anonymous donor's funding runs out May 20, a month earlier than expected.

More than 50 composting workers, who also help to educate New Yorkers on composting benefits, at the nonprofit will lose their jobs that day if the city — or someone else — doesn't step in. Another 25 other GrowNYC employees will be laid off June 30 when the organization expects public funding to run out.

'The effect will be devastating'

More than a dozen members of the GrowNYC Workers Collective argued at the rally that if they lose their jobs, it'll be bad both for the environment and for the New Yorkers who rely on local community composting drop-off points.

"We need to restore the funding and have compost be legislated and part of the infrastructure of the city," Sitra Bowman, an education and engagement lead at GrowNYC who teaches children how to separate their food waste for compost,



DUNCAN FREEMAN / THE CHIEF

The actor and director Benny Safdie, at the lectern, joined workers from the city's community composting nonprofits and City Council members on the steps of City Hall March 14 to call on Mayor Eric Adams to roll back \$3 million cuts made to the Department of Sanitation's community composting programs.

told The Chief after the rally. "The effect of these cuts will be devastating," she added. "The mayor has talked about rat mitigation or getting rid of rodents, and we will see those problems get worse as compost is not being utilized and food waste is thrown out in regular garbage."

Already, some of the waste that GrowNYC workers collect at the organization's 52 food scrap drop-off sites throughout the city is being delivered to an industrial compost facility on Staten Island because the non-profits that process that waste don't have enough funding.

GrowNYC did not return a request for comment on the potential layoffs and service disruptions.

Big Reuse had to lay off 16 employees, has closed a compost processing site and is planning to close one of its two remaining sites by June, Gil Lopez, one of the nonprofit's three remaining employees, told The Chief.

"If we don't have a place to process the scraps locally and at a communi-

ty scale, you don't have community composting no matter how many food scrap drop-offs you have," said Lopez, the group's compost event coordinator. "Our funding is such a small amount it's really hard to justify cutting it. It's a rounding error in the city's budget."

He added that some of the GrowNYC delivery drivers who used to drop off compost at Big Reuse sites now just take the food scraps to the Staten Island facility or elsewhere.

Council support

Workers rallied on March 14 just ahead of the City Council's Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management's preliminary budget hearing. Council Member Shaun Abreu, the committee chair, and several other Council members joined workers at the rally. Abreu told workers that nearly the entire Council supports the composting workers and wants to see funding

for the composting initiatives restored and extended.

"When you take away community composting, you're robbing people of their civic engagement," Abreu, who represents parts of upper Manhattan, told The Chief after the rally. "We can't rob people of contributing to waste diversion, which, in the aggregate, has a huge difference in our environment."

Abreu introduced Benny Safdie, the actor and director of "Uncut

Gems" and a supporter of the composting program by saying, "It's time to uncut the budget."

Speaking to the assembled workers, Safdie, a native of the Upper West Side, said he has a child in a New York City public school who he wants to learn about composting. "It's actually very funny to me that the mayor spent all this time trying to find a rat czar when the solution is containers holding our organic matter that doesn't go in the trash," Safdie said during the rally, referring to Kathleen Corradi, the city's first-ever rat czar. "This is the easiest thing to do to save [the planet]. It's no skin off our backs."

City Hall did not reply to a request for comment on the cuts.

City Council leadership, including Speaker Adrienne Adams and the chair of the Committee on Finance, Justin Brannan, have previously spoken out in support of community composting and have repeatedly criticized the budget cuts implemented by the mayor. The city has already reversed budget cuts at both the FDNY and the Parks Department and further cuts scheduled for this spring were canceled by Mayor Adams because the city's financial outlook improved.

Despite these rollbacks, Abreu isn't hopeful that Adams will roll back the cuts to community composting without Council intervention.

"Nothing gives me hope until I see it in the flesh," he said. "If I see the money being restored in the mayor's executive budget, which is going to come out in the next few weeks, then that goes past hope — it gives me certainty. I don't want hope right now; I want certainty that we are actually getting community composting done."



Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office

Elected officials and advocates rallied at City Hall on Equal Pay Day, March 12, to highlight persistent wage disparities between men and women and to push for the strengthening of city and state statutes governing pay data.

EQUAL PAY: Gap remains

Continued from Page 1

passed laws in recent years aimed at closing the pay gap, including laws that bar employers from asking prospective employees' salary histories and require businesses to include salary ranges in job advertisements — more needs to be done, the advocates argued.

Gloria Middleton, the president of CWA Local 1180, believed that the city's transparency law needs to be strengthened. She cited job listings where there was more than a \$100,000 difference between the stated minimum and maximum salaries.

"Companies seem to be abiding by the wording of the law, but not the intent," she said. "In the year 2024, there is no reason that a woman must work until March 12 to earn what a man has earned by Dec. 31 the year before."

Call for more enforcement

The advocates highlighted Local Law 18, a 2018 law that mandates the city to publish municipal employee pay data annually. The law came about because of a 2013 lawsuit by CWA Local 1180 charging that the city had discriminated against the women and people of color who made up a majority of administrative managers. In 2015, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found reasonable cause to believe that the city had discriminated against workers in that title for decades. The city and union reached a \$15 million settlement in 2019.

The data revealed that much of the pay gap in the city workforce was driven by occupational segregation, with Black, Latino, Asian and female employees typically over-represented in low-paying jobs.

Middleton wants to toughen the law by requiring agencies with high pay disparities "to self-correct, whether it's through education or through civil-service classifications, to make sure that women are able to move into those higher-paying jobs," she told The Chief follow-

ing the rally.

She also called for additional agencies and civil service titles to be included in the wage analysis — currently, salary data for NYC Health + Hospitals, the Housing Authority and pedagogical staff in the Department of Education isn't required under the law.

"Five years later, we are asking to have Local Law 18 strengthened," Middleton said. The union is also seeking the creation of a high school program that would serve as a pathway to civil service, and another program for CUNY students.

State Attorney General Letitia James noted that the gender wage gap affects more than women — it has an impact on the economy. Council Member Julie Menin, who chairs the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection, stated that many women face pay gaps because they disproportionately bear childcare and elder care responsibilities.

Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers said that she and Council Majority Leader Amanda Farias plan to introduce legislation in the coming weeks that would expand the city's salary transparency law by requiring employers to also disclose workers' benefits.

"Equal pay is about more than just compensation for equal work; it's about the idea that our work matters, that we deserve the same respect, representation and pay as our male counterparts," she said.

The mayor said that growing up, he saw firsthand the emotional toll faced by women working more for less money — through his mother, a food service worker at a daycare, and through his sister, who worked at a bank and was often passed over for promotions in favor of newer employees.

"If we're ever going to dismantle the unfairness of what we are doing not only in government but in the private industry, this is the window of opportunity," he said. "We are going to make it happen, and I'm proud to be a member of the club, 'Men Who Get It.'"

ATU 1056 salutes our local Women's Committee

2024 Women's History month



Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the working women of ATU 1056



Insurgent lifeguards once again barred from running in local's leadership election

Slate will appeal

BY DUNCAN FREEMAN
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Several members of a District Council 37 union representing lifeguards nominated as candidates in an upcoming leadership election have been barred from running by the local's election committee. In letters sent March 11 to five members of the slate, the election committee for DC 37 Local 461 wrote that the lifeguards are ineligible because they have not remained in good standing for the entire previous year, as the union's constitution requires.

"DC37 membership records, show that from June 25, 2022 until October 14, 2023, you were not a dues paying member of Local 461," reads a letter to Edwin Agramonte, who was nominated to run for the union's delegate position. "This means that you only have four months paying dues to Local 461 within the past year. As a result, you are not eligible to be a candidate for executive board."

The union represents nearly 1,200 rank and file lifeguards at the city's beaches and pools, though only a small group of around 30 year-round lifeguards are invited to union meetings or allowed to participate in the union's leadership elections.

It is common practice for year-

round lifeguards who work at the city's pools in the fall, winter and spring to get a step-up promotion to chief or lieutenant lifeguard for the summer season, several longtime lifeguards told The Chief. However, supervisory lifeguard positions are generally represented by Local 508, another lifeguard local, and not Local 461, so when lifeguards hold those positions, occasionally their dues get paid to Local 508.

The union is always aware when a lifeguard's dues aren't going to Local 461 and can inform members as much as any time, the lifeguards said, just as the union did with Agramonte in October 2023.

Agramonte, furious at being deemed ineligible to run, told The Chief that when he got step-up promotions in the past it was typically just for the summer, and for those periods he always paid his dues to Local 461. It was only after Agramonte ran for Local 461 president in 2021 and sued the union that he was given a supervisory position for a year and a half and paid dues to Local 508 instead of Local 461.

The lifeguard feels he was set up by union leadership, who he said kept him from paying dues to Local 461 for more than a year, rendering him ineligible to run.

"They left me in that position purposefully and deliberately so that I would be ineligible," Agramonte said. "[Union leaders] know they're on the verge of losing so they're do-



Daniel Avila/NYC Parks & Recreation Department

A group of city lifeguards running to unseat their union's leadership have been barred from running in leadership elections scheduled for later this month. The members contend the union ensured they would be in poor standing with the local, thereby precluding them from running in the election. They will have the chance to appeal the decision.

ing this."

Agramonte said he was fearful as early as last summer that the union leadership was trying to sabotage his candidacy. Agramonte's lawyer, Arthur Schwartz, wrote in July 2023 to the Parks Department noting that Agramonte's dues had been shifted to Local 508 and requested that Parks ensure Agramonte's dues went to Local 461 instead.

"Everytime [Agramonte gets a step-up] prior to this summer, his dues get paid to Local 461," Schwartz wrote Parks. "But this summer they went to Local 508. By doing this someone at the Parks Department has potentially made Edwin ineligible to run for President."

Schwartz provided pay stubs to The Chief showing that Local 461's former president, Franklyn "Bubba" Paige, got step-up promotions each summer during which he paid dues to Local 508 but was still allowed to run in union elections in Local 461 for several decades.

"They cannot pick and choose when they enforce the rules," Agramonte said.

This year's election is scheduled for March 29 despite Local 461's constitution mandating that elections be held in February.

Local 461's election committee did not respond to a series of emailed questions on the lifeguards' dis-

qualifications.

A spokesperson for DC37 said the union doesn't comment on its locals' internal elections.

'Funny business'

Other longtime lifeguards agreed with Agramonte that the unusual step-up promotion was likely a tactic created by union leadership to stop him from running. They placed the blame at the feet of Peter Stein, the president of Local 508 for several decades.

"They've been pulling a lot of funny business for many decades," said Justin Hausler, a seasonal lifeguard. "They did that intentionally just so that [Agramonte] would not be paying dues to Local 461, and they knew that he would try to run in the election."

Janet Fash, a longtime chief lifeguard and campaigner for union democracy in both locals said that the Local 461 constitution is "absolutely" set up so that Stein's preferred leaders can hold onto power.

"So now because people want to participate in the local, now they want to follow the rules, but for the last 40 years [Stein] did whatever he wanted," she said.

Kristoff Borrel, the lifeguard running for president on Agramonte's slate, declined to share the election

board's reasoning for not allowing him to run, but told The Chief that he's gotten step-up promotions past summers.

A lifeguard running for the vice president position alongside Agramonte and Borrel has also been barred from running, as have two others on the slate.

Despite the setbacks, the insurgent slate of lifeguards are not giving up. The lifeguards called for a union meeting this week to plead their case to fellow members and the local's election committee. "We have to keep fighting," Agramonte said.

The lifeguards can also appeal to the judicial board of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, DC 37's parent union. AFSCME officials, though, sided with the local when seasonal lifeguards were similarly disqualified from running in 2021's leadership elections.

At that point Agramonte sued the union, an option which Schwartz, in an email to DC37's general counsel, warned the lifeguards would once again employ if their appeals to the union fail. The State Court of Appeals just handed down a decision in Agramonte's previous case that dismissed the lifeguard's suit but affirmed the rights of members of municipal unions in New York State to sue their unions.

APPEAL: Claim turned back

Continued from Page 1

tion were not entitled to vote or run for office in the 2021 election. Respondents are correct," the ruling reads. "Even assuming the seasonal lifeguards were provided the benefit of a six-month dues credit, the record demonstrates they would nevertheless fail to satisfy the constitutional requirement that they be in good standing for the 12 months immediately preceding the election."

William A. Herbert, a distinguished lecturer at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, said that while the court's decision clarified portions of the precedent to allow claims for injunctive relief, it won't much help union insurgents.

"The decision will not likely ben-

efit many future challengers in internal union elections in light of the deference given to the union's interpretation of its own constitutions by the Agramonte court," Herbert said in an emailed statement.

Elections for Local 461's leadership positions are scheduled for later this month. Agramonte is looking to once again run, this time with a slate of year-round lifeguards, but the local's election committee has barred the hopefuls, arguing that they were not in good standing for the required period.

If he isn't allowed to run in the upcoming election, Agramonte says he may again sue.

"Because of this decision if we have another grievance or issue, we can sue them," the lifeguard said.



Uniformed EMTs, Paramedics & Inspectors – F.D.N.Y



New York City's FDNY EMS service is one of the busiest in the world, responding to over 1.6 million medical emergencies last year.

During National Women's month, Local 2507 wants to thank the women in EMS and Fire Prevention for their courage and heroic work everyday.

You make our local proud not only this month, but every month. The men and women of FDNY EMS and Inspectors are heroes and are more than deserving of a fair labor contract.

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COMMENTARY

The Chief

A VOICE FOR WORKERS

BEN AUGUST
Publisher

RICHARD KHAVKINE
Editor

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD by Denberg

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Illogic underground

TO THE EDITOR:

Law and order dog whistles are the opposite of reimagining public safety. Republicans have used them since Nixon's 1968 presidential campaign. They are the hallmarks of politically and morally bankrupt politicians. New York has two of these, both pro-business Democrats: Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams. A case in point is the fear and panic Hochul and Adams have helped to foster for those who use mass transit.

Despite a few high-profile violent crimes, over four million strap-hangers safely ride the subway each day. The New York Times in 2022 found that for every one million riders there was one violent crime. By 2024, that number had decreased. Crime rises and falls from month to month, but is not historically high.

Both Hochul and Adams acknowledge crime has gone down. Adams has bragged that under his leadership New York has become the safest large city in the country. In light of the above, it's twisted logic for the mayor to deploy an additional 1,000 police to the subway system.

The governor, not to be left out, deployed 1,000 National Guard, state police and MTA police. Hochul has dismissed transit crime data, saying "I could show you all the statistics in the world, and say you should feel safe [but] if you're anxious [about subway crime] I'm concerned."

What should concern Hochul and Adams is how their actions, using the same dog whistles about crime that right-wing Republicans use, have created a false narrative about public safety in the transit system.

There is, however, a homeless problem and a mental health problem in the subways and on the streets. Further militarization of the transit system will not solve actual problems of homelessness and mental illness.

Howard Elterman

No relief

TO THE EDITOR:

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's proposed legislation to increase public citizen access to bathrooms in all five boroughs reminded me of the old subway bathrooms.

There was a time decades ago when you had to pay 10 cents to relieve yourself. In those days, subway bathrooms were plentiful and open 24/7. Fast forward to today. According to the MTA website, there are only 58 bathrooms among the subway's 472 stations. They include seven in the Bronx, 21 in Brooklyn, 21 in Manhattan and nine in Queens. They are open only between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. and close between noon and 1 p.m. for cleaning. That means many will relieve themselves elsewhere in the station, in elevators, on platforms, even on stairs.

There are financial solutions to help the MTA pay for costs. Use some of the \$1.8 billion in annual Federal Transit Administration capital grant funding. When these funds are programmed for station rehabilitation projects, include as part of the scope of work repairs to reopen previously closed bathrooms.

Reopening secure, safe subway station bathrooms with adequate supplies of toilet paper, soap and hot water would help attract one million former pre-COVID-19 riders who have yet to return.

Municipal public officials such as Comptroller Brad Lander can lead by example.

He could introduce legislation that all city agency buildings and offices provide public bathrooms. Other city, state and federal elected officials could provide public access to bathrooms in their local community district offices.

The situation for lack of public access to bathrooms continues to be a challenge in many neighborhoods around all five boroughs of NYC.



Access to public bathrooms should be a human right.

Larry Penner

Misbehavin'

TO THE EDITOR:

To the tune of Perry Como's "It's Impossible," with apologies:

It's impossible
Tell the sun to leave the sky
It's just impossible
It's impossible for Donald Trump not to lie
It's just impossible
Can the ocean keep from rushin' to the shore
It's just impossible
If Trump is president, could the MAGAs want for more?
It's just impossible
Can they hold him any closer
And not feel him going through them
It's just impossible
Not to feel his rage and venom

Oh how impossible
And tomorrow if Trump asks them for the world
Somehow they'll get it
They will sell their very souls and not regret it
For to live without Trump's love
It's just impossible.

Michael J. Gorman

It's a crime

TO THE EDITOR:

After allegedly pushing his girlfriend off a subway platform into the path of a train, causing injuries that made it necessary for her legs to be amputated, Christian Valdez is finally being charged with attempted murder and held without bail.

This was not the case last December when he allegedly repeatedly stabbed an ex-girlfriend, was charged with assault and released.

This was not the case after he stabbed a mother and daughter with a broken bottle in 2017. For that, he was convicted of attempted

assault. Attempted? Only assault? He was sentenced to three to eight years and paroled after three.

Then there's Amira Hunter. She was released without bail after hitting cello player Iain Forrest with a metal bottle at a subway station. She would later be arrested for shoplifting and held on \$500 bail.

The criminal justice system in this city is controlled mostly by Democrats, so Republicans don't have a monopoly on stupidity. But then, most leaders from both the major parties, to quote Richard Attenborough, "act like stupidity is a bloody virtue."

Both Democrats and Republicans are soft on the country's biggest criminal. The Democrats waited a long time to indict Donald Trump for anything. He still hasn't been charged with insurrection. Republicans are worse. They don't want him to be prosecuted at all.

Richard Warren

AFL-CIO to workers: Fight AI with one hand behind your back

BY ROBERT OVETZ

Last December, the AFL-CIO announced a collaboration with Microsoft. In exchange for not opposing AI, Microsoft promised to take a neutral position on further unionization by its workers.

The problem with this new partnership is that the AFL-CIO is asking workers to fight with one hand behind their backs while Microsoft enters the ring with an armed robot at its side.

The agreement will result in Microsoft literally schooling workers and unions about why AI is good for them, informing workers when AI is forced on them, and lobbying together to support AI.

For the AFL-CIO, the main prize was the company's promise to remain neutral when more Microsoft workers unionize. So far there has been one neutrality agreement with 376 Communications Workers of America workers at the Microsoft owned ZeniMax game company.

The agreement avoided a National Labor Relations Board representation election but has not yet resulted in a first contract after nearly a year of bargaining. So far, the only agreement has been that Microsoft will inform members of ZeniMax Workers United-CWA when it uses AI and bargain the impacts on them. In addition, 23 of 77 temp workers have been converted into full-time permanent employees and the remaining temps promised full-time jobs once an agreement is

ratified. Ordinarily, changing employment status during bargaining would be considered an unfair labor practice.

The AFL-CIO and CWA have proved to be cheap dates for the multinational corporation. Microsoft has about 220,000 employees worldwide, 120,000 of them in the U.S. This means the new union has a membership of only .0017 percent of Microsoft's employees.

Microsoft has tamed the federation at the perfect time. The AFL-CIO promises to snuggle with AI at just the moment when workers are fighting AI in Hollywood, the New York modeling industry, hotels and tech. This is a huge payday for Microsoft, which is the largest investor in OpenAI, the inventor of the widely used ChatGPT.

This agreement is historic in yet another way. It is a historic capitulation to the boss when a string of studies shows AI will likely de-skill and even replace hundreds of millions of workers in the next few years. The workers most at risk of deskilling or being made obsolete are those in law, health care, administrative support, writing, art and education.

Thanks to sci-fi movies and books, we commonly think of AI as humanoid machines that will outsmart humanity and obliterate us. But current "generative" AI, which can create something new based on its capacity to make decisions, predict outcomes and solve problems, is becoming an advanced tool that



Jimin Kim/SOPA Images/Sipa via AP Images

Pedestrians walked past the Microsoft office in midtown Manhattan in January.

will be used alongside human workers. Like all previous tools, it will be used to de-skill and replace parts or all of the work we do and get us to produce more for less wages.

The impact of this type of AI will be much like the way the assembly line de-skilled craft workers and tied us to the conveyor belt. Early assembly-line workers didn't sign sweetheart deals to give the boss a free hand but they formed powerful industrial unions such as the Industrial Workers of the World and The Union for Everyone to disrupt them.

Today, the AFL-CIO's "partnership" with Microsoft would be the equivalent of unions giving industrial engineer Frederick Taylor a free pass to use his time-motion studies to control assembly line workers without any opposition.

According to Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, the agreement shows that "by working directly with labor leaders, we can help en-

sure that AI serves the country's workers." This is doubtful. AI is not being developed or introduced to "serve" workers but to automate some of our work, replace us, reduce labor costs, increase control over our labor, and make us work harder and produce more in less time.

When the CEO of one of the world's most powerful corporation is talking about "serving" workers, it's time to count the family silver the AFL-CIO gave away for empty words.

Control of AI will not come from receiving advance notice that the boss will make workers use AI or replace us with it. Notification is not the same as giving consent. The deal allows Microsoft to force AI on the workers and the union to file a grievance or bargain over it. This leaves the power in the company's hands to act and the workers to react after the fact.

We need to instead see AI as a weapon against workers in the struggle for control of work. One month before the AFL-CIO sell-out to Microsoft, the Vegas Culinary Workers Union Local 226 ratified a new contract for 10,000 Caesars workers. The union had threatened a citywide strike just ahead of the Formula One Grand Prix weekend and two months before the Super Bowl in that city. To avoid the strike, the company agreed to a CBA in which it must not only inform the workers six months in advance when it wants to use AI and also provide retraining, benefits and severance for job losses.

Retraining and severance are steps in the right direction. But the supposed benefits of increased productivity from AI need to be shared through less work. Reducing the official workweek to 32 hours would be a good start if it applies to all workers not just those paid by the hour.

AI won't be fought by empty promises, new policies and laws, or even CBAs alone. It will require that workers continue shifting our organizing to democratically controlling our work. The long Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA strikes, which ended shortly before the AFL-CIO's capitulation, proved that only workers' actual or threatened disruption will put a leash on AI.

Thankfully, the AFL-CIO is so far out of step with workers' fight against AI that this deal will soon be historically irrelevant.

Robert Ovetz is the editor of "Workers' Inquiry and Global Class Struggle," co-editor of the new "Real World Labor (Vol. 4)" and the author of "When Workers Shot Back: and 'We the Elites: Why the US Constitution Serves the Few.'" Follow him at @OvetzRobert.

'AI is being developed to automate some of our work, replace us, reduce labor costs and increase control over our labor.'

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COMMENTARY



Susan Watts/Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

Governor Kathy Hochul announced her five-point plan to use state resources, including National Guard troops, to protect New Yorkers on the city subway on March 6.

WAKE-UP CALL

Hochul's Five Points: None too sharp

BY RON ISAAC

Five Points was the name of a squalid, crammed and lawless 19th century New York City slum. It was the setting of the film Gangs of New York, in which Daniel Day-Lewis portrays the brutal lowlife Bill the Butcher, who is buried in the same Brooklyn cemetery as the sublime conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein.

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced her own five points plan.

It is unrelated to the wild and woolly neighborhood but is equally notable for its shadiness. Hers is a rational-sounding ruse to make our subways appear safer by duping and beguiling the public, so we will be more amenable to taking chances with their lives.

The solution is an optical illusion designed as hypnotherapy for the masses. The plan's bullet points are hollow and its strategy is counterproductive. It tastes of verbiage bisque and smacks of shameless nitwitary.

In "A Modest Proposal," the 18th century satirist Jonathan Swift identified numerous problems plaguing society, such as poverty and food scarcity, and proposed novel remedies for them. For instance, the cannibalization of destitute children, (who not coincidentally belonged mostly to a victimized religious minority,) and institutionalizing them as an edible commodity.

Hochul has her own recipes. It is a five-ingredient stew. What will their collateral benefits be for New Yorkers? What will they prove?

Her plan struggles to deal with reality without first acknowledging it accurately. It will not diminish justified fear. It may, however, soothe and soften our sense of imminent menace. The CompStat numbers will be massaged and its analytics serve as a gravy of faulty correlations.

The plan provides no disincentive to criminality. There are no punishments (not to criminals, anyway) The dainty mimicry of prosecution doesn't fool anyone. Sanctions are cosmetic. Window dressing.

The wage of assault and battery is a voucher for more wrongdoing. The long arm of the law is severed from the body of public interest. Prosecutors and judges sometimes cite the constraints of the law to disguise and distract from their over-riding drive and priority, which is to exercise their personal philosophies of crime and punishment. Suspects in dismemberment cases or filmed attacks against police remain at liberty with the system's blessing.

In practice, the rights of the accused are inviolable and limitless. Common sense, the public interest and the Constitution are laughing-stocks.

Subway riders know this, even as they witness the National Guard fashion show. Hochul will deploy these soldiers in numbers that average less than two per subway station. They might as well be cardboard cutouts, like those figures with which tourists, when they still felt welcomed and visited the city, liked to take selfies. At ease!

Empathy and redress for victims is a mandate of justice but no longer of the interpreters of law. Measures to preempt crime are viewed as a

'Crafters of public policy sometimes equate an expressed ideal with a consummated reality.'

provocative human rights violation by the same people who are pushing Hochul's plan, which does nothing substantive to give mass transit users a modicum of newfound serenity. I recall years ago a huddle of long-gun-toting National Guardsmen hanging out in Penn Station in front of a store selling pink cotton candy like they sell in amusement parks and circuses.

Optics are the life of the party. Both parties.

The National Guard will no longer have their long guns when doing bag inspections, as originally intended. Why the reversal? Were they unnecessary in the first place? Were they essential to the mission? If not, the plan wasn't thoroughly thought through in the first place and should have been dismissed and never announced. But if it was abandoned because of optics and political pressure, then it suggests that public safety is secondary to the primary priority of public relations.

The bag inspections will be no deterrent unless they are done without fear or favor. Of course, there must be no leeway for abuse. But there must be latitude and room for the inspectors' initiative in the selection of subjects. Selection is not an exact science. It is determined by multiple factors, intuition being one of them.

Obviously "red flags" suggesting overzealous enforcement must be seriously investigated. But officers doing inspections shouldn't need to fear meeting arbitrary productivity goals or a quota-based tabulation of data. They shouldn't be court-martialed for having opened the bags of one too many Pacific Islanders.

Hochul's plan also calls for closed-circuit television in subway cars and conductor cabins. Cameras are evidence-gathering assets, but do not avert crime. Will they be monitored in "real time" by officers able to respond immediately?

Given the blank check that violent recidivist felons receive as a matter of judicial course, they may be attracted to those cameras like moths to light bulbs, in the hope of a future as an "influencer" on YouTube.

The governor has committed to a "better coordination between NYPD and district attorneys to thwart recidivists." Recidivists will be thwarted only when the consequences they suffer are greater than the temptation to do wrong. There cannot be "better" coordination where there is presently next to none, or as long as there is zero tolerance of letting the chips fall where they may, if they don't fall convenient to a particular political agenda.

NYPD officials, except those above a certain pay grade who are LEONO (Law Enforcement Officers In Name Only), are generally alienated and disillusioned with the rein-

vented judicial system, which they claim renders district attorneys into defense counsel impersonators.

It defies logic and beats the hell out of credibility, to profess a desire to "thwart recidivism" when it is common knowledge that violent felons are, within an abbreviated period of time, rearrested dozens of times for the identical crimes. Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams properly emphasize law enforcement's targeting of recidivists, but their rhetoric leaves us to insinuate that they're largely on board with the judicial system giving each offender at least one freebee.

Hochul's ambition to "expand subway co-response outreach mental health teams" sounds like recycled hoodwinking. As described, it sounds like a clone of the billion-dollar ThriveNYC fiasco of the de Blasio administration, but with a more modest sticker price. The fate of that investment has replaced the Amelia Earhart mystery as a brain-teaser.

Let's be charitable and say that was then and this is now. Still, any attempt to fix the problem of emotionally disturbed persons in the subways, some of whom are homeless, will be a bust, even when grounded and driven by the best intentions, unless there is expanded legal authority to coerce non-compliant individuals who will not voluntarily submit to treatment or relocation, even when their lives are at stake.

The HIPAA privacy laws, though designed to protect the confidentiality of medical records, even of the most vulnerable, unstable and often mentally incompetent people, have the paradoxical effect of endangering and sometimes killing them. The law must be amended or else the promised commitment to address the crisis is just ballyhoo and fluff.

Hochul seeks to "allow judges to ban anyone who has been convicted of an assault in transit from riding the subway or buses." Convicted sexual perverts are already forbidden for up to three years. Five years ago, a City Council member from Brooklyn tried unsuccessfully to have them banned for life.

It's unenforceable, as is the touted exclusion of perpetrators of assaults against MTA employees. Last week another MTA worker was attacked. Odds are his assailant wasn't embargoed for three hours.

Crafters of public policy sometimes equate an expressed ideal with a consummated reality. Hochul, sounding like Queen Elizabeth I when she rallied her forces against the Spanish Armada, vowed "I will not stop working to keep you safe and restore your peace of mind whenever you walk through those turnstiles."

Not as long as turnstile jumpers are robbing the city of more than its projected revenues from congestion pricing.

Will there be officers at every entry to every station, connected by handheld device to a national crime center database? Will they be able to identify those hits before they can grace the smutty platforms? Or will the career-ready felons be asked to police themselves?

Hochul's Five-Point Plan: None too sharp.

TAX STRATEGIES

Income tax savings you may be missing

BY BARRY LISAK

ARE YOU PAYING more tax than you need to? When it comes to filing taxes, getting the best returns is not about skill — it's about what you know. Here are some tax strategies you may have overlooked.

• **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** Millions of lower-income people miss out on this every year. According to the IRS, 20 percent of taxpayers who are eligible for the EITC fail to claim it. The EITC is a credit — not a deduction, ranging from \$600 to \$7,430. The credit is designed to supplement wages for low-to-moderate income workers. Many wage earners previously classified as middle-class who have lost jobs, took a pay cut or worked fewer hours may be eligible for this credit based on lower income.

• **Be flexible.** Company-sponsored health-care flexible-spending accounts and transportation-reimbursement accounts give you a tax break on money you're already spending on medical bills and commuting expenses. Yet few people take advantage of them, only 20 percent of eligible employees use flexible-spending accounts. You and your spouse can each stash up to \$3,050 in the health-care account and \$300 a month each for parking and mass transit.

• **State sales taxes.** You must choose between deducting state and local income taxes, or state and local sales taxes. Many retired taxpayers may be able to take advantage of the sales-tax option. If you purchase a vehicle, boat or airplane, you get to add the state sales tax you paid to the amount shown in IRS tables for your state. The same goes for home-building materials you purchased.

These items are easy to overlook.

• **Refinancing points.** With interest rates so low over the past few years, lots of homes have been refinanced. When you refinance a mortgage you have to deduct the points over the life of the loan. On a second refinance or sale you get to deduct all the remaining points not yet deducted in that year.

• **State tax you paid last year.** Did you owe tax when you filed your 2022 state tax return? Remember to include that amount with your state-tax deduction on your 2023 return, along with state income taxes withheld from your paychecks or paid via estimated tax payments.

• **Bad debt.** Ever loan someone money and not get repaid? You could qualify for the non-business bad-debt tax deduction for individuals. You can claim a loss up to \$3,000 per year. Also, you can carry forward any amounts you did not claim in the current year.

• **Excess Social Security.** If you worked for more than one employer, and each took Social Security taxes out of your paycheck based on what they paid you. You may claim a refund of the excess on your return if your yearly wages exceeded \$160,200.

These are just some of the tax-saving opportunities that taxpayers often overlook. Spending a little time planning for these early in the tax year can reap large tax savings when you file.

Barry Lisak is an IRS enrolled agent specializing in personal and small business taxes for 30 years. Any questions can be directed to him at 516-829-7283, or mrbarrytax@aol.com.

REAL ESTATE

How to keep property off the city's tax lien sale

BY MATHEW JOSEPH

A tax lien is a lien which is imposed upon a property by law in order to secure the payment of taxes. A tax lien may be imposed for the purpose of collecting delinquent taxes which are owed on real property or personal property, or it may be imposed as a result of a failure to pay income taxes or as a result of a failure to pay other taxes.

New York City sells liens to an authorized buyer. The following types of debt may be sold in the tax lien sale. They are real property taxes, water and sewer charges, other real property-related charges and fees such as charges for the Emergency Repair and Alternative Enforcement programs. The New York City Department of Finance will send you a warning notice before the sale of the lien. You will have an opportunity to contact the department to take action to remove your property from the risk pool.

If you get a notice from the Department of Finance informing you that your property may be included in a lien sale, you must take immediate action by either

1) paying what you owe;

2) entering into a tax- and interest-deferral agreement or a payment agreement. If you have defaulted on a property-tax payment agreement and wish to enter into a new agreement. You must be able to prove that there were "extenuating circumstances" that caused you to be unable to pay the original agreement;

3) Applying for a property tax exemption that will exclude you from the sale;

4) Submitting an emergency repair program certification.

Active military members can request exclusion from the lien sale by affidavit.

If your lien is sold, you will receive a notice and you should contact the lien holder. The good news is that there is no lien sale currently scheduled.

More information is available at www.nyc.gov/liensale. The Department of Finance's lien sale ombudsman can be contacted at 212-440-5408.

Mathew Joseph is a real estate tax consultant. He can be reached at 929-393-5773 or realtorplus1@yahoo.com.

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WOMEN'S LIVES AND LEGACIES

Her story

An exhibit highlights 29 from the Lower East Side

BY MARY GREGORY

It's Women's History Month. In a world half made up of women and half made by women, there's just one-twelfth of the calendar to celebrate that, so let's get to it.

Artist Adrienne Ottenberg has filled the Museum at Eldridge Street with evocative, inspiring portraits of women in her exhibition, "Twenty-Eight Remarkable Women ... and One Scoundrel," on view through May 5. With images of labor leaders, health-care workers, artists, writers, social workers, socialites, Suffragettes and a scoundrel of the exhibition's title — a pickpocket named Stiff Rivka — the museum buzzes with female energy. Each has a story to tell, and curator Nancy Johnson and Ottenberg tell them through words, images and sound.

Polish-born Rose Schneiderman (1882-1972) was a labor organizer, unionist and feminist. Starting factory work at age 13, she was the president of the New York Women's Trade Union League by 24. Schneiderman went on to be a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union and an advisor to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Talk about influencers.

Ottenberg explained, "We live with the legacy from Rose Schneiderman. We live with the legacy from Frances Perkins," another labor organizer, who served as U.S. secretary of labor, also under FDR, from 1933 to 1945 "and people don't even know it."

(Perkins, the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet, noted that the New Deal began on March 25, 1911, the day a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Greenwich Village killed 146 garment workers.)

Ottenberg worked for more than a year to uncover forgotten stories of remarkable women who lived and worked in the neighborhood during the heydays of Eldridge Street Synagogue, which houses the museum. She soon had more names than she could use. "I had to make myself stop looking!" she

laughed. More than anything, she was struck by "just how many there were and how brave they were."

Johnson noted, "To me, the impact is kind of — wow, who knew? There were so many women who had very interesting, vital lives who really created change.... Looking at them all together, it's a piece of the story at Eldridge Street that was missing."

She added, "It's just the other half of the story."

'A pretty amazing thing'

The show itself has a story. It started in the synagogue's women's balcony, a space that's filled with light, color, history and beauty. But it wasn't always. "It's the first grand house of worship built in America by immigrants from Eastern Europe. It opened in 1887," Johnson said.

But she described how historical factors like immigration laws, the Great Depression, World War II and suburban sprawl all led to declining membership and resources, causing the near destruction of parts of the landmark building. Over the course of decades it's been restored, with a luminous, sparkling 2010 stained glass window designed by Kiki Smith as its crowning glory.

"When you go to the synagogue and you go up to the women's balcony, you feel how inspiring it is, how beautiful," said Ottenberg. "When I was up there it made me wonder what was the 'women's balcony' of the Lower East Side? Who were the women who were here?"

She took inspiration from the palette of the architecture — ochre and gold, topped by deep blue cupolas dotted with stars — painting the portraits to reflect those

colors. Then, they're layered with Ottenberg's own maps (she's also a cartographer), images of the sky and snippets of text, such as poet Emma Lazarus' lines on the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." The portraits are printed on gauzy fabric, letting light and glimpses of the space come through. It's all about making these women and their impact visible.

The artworks react to your presence, gently wafting in the air currents. "It's very ethereal," said Johnson. "They move as you walk by them. I think there's something about that that's very unique and special, and that makes it feel like the women belong there."

Was there something about the Lower East side in the early 1900s that empowered women to step up? Was there freedom here they hadn't had in their earlier lives? Was there some energy unique to the time? Or were these just the kind of women who did what had to be done?

"I think it was all those things," said Johnson. "It was synergistic, especially for the activists. One woman's work fed off the other's. They heard a speech that somebody gave, and it inspired them to act. Lillian Wald, who founded the Henry Street Settlement, she hired one of the first Black nurses and became involved in the NAACP, and health care changed. I think it was a factor of the time, the place, yes. And the rules that governed polite society didn't necessarily hold down there."

"I'm not sure exactly, but it's a pretty amazing thing," she added.

A pamphlet designed by Ottenberg with thumbnails of the por-

See **WOMEN**, page 7



Erin Flynn, courtesy of Museum at Eldridge Street

Emma Lazarus, the poet whose words grace the Statue of Liberty, was only one of the 29 remarkable women documented in "Twenty-Eight Remarkable Women ... and One Scoundrel."



Erin Flynn, courtesy of Museum at Eldridge Street

Dora Welfowitz, an 11-year-old victim of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, was the most difficult portrait for artist Adrienne Ottenberg to paint.

Over the course of history in the American Labor movement there have been several events that defined the need for change in workers' rights. But none was more prominent than the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. This unfortunate event where 146 people were killed, most of which were young immigrant women, brought reform and safer working conditions to all Americans.

In honor of the poor women that died on that tragic day and to all the women that have worked to make America the great country that it is today, including our own strong female members, we salute you and all that you do!



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Erin Flynn, courtesy of Museum at Eldridge Street

Artist Adrienne Ottenberg shares the stories of the remarkable women she discovered in her exhibition, "Twenty-Eight Remarkable Women...and One Scoundrel."

WOMEN: Lives and legacies

Continued from Page 6

traits and short bios accompanies the exhibition. The Bloomberg Connects app, free to download, has links to more stories from a variety of narrators, some of whom are descendants of the portrait subjects.

For Ottenberg, the exhibition was a journey of discovery in which she invites others to join her. There are tragic stories, like that of Dora Welfowitz, an 11-year-old victim of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. There are inspiring stories, like that of artist Louise Nevelson who refused to

accept the limitations on women inherent in the art world. All of the women are remarkable in some way, even the pickpocket.

"I hope that by connecting to these women one would connect more deeply to oneself and realize more possibility in one's own life," Ottenberg said. "You expand your world, I think, by going through the show and experiencing these women."

"Twenty-Eight Remarkable Women ... and One Scoundrel," through May 5 at the Museum At Eldridge Street, 12 Eldridge St., New York. 212-219-0302. eldridgestreet.org

Other women artists' exhibitions on view

There are several other exhibitions featuring women artists around town.

They include, prominently, a solo show of Audrey Flack's Pop Art-infused visual ruminations on art, history and feminine power, "With Darkness Comes Stars" at Hollis Taggart.

In 1986, Flack was one of the first living women to be included in W.H. Janson's "History of Art," every art student's introductory textbook. Now in her 93rd year, she's still creating extraordinary work.

Also at the gallery is a separate show, "National Association of Women Artists (NAWA): A Tradition Continues," featuring 14 of the over 900 members of the country's oldest collective of women artists. Both through April 20. hollistaggart.com

Sonya Clark's "We Are Each Other" is a survey of 30 years' worth of works by the multi-media artist that speak poignantly to the human condition, Black culture and women's lives. It's at the Museum of Arts and Design from March 23 until Sept. 22. Westbeth Gallery, the exhibi-

tion space for the renowned artist colony in the heart of the West Village, is presenting "Women on the Verge" with works by dozens of women artists, some of them still creating in their 90s. March 6-23.

"Kay WalkingStick / Hudson River School" places landscapes by the contemporary Cherokee painter in conversation with historical works by members of the Hudson River School of painting, at the New York Historical Society through April 14.

Brooklyn's A.I.R. Gallery, founded in the 1970s by feminists as a place to (finally!) have their work shown, is always worth a visit. They celebrate women's work all year.

Textiles were for centuries one of the most treasured forms of art until they became disregarded as mere "women's work." Through June 16, check out "Weaving Abstraction in Ancient and Modern Art," with over 2000 years of fiber art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

— Mary Gregory



The NYSCCA honors and remembers all women who made contributions and sacrifices in the American Labor Union Movement, especially the courageous women who tragically lost their lives in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911.



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Happy Women's History Month

SSEU LOCAL 371

Court turns back CUNY profs attempt to reject union

PSC's 'Palestine' resolution prompted suit

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE
 richardk@thechiefleader.com

Six City University of New York professors will appeal to the Supreme Court a recent decision mandating that they must be represented by the Professional Staff Congress.

The professors, who had resigned from the PSC after alleging that the union was inciting antisemitic sentiment, claim that their compulsory inclusion in the PSC violates their First Amendment protections concerning freedom of association.

But a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirmed a lower court's dismissal of the professors' suit, finding that a U.S. District judge, in "a thorough and well-reasoned decision," was correct in finding that exclusive bargaining arrangements conferred on public unions are constitutionally valid insofar as the professors' "associational freedom has not been impaired."

District Judge Paul A. Engelmeyer had based his December 2022 opinion largely on a 1984 Supreme Court decision, *Minnesota State Board for Community Colleges v. Knight*, that rejected claims by community college professors in Minnesota, who were also not members of a union, that they had been denied "a government audience for their views." The Minnesota professors, like those at CUNY, had challenged that state's public employment labor laws and the constitutionality of an exclusive bargaining unit.

The CUNY professors, who have resigned from the union, had argued that they were seeking to prevent the PSC from speaking on their behalf and not claiming to have a right to attend meetings between union and CUNY officials. The appeals court panel found that reading of the Supreme Court decision "far too narrow."

"In *Knight*, the Court explained that excluding non-union members from 'meet and confer' sessions to discuss policy questions separate from collective bargaining 'in no way restrained [the employees'] freedom to speak on any education-related issue or their freedom to associate or not to associate with whom they please, including the exclusive representative,'" the appeals court decision, citing *Knight*, noted. "The employees' 'associational freedom ha[d] not been impaired' because they remained 'free to form whatever advocacy groups they like[d]' and were 'not required to become members' of the union."

By limiting attendance at meetings with university officials, the PSC, as the exclusive representative for the union members, "violated neither the plaintiffs' free speech nor associational rights," the judges wrote.

Both Engelmeyer and the Second Circuit judges also dismissed the professors' claim that the Supreme Court's 2018 *Janus v. AFSCME* decision, which found that public-sector unions could not compel non-members to pay fees to cover some union activities, does not conflict with the high court's decision in the Minnesota matter.

The Circuit Court judges noted that while the *Janus* decision invalidated mandatory union agency fees on First Amendment grounds, "that holding does not undermine the constitutionality of exclusive representation by public-sector unions that do not assess mandatory agency fees. To the contrary, as we recognized in a recent opinion, 'Janus invalidated the collection of agency fees from non-union members but left intact labor-relations systems exactly as they are,'" they wrote.

Union: Claim is meritless

The professors sued the union,

CUNY and associated officials following the PSC's adoption in June 2021 of a "Resolution in Support of the Palestinian People" that, after chapter discussions, would "consider PSC support" of the so-called "Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement" against Israel. The professors, five of whom identify as Jewish and ardent supporters of Israel, considered the resolution antisemitic, anti-Jewish and anti-Israel.

Five professors, denouncing what they characterized as the union's political advocacy, resigned from the union within a few months. (A sixth had resigned years before in response to an unrelated disagreement with the PSC.) They joined at least 50 others who quit the union following the PSC's adoption of the resolution.

But New York State's statute governing public unions, the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act, otherwise known as the Taylor Law, recognizes unions as the sole bargaining authority for the bargaining unit, meaning that the professors nonetheless had to accept the PSC's representation. Contesting as much, the professors filed suit in January 2022, claiming that the directive violates their First and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Nathan McGrath, the president and general counsel for the Fairness Center, a public-interest law firm that is representing the professors along with the National Right to Work Legal Foundation, said the professors are being represented by a union that, through its support of the Palestine resolution, is implicitly unsympathetic to their concerns.

"New York law says our clients, most of whom are Jewish, must rely on a union that has taken a public stand against Israel to negotiate on their behalf," McGrath said in a statement. "These professors are being forced to associate with a union that they believe hates them. It's hard to imagine a clearer illustration of the harm caused by exclusive representation. Our clients look forward to petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their case."

The PSC's president, James Davis, dismissed the professors' suit as "meritless," and suggested that their claims are cover for an anti-union bias.

"Union busters are distorting the deeply held convictions and pain that some PSC members feel about Israel and Palestine to leverage their anti-union agenda and are using it to recycle the same failed legal arguments," Davis said in a statement.

"Their suit is funded by the anti-union National Right to Work Legal Foundation and the 'Fairness' Center in an attempt to eliminate unions and negate state labor laws. But the Second Circuit rejected the assault on the New York State Taylor Law, and representing every worker in a shop is fundamental to a union's power. It's what makes the workers' power collective and gives them the combined strength to win better pay and working conditions," Davis, noting that the professors are not members of the union, continued.

He noted that the Supreme Court has declined to hear 12 similar cases in the last decade.

"We hope that they will do so again, and we continue to advocate for better terms and conditions at CUNY," he said.

If the Supreme Court accepts the professors' case and overturns precedent, a significant portion of the state's Taylor Law, along with similar statutes in other states, would be rendered null.

Both Engelmeyer and the Second Circuit judges, though, found that the First Amendment does not extend to public employees in matters of collective bargaining. Citing *Knight*, the Second Circuit opinion noted: "[Public employees] have no constitutional right to force the government to listen to their views"



Courtesy Alex Irkilevski/CUNY

The CUNY Graduate Center at the B. Altman & Co. Building at 34th Street and Fifth Avenue. A panel of 2nd Circuit judges turned back an effort by six CUNY to disassociate themselves from the Professional Staff Congress. The professors said they would appeal to the Supreme Court.

We thank the Chief for informing city and State workers about their opportunities and rights for more than 125 years. We invite its readers to join our organization, which is dedicated to preserving those rights and upholding the merit system.

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Photo courtesy of Cornell Kheel Center

113 years later, Shirtwaist Factory fire still resonates

Isaac Harris, pictured above in the light suit among Triangle Shirtwaist Factory workers, and Max Blanck, to his left, established the Triangle Waist Company in 1900 and moved into the eighth floor of the Asch Building on the northwest corner of Greene Street and Washington Place in Greenwich Village a year later. The factory would grow into the ninth and 10th floors in subsequent years, its hundreds of workers producing about 1,000 women's blouses a day.

Following a spontaneous walkout by the factory's workers in 1909 and a longer, more widespread strike by garment workers that ended in February 1910, Harris and Blanck would agree to shorter hours and better pay for their workers, but otherwise resisted signing a union contract ratified by most other factory owners. Among the agreement's provisions were increased improved working conditions and better fire safety.

Less than a year later, on March 25, 1911, with the 52-hour workweek nearly done for the factory's 500 garment workers, a fire tore through the eighth floor and leaped to the factory's ninth and 10th floors.

Firefighters were on the scene within minutes, but the rigs' ladders reached only to the sixth floor. Hundreds of workers, along with Harris and Blanck, would escape either to the roof and a neighboring building or to the street via the building's single workable freight elevator. But 146 of the workers — nearly all of them women, most of them immigrants, many in their

early teens — would perish in the smoke and flames or by jumping to their deaths.

A seven-count grand jury indictment charged Harris and Blanck with manslaughter in the second degree. They were acquitted and would settle civil suits by paying \$75 for each life lost.

The tragedy would become a touchstone in the nascent labor movement in New York City and the nation, certainly, but also worldwide.

More than a century later, the fire's legacy continues to resonate. In October, after years of effort by a dedicated band of victims' relatives and descendants, historians and others, a permanent memorial was affixed to the exterior of the building. Consisting of a textured, stainless steel ribbon onto which the names of the 146 fire victims' names it rests on the building's southern and eastern facades 12 feet above the sidewalk.

Nearby, at New York University Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at 24 West 12th St., an exhibition running through March 29 documents the participatory process of the memorial's design.

And on March 25, on the 113th anniversary of the fire, the annual commemoration of the tragedy with speakers and a ceremonial ladder-raising by the FDNY will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside of what is now the Brown Building at Washington Place and Greene Street.

— Richard Khavkine



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UN agency says criminals reap \$236B each year in profits from forced labor

Sex trade to slavery

BY JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

Illegal profits from forced labor worldwide have risen to the “obscene” amount of \$236 billion per year, the U.N. labor agency reported Tuesday, with sexual exploitation to blame for three-fourths of the take from a business that deprives migrants of money they can send home, swipes jobs from legal workers, and allows the criminals behind it to dodge taxes.

The International Labor Organization said the tally for 2021, the most recent year covered in the painstaking international study, marked an increase of 37 percent, or \$64 billion, compared with its last estimate published a decade ago. That’s a result of both more people being exploited and more cash generated from each victim, ILO said.

“\$236 billion. This is the obscene level of annual profit generated from forced labor in the world today,” the first line of the report’s introduction said. That figure represents earnings “effectively stolen from the pockets of workers” by those who coerce them to work, as well as money taken from remittances of migrants and lost tax revenue for governments.

ILO officials noted that such a sum equaled the economic output of EU member Croatia and eclipsed the annual revenues of tech giants



Paul Hennessy/SOPA Images, via AP Images

Jail inmates cleaned up after the police horses at the 2021 Labor Day parade in Okeechobee, Florida. Illegal profits from forced labor worldwide, including from U.S. prison systems, have risen to the “obscene” amount of \$236 billion per year, the International Labour Organization reported Tuesday.

like Microsoft and Samsung.

Forced labor can encourage corruption, strengthen criminal networks and incentivize further exploitation, ILO said.

Its director-general, Gilbert Hougbo, wants international cooperation to fight the racket.

“People in forced labor are subject to multiple forms of coercion, the deliberate and systematic withholding of wages being amongst the most common,” he said in a statement. “Forced labor perpetuates cycles of poverty and exploitation and strikes at the heart of human

dignity.”

“We now know that the situation has only got worse,” Hougbo added.

ILO defines forced labor as work that’s imposed against the will of the employee and exacted under penalty — or the threat of one. It can happen at any phase of employment: during recruitment, in living conditions associated with work or by forcing people to stay in a job when they want to leave it.

On any given day in 2021, an estimated 27.6 million people were in forced labor — a 10 percent rise

from five years earlier, ILO said. The Asia-Pacific region was home to more than half of those, while Africa, the Americas, and Europe-Central Asia each represented about 13 percent to 14 percent.

Cite U.S. prison system

Some 85 percent of the people affected were working in “privately imposed forced labor,” which can include slavery, serfdom, bonded labor, and activities like forms of begging where cash taken in goes to the benefit of someone else, ILO said. The rest were in forced labor imposed by government authorities — a practice not covered in the study.

Some critics have railed against “modern day slavery” in places like the prison system in the U.S. state of Alabama.

ILO experts said that government-imposed forced labor was excluded from the report because of a shortage of data about it — even if estimates show nearly 4 million people were affected by it.

“The ILO certainly decries instances of state imposed forced labor wherever they occur, and whether that’s in prison systems or the abuse of military conscription or other forms or manifestations of state and post forced labor,” said Scott Lyon, an ILO senior policy officer.

While the report said just over one-fourth of the victims worldwide were subject to sexual exploitation, it accounted for nearly \$173 billion

in profits, or nearly three-quarters of the global total — a sign of the higher margins generated from selling sex.

Some 6.3 million people faced situations of forced commercial sexual exploitation on any given day three years ago — and nearly four in five of those victims were girls or women, ILO said. Children accounted for more than a quarter of the total cases.

Forced labor in industry trailed in a distant second, at \$35 billion, followed by services at nearly \$21 billion, agriculture at \$5 billion and domestic work at \$2.6 billion, the Geneva-based labor agency said.

Manuela Tomei, ILO’s assistant director-general for governance, told a conference launching the report in Brussels — where the European Union’s parliament is close to finalizing new rules aimed at cracking down on forced labor — that “no region is immune” to the practice of forced labor and all economic sectors are involved.

While countries including the United States were cited at the conference for efforts to fight forced labor, Tomei said the world was “far away” from U.N. goals to eradicate forced labor by 2030.

Valdis Dombrovskis, the executive vice-president of the European Commission, called the ILO findings “shocking and appalling.”

“Forced labor is the opposite of social justice,” he said. “Let me be very clear. Business must never be done at the expense of workers, dignity and labor rights.”

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FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS. SUMMONS. File: 278082, Docket Nos. B-20917-8-23. In the Matters of ANGL REY MARCANO and DESTINY JULIA HOPE MARCANO Dependent children, under the age of 18 years, to the custody of SCO Family of Services, alleged to be permanently neglected and abandoned children, pursuant to Section 384-b of the Social Services Law. In the Name of the People of the State of New York TO: CRYSTAL TRACI LYNN HANLEY A/K/A TRACI LYNN HANLEY A/K/A CRYSTAL TRACI LYNN WHITEHEAD Verified Petitions having been filed in the Court alleging that the above-named children in the care of SCO Family of Services, the petitioner, are permanently neglected and abandoned children as defined by Article 6, Part 1 of the Family Court Act and Section 384-b of the Social Services Law; YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before the Family Court at 330 Jay Street, Brooklyn, New York, Part 8, on the 23rd day of May, 2024 before the Hon. Ilana Gruebel at 2:30 in the afternoon of said day, or virtually via the following link: <https://notify.nycourts.gov/meet/Okwa6w> or by phone at: (347) 378-4143, conference ID: 12282625# to show cause why the Court should not enter Orders depriving you of all the rights of custody of ANGEL REY MARCANO and DESTINY JULIA HOPE MARCANO awarding the custody of said children to the petitioning authorized agency as permanently neglected and abandoned children as provided by law. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that if said children are adjudged to be permanently neglected and abandoned children, and if custody is awarded to said authorized agency, said children may be adopted without further notice to you and without your consent. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your failure to appear will result in the termination of all your parental rights to the children. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your failure to appear shall constitute a denial of interest in the children, which denial may result in the transfer or commitment of the children's care, custody, guardianship or adoption of the children, all without further notice to the parents of the children. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you are entitled to be represented by an attorney and, if you cannot afford to retain an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you by the Court free of charge to you. Dated: October 12, 2023 By Order of the Court, Clerk, Family Court, Kings County 3/22/24

Notice is hereby given that NYS Application ID# NA-0340-23-112461 for cider/wine/beer/liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell cider/wine/beer/liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the alcoholic beverage control law at 4227 Broadway New York NY 10033 for on-premises consumption. Lobster

LEGAL NOTICES

Steakhouse Restaurant Inc 4227 Broadway New York NY 10033. 031824-5 3/22/24-3/29/24

Notice is hereby given that NYS Application ID# CL-24-101479-02 for cider/wine/beer/liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell cider/wine/beer/liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the alcoholic beverage control law at 214 Front St Peck Slip & Beekman St New York NY 10038 for on-premises consumption. Calabria Restaurant LLC 214 Front St Peck Slip & Beekman St New York NY 10038. 031824-4 3/22/24-3/29/24

Notice is hereby given that NYS Application ID# NA-0340-24-108283 for cider/wine/beer/liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell cider/wine/beer/liquor at retail in a Tavern under the alcoholic beverage control law at 817 Broadway New York NY 10003-4709 for on-premises consumption. Hakim Hospitality LLC 817 Broadway New York NY 10003-4709. 031824-3 3/22/24-3/29/24

Notice is hereby given that NYS Application ID# NA-0340-24-107155 for cider/wine/beer/liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell cider/wine/beer/liquor at retail in a Tavern under the alcoholic beverage control law at 111 Broadway, Ste 104, New York NY 10006 for on-premises consumption. La Noxe Trinity LLC 111 Broadway, Ste 104, New York NY 10006. 031824-2 3/22/24-3/29/24

Notice is hereby given that NYS Application ID# NA-0340-24-107894 for cider/wine/beer/liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell cider/wine/beer/liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the alcoholic beverage control law at 112 Stanton St. New York NY 10002-3293 for on-premises consumption. DML Hospitality Group LLC 112 Stanton St. New York NY 10002-3293. 031824-1 3/22/24-3/29/24

Notice is hereby given that application ID NA-0340-24-207858 for Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 138 Tinker St. Woodstock, NY 12498, ULSTER County for on-premises consumption; Alba's Kitchen LLC 138 Tinker St. Woodstock, NY 12498. 031524-3 3/22/24-3/29/24

Notice of Qualification of Hillcrest Solar LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 3/8/24. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 3/7/24. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 110 William St., Fl. 24, NY, NY 10038. DE address

LEGAL NOTICES

of LLC: c/o Corporate Creations Network Inc., 1521 Concord Pike, Ste. 201, Wilmington, DE 19803. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 031424-12 3/22/24-4/26/24

Notice of Qualification of Times Square Operating Lessee LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 3/7/24. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 3/6/24. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Argent Ventures LLC, 551 5th Ave., 34th Fl., NY, NY 10176, principal business address. DE address of LLC: Cogency Global Inc., 850 New Burton Rd., Ste. 201, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. 031424-11 3/22/24-4/26/24

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CINGAL LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/2023. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent 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 1375 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216. The principal business address of the LLC is 1375 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: Aquatic Safety. 031424-2 3/22/24-4/26/24

Notice of Formation of Orange Vesper Productions LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 3/5/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Clara Zwirble, 158 W 81st St, #3, NY, NY 10024. Purpose: any lawful activity. 031324-3 3/22/24-4/26/24

Notice of Formation of 6 Avenue B LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/20/23. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Tahari Capital, 248 Mott St, Ste 11, NY, NY 10012. Purpose: any lawful activity. 031324-4 3/22/24-4/26/24

Notice of Formation of 6 Avenue B Manager LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/22/23. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Tahari Capital, 248 Mott St, Ste 11, NY, NY 10012. Purpose: any lawful activity. 031324-5 3/22/24-4/26/24

ADMINISTRATION CITATION. File No. 2022-130. SURROGATE'S COURT - QUEENS COUNTY'S CITATION. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent, TO: Patricia Hawes; Freeman Hawes, II; Sue-Ton McClenan; Francis Hawes, Jr; William Michael Hawes; Queens County Public Administrator; Heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of Freeman executors, N. Hawes, administrators, Sr., deceased, if assignees living, and if any successors of them be in dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A petition having been duly filed by Hugh Zhao, Document Execution Associate of Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, as loan Servicer for the Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a the Bank of New York as indenture Trustee for Newcastle Mortgage Securities Trust 2007-1, who is domiciled at 8950 Cypress Waters Blvd, Coppell, TX 75019 c/o LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC, 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14624. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's court, Queens County,

LEGAL NOTICES

at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd. Room 62, Queens County Courthouse, Jamaica, New York 11435, on May 9, 2024 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the Estate of Freeman Hawes a/k/a Freeman N. Hawes, Sr. lately domiciled at 121-61 236 Street, Rosedale in the County of Queens, State of New York granting Limited Letters of Administration upon the estate of the decedent to Patricia Hawes or Freeman Hawes or Il or Sue-Ton McClenan or Francis Hawes, Jr. or William Michael Hawes or upon their default or failure to qualify to the Public Administrator of Queens County, and if permitted to renounce, then to Deborah A. Case, Esq., the Petitioner's nominee or to such other person as may be entitled thereto; and That the authority of the representative under the foregoing Letters be limited as follows: To receive service of process on behalf of the Estate of Freeman Hawes a/k/a Freeman N. Hawes, Sr., relative to a mortgage foreclosure action commenced in the Queens County Supreme Court to foreclose the Mortgage dated December 5, 2018 to secure the sum of \$265,040.13, relative to real property located at 121 61 236th Street a/k/a 12161 236th Street, Rosedale, New York 11422. Dated, Attested and Sealed, March 12, 2024. HON. PETER J. KELLY, Surrogate. Janet Edwards Tucker, Chief Clerk. Name of Attorney for Petitioner: Steven M. Palmer, Esq., of LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Address: 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14624. Telephone No.: (585) 247-9000. Email: stpalmer@logs.com. Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed, you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you. 031424-3 3/22/24-4/12/24

File No.: 2022-2742 CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT TO: Karin Sorsak, Andrej Bosnjak, Ales Bosnjak, Attorney General of the State of New York The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of GRADIMIR BOSNJAK, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Cheryl Lynn Katz, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of GRADIMIR BOSNJAK, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 25-87 45th Street, Apt 3D, Astoria, NY 11103, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of GRADIMIR BOSNJAK, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 2nd day of May, 2024 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$9,679.62 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. 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Tribeca company owes \$57K to SI Ferry guards

Lander's office settles prevailing-wage violation

BY CRYSTAL LEWIS
clewis@thechiefleader.com

A security company must pay more than \$57,000 in back wages, interest and penalties for failing to provide armed security guards working at the Staten Island Ferry terminal with benefits as required under the state's prevailing wage law, the city comptroller's office announced March 13.

Michael Stapleton Associates, also known as MSA Security, contracted with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to provide explosive canine detection services at Department of Transportation facilities, including on the ferry and at Whitehall Terminal, according to the settlement.

Between Nov. 1, 2016, and Dec. 31, 2018, the Tribeca-based company did not provide the required supplemental benefits, such as health insurance and pension contributions, to 33 armed security guards, according to the comptroller's office. The prevailing wage law allows employers to pay a supplemental benefit rate instead, but MSA Security did not provide the guards that rate either.

"Companies cannot expect to use loopholes to avoid paying workers, who in this case were contracted to keep our public transportation safe, from the benefits rightfully owed to them. This settlement returns the value of those benefits to the security guards who patrol the ferry," Comptroller Brad Lander said.

The comptroller, who found that MSA Security's failure to pay the supplements was a "non-willful violation" of the prevailing wage law, ordered the company to pay the workers \$38,050.33 in supplemental benefits. The company is also liable for nearly \$14,000 in interest and \$5,182.80 in civil penalties. It must pay the total amount, \$57,010.80, within 30 days, according to the terms of the settlement.

MSA Security declined to comment.

"Failure to pay the workers the required benefits in this case is a violation of prevailing wage law and undermines workers' rights. The comptroller's office remains committed to ensuring that these workers receive the compensation they rightfully deserve," said Claudia Henriquez, the director of workers' rights at the comptroller's Bureau of Labor Law.

In Rikers classrooms, LaGuardia students teach and learn

12-week paid internship benefits inmates too

BY SHERICA DALEY

"We don't have to fight with people to educate them," Cory Rowe, an associate professor of Criminal Justice at LaGuardia Community College-CUNY, told her new team of justice fellows, a cadre of students who are spending time on Rikers Island helping teach courses in sociology, public speaking and other subjects to inmates on the penal island.

Rowe, who is also the director of the LaGuardia-Rikers college credit program, and the students, were sitting at an oblong table during one of several weekly training sessions earlier this year talking about the upcoming spring semester. The fellows, who are interning with Rowe through the S.O.A.R. (Succeed, Observe, Achieve, and Rise) Experiential Learning Program, a 12-week paid internship, have a hand designing the courses as part of a LaGuardia program that has afforded a chance for inmates to get an education at the George R. Verno Center on Rikers. The fellows will also collect data on the process and outcome.

Research has shown that providing inmates and detainees with education increases their ability to find employment when they are released. It also reduces the chances that they will return to jail.

The program, in partnership with the nonprofit College Way, has also enabled some inmates and detainees to get their sentences reduced after they complete the courses, which they generally do old-school, through course books, since access to computers in jail can be limited. The program, though, does not yet offer a path to earning a degree. Participants, though, do have the opportunity to transfer their credits to LaGuardia post-release.

Through an initiative funded by the Robin Hood Foundation, detainees can obtain assistance in enrolling for a degree program through the college's Office of Credit for Prior Learning, which awards academic credit for college-level learning acquired outside traditional classrooms.

Many of the justice fellows are familiar with the justice system, having previously served time in juvenile facilities, providing them with both credibility and empathy as they teach their courses. "I was a former juvenile delinquent when I was 19 years old, and it's rewarding to help today's 19-year-old juvenile delinquents," said Andres Aragundi, a CUNY grad student and a justice fellow affiliated with The Children's Village. Aragundi added that part of the S.O.A.R. program's allure was the opportunity to set an example for those on Rikers.

The pipeline effort enables students to engage with communi-



Sherica Daley

Cory Rowe, center, associate professor of Criminal Justice at LaGuardia Community College, and the spring semester's justice fellows with their training course books.

ty-based organizations, government agencies and small and large businesses as part of their curriculum. It's also giving him invaluable experience. "The program is a good exposure to the criminal justice field and helps the new justice fellows an introduction to the criminal justice major," Aragundi explained.

An open mind is a prerequisite

A justice fellow colleague, Joan Boothe, a CUNY undergrad working with the Bronx Department of Probation, said she was drawn to the program to influence others, and to prove that achievement is possible, despite involvement in the justice system.

"I was in trouble for four years with charges in joyriding, assault and battery," said Boothe, who is working with the Bronx Department of Probation. "I joined College Way and Dr. Rowe to become

a role model. I went from a juvenile delinquent to a straight A+ student," said Boothe.

The fellows assist Rowe in advocating on behalf of the detainees, including by assisting in writing letters to lawyers about their progress in the program. Rowe and her team of fellows attend seminars on criminal justice topics and travel to Albany to champion changes in the justice system that will better address the needs of detainees. The program has not only been a tool of self-development for the Rikers' detainees but also for the team of justice fellows, Rowe said.

"The only requirement to become a justice fellow is to be enrolled at LaGuardia Community College and have an open mind," Rowe said during the fellows' first training session in LaGuardia's C-Building. The compulsory training sessions, held over 13 weeks, go over the dos and don'ts of teaching at Rikers, which include dress code for the

fellows. Among the particulars: no big jewelry, no watches, comfortable shoes. The students must also use clear bookbags and must wear their College Way T-shirt.

"We want each individual to express their personality because the detainees feel more comfortable with us when teaching with the volunteers," College Way's director, Kathy Mora, said.

Rowe and the justice fellows are working to develop and expand the program. Starting this month, the program starts a new chapter. In coordination with the city Department of Correction, a new team of fellows will begin teaching three-credit courses to 25 women detainees at Rikers' Rose. M. Singer Center. "Now we provide equal opportunity to everyone, no matter the level of education or gender" Rowe said.

Rowe later unveiled yet a third expansion to the program. The program will expand to juvenile facilities later this year. The fellows program will begin at Crossroads Juvenile Center in Brownsville, Brooklyn, and Horizon Juvenile Center in Mott Haven, Bronx, following an approval from the city's Administration for Children's Services, which oversees the juvenile system. "Many of these children struggle academically and seeing the justice fellows connect with the incarcerated students will be remarkable," said Rowe.

The justice fellows program will continue creating new goals this year, and look to expand opportunities for inmates in city jails, including by offering course lessons that have immediate relevance, such as on procedural and practical law. But the program's objective, no matter the subject, is to create pathways for inmates and detainees to change the direction of their lives. There's empowerment in that, Rowe said.

As Rowe told the justice fellows during a training session earlier this year, the effort they bring to the program "may not always change the outcome, but it can change the feeling."

NURSES: Vote to OK strike

Continued from Page 1

at other hospitals in the city, according to NYSNA. Northwell has proposed 3-percent raises for this year and next, and 4-percent salary bumps in 2026, much less than the union's demands. NYSNA is seeking a 12-percent raise for this year, and a 10-percent increase in 2025.

The union slammed Northwell for its offer, pointing to the announcement last month that the health-care provider, already the state's largest, plans to merge with Nuvance Health. "But they claim they don't have money to invest on Staten Island. We are saying that's not true," NYSNA's president, Nancy Hagans, said.

The union also criticized the hospital management's decision in 2021 to eliminate satellite pharmacists, who were stationed on several floors throughout the hospital.

"Nurses shouldn't be living paycheck to paycheck while keeping Staten Island safe and healthy. And Northwell shouldn't be making cuts that make your job even harder," Hagans said.

'7,000 different things'

In a statement, Northwell said that "our goal is to reach an agreement that continues to provide our valued nurses with competitive compensation and benefits and ensures a safe, supportive working environment that enables them to provide exceptional care that our patients and community have come to trust. We remain optimistic that an agreement can be reached and look forward to positive and productive ongoing negotiations."

Sheila Ramos, who has worked as

a nurse for 37 years, said that even more than money, safe-staffing is a key priority. She said that Northwell officials frequently ask nurses to float to units they are unfamiliar with.

"They want us to do everything, to be a jack-of-all-trades yet a master of none. We are specialty nurses," she said.

Shayna Lehrer, a nurse who has been at the hospital for a year and half, said that Northwell has been putting more and more pressure on the nurses.

"We're responsible for 7,000 different things — we're dietary, we're environmental, we're physical therapists — they keep saying there's a nursing shortage. There's no nursing shortage; they don't want to hire anybody," she said. "I chose to come to Staten Island University Hospital because I live here. I want to serve my family members, my neighbors."

The nurses were joined by Vinny Alvarez, the president of the New York City Central Labor Council, who came out to support their fight for a contract.

Pat Kane, NYSNA's executive director, pointed out the numerous environmental challenges impacting Staten Island residents' health, meaning that the nurses often cared for patients with "complicated" conditions.

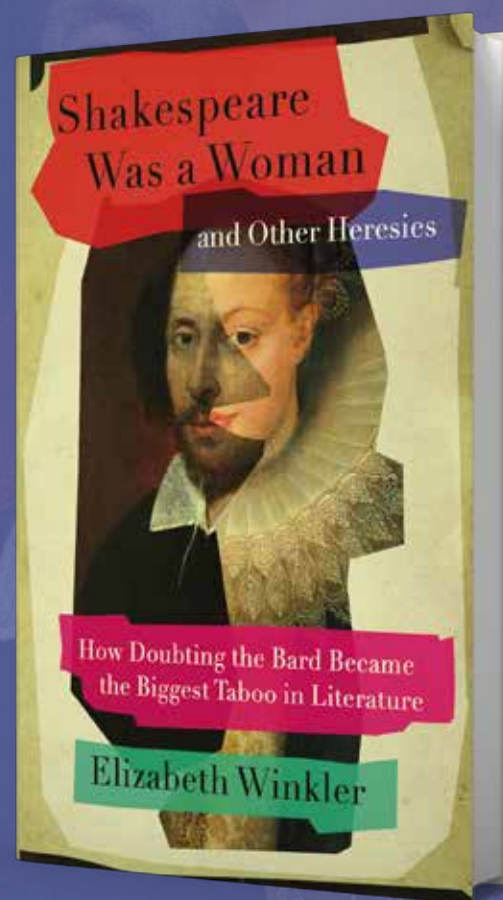
"This is the only borough without an acute care New York City public hospital. We don't have all of the resources that the rest of the city has," she said.

Northwell "forgot their basic mission, which isn't to grow," Kane added. "This is about dignity and respect — respect for the frontline workers, and most of all, respect for the community of Staten Island."

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ANDRÉ ACIMAN, PhD,

New York Times bestselling author of *Call Me by Your Name*



"Elizabeth Winkler is blessed with the clear-eyed wit of a heroine in a Shakespearean comedy. Her undoing of the fools in the forest of the authorship question is iconoclasm *As You Like It*—joy to behold, lesson for us all."

LEWIS LAPHAM, founder of *Lapham's Quarterly*

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE JORDAN GRANADOS COMPANY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/09/2024. Office loc: NY County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 138 Willoughby Street, Apt 16B, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful Purpose. 021224-1 2/16/24-3/22/24

Notice of Formation of **170 East End 16A, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/29/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The Company, 170 East End, 16A, New York, NY 10128. Purpose: any lawful activities. 020924-3 2/16/24-3/22/24

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Tap is Fine LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent 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 principal business address of the LLC is PO Box 1517, New York, NY 10009. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 020924-1 2/16/24-3/22/24

Notice of Formation of **Rhinebeck MM LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 1/17/24. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: One World Trade Ctr., NY, NY 10007. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Cogency Global Inc., 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. Purpose: any lawful activity. 020824-2 2/16/24-3/22/24

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF ABN Home Investments LLC. Application for Authority filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/16/2023. Office location: Richmond

PROBATE CITATION. File No. 2022-3600. SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY. CITATION. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK By the Grace of God Free and Independent To the heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Valerie May Judd, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence; and to the Public Administrator of the County of New York and the Attorney General of the State of New York. A petition having been duly filed by Charles Margolis who is domiciled at 1 West 72nd St., Apt. 95, New York, NY 10023. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, NEW YORK County, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, on April 15, 2024, at 9:30 o'clock in the FORE noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Valerie May Judd, aka Valerie M. Judd lately domiciled at 170 Avenue C, Apt. 19H, New York, NY 10009 admitting to probate a Will dated September 17, 2013, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Valerie May Judd, aka Valerie M. Judd deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary Issue to: Charles Margolis. *To all Parties: No in person appearances shall be made at the return date. If you wish to object to this matter, you may do so in writing in accordance with the annexed New York County Surrogate's Court Notice to the Cited Parties. Dated, Attested and Sealed February 15, 2024. HON. RITA MELLA, Surrogate, Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: Paul M. Chazan, Telephone Number: 212-957-0039. Address of Attorney: 122 East 42nd St., Suite 2920, New York, NY 10168. E-mail Address of Attorney: pchazan@att.net. NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you. SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NEW YORK, 31 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10007, (646) 386-5800. NOTICE TO CITED PARTIES. You have been served with a citation for a matter that is scheduled to be heard at a New York County Surrogate's Court calendar. Please be advised that pursuant to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Orders and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks' Administrative Orders now in effect in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this court is serving the public and court users primarily through virtual or electronic appearances; in-person appearances are limited at this time. The citation that you have received contains a return date. Please do not appear in the courthouse on that date. The following choices are available to you: - If you do not object to the relief requested, you do not need to contact the court or do anything else. - If you do object to the relief sought on the citation, you or your lawyer must send a document to the court signed by you or your lawyer indicating that: 1. You object to the relief or you are requesting discovery; OR 2. You are requesting the opportunity to appear in person or by using Skype for Business or by telephone conference; OR 3. You are requesting an adjournment to consult with or retain counsel. Your written response must be received by the court three (3) business days before the return date and must include either an email address or telephone number, or both, where you or your lawyer can be reached during business hours. Your communication to the court may be sent by email to: Probate_General@nycourts.gov or by mail addressed to the Probate Department of this court at the address listed above. The attorney for the petitioner must be copied in your communication. If your written communication to the court indicates that you would like to proceed as described in choice number 1 above, your case may be referred to a court attorney-referee for a conference. The case will be adjourned to a future date, if you request the opportunity to appear in person or by electronic means or to consult or retain counsel (choices number 2 and 3). If you do not contact the court by the date on the citation, the record will reflect that you do not object to the relief requested. If an attorney plans to appear on your behalf, he or she must file a Notice of Appearance. This Notice may be filed by mail addressed to the Probate Department of this court at the address listed above or through the e-filing system (NYSCEF), at www.nycourts.gov/efile. If you have questions about responding to the citation, you may contact the Probate Department at Probate_General@nycourts.gov. Please note that court staff are prohibited from giving legal advice but they are available to answer any question about procedure. The Probate Department of the New York County Surrogate's Court. 022324-2 3/1/24-3/22/24

PROBATE CITATION. File No. 2023-1561. SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY. CITATION. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. By the Grace of God Free and Independent To: The heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of Joachim W. Czech, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. Public Administrator of the County of New York; Attorney General of the State of New York. A petition having been duly filed by Herma Christine Fox, who is domiciled at 6 Horizon Road, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, New York County at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on April 22, 2024, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Joachim W. Czech lately domiciled at 257 West 93rd Street, New York, New York 10025, United States admitting to probate a Will dated October 3, 2022, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Joachim W. Czech deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: [X] Letters Testamentary issue to Herma Christine Fox. Dated, Attested and Sealed, February 20, 2024. Seal, HON. Rita Mella, Surrogate, Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk. Print Name of Attorney: Margaret G. Axelrod, Firm Name: Muchnick, Golieb & Golieb PC. Telephone: (212) 315-5575. Address: 444 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022. Email (optional): mgsa@mgpcplaw.com. NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. To All Parties: No in-person appearances shall be made at the return date. If you wish to object to this matter, you may do so in writing in accordance with the annexed New York County Surrogate's Court Notice to cited parties. See second attachment with sample citation and notice to cited parties. SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF NEW YORK, 31 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10007, (646) 386-5800. NOTICE TO CITED PARTIES. You have been served with a citation for a matter that is scheduled to be heard at a New York County Surrogate's Court calendar. Please be advised that pursuant to Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Orders and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks' Administrative Orders now in effect in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this court is serving the public and court users primarily through virtual or electronic appearances; in-person appearances are limited at this time. The citation that you have received contains a return date. Please do not appear in the courthouse on that date. The following choices are available to you: - If you do not object to the relief requested, you do not need to contact the court or do anything else. - If you do object to the relief sought on the citation, you or your lawyer must send a document to the court signed by you or your lawyer indicating that: 1. You object to the relief or you are requesting discovery; OR 2. You are requesting the opportunity to appear in person or by using Skype for Business or by telephone conference; OR 3. You are requesting an adjournment to consult with or retain counsel. Your written response must be received by the court three (3) business days before the return date and must include either an email address or telephone number, or both, where you or your lawyer can be reached during business hours. Your communication to the court may be sent by email to: Probate_General@nycourts.gov or by mail addressed to the Probate Department of this court at the address listed above. The attorney for the petitioner must be copied in your communication. If your written communication to the court indicates that you would like to proceed as described in choice number 1 above, your case may be referred to a court attorney-referee for a conference. The case will be adjourned to a future date, if you request the opportunity to appear in person or by electronic means or to consult or retain counsel (choices number 2 and 3). If you do not contact the court by the date on the citation, the record will reflect that you do not object to the relief requested. If an attorney plans to appear on your behalf, he or she must file a Notice of Appearance. This Notice may be filed by mail addressed to the Probate Department of this court at the address listed above or through the e-filing system (NYSCEF), at www.nycourts.gov/efile. If you have questions about responding to the citation, you may contact the Probate Department at Probate_General@nycourts.gov. Please note that court staff are prohibited from giving legal advice but they are available to answer any question about procedure. The Probate Department of the New York County Surrogate's Court. 022224-4 3/1/24-3/22/24

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County. LLC formed in Utah on 5/2/2012. SSNY has been designated as agent 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 116 Hendricks Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10301. The principal business address of the LLC is 116 Hendricks Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10301. Certificate of LLC filed with Secretary of State of Utah located at Utah Dep't of Commerce, Div of Corporation & Commercial Code, 160 E. 300 South, 2nd Floor, PO Box 146705, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6705. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 020924-2 2/16/24-3/22/24

Notice of Formation of **Fincity Decor LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/1/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Adesso Inc., Attn: CFO, 353 W 39th St, NY, NY 10018. Purpose: any lawful activity. 020724-1 2/16/24-3/22/24

Notice of Formation of **2B North 1st Street LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/7/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Attn: Jack Abel, 20 Seagate Drive, Unit 701, Naples, FL 34103. Purpose: any lawful activity. 021524-5 2/23/24-3/29/24

Notice of Formation of **3F North 1st Street LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/7/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Attn: Jack Abel, 20 Seagate Drive, Unit 701, Naples, FL 34103. Purpose: any lawful activity. 021524-4 2/23/24-3/29/24

Notice of Formation of **MINERVA TURNING POINT STRATEGIES, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy

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of State (SSNY) on 12/30/23. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Charles St #4F, NY 10014. Purpose: any lawful activity. 021524-1 2/23/24-3/29/24

Notice of Qualification of **RSDCGROUP, LLC.** Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/7/24. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Virginia (VA) on 9/21/05. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. VA address of LLC: 1201 Wilsoe Blvd, Rm 25-111, Arlington VA 22209. Cert of Formation filed with VA Secy of State, 1st Fl., 1300 E. Main St., Richmond, VA 23219. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 021524-2 2/23/24-3/29/24

Notice of Formation of **5B North 1st Street LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/7/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Attn: Jack Abel, 20 Seagate Drive, Unit 701, Naples, FL 34103. Purpose: any lawful activity. 021524-3 2/23/24-3/29/24

Notice of Formation of **AA Psychology, PLLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/05/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Alexander Scott Alvarado, 600 3rd Avenue, Floor 2, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: to practice the profession of psychology. 021624-1 2/23/24-3/29/24

Notice of Formation of **LAJ2, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/21/23. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: JASON ALCANTARA, 112 Ashford Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003. Purpose: any lawful activities. 021624-2 2/23/24-3/29/24

Notice of Qualification of **80 Chambers Street #10-F, LLC.** Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/13/24. Office location: NY County. LLC organized in FL: 5/14/21. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal office address of the LLC: c/o The Goldman Sachs Trust Company, N.A., 200 West St., NY, NY 10282. Attn: Co-Trustee, Cert. of Org. filed with FL Sec. of State, 2415 N. Monroe St., Ste. 810, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 022224-8 3/1/24-4/5/24

Notice of Qualification of **House of Sarah, LLC.** Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 2/19/24. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: 151 E. 80th St., Ste. 3C, NY, NY 10075. LLC formed in DE: 2/16/24. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Courtney Jared Bannan, Esq., 515 Madison Ave., Ste. 8192, New York, NY 10022. regd agent upon whom process may be served. DE addr. of LLC: 1521 Concord Pike, Ste. 201, Wilmington, DE 19803. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 022224-9 3/1/24-4/5/24

Notice of Formation of **RBIEIT MANAGEMENT LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/1/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022224-6 3/1/24-4/5/24

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Zetlin Dispute Resolution Services, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/11/2023. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent 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

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is 801 Second Avenue, NY, NY 10017. The principal business address of the LLC is 801 Second Avenue, NY, NY 10017. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 022224-2 3/1/24-4/5/24

Notice of Formation of **RightMove Physical Therapy Services PLLC.** Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/5/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022224-7 3/1/24-4/5/24

Notice of Formation of **SB 158 LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/16/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 1044 Northern Blvd, Ste 302, Roslyn, NY 11576. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022224-3 3/1/24-4/5/24

Notice of Formation of **Pemml NR Owner LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/21/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PATRICK OMEARA, 800 Westchester Avenue, Suite 641N, Rye Brook, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful activities. 030424-2 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Formation of **KASUR LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/19/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PATRICK OMEARA, 800 Westchester Avenue, Suite 641N, Rye Brook, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful activities. 030424-1 3/8/24-4/1/24

ACCOUNTING PROCEEDING FILE NO. 2019-2490/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO: Unknown distributees Attorney General of the State of New York Any Chan NYC Human Resources Administration/DSS and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Steven Chan, a/k/a Steven Wah Chan, a/k/a Wah Chan, the decedent herein, if living and if any of them be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained by the petitioner herein; being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, devisees, beneficiaries, distributees, or otherwise in the estate of Steven Chan, a/k/a Steven Wah Chan, a/k/a Wah Chan, deceased, who at the time of his death was a resident of 60 Henry Street, New York, New York 10002; A petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of the County of New York, who maintains an office at 31 Chambers Street, Room 311, New York, New York 10007. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the New York County Surrogate's Court at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on April 25th, 2024, at 9:30 A.M., in room 503, why the following relief stated in the account of proceedings, a copy of the summary statement thereof, being attached hereto, of the Public Administrator of the County of New York as administrator of the goods, chattels and credits of said deceased, should not be granted: (i) that her account be judicially settled; (ii) that a hearing be held to determine the identity of the distributees at which time proof pursuant to SCPA § 2225 may be presented, or in the alternative, that the balance of the funds be deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York for the benefit of the decedent's unknown distributees; (iii) that the Surrogate approve the reasonable amount of compensation as reported in Schedules C and C-1 of the account of proceedings to the attorney for the petitioner for legal expenses rendered to the petitioner herein; (iv) that the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration/DSS for public assistance rendered to decedent in the form of Medicaid for the period covering November 28, 2016 through December 13, 2018, in the amount of \$37,387.45, be allowed and paid; (v) that the persons above mentioned and all necessary and proper persons be cited to show cause why such relief should not be granted; (vi) that an order be granted pursuant to SCPA § 307 where required or directed; and (vii) for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper. Hon. RITA MELLA Surrogate Dated, Attested and Sealed, March 5th, 2024 (Seal) Schram Graber & Opell P.C. Counsel to the Public Administrator, New York County 11 Park Place, Suite 1008 New York, New York 10007 (212) 896-3310 Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. You have the right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney. 030124-2 3/8/24-3/29/24

Notice of Formation of **VASCULAR WAVE LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/20/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022824-1 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Formation of **Communities for Homeowner Choice LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/16/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 142 W 57th St, NY, NY 10019. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022624-2 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Formation of **Excelsior Spaces LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/21/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1642 Madison Ave, 1st Fl, NY, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022624-3 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Qualification of **Violetberri, LLC.** Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 3/5/24. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 3/10/23. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 850 New Burton Rd., Ste. 201, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, PO Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 030824-3 3/15/24-4/19/24

Notice of Qualification of **Cassadaga Solar LLC.** Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 3/4/24. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 2/29/24. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 110 William St., Fl. 24, NY, NY 10038. DE address of LLC: c/o Corporate Creations Network Inc., 1521 Concord Pike, Ste. 201, Wilmington, DE 19803. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 030824-2 3/15/24-4/19/24

Notice of Formation of **UBCLIC LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/28/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 334 E 110th St, NY, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity. 030824-1 3/15/24-4/19/24

ACCOUNTING PROCEEDING FILE NO. 2022-1682/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO: Unknown distributees Attorney General of the State of New York Manuel Anguiera Roldan Carmen Roldan Carmita Roldan Bernardino Roldan Leonardo Roldan Iren Roldan Fernando A. Roldan Iris Rodriguez Jose Roman Santos Roman Luis Anguiera Iris Anguiera Rios Jose Anguiera Ruiz, Jr. Ana Julia Anguiera Eugenio Anguiera Saul Anguiera Iraidia Anguiera Lopez Joseph L. Roldan Lydia Esther Roldan Cartagena Annette Roldan Georgia Tzortzis NYC Human Resources Administration/DSS to Manuel Anguiera Roldan, Carmen Roldan, Carmita Roldan, Bernardino Roldan, Leonardo Roldan, Iren Rodriguez, Fernando A. Roldan, Iris Rodriguez, Jose Roman, Santos Roman, Luis Anguiera, Iris Anguiera Rios, Jose Anguiera Ruiz, Jr., Ana Julia Anguiera, Eugenio Anguiera, and Saul Anguiera, whose whereabouts are unknown, if living, and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown; and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Jose Anguiera, a/k/a Jose Anguiera Gomez, a/k/a Jose Enrique Anguiera Gomez, a/k/a Angel Gomez, the decedent herein, if living and if any of them be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors administrators assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after

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and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper. Hon. HILARY GINGOLD Surrogate Dated, Attested and Sealed, February 29th, 2024 (Seal) Diana Sanabria Chief Clerk Schram Graber & Opell P.C. Counsel to the Public Administrator, New York County 11 Park Place, Suite 1008 New York, New York 10007 (212) 896-3310 Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. You have the right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney. 030124-2 3/8/24-3/29/24

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Charmin D. LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/22/2023. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent 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 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. The principal business address of the LLC is 228 Park Avenue S., #203023, New York, NY 10003. Coaching and consultant. 022924-3 3/8/24-4/1/24

DOOR TO DOOR CLEANING SERVICE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/26/2024. Office loc: NY County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Wendy Martinez, 34 Stadtmauer Dr, Clifton, NJ 07013. Purpose: Any lawful Purpose. 022924-1 3/8/24-4/1/24

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEX with Debra, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/9/2024. Office location: New York County. SSNY has been designated as agent 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 462 West 58th St., Apt. 3G, NY, NY 10019. The principal business address of the LLC is 462 West 58th St., Apt. 3G, NY, NY 10019. Purpose: Career Consulting. 022924-2 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Formation of **VASCULAR WAVE LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 2/20/24. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022824-1 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Formation of **Communities for Homeowner Choice LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/16/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 142 W 57th St, NY, NY 10019. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022624-2 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Formation of **Excelsior Spaces LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/21/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1642 Madison Ave, 1st Fl, NY, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity. 022624-3 3/8/24-4/1/24

Notice of Qualification of **Violetberri, LLC.** Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 3/5/24. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 3/10/23. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 850 New Burton Rd., Ste. 201, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, PO Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 030824-3 3/15/24-4/19/24

Notice of Qualification of **Cassadaga Solar LLC.** Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 3/4/24. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in DE: 2/29/24. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: 110 William St., Fl. 24, NY, NY 10038. DE address of LLC: c/o Corporate Creations Network Inc., 1521 Concord Pike, Ste. 201, Wilmington, DE 19803. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 030824-2 3/15/24-4/19/24

Notice of Formation of **UBCLIC LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 2/28/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 334 E 110th St, NY, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity. 030824-1 3/15/24-4/19/24

ACCOUNTING PROCEEDING FILE NO. 2022-1682/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO: Unknown distributees Attorney General of the State of New York Manuel Anguiera Roldan Carmen Roldan Carmita Roldan Bernardino Roldan Leonardo Roldan Iren Roldan Fernando A. Roldan Iris Rodriguez Jose Roman Santos Roman Luis Anguiera Iris Anguiera Rios Jose Anguiera Ruiz, Jr. Ana Julia Anguiera Eugenio Anguiera Saul Anguiera Iraidia Anguiera Lopez Joseph L. Roldan Lydia Esther Roldan Cartagena Annette Roldan Georgia Tzortzis NYC Human Resources Administration/DSS to Manuel Anguiera Roldan, Carmen Roldan, Carmita Roldan, Bernardino Roldan, Leonardo Roldan, Iren Rodriguez, Fernando A. Roldan, Iris Rodriguez, Jose Roman, Santos Roman, Luis Anguiera, Iris Anguiera Rios, Jose Anguiera Ruiz, Jr., Ana Julia Anguiera, Eugenio Anguiera, and Saul Anguiera, whose whereabouts are unknown, if living, and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown; and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Jose Anguiera, a/k/a Jose Anguiera Gomez, a/k/a Jose Enrique Anguiera Gomez, a/k/a Angel Gomez, the decedent herein, if living and if any of them be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors administrators assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after

LEGAL NOTICES

diligent inquiry, be ascertained by the petitioner herein; being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, devisees, beneficiaries, distributees, or otherwise in the estate of Jose Anguiera, a/k/a Jose Anguiera Gomez, a/k/a Jose Enrique Anguiera-Gomez, a/k/a Angel Gomez, deceased, who at the time of his death was a resident of 325 W. 43rd Street, New York, New York 10036; A petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of the County of New York, who maintains an office at 31 Chambers Street, Room 311, New York, New York 10007. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the New York County Surrogate's Court at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on April 25th, 2024, at 9:30 A.M., in room 503, why the following relief stated in the account of proceedings, a copy of the summary statement thereof being attached hereto, of the Public Administrator of the County of New York as administrator of the goods, chattels and credits of said deceased, should not be granted: (i) that her account be judicially settled; (ii) that a hearing be held to determine the identity of the distributees at which time proof pursuant to SCPA § 2225 may be presented, or in the alternative, that the balance of the funds be deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York for the benefit of the decedent's unknown distributees; (iii) that the Surrogate approve the reasonable amount of compensation as reported in Schedules C and C-1 of the account of proceedings to the attorney for the petitioner for legal expenses rendered to the petitioner herein; (iv) that the claim of NYC Human Resources Administration/DSS for public assistance rendered to decedent in the form of Medicaid for the period covering December 18, 2009 to February 14, 2011, in the amount of \$3,260.03, be allowed and paid; (v) that Georgia Tzortzis show cause as to whether he has a claim for reimbursement of payment of decedent's funeral expenses, and that upon presentation of proof of payment, the reasonable cost of the funeral expenses be allowed and paid, or, in the alternative, upon failure to present such a claim, any claim for reimbursement of funeral expenses be rejected; (vi) that the persons above mentioned and all necessary and proper persons be cited to show cause why such relief should not be granted; (vii) that an order be granted pursuant to SCPA §307 where required or directed; and (viii) for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper. Hon. RITA MELLA Surrogate Dated, Attested and Sealed, March 5th, 2024 (Seal) Schram Graber & Opell P.C. Counsel to the Public

JOB HIGHLIGHT

Bus operator jobs with MTA starting at \$26.98/hr

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is accepting applications for bus operators through March 31 for ongoing multiple-choice exams. The salary is \$26.98 per hour, increasing to \$38.54 in the sixth year of service. Benefits include night and weekend salary differentials and a pension plan.

DUTIES

Bus operators carry passengers in accordance with the rules and regulations of the MTA, New York State law and New York City traffic regulations. They ensure payment of fare; issue and collect transfers;

ensure passengers' safety; protect the assigned vehicle; write reports concerning revenues, accidents, faulty equipment and unusual occurrences; and perform related work. They are required to work nights, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

QUALIFICATIONS

No minimum education or professional driving experience is required.

But at the time of their application, candidates must have either: 1) a driver's license valid in New York and a learner's permit for a Class A or B commercial driver's license valid in New York with a passenger endorsement and no air-brake restriction, or any other disqualifying restrictions;

or 2) A Class A or Class B commercial driver's license valid in New York with a passenger endorsement, no air-brake restriction or any other disqualifying restrictions.

The CDL or motor vehicle driver license, or any combination thereof, must have been valid in New York for at least three years.

Those who qualify under "1" above, appointments will be subject to the receipt of a Class B CDL valid in New York with a passenger endorsement, no air-brake restriction and no other disqualifying restrictions at the end of a special training course in bus operation, or their employment will be terminated. Those who have serious moving violations, a license suspension or an accident record may be disqual-

ified. The Class A or Class B CDL with a passenger endorsement, no air-brake restriction and no other disqualifying restrictions must be maintained for the duration of employment in the title. This license and/or permit must not include any restrictions which would preclude the performance of bus operator work.

Active members or former members (discharged in the past year) of the military or New York National Guard with experience driving a commercial motor vehicle in the military or New York National Guard may be eligible for a waiver of the commercial driving-skills test.

Applicants must pass a drug screening prior to appointment. City residency is not required.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants who have a satisfactory Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) will be given a random list number by April 25 via email. As bus operator vacancies occur, candidates will be scheduled, in random list number order for further consideration

Appointees must satisfactorily complete a training program in accordance with MTA Bus Company or MaBSTOA standards. Appointees who do not satisfactorily complete the training program will be subject to termination.

Complete information on qualifications, application requirements and procedures is available at <https://new.mta.info/document/133766>.

UPCOMING EXAMS LEADING TO JOBS

Below is a roundup of New York City and State exams leading to public-service positions. Most of the jobs listed are located in the New York Metropolitan area and upstate.

There are residency requirements for many New York City jobs and for state law-enforcement positions.

Prospective applicants are advised to write or call the appropriate office to make sure they meet the qualifications needed to apply for an exam. For jobs for which no written tests are given, candidates will be rated on education and experience, or by oral tests or performance exams.

DCAS Computer-based Testing and Application Centers (CTACs) have re-opened to the public. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, walk-ins are no longer accepted and appointments must be scheduled online through OASys for eligible list or examination related inquiries.

All examination and eligible list related notifications will be sent by email only, you will no longer receive notifications via the US mail.

All new hires must be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, unless they have been granted a reasonable accommodation for religion or disability. If you are offered city employment, this requirement must be met by your date of hire, unless a reasonable accommodation for exemption is received and approved by the hiring agency.

For further information about where to apply to civil service exams and jobs, visit the thechief.org/exams.

The Federal Government has decentralized its personnel operations and holds few exams on a national or regional basis. Most Federal vacancies are filled by individual agencies based on education-and-experience evaluations. For information, contact the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or individual agencies, or see www.usajobs.gov.

CITY EXAMS

- CLOSE MARCH 26
- 4029 City Tax Auditor \$49,640
- 4030 Civil Engineer \$74,041
- 4035 Computer Systems Manager
- 4058 Instrumentation Specialist \$58,615
- 4060 Labor Relations Analyst Trainee \$49,762
- 4067 Mate (Ferry) \$70,268
- 4091 Social Worker \$55,816
- 4122 Associate Housing Development Specialist \$81,571
- 4123 Graphic Artist \$49,822
- 4124 Quality Assurance Specialist \$47,885
- 4314 Special Officer \$36,955
- 4317 Special Officer (NYC H+H) \$36,955

CUNY EXAMS

- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
- 2059 Campus Security Assistant \$31,320
- 2060 Campus Peace Officer \$33,825

MTA EXAMS

- CLOSES MARCH 31
- 4126/4330 Bus Operator (MaBSTOA and MTA Bus) \$26.19 per hour

NASSAU COUNTY EXAMS

- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
- 7078 CR(D) Cytotechnologist I \$43,863-\$91,243

- 7094 CR(D) Cytotechnologist II \$52,099-\$108,383
- 7095 CR(D) Cytotechnologist III \$66,357-\$132,168
- 61-639 CR Librarian I \$43,000-\$61,333
- 60-180 CR Librarian I, Bilingual (Spanish Speaking)
- 5263 CR(D) Medical Technologist I \$31,963-\$74,978
- 5002 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Acute Care) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5003 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Adult Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5004 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Community Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5005 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Family Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5006 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Gerontology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5007 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Neonatology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5008 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Obstetrics/Gynecology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5009 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Oncology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5010 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Palliative Care) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5011 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Pediatrics) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5012 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Perinatology) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5013 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Psychiatry) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 5014 CR Nurse Practitioner I (Women's Health) \$59,507-\$108,383
- 3138 CR(D) Occupational Therapist

- Assistant \$31,963-\$74,207
- 7288 CR(D) Occupational Therapist/Occupational Therapist I \$37,093-\$128,172
- 3139 CR(D) Pharmacist I \$56,636-\$117,533
- 3140 CR(D) Physical Therapist Assistant \$31,963-\$74,207
- 9030 CR(D) Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist I \$37,463-\$140,162
- 9029 CR(D) Physician Assistant I \$57,200-\$118,707
- 8049 CR(D) Radiologic Technologist (General) \$34,720-\$72,111

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXAMS

- CLOSES MARCH 27
- 3195 Career Guidance Technician \$54,889
- CLOSE APRIL 3
- 6509 Probation Officer Trainee (Spanish Speaking) \$44,187
- 6510 Probation Officer Trainee \$44,187
- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
- 2020 Public Health Nurse I \$59,404
- 2511 Psychiatric Social Worker \$52,017
- 2641 Medical Services Specialist \$76,708
- 2670 Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) \$37,000-\$60,000
- 2673 Emergency Medical Technician (Critical Care) \$37,000-\$60,000
- 2674 Emergency Medical Technician (Paramedic) \$37,000-\$60,000
- 2701 Drug Counselor \$47,502

WESTCHESTER EXAMS

- CLOSES MARCH 21
- 64-981 Program Coordinator (Staff Development and Training - Social Services) \$94,500-\$124,810
- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
- 06-100 Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)
- 02-108 Sanitarian Trainee \$53,760-\$67,010
- 02-600 Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee \$45,460-\$55,390
- 02-601 Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Trainee
- 91-136 Paramedic (Local)
- 01-155 Cardiothoracic Surgical Physician Assistant
- 02-032 Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
- 02-900 Health Services Coordinator \$75,406-\$125,410
- 86-102 Hospital Pharmacist
- 93-133 Occupational Therapist (School

- Districts)
- 86-113 Occupational Therapist (WCDC)
- 94-138 Occupational Therapy Assistant
- 93-134 Physical Therapist (School Districts)
- 86-115 Physical Therapist (WCDC)
- 03-100 Physical Therapy Assistant (School Districts)
- 94-137 Physical Therapy Assistant
- 87-116 Physician's Assistant
- 86-117 Public Health Nurse \$72,635-\$125,175
- 09-002 Radiology Information Systems Analyst
- 90-118 Staff Occupational Therapist
- 90-120 Staff Physical Therapist
- 87-124 Supervising Hospital Pharmacist
- 99-101 Supervising Public Health Nurse \$81,595-\$135,715
- 97-363 Supervisor of Medical Social Work
- 99-102 Surgical Physician Assistant - Specialty Services \$96,540-\$140,776
- 11-531 Coordinator of Computer Services
- 14-723 Database Specialist
- 20-532 Network Engineer II (BOCES #2)
- 10-529 Server Engineer I \$65,210-\$81,105
- 10-003 Software Architect I \$77,445-\$103,235
- 20-492 Systems Engineer I
- 20-493 Systems Engineer II
- 10-941 Technical Support Specialist
- 95-145 Senior Medical Technologist (Chemistry)
- 95-148 Senior Medical Technologist (Microbiology)
- 95-149 Senior Medical Technologist (Stat - General)
- 07-104 Supervisor Of Laboratories (General) \$78,729-\$117,831
- 07-102 Supervisor of Laboratories (Microbiology)
- 95-151 Supervisor of Laboratories (Special Chemistry) \$78,729-\$117,831
- 95-150 Supervisor of Labs (Anatomic Pathology) \$78,729-\$117,831
- 95-142 Technical Specialist (Microbiology)
- 02-030 Senior Assistant General Counsel
- 62-705 Librarian I
- 62-715 Librarian I (Children's Services)
- 62-741 Librarian I (Spanish Speaking)
- 63-020 Librarian II
- 63-034 Librarian II (Spanish Speaking)
- 63-045 Library Director I

STATE EXAMS

- OPEN CONTINUOUSLY
- 20-101 Actuary Trainee (Dept. of Financial Services) \$40,507-\$51,830
- 20-102 Actuary Trainee (State Insurance Fund) \$40,507-\$51,830
- 20-103 Actuary Trainee (Teachers' Retirement System) \$41,042-\$53,549
- 20-690 Addictions Counselor 1 \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-691 Addictions Counselor 1 (Spanish Language) \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-692 Addictions Counselor 2 \$56,604-\$71,980
- 20-104 Assistant Actuary (Department of Financial Services) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-106 Assistant Actuary (Office of the State Comptroller) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-105 Assistant Actuary (State Insurance Fund) \$42,883-\$54,678
- 20-254 Associate Psychologist \$67,703
- 20-256 Associate Psychologist (Spanish Language) \$67,703
- 20-872 Associate Psychologist (Forensic Mental Health) \$67,703
- 20-873 Associate Psychologist (Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment) \$67,703
- 20-687 Audiologist 1 \$50,722-\$64,557
- 20-688 Audiologist 2 \$56,604-\$71,980

- 20-517 Bank Examiner \$59,839
- 20-077 Child Protective Services Specialist 1 \$50,722
- 20-078 Child Protective Services Specialist 1 (Spanish Language) \$50,722
- 20-075 Child Protective Services Specialist Trainee \$42,986
- 20-076 Child Protective Services Specialist Trainee (Spanish Language) \$42,986
- 20-953 Clinical Physician 1 \$117,556-\$141,585
- 20-954 Clinical Physician 1 (Spanish Language) \$117,556-\$141,585
- 20-955 Clinical Physician 2 \$129,866-\$155,452
- 20-956 Clinical Physician 2 (Spanish Language) \$129,866-\$155,452
- 20-531 Dental Hygienist \$43,484
- 20-957 Dentist 1 \$105,355
- 20-151 Developmental Disabilities Secure Care Treatment Aide Trainee \$38,875
- 20-152 Developmental Disabilities Secure Care Treatment Aide Trainee (Spanish Lang.) \$38,875
- 20-149 Direct Support Assistant Trainee \$32,972
- 20-150 Direct Support Assistant Trainee (Spanish Language) \$32,972
- 20-349 Emergency Medical Technician \$42,631
- 20-523 Emergency Medical Technician (Paramedic) \$53,019
- 20-724 State Program Examiner Trainee 1 (Fiscal) \$45,455-\$71,980
- Auditor Trainee 1 (Municipal)
- Auditor Trainee 1 (Abandoned Property)
- 20-911 Health Care Surveyor 2 (Nursing) \$54,045-\$68,637
- 20-259 Health Information Management Administrator 1 \$53,568
- 20-282 Health Information Management Administrator 2 \$59,671
- 20-283 Health Information Management Administrator 3 \$69,603
- 20-257 Health Information Management Technician 1 \$42,986
- 20-258 Health Information Management Technician 2 \$48,027
- 20-100 Health Services Nurse 48,027-\$61,229 (Upstate), \$62,200-75,402 (Downstate)
- 20-969 Hospital Nursing Services Consultant \$63,041-\$72,012
- 20-867 Hospital Patient Services Clerk 1 (SUNY Syracuse) \$30,461
- 20-869 Hospital Patient Services Clerk 1 (SUNY Stony Brook) \$33,442
- 20-131 Legal Specialties \$56-745-\$100,091 (M/C), \$56,604-\$102,661 (PEF)
- 20-050 Licensed Master Social Worker 1 \$56,604
- 20-051 Licensed Master Social Worker 1 (Various Language Proficiencies) \$56,604
- 20-052 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 \$62,726
- 20-054 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Acute Care/Rehabilitation)
- 20-056 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Addictions)
- 20-058 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Children and Youth)
- 20-060 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Developmental Disabilities)
- 20-062 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Forensic)
- 20-064 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Geriatric)
- 20-066 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Mental Health)
- 20-068 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment)
- 20-053 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 (Various Language Proficiencies) \$62,726
- 20-055 Licensed Master Social Worker 2 Acute Care/Rehabilitation (VLP)

WILL FILL JOBS: CITY CERTIFICATIONS

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services has certified sections of the eligible lists below for appointments and promotions in city agencies, subject to the 1-in-3 rule. Some of the appointments and promotions may already have been made.

OPEN COMPETITION

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT SPECIALIST-51 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 190 on List 8041 to replace 1 provisional in Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECT MANAGER-263 eligibles between Nos. 66 and 620 on List 8042 to replace 5 provisionals in Comptroller's Office.

CERTIFIED IT ADMINISTRATOR (LAN/WAN)-293 eligibles between Nos. 29 and 481 on List 1111 for 5 jobs in Police Department.

COMPUTER ASSOCIATE (SOFTWARE)-106 eligibles between Nos. 38 and 488 on List 1133 for 2 jobs in Department of Buildings.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SPECIALIST-EMT-12 eligibles between Nos. 102 and 1288 on List 803 for any of 500 jobs in Fire Department.

MEDIA SERVICES TECHNICIAN-95 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 105 on List 3088 for 8 jobs at Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

SENIOR STATIONARY ENGINEER-11 eligibles between Nos. 7 and 36 on List 2092 to replace 1 provisional at Administration for Children's Services.

SHEET METAL WORKER-15 eligibles between Nos. 6 and 25 on List 2085 to replace 2 provisionals in Police Department.

SPACE ANALYST-26 eligibles between Nos. 80 and 213 on List 161 to replace 1 provisional at Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

STRUCTURE MAINTAINER - GROUP F-7 eligibles between Nos. 3 and 9 on List 610 to replace 1 provisional at NYC Transit.

TAXI AND LIMOUSINE INSPECTOR-155 eligibles between Nos. 2 and 465 on List 2086 to replace 25 provisionals at Taxi and Limousine Commission.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE (DATA)-52 eligibles between Nos. 60 and 288 on List 135 to replace 1 provisional at ACS.

TRANSPORTATION SPECIALIST-307 eligibles between Nos. 5 and 366 on List 3027 to replace 1 provisional in Department of City Planning.

PROMOTION

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTANT-23 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 25 on List 565 to replace 2 provisionals in Department of Education.

ADMINISTRATIVE PARK AND RECREATION MANAGER-3 eligibles (Nos. 6, 12 and 109) on List 6523 to replace 7 provisionals in Department of Parks and Recreation.

SUPERVISING FIRE MARSHAL (UNIFORMED)-32 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 36 on List 3531 for 25 jobs in Fire Department.

SUPERVISOR BRICKLAYER-31 eligibles (Nos. 1-31) on List 3592 to replace 7 provisionals at Housing Authority.

SUPERVISOR ELEVATOR MECHANIC-9 eligibles between Nos. 1 and 11 on List 519 to replace 1 provisional in Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

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LABOR AROUND THE WORLD



Seth Wenig/AP Photo

Senator Bernie Sanders, speaking at an Amazon Labor Union rally on Staten Island in April 2022, has introduced a bill that would shorten to 32 hours the amount of time many Americans can work each week before they're owed overtime.

Bernie Sanders wants the U.S. to adopt a 32-hour workweek

Could workers and companies benefit?

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

The 40-hour workweek has been standard in the U.S. for more than eight decades. Now some members of Congress want to give hourly workers an extra day off.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, the far-left independent from Vermont, this week introduced a bill that would shorten to 32 hours the amount of time many Americans can work each week before they're owed overtime.

Given advances in automation, robotics and artificial intelligence, Sanders says U.S. companies can afford to give employees more time off without cutting their pay and benefits.

Critics say a mandated shorter week would force many companies to hire additional workers or lose productivity.

The bill Sanders introduced last week in the Senate would reduce the standard workweek from 40 hours to 32 hours. Employers would be prohibited from reducing their workers' pay and benefits to match their lost hours.

That means people who currently work Monday through Friday, eight hours per day, would get to add an extra day to their weekend. Workers eligible for overtime would get paid extra for exceeding 32 hours in a week.

Sanders says the worktime reductions would be phased in over four years. He held a hearing on the proposal Thursday in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, of which Sanders is the chairman.

Job satisfaction rises

One recent study of British companies that agreed to adopt a 32-hour workweek concluded that employees came to work less stressed and more focused while revenues remained steady or increased.

In 2022, a team of university researchers and the nonprofit 4 Day Week Global enlisted 61 companies to reduce working hours for six months without cutting wages. Afterward, 71 percent of the 2,900 workers said they were less burned out and nearly half reported being more satisfied with their jobs.

Meanwhile, 24 of the participating companies reported revenue growth of more than 34 percent over the prior six months. Nearly two dozen others saw a smaller increase.

"The majority of employees register an increase in their productivity over the trial. They are more energized, focused and capable," Juliet Shor, a Boston College sociology professor and a lead researcher on the UK study, told Sanders' Senate committee.

Critics say a 32-hour workweek might work for companies where employees spend most of their time at computers or in meetings, but could be disastrous for production at manufacturing plants that need hands-on workers to keep assembly lines running.

"These are concepts that have consequences," Roger King, of the HR Policy Association, which rep-

resents corporate human resource officers, told the Senate committee. "It just doesn't work in many industries."

With considerable opposition from Republicans, and potentially some Democrats, don't expect Sanders' proposal to get very far in the Senate. A companion bill by Democratic Rep. Mark Takano of California is likely doomed in the GOP-controlled House.

Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana said paying workers the same wages for fewer hours would force employers to pass the cost of hiring more workers along to consumers.

"It would threaten millions of small businesses operating on a razor-thin margin because they're unable to find enough workers," said Cassidy, the ranking Republican on the committee. "Now they've got the same workers, but only for three-quarters of the time. And they have to hire more."

Sanders has used his platform as the committee's chairman to showcase legislation aimed at holding big corporations more accountable to workers. He blamed greedy executives for pocketing extra profits as technology has boosted worker productivity.

"Do we continue the trend that technology only benefits the people on top, or do we demand that these transformational changes benefit working people?" Sanders said. "And one of the benefits must be a lower workweek, a 32-hour workweek."

The Fair Labor Standards Act, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938, restricted child labor and imposed other workplace protections that included limiting the workweek to 44 hours. The law was amended two years later to make it a 40-hour week.

The landmark law followed a century of labor-union efforts seeking protections for the many overworked people in the U.S., said Tejasvi Nagaraja, a labor historian at Cornell University's School of Industry and Labor Relations.

"The issue of time was always as important, or more important, than money for labor unions and labor advocates," Nagaraja said.

In the 1830s, coal miners and textile workers began pushing back against workdays of up to 14 hours. After the Civil War, the abolition of slavery caused those in the U.S. to take a fresh look at workers' rights. Unions rallied around the slogan: "Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what you will."

The federal government took tentative steps toward limiting working time. In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant ordered an eight-hour workday for government employees. In 1916, Congress mandated the same for railroad workers.

Other reforms came from private industry. In 1926, Henry Ford adopted a 40-hour week for his automobile assembly workers more than a decade before Congress mandated it.

Ford wrote: "It is high time to rid ourselves of the notion that leisure for workmen is either lost time or a class privilege."

The AP's Mary Clare Jalonick contributed.

Farms increasingly reliant on contract workers

Acutely exposed to climate extremes

BY MELINA WALLING
Associated Press

Six years ago, Illinois farmer John Ackerman didn't hire any contract workers at all. Now he typically hires about 22 every year through a local coordinator that helps farmers hire crews of agriculturally skilled, often Latino workers. Those teams hand-weed the soybeans Ackerman grows alongside the pumpkin and corn crops he uses for his primarily fall-focused agrotourism outfit.

He still hires about the same number of locals, around 25 part-time workers in the fall, many of them teenagers or young adults, to run sales and pick pumpkins. He enjoys mentoring young people, but says it's felt harder lately to justify hiring inexperienced workers when contract workers do the same hard, physical jobs faster and better.

"I worry about the day that comes where it's a better choice to have contract laborers come and help me" year-round, he said.

A higher proportion of U.S. farms are now using contract workers, according to the most recent U.S. agricultural census data, out last month with a five-year update from the previous 2017 data. Because of the terms of their employment, those laborers have specific challenges voicing concerns about their working conditions, and are more likely to be on the front lines of climate change, facing increasing heat and extreme weather. Climate change affects all farm workers, but advocates and researchers say this is a reason to focus particularly on these workers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines contract labor as including contractors, crew leaders, cooperatives, or any other organization hired to furnish a crew to do a job for one or more agricultural operations. The USDA data showed an uptick in the number of farms using migrant labor.

Patchwork of regulations

Contract workers hired by an agency may work hundreds of miles from where they live, and may move from place to place, making it harder to keep farmers accountable for labor abuses, explained Alexis Guild, vice president of strategy and programs at the nonprofit Farmworker Justice. Some contracting agencies also employ undocumented workers, who may remain silent for fear of being deported. And though some steps are

being taken at the federal level to protect migrant workers with H-2A visas for seasonal farm jobs, those regulations have vocal opponents.

Since the immigration status of many H-2A workers is tied to a single job, they may feel they have less agency to voice concerns about their workplaces, added Rebecca Young, director of programs at Farmworker Justice. She said these workers can be isolated from their communities due to language barriers and their living arrangements, often on the same farms where they work. Resources like healthcare and counseling can be out of reach.

"I worry about some of our most vulnerable populations who have contract jobs that don't have very good protections in place being more exposed to worse conditions," said Jennifer Vanos, an associate professor at Arizona State University who studies climate and health with a focus on extreme heat. She emphasized that it's "a scary situation because people die and that's just not okay."

Some states have patchwork heat regulations in place for farm workers, but there are no federal rules about heat exposure in the U.S. And making a formal complaint can be fraught, though it's a legal right, said Abigail Kerfoot, senior staff attorney at Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, a nonprofit organization providing assistance to farm workers. "Most workers, particularly migrant workers on temporary visas, find it, unfortunately, a difficult decision to make," she said.

That's something Luis Jimenez, a New York dairy worker, hopes to change. He's one of the leaders of Alianza Agricola, a grassroots organization advocating for immigrant farmworkers. Jimenez said dairies typically can't hire H-2A workers because the work isn't seasonal, but many farmers want to change that. That worries him. He's tried reaching H-2A workers on nearby farms, but says their supervisors won't let them talk to him. "A lot of farmers, they use the excuse, 'I don't have no workers' because they want an expanded H-2A," he says, because "they want to have power."

A former H-2A worker in North Carolina who spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation confirmed Jimenez's sentiment. He described working for hours in sweet potato fields without overtime pay and without rest or access to shade in extreme heat. Now he has a work permit through a program for workers in labor disputes. But for many, "there's no other option," he said, speaking in Spanish. "People with an H-2A visa have to come to work, they have to comply with

their work and they have to do their work."

Labor hard to find

Some farmers say they see little interest from domestic workers in the jobs they post. Jed Clark, a Kentucky grain farmer, said in the 20 years he's hired H-2A workers, for about 10 positions on the farm each year, only about 10 locals total have ever shown up to inquire about an open job.

"The number of people that want to farm for a living actively is going down. And with the farms growing larger and larger, we're going to have to have help to operate," he said. He added that some row crop tasks can be sheltered from the elements, like operating farm equipment with air-conditioned cabs.

Reforming the H-2A program is a high priority for many farmers, but while they wait for that to happen, many are having to decide whether to switch to less labor intensive crops or try to mechanize their operations, said Stephanie McBath, director of public policy for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. But for many types of crops, that isn't possible: USDA research shows that demand for H-2A workers boomed from 2010-2019 in sectors like fruit and vegetable production, which require hand labor that isn't easily mechanized.

"I think fundamentally (farmers) just want to have somebody show up and do a day's work and be able to pay them a fair wage," McBath said. But with strong increases in the cost of labor over the past several years, "it's really just a bottom line business decision for them."

Bruce Cline, a grain and tobacco farmer in Crofton, Kentucky, has been hiring H-2A workers for over 30 years and said he's watched all his neighbors follow him since then. For industries like construction and agriculture, "it's tough to operate without migrant labor," he said. And Scott Kuegel, who farms about an hour away near Owensboro, says local labor became scarce in his community because, as he puts it, farm work is "hot, it's dirty, or it's cold, and wet, and nasty."

As climate change makes conditions nastier, advocates hope workers will feel empowered to make their voices heard. But many contract workers "can't advocate for rights, because if they do it, the next year or next season, the farmer just (won't) bring the same people," Jimenez said.

The AP's Dorany Pineda and Joshua A. Bickel contributed to this report.



Joshua A. Bickel/AP Photo

Fernando Osorio Loya, left, a contract worker from Veracruz, Mexico, dumped soil into a seeding machine as Miguel Angel, right, also a contract worker from Veracruz, Mexico, prepares trays for seeds earlier this month at a farm in Crofton, Ky. The latest U.S. agricultural census data shows an increase in the proportion of farms using contract labor compared to those hiring labor overall.

Inflation still burdens small business owners

BY MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

Inflation remains small businesses' chief worry, according to a new survey showing their optimism fell in February.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses' Optimism Index fell to 89.4 in February. It's been below the 50-year average of 98 for 26 straight months. Twenty-three percent of small business owners said inflation was their top problem, up three points from Jan-

uary, when labor quality was the chief concern.

Inflation remains elevated. Prices rose 0.4 percent from January to February, up from the previous month's 0.3 percent pace, the Labor Department said last week. Compared with a year earlier, consumer prices rose 3.2 percent last month, slightly higher than in January.

Excluding food and energy prices, so-called "core" prices also climbed 0.4 percent from January to February. That's faster than what's needed to bring inflation

down to the Fed's 2 percent target. Core inflation is watched closely for a read on where inflation is likely headed.

As they grapple with inflation, small business owners are spending less. Fifty-four percent of owners reported capital outlays in the last six months, down five percentage points from January. Of those making expenditures, 35 percent reported spending on new equipment, 23 percent acquired vehicles, and 15 percent improved or expanded facilities.