



# NORWOOD NEWS

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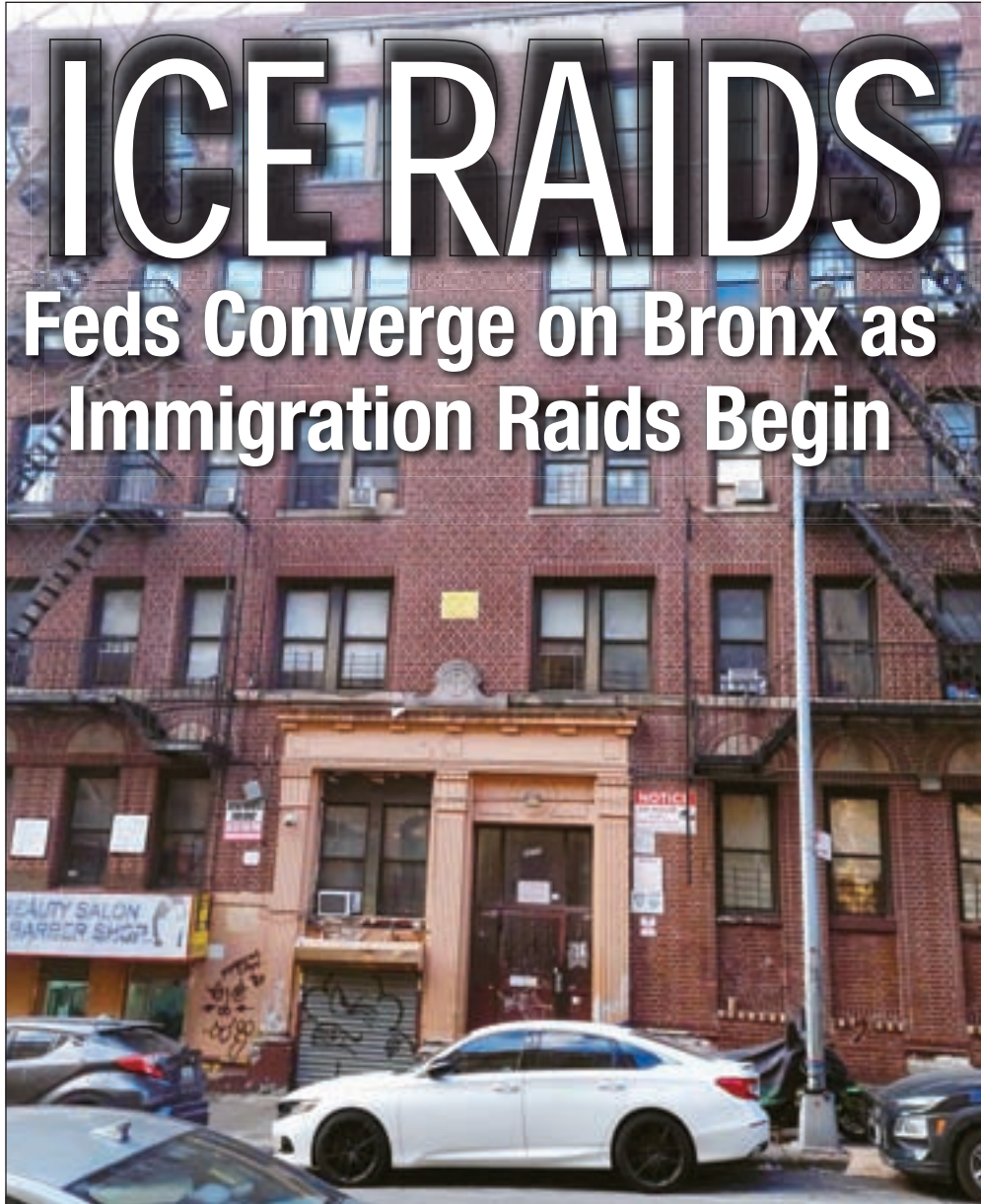


Photo by David Greene

**FEDERAL AGENTS WITH U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided this Creston Avenue building in Fordham Heights and reportedly took one man into custody on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025.**

# ICE RAIDS

## Feds Converge on Bronx as Immigration Raids Begin

By **DAVID GREENE**

Federal agents from a host of different law enforcement agencies converged last month on at least three locations in The Bronx, one in Manhattan, and another in Queens in efforts to detain undocumented migrants.

The raids came days after Republican U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 22, suspending “the physical entry of aliens engaged in an invasion of the United States through the southern border.” This order had, in turn, followed a prior Jan. 20 executive order authorizing the detention of “unregistered aliens,” among other immigration-related actions.

According to posts on X by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and newly confirmed U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem, various raids took place before dawn on Tuesday, Jan. 28, in New York City. Agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)’s Enforcement and Removal Operations division, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HIS), DEA, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the U.S. Secret Service and the NYPD’s Special Operations Division entered at least five City locations and took several people into custody.

At just after 7 a.m. on Tuesday, DEA New York posted on X, “Happening now, #DEANewYork participated in an operation supporting @DHSgov, along with our @TheJusticeDept & other federal law enforcement partners, with their #immigra-

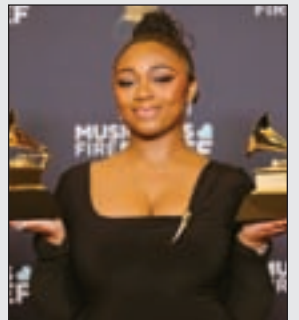
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**Bronx Jazz Singer Samara Joy Wins Two More Grammys pg 10**

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N R W TO CORTLANDT STREET

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# Mayor Appoints Velázquez to Tenant Protection Role

By DAVID GREENE

Embattled New York City Mayor Eric Adams last month announced 17 new appointments and promotions within City government to fill various vacancies. The appointments come as the City Hall exodus continues, and amid a federal bribery probe into the mayor's 2021 election campaign that continues to cast a shadow over his administration. The mayor denies any wrongdoing and his case is ongoing.

In a press release dated Tuesday, Jan. 28, Adams announced he has appointed the former Bronx City Council Member for C.D. 13, Marjorie Velázquez, as director for tenant protection. According to the press release, Velázquez most recently served as vice president of policy for Tech: NYC "where she worked to bridge the gap between City Hall, Albany, and New York's fast-growing tech sector."

The release continued in part, "She championed several key initiatives, including a landmark ruling mandating a minimum wage for gig economy workers, securing funding for public transit and safety improvements, and passing bills to strengthen tenants' rights."

Velázquez served as the Democratic council member for Council District 13 from January 2022 to December 2023 before losing to Republican, Kristy Marmorato, the first time a Republican defeated a Democrat in a Bronx election in nearly two decades.

A female, East Bronx resident who declined to be identified for this story said she had opposed the stand taken by Velázquez on the Bruckner Boulevard upzoning housing development in Throggs Neck, as well as what the resident alleged was Velázquez's position on the proposed "Just Home" housing project.

Some residents opposed the upzoning development because of the perceived impact upon traffic, and insufficient policing, schools, and parking to cater for the influx of new residents. Meanwhile, the Just Home project was a proposal to create around 70 studio and two-bedroom apartments, as well as access to on-site social services, on the grounds of Jacobi Medical Center in Morris Park for formerly incarcerated New Yorkers with life-threatening medical conditions.

Referring to Velázquez, the resident told *Norwood News*, "She lost her seat due to the upzoning and the community outrage of Jacobi Building 2. She didn't listen to the people, and she stabbed



Photo courtesy of the New York City Council  
**THE FORMER BRONX** city council member for C.D. 13, Marjorie Velázquez, was appointed by New York City Mayor Eric Adams as City Hall's new director of tenant protection on January 28, 2025.

them in the back, so they tossed her out to the curb."

When *Norwood News* interviewed Velázquez about the Just Home project in 2023, she said she had always been against it, adding it had been initiated under her predecessor, Mark Gjonaj, and under former NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Unfortunately, the community was never engaged and so, you can't blame them for being frustrated, angry, because they were left out of a very important conversation," she said at the time.

Asked for her views on Velázquez's latest role at City Hall, the same female resident said, "It is just political nepotism... and he [the mayor] continues to hire people with no skills or experience."

According to one biography, Velázquez holds a degree in Finance and Accounting from NYU, worked in several corporate finance, budgeting, and accounting positions, where she designed and implemented accounting strategies for various regions around the world.

She also served as a volunteer on the boards of Amplify Her and the Broad Room, both of which are dedicated to empowering women through civil and political engagement. Additionally, she served on the board of St. Joseph's School

for the Deaf Children's Fund, the Bronx-Westchester advisory board of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and with the Bronx River Alliance, which advocates for environmental justice and resiliency.

According to Adams' administration officials, as of 2023, there were 3,705,000 total housing units in New York City and of those, 2,324,000 were rentals and 1,109,000 were owner-occupied. They said over 40% of all renters in New York City spend 30% or more of their income on rent, and one fourth of renters spend half of their income or more on rent. They said in 2023, the median monthly rent was \$1,641.

According to City officials, a tight housing market remained in New York City in 2023 with a citywide rental vacancy rate of 1.41%, below the 5% threshold required for rent regulation to continue under State Law. They said this translated into the availability of just 33,210 rental units out of more than 2.3 million rental units citywide. They said stabilized vacancy rates on the whole were 0.98%, while private, non-regulated units were vacant at a rate of 1.84%.

The Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants (MOPT) was established in January 2019, when then-Mayor Bill de Blasio signed Executive Order No. 39 to create the office and coordinate the City's tenant protection efforts.

On Friday, Jan. 31, *Norwood News* reached out for comment to the Office of City Council Member Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14) who sits on the Council's Committee on Public Housing. [The council member is on maternity leave.] On Monday, Feb. 3, a staffer replied, "Unfortunately, we weren't able to meet your deadline." We also reached out for comment to Velázquez and to local housing groups, Housing Justice for All and Met Council on Housing. We did not receive an immediate response.

Meanwhile, with the C.D. 13 seat up for grabs once again this year, Thona Reets-DuPont, a Democrat and former chief of staff for District 15 City Council Member Oswald Feliz, announced Jan. 10, that she is running to represent the district. "I will represent and serve the people of District 13 with the same energy and tenacity that characterized my public service over the last four years in the Bronx," she said.

Adams is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

*\*Sile Moloney contributed to this story.*

# FYFJC Continues to Fight Human Trafficking

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Freedom Youth Family Justice Center (FYFJC), which seeks to empower, strengthen, and stabilize victims and survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence, held a “Stars of Freedom” annual gala on Friday, Jan. 24, at Eastwood Manor in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx. Founded by Monique Riley, CEO, in conjunction with her husband, Joseph Riley, executive director, the Freedom Youth team took some well-deserved time out to celebrate their hard work and honor survivors, friends and allies.

Among those honored on the night, following a beautiful, orchestral musical performance, an auction, dinner, and other performances and a House DJ, were State Sen. Nathalia Fernandez (S.D. 34), who represents much of the East Bronx, Rochelle Bent, MBA, founder and chief visionary officer of Curations by Chelle B, Franklyn Williamson, senior pastor and overseer of Gospel Tabernacle Church Apostolic, Joseph Riley, and Marilyn Ross-Moody, immediate past president of the greater Bronx chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Also honored, among others, were Danielle King-Stennett of the Bronx alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alina Dowe, MBA, Bronx borough director at the Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit, Desia Monsanto, MBA, assistant director of graduate practical training & career services at Monroe University, Joshua Lespier, BA, executive administrator at FYFJC, Lisa Dawson, president of the north Bronx branch of the National Council of Negro Women, and Pamela Damon, executive director of Not on My Watch.

Survivor Jakoyah Boford Stevenson spoke from the heart on the night about her journey leading up to her first interaction with Freedom Youth, and her experience thereafter. Addressing her fellow survivors in particular, Boford Stevenson said, “This is your night; you all look amazing! I’m glad you guys all showed up and came to show your support for Freedom Youth and for all survivors.”

She continued, “I am here today to explain my situation. I was a victim of sex trafficking, and I wasn’t taken serious. I wasn’t given what I needed to be given in terms of support. When I came to Freedom Youth, they gave me everything I needed: support, emotionally and mentally. They made sure I was mentally



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**(L TO R)** STATE SEN. NATHALIA Fernandez (S.D. 34), is presented with a proclamation on behalf of District 12 City Councilman Kevin Riley by Monique Riley, founder and CEO of Freedom Youth Family Justice Center (FYFJC), and fellow honoree, Joshua Lespier, executive administrator of FYFJC, during the Center’s “Stars of Freedom” annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.

alright, even though others would just shrug it off, [saying], ‘Okay, she’s kind of having a panic attack. Okay, she’s melting down. She’s just acting erratic.’”

Boford Stevenson went on to say, “In all reality, every survivor needs somebody, that one person they could just go to, and use as an outlet and support, someone that can sit there and tell them it’s okay, and I want to thank three actually, Mr. Joseph Riley, CEO Monique Riley, and Joshua, because they are the reason I got out of that situation, and I’m still fighting through it.”

According to the Urban Resource Institute (URI), homelessness isn’t just a housing crisis, it’s a human trafficking crisis. A new report by URI and The Passage reveals that 74% of trafficking survivors in New York City experienced homelessness, and 31% were trafficked directly from shelters. URI officials said these alarming statistics spotlight a critical gap in the City’s ability to protect its

most vulnerable populations.

Key findings included that traffickers specifically target individuals in unstable housing situations, especially youth, LGBTQIA+ individuals and undocumented immigrants. Shelters often lack survivor-centered policies and sufficient space for single adult survivors. Investment in training and affordable housing can directly improve outcomes for survivors.

During her remarks, Monique Riley, founder and CEO of FYFJC, outlined how she and Lespier often venture out into the City in the middle of the night, working long, difficult hours, assisting victims of human trafficking escape from their traffickers and their circumstances. “I get in my car at three or four o’clock in the morning cause a parent called me frantic, looking for a child,” she said, before acknowledging all her team and asking them to recognize each other’s hard work.

Meanwhile, Boford-Stevenson said of her recovery, “At the end of the day, I made it in 2025 and I got married. My husband stuck with me. Even through my trauma and being a sex trafficking victim, he understood. He grew with me. He made me open up more, and I thank my husband for that too. I want to say to everybody out there who doesn’t know how to speak up as a victim and as a survivor, there’s always somebody else out there to help you.”

She concluded, “There’s always that one person that will accept you, and is willing to learn you, to help you grow as a person. So don’t stop fighting for your survival. Don’t stop fighting. There’s other people out there. You got to be strong and you’re beautiful and resilient.”

For more information, visit <https://www.freedomyouthfamilyjusticecenter.org/>.

(continued on page 13)

# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers for their opinion on the ongoing raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on immigrants.



"Personally, I don't get into politics but the only thing I could say is I hate to see families torn apart. But to say something for Trump.... Man, it's like it is what it is. It's legal and he's trying. I don't know. Absolutely Congress should create a path to citizenship. There's a certain protocol they must adhere to, to become a citizen from another country legally."

Kathryn Willett,  
West Farms



"I think that it's unfair and they should at least give them a chance to show their paperwork instead of just running down on them and locking them up. They [ICE] need to at least check with the authorities and have them call somebody to verify their identification to make sure that they aren't legal citizens of the United States."

Abu Muhammad,  
West Farms



"Everyone is scared for the simple fact that they voted for Trump and he went back on his word, and these people have been here for more than 30 years. They have legitimate businesses and they go to work every day; they don't bother anybody and now they feel it. Kids are not going to school. I have people tell me that they voted for Trump, and now they don't know if their families are next."

Kevin Harris,  
Hunts Point



"The ICE raids and deportation of illegal aliens is long overdue! Nobody complained when [former U.S. President Barack] Obama deported illegals. The people who oppose President Trump's policies are racist because he is White and has been a target by elected [officials] who have money-laundered taxpayer money for decades and don't want their gravy train to end. Trump is doing a great job, and I can't wait to see what he does in the next month, and if people harbor illegals, then they should be arrested too."

Grace Marrero,  
Allerton



"I am against mass deportations and think what's happening is a truly dehumanizing way of addressing our broken immigration system. I work with vulnerable populations, many of which are undocumented. A deli near my job was raided; it's scary stuff! There should be amnesty for people already here, more resources for people wanting to migrate here, more processing centers at the border for people wanting to come here [who] can be processed quickly. Immigration is never going to end, so we need to adapt and put more resources into it if we want to process people properly."

J.C. Amorini,  
Forest Hills, Queens

*Editor's Note: NBC News reported on May 23, 2024 that Senate Democrats failed to advance a bipartisan border security bill with nearly every Republican voting to filibuster it, even as former U.S. President and then-2024 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump wielded border chaos as a centerpiece of his campaign against former Democratic U.S. President Joe Biden.*  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-republicans-block-border-security-bill-campaign-border-chaos-rcna153607>

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\*\*\* Picture shown is a model unit

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The City of New York has Request for Proposals available for qualified Consulting Engineering Firms interested in the following Proposed Contract.

Project or Contract Title:

Request for Proposal – Inspection Services at Asphalt and Concrete Plants, Citywide (Including the Immediate Vicinity), Contract No. HBCD015, PIN: 84125MBBR700

Expected Contract Term: 1095 Consecutive Calendar Days from the Date of Written Notice to Proceed.

Description of Services Required:

The services to be procured is the Inspection Services at Asphalt and Concrete Plants, Citywide (Including the Immediate Vicinity).

A Pre-Proposal Conference (Optional) has been scheduled for February 18, Time: 10:00 AM through Zoom. Proposers who wish to attend the virtual meeting can access by using the Link provided in the "Prepare RFX" Section - SETUP Tab - Pre-Proposal/Pre-Bid Conference Section in PASSPort.

This Procurement is subject to participation goals for Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBEs), as required by Section 6-129 of the New York Administrative Code. The M/WBE goal for this project is 30%.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is released through PASSPort, New York City's online procurement portal. Responses to this RFP must be submitted via PASSPort. To access the RFP, vendors should visit the PASSPort public Portal <https://www.nyc.gov/site/mocs/passport/about-passport.page> and click on the "Search Funding Opportunities in PASSPort" blue box. Doing so will take one to the public portal of all procurements in the PASSPort system. To quickly locate the RFP, insert the EPIN, 84125P0003, into the Keyword search field. In order to respond to the RFP, vendors must create an account within the PASSPort system if they have not already done so.

**Release Date: February 10, 2025**

**Pre-Proposal Conference: February 18, 2025, at 10 AM**

**Submission of Request for Proposals are due on or before 2:00 PM on March 10, 2025**

# Two Residential Fires Displace Residents

By SÍLE MOLONEY

FDNY officials said there were no injuries reported following a residential fire at 3065 Grand Concourse in Bedford Park on Wednesday night, Jan. 29. FDNY officials said they received a call at 9.53 p.m. for a reported fire at the 6-story, multiple dwelling located between East 203rd Street and East 204th Street.

They said 12 units comprising 60 fire and EMS personnel responded to the scene, the fire was brought under control at 10.29 p.m., and the cause remains under investigation. We spoke to siblings, Jayden Pimental, 14, and his 21-year-old older brother who live on the sixth floor and asked them what happened.

"I was in my room," Jayden said. "My mom just came knocking on my door saying we need to go, leave and so, yeah, that's all I know." His older brother added, "Same thing; my mom called me. I was on the train. She said the building was on fire, so I came here as fast as possible." He added that he thought the fire was on the sixth floor as there was a lot of smoke in that area. Asked if everyone had been evacuated, he said, "Yeah, pretty much."

After the fire was extinguished and the FDNY allowed residents back in, the brothers were seen helping their grandmother walk back upstairs to their apartment. She appeared to be having some breathing difficulties. We also spoke to fourth-floor residents, Rose Singleton and Chris. "Luckily, our neighbors across the hall, God bless them, banged on our door because everybody in the apartment was asleep, so we just jumped up, grabbed the coats, put on any kind of



Photo by Síle Moloney

**FIRE UNITS RESPOND** to a residential fire at 3065 Grand Concourse in Bedford Park on Wednesday night, Jan. 29, 2025.

shoes, and ran out," said Singleton.

"As we were coming down, you saw the firefighters trying to break into the apartment on the third floor," she said, adding that it was very, very smoky. "As we were walking down, everybody was choking. People were trying to make sure the kids didn't run off, trying to grab pets," she said. Asked if an alarm went off, Singleton said it did and that it was the second fire to take place in the building.

Chris added, "The elevators are not working. [They've] been breaking down a lot lately." Singleton said as far as she knew nobody was hurt. "We do have a neighbor at the end of the hallway that has a disability. I haven't seen him, so I don't know if he was home or he's in the hospital, but I hope everybody got out. It looks like it."

The owner of the property, according to City records is Joshua Frankel. We asked residents if there were any heating problems in the building. Some said there were while others said there weren't. According to NYC Department of Building (DOB) records, an elevator violation is open for the property with civil penalties due. The respondent for the property is sometimes listed as Aqua 3065 GC LLC, 1651 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn, but the name and mailing address listed with the Department of State is Residential Management (NY) Inc. at the same Brooklyn

address.

According to an Aug. 28, 2024, DOB inspection of the boiler, there were no defects. Meanwhile, according to a November 2024 DOB inspection of the elevator, a compliance report was accepted but with defects. Meanwhile, as of the date of the fire, there were 105 open violations and three open complaints for the building logged with NYC Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD), though no complaints were heat-related. Some of the violations were for roaches and repairs. We've attempted to reach the management company for comment.

The Red Cross said one family, comprising two adults and a child were able to self-relocate with relatives and the Red Cross provided financial aid, blankets, food, clothes, and comfort supplies to the family. Anyone in need of assistance should call 1-877-RED CROSS (877-733-2767) and select Option 1 for help.

A separate residential fire broke out at 2587 Bainbridge Avenue in Fordham Manor on Friday, Jan. 31, and also resulted in no injuries (except to a pet) ac-

ording to FDNY officials. They said the department received a call at 11.56 a.m. for a report of a fire/smoke in the 3-story, multiple dwelling located on a corner opposite East 193rd Street. They said the fire was in the basement, 12 units comprising 60 fire personnel responded to the scene, and the blaze was brought under control at 12.53 p.m.

One resident at the scene was observed extremely distraught. Some other residents said the person's pet had either died or had been injured. Speaking in Spanish, another female neighbor who shared a video of the fire with us, said the blaze had worried her as it was so close to her own building.

She said a female resident of the affected building and her child entered the neighbor's building to escape the smoke, and added that she believed one dog had died in the fire. Also speaking in Spanish, another woman who was parked in the area and was blocked from exiting due to the number of fire units on the street said she was trying to get to a specific White Plains Road school for the deaf to pick up her child.

The Red Cross said they registered one family (two adults and four kids) for emergency assistance including financial assistance and temporary lodging following the fire. According to DOB, a partial vacate order now exists for the affected property. According to HPD, it has 44 open violations, at least one relating to hot water.

Meanwhile, there were no open HPD-related complaints. The building appears to be owned by BBJJ Holdings LLC, with an address at 4403 15th Ave., Ste 530, Brooklyn, NY 11219-1604. We've attempted to reach the property owner for comment.

Visit <https://www.fdnysmart.org/> to read FDNY's fire safety tips. "During a fire, always close the door behind you!" fire officials say. "It helps contain smoke and flames, giving you precious time to escape. Your quick action can make the difference."

*\*David Greene contributed to this story.*



Photo by Síle Moloney

**FIRE UNITS RESPOND** to a residential fire at 2587 Bainbridge Avenue in Fordham Manor on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**FIRE UNITS RESPOND** to a residential fire at 2587 Bainbridge Avenue in Fordham Manor on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

# NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**



Photo courtesy of the Office of State Sen. Robert Jackson

**HELENE “JAKE” WILSON** is honored by State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) in Manhattan on Jan. 27, 2025.



Photo by Síle Molony

**YAJAIRA ARIAS ATTENDS** a Bronx Community Board 7 meeting at Monroe College on Oct. 22, 2024.

## Sen. Jackson Honors Bronxites

State Sen. Robert Jackson (S.D. 31) recently honored various Bronxites from State Senatorial District 31 which covers parts of The Bronx and Manhattan, during a ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Fort Washington Collegiate Church in Manhattan.

Nineteen organizations and 14 individuals were recognized for “outstanding contributions of community organizations and local heroes whose dedication and service have significantly uplifted the communities within District 31.”

Yajaira Arias, chair of Bronx Community Board 7, was honored for “fostering development and creating positive change within The Bronx, ensuring local residents have a voice in shaping the future of their neighborhoods.” Helene “Jake” Wilson, president of the Residents Council for Bailey Houses, located at Bailey Avenue and West 193rd Street in Fordham Manor, was honored for her “leadership and commitment to the well-being of those she represents.”

Jon Montoute, director of the Tenant Rights Coalition at Bronx Legal Services, was honored for “defending vulnerable communities and promoting

housing justice in The Bronx.” Robert Scott, vice-president of the Amalgamated Housing Cooperative Board, was honored for his “leadership in fostering community engagement and maintaining the cooperative’s success.”

Angel Caballero, executive director of the Davidson Community Center Inc. located at 2038 Davidson Avenue in Morris Heights, was honored for his “vital role in delivering educational programs and resources that foster growth and development” for area residents. Anastasia Libovich CM, LM, MS, a maternal health doctor, midwife, clinical director of The Bronx Health Link, and clinical education liaison at Urban Health Plan, was honored for her commitment to providing “holistic, client-centered care.”

## Concerns over Fire Hydrant on Webster Ave

Some residents raised concerns over a seemingly almost empty fire hydrant located at Webster Avenue and East 201st Street in Bedford Park. A visit to the hydrant on Sunday, Feb. 2, showed the hydrant open with a slow flow of water pouring out.

Resident Anne Leighton said when she contacted the FDNY about the issue, the department allegedly said they couldn’t fix it as they needed to “dig into the ground and replace the hydrant.” *Norwood News* has also reached out to the FDNY for an update/resolution timeline and will share any feed-



Photo by Síle Moloney

**THE FIRE HYDRANT** on Webster Avenue and East 201st Street in Bedford Park, as seen on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2025

back we receive.

## Trash Piles Up at Bainbridge Ave Fire Site

Residents have complained about the build-up of trash at the site of the Oct. 10, 2023 Norwood commercial fire at 3117-3335 Bainbridge Avenue by East 206th Street. *Norwood News* has been trying for years to contact the owner of the property, Bainbridge Realty Associates LLC, with an address at 1122 Avenue J in Brooklyn, to no avail. We reached out to the Division of Corporations section of NYS Department of State and NYC Department of Finance for help contacting the owner. The former said our inquiry fell under “giving

legal advice” which they are not authorized to give. They said the duties of the Division of Corporations are ministerial in nature and that it is a filing of office, not a regulatory or enforcement of office. The property owner’s “statement status” shows a “past due date” according to NYS records.

Meanwhile, regarding the trash situation, NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) said they inspected the location on Jan. 27, confirmed it was private property and as such, the responsibility of the owner to clean. They added that although site sanitation is the owner’s responsibility, when DSNY finds unsanitary conditions, they work with NYC Department of Health (DOHMH) to have the site cleaned and start by requesting that a DOHMH Commissioner’s Order to Abate be sent to the property owner.

They said they then return around two weeks later and if they still find unsanitary conditions, they issue a summons, schedule a cleaning and bill the owner for the work abating the health nuisance. They said in this case a DOHMH letter has been sent. “Given that

the lot is fenced and locked, we will also have to pursue an Access Warrant,” they said. “This may take several weeks, depending on whether the owner is responsive, but we are continuing to monitor in the meantime.” They added that dead rodents should be reported to 311.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**TRASH PILES UP** on Monday, Feb. 2, 2025, behind a barrier at 3117-3335 Bainbridge Avenue in Norwood, the site of an Oct. 10, 2023, commercial fire.

# Inside Broadway Hosts “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at P.S. 78X

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The nonprofit organization, Inside Broadway, kicked off its 2025 touring production of “*You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*” at P.S. 78X, The Anne Hutchinson School, located at 1400 Needham Avenue in Williamsbridge, on Wednesday, Jan. 15. The 12-week touring production is currently bringing Broadway directly to 45 public schools across all five boroughs.

The production is funded by the New York City Council’s CASA grant, the purpose of which, according to the Council’s website is “to support arts enrichment offered to public school students through after-school programs.” It goes on to say that the grants are single-year discretionary awards made by Council members.

Katie McAllister, executive director at Inside Broadway, spoke about the production, saying, “They put this entire show together in a week, and then today was our first performance. It’s a very quick turnaround process but we use equity actors and union musicians.”

According to Inside Broadway, the nonprofit puts on 45-minute productions that are specially designed to fit into a class period and are created by theater professionals and performed by professional actors and live musicians.

“We believe that’s really important because the higher the quality [of performers], the higher the quality it would bring to our students, and they get to see real professional theater here at their schools,” McAllister said.

Kevon Bolt, who was representing



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**P.S. 78X PRINCIPAL KERRY** Ann Roberts addresses students on Jan. 15, 2025, when Inside Broadway presented “*You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*” at the school.

local District 12 City Council Member Kevin Riley, said, “We enjoy doing stuff like this, seeing kids participating in the arts.” Bolt added that the production will take place in five other schools in District 12.

Meanwhile, P.S. 78X Principal KerryAnn Roberts told *Norwood News* of the show, “We are fortunate enough to have established a partnership with Inside Broadway for over 15 years. Our student leaders have enjoyed the day program, and the afterschool program

(continued on page 14)

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO & SÍLE MOLONEY



## Applications Open for Brandon Hendricks Scholarship

The applications period is open for O-yate Group's \$20,000 Brandon Hendricks Scholarship, which will go to two college-bound Bronx high school seniors to use toward their education over a four-year period. Applicants must be from The Bronx and be graduating high school seniors headed to college. This scholarship is open to students in The Bronx, regardless of immigration status. Applications close on March 31. For more information, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5QL6VZP>.

## Give Feedback on Citi Bike Station Locations in Bronx CD7

The Citi Bike service will be expanding in Norwood and Riverdale beginning in the Fall of 2025. An online feedback portal is available for residents to identify locations where they would or would not like to see Citi Bike locations. The portal is open until mid-April. For more information, visit <https://nycdotprojects.info/project-feedback-map/suggest-station-bronx-cb7-cb8>.

## Kingsbridge Armory Environmental Review Hearing

An Environmental Review Hearing for the Kingsbridge Armory will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 4 p.m. This is a virtual public meeting for the Draft Scope of Work for an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/40yflrQ>.

## Bronx Alumnae Chapter Scholarship Program

The Bronx Alumnae Chapter is accepting applications for their scholarship program for Bronx High School Seniors with a minimum "B" average. Currently, the Bronx Alumnae Chapter awards a four-year scholarship in the amount of \$8,000. For more information, visit <https://dstbx.org/2025-scholarship-application/>.

## Free Tax Prep

Assembly Member George Alvarez (A.D. 78) is hosting free tax preparation help by appointment only with tax professionals at 2633 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458. Documents needed include a photo ID, a Tax ID, proof of income, and signatures of both spouses if filing a joint return. For more information, call (718) 933-2204.

## Free Legal Services for Veterans

District 12 City Councilman Kevin Riley, in partnership with the Veteran Advocacy Project, are providing free legal services for Veterans and their families. Primary services include housing, healthcare access, family law, public benefits, military discharges, VA claims, and more. For more information, call (718) 684-5509.

## Voter Registration Training

Join NYC Votes and Civics for All for interactive Voter Registration Training Feb. 13 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 910 Morris Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451. Attendees will be trained on how to plan and host a voter engagement event during Civics for All's

Annual Civics Week (March 10-14).

Students who attend will be provided with refreshments and the opportunity to earn service hours for the training and for planning/hosting an event. Two virtual sessions will also be held on Feb. 6 and Feb. 27. RSVP at

<https://www.mobilize.us/nycvotes/>.

For questions, contact the NYC Votes Youth Programs Team at [youth@nyccfb.info](mailto:youth@nyccfb.info).

## Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for housing units in The Bronx at, among other locations, 2017 Grand Concourse, with a deadline of March 14, and at 1351 Jerome Avenue, with a deadline of March 31. For more information, visit <https://housing-connect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries>.

## Capture & Connect Event

Breatives Project is hosting a Capture & Connect event, offering free professional headshots, free digitals, and a networking opportunity on Saturday, Feb. 8, from noon to 7 p.m. at 710 Tiffany Street, Bronx, NY 10474. For more information, visit [breativesproject.com](http://breativesproject.com).

## CM Dinowitz Seeks Capital Project Input

City Council Member Eric Dinowitz (C.D. 11) is asking residents for their input on capital projects that require a minimum budget of \$50,000, in Council District 11 in preparation for Fiscal Year

2026. He said these could include improvements to parks, upgrades to schools, infrastructure enhancements, or the addition of community facilities to benefit the neighborhood. Past projects have included renovating the JFK school campus football field and a new playground at P.S. 24. Fill out the required form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqkpZnDcX0vr1WcCtJbhRupNBKoS3Ly0DAr00QBjYJq0eb-w/viewform>.

## 2024-2025 HEAP Program Reopens

The 2024-2025 HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) has reopened for applications and can help eligible New Yorkers heat or cool their homes. HEAP may be able to help you heat your home with natural gas, electricity, oil, coal, propane, wood/wood pellets, kerosene, or corn. For more information, visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/?s=09>.

## Artist Sustainability Workshop

The Bronx Council on the Arts is hosting an online virtual workshop called Elevate Your Artistry: Mastering Creative Practice and Entrepreneurial Skills on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This workshop seeks to empower artists to take both their artistic practice and business acumen to the next level. Through workshops and interactive discussions, participants will learn strategies to shift from reactive to proactive mindsets, strengthen their creative

Practice and develop entrepreneurial knowledge and skills. For more information, visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).



## A Healthier Heart, The Power of Plants

By MONICA KELLY

When it comes to taking care of our heart, what we put on our plate matters. Research has consistently shown that eating more plant foods and less animal foods can improve heart health, lower cholesterol, and even reduce the risk of heart disease. Plant foods are fruits, vegetables, whole grains, seeds and nuts, and beans and legumes. Animal foods include meat and fish, eggs, milk and foods made from milk.

A "Plant-Based Diet" describes eating mostly plant foods and smaller amounts of animal foods. You don't need to go vegetarian (no meat or fish) or vegan (no meat, fish, eggs, milk products) to improve your heart health! Eating more plants, in small ways, can make a big difference. The American Heart Association (AHA) emphasizes the importance of eating a variety of nutrient-dense plant foods.

These foods are packed with fiber, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals that help lower blood pressure, reduce inflammation, and improve cholesterol levels. In contrast, a diet high in animal foods and processed foods is high in saturated fat, salt, and sugar and can lead to heart disease. An example of animal food is a bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich and an example of processed food is potato chips or snack cakes.

The American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) agrees and recommends plant-based diets as a powerful tool for both preventing and treating heart disease. Studies show that plant-based eating patterns are safe and effective for children and adults.

Looking to add more plant food and reduce animal food? Unlike vegan and vegetarian diets (no meat allowed), a plant-based diet allows you to focus on plants and still eat moderate amounts of your favorite meats and other animal products. It's more flexible and sometimes is called a "flexitarian" diet! Studies show that even reducing meat intake a few times a week and adding more plants can significantly lower the risk of heart disease.

## Getting Started:

**Reduce the meat:** Serve yourself a smaller portion of meat at dinner (size

of your palm) and increase low-carb vegetables to two cups (size of two fists). Visit <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/csi/obesity-plate-planner-13.pdf> for tips. This can be raw vegetables like salad, or steamed, boiled, or roasted vegetables with your favorite seasonings. Brightly colored fruits and vegetables like berries, spinach, and carrots are especially rich in heart-protecting nutrients.

The key is to make the veggies the star of your meals and to still enjoy the meat and starches. Let's make the most of those starches: Use brown rice or bulgur and whole grain bread in place of white rice and white bread for a fiber boost. Or enjoy sweet potatoes, pumpkin, or butternut squash as your starch.

**Skip the meat:** Start by doing "Meatless Mondays" (<https://www.mondaycampaigns.org/meatless-monday/recipes>) at dinner once or twice a week and exploring heart healthy recipes like quinoa-stuffed peppers or black bean tacos. If you have a favorite chili or stew recipe, try using lentil or beans in place of meat. Beans, quinoa, lentils and soy foods (Tofu, tempeh, and imitation meats) are all packed with plant protein ([https://www.heart.org/-/media/Healthy-Living-Files/Infographics/Plant\\_based\\_protein\\_sources\\_infographic.pdf?sc\\_lang=en](https://www.heart.org/-/media/Healthy-Living-Files/Infographics/Plant_based_protein_sources_infographic.pdf?sc_lang=en)).

**Dairy:** Consider plant alternatives to

dairy products, like using almond milk instead of regular milk in coffee, cereal or smoothies. Go nuts for healthy fats! Incorporate heart healthy fats from sources like avocados, walnuts, and olive oil instead of butter or processed oils.

Making these changes can be easy and budget friendly. Check out the ACLM sample menu plan at <https://lifestylemedicine.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Eating-on-Budget.pdf> for a week's worth of simple, affordable plant-based meals. Additionally, the AHA has practical tips on meatless recipes at <https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-eating/eat-smart/nutrition-basics/vegetarian-vegan-and-meals-without-meat> to make transitioning to a plant-based diet easier. A diet rich in plants protects your heart, helps you lose or maintain weight, lowers risk of diabetes and improves energy levels.

Remember, the goal isn't perfection; it's progress. Whether you're ready to be a vegetarian or simply add more plants, every bite counts toward a healthier heart and a happier you. You can find more heart health resources on how to stay heart smart by visiting <https://montefioreeinstein.org/heart/awareness>. Or email us at [healtheducation@montefiore.org](mailto:healtheducation@montefiore.org)

Monica Kelly, MS, RD, CDN, CNSC is associate health and wellbeing manager at Montefiore Einstein.





## Letters To The Editor

*Editor's Note: We reserve the right to edit letters for space, clarity, civility and accuracy.*

### MTA/Bee-line Bus Drivers

I previously wrote about the problems I have had in recent times with the MTA/BEE-line bus drivers, how they seem rather hostile towards men of color on their buses, requesting without always saying a "courtesy ride" or free bus ride so to speak for disabled people, in my case, a middle-aged O.G. stricken with arthritis. Off the top of my head, I can share a list of at least some of the buses on which I encounter difficulties.

The BX40, which is also rather slow, takes a half hour to 45 minutes to reach its destination, which, in many cases, would be the Boston Road/Gun Hill section of The Bronx.

The W60 covers much of the same area and at times has the same problems with punctuality. They don't seem to care about their customers of color, let alone myself, whether disabled (even slightly) or not. They must learn to be very courteous and professional which, in many cases, they are not. It's rather pathetic!

I don't usually take the BX31 that much anymore. Yet when I did, the drivers were way too slow, as well as being belligerent and nasty to their fellow minority customers. When it comes to chivalry, that they are hired to serve anyone, disabled or not, I find a travesty.

The bottom line is that I think the MTA and the Bee-line bus services need to be checked regularly for their lack of professionalism and, quite frankly, I doubt that New York City Mayor Eric Adams and his rather corrupt administration will do much about it. I hope that even the Westchester politicians reconsider this and perhaps New York Gov. Kathy Hochul ought to be informed about this.

**Bryan Briggs**  
Wakefield

*Editor's Note: Norwood News reached out to the MTA and Bee-line bus services for comment. Bee-line officials said they need specific dates to investigate further. New York City Mayor Eric Adams has pleaded not guilty to federal bribery and other charges and his case is ongoing. Some New York City government em-*

*ployees/appointees have been questioned by federal authorities following various raids of their respective homes by federal authorities. Some have resigned amid this federal probe while no formal charges have been announced. Some other City employees have been charged and have pleaded guilty to certain bribery charges. Others have not. The mayor is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.*

### Operation Christmas Child

The overwhelming generosity of the people of The Bronx helped provide joy to children in need through Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts this season. Across the U.S., the Samaritan's Purse project collected 10.5 million shoebox gifts in 2024. Combined with those collected from partnering countries in 2024, the ministry is now sending over 11.9 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide.

Shoebox packers brought joy and hope to children around the world through fun, full, personalized gifts. For many children, this is the first gift they have ever received. Each shoebox gift is a tangible expression of God's love, given to children in need around the world. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Across the region, shoebox packers often shop for deals on shoebox items throughout the year, and many serve at a deeper level by becoming a year-round volunteer. Information about ways area participants can get involved year-round can also be found at <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ>.

Although local Bronx drop-off locations for shoebox gifts are closed until Nov. 17 – 24, 2025, anyone can still be a part of this life-changing project by conveniently packing a shoebox gift online in just a few simple clicks at [samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline).

These simple gifts, packed with love, remind children around the world that they are loved and not forgotten.

**GreenLee Smith**  
Samaritan's Purse

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# CRIME FILE

BY SÍLE MOLONEY & DAVID GREENE



## Robbery in Norwood Subway Station

Police said one person is sought for an assault on a 77-year-old man on Monday, Feb. 3, in the 205th Street / Norwood subway station in Norwood. They said the incident occurred at around 12.08 p.m. when the victim was walking on the southbound platform of the station and an unidentified suspect got into a dispute with him. Police said the suspect punched the victim multiple times in the face causing minor injuries. They said the victim refused medical attention at the scene, there are no arrests, and the investigation remains ongoing.



in the accompanying photo below who they say is sought in connection to an assault that occurred in Norwood. Police said that on Saturday, Jan. 25, at around 6 p.m., the victim, a 44-year-old female Bee-Line bus driver, was driving a bus in the vicinity of West Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue when an unidentified suspect pushed her and splashed her face with an unknown liquid. They said the suspect then fled the bus on foot to parts unknown, and the victim was taken by EMS to NYC Health & Hospitals/North Central Bronx in Norwood in stable condition.



## Fordham Manor Theft of Woman, 85

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the person seen below in the accompanying photo who they say is sought in connection to the theft of a woman in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at around noon, an unidentified suspect approached an 85-year-old female victim walking towards the intersection of Marion Avenue and East 195th Street. They said the suspect snatched the victim's shopping cart which contained an Apple iPhone, several debit and credit cards, and around \$40,000 in cashier's checks. They said the suspect fled the location on foot, traveling eastbound on East 195th Street to parts unknown and that there were no injuries reported.



## Fordham Manor: Group Sought for Assault & Robbery

The NYPD is asking for the public's help identifying the people seen in the accompanying photo at right who they say are sought in connection to a robbery that occurred in Fordham Manor. Police said that on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, at around 2.40 a.m. inside of 2645 Briggs Avenue, a 32-year-old male victim was approached by three unidentified males who began punching and kicking the victim about the body.

They said the group then threw the victim on the floor and stole his yellow, Cuban link chain. Police said the group then fled on foot to parts unknown and the victim refused medical attention at the scene. They said the value of the chain was approximately \$5,000. They added that the suspects are described as male and are estimated to be around 20 to 25 years of age.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline

at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at <https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/>, or on Twitter @NYPDtips. All calls are strictly confidential.



# Bronxite Samara Joy Wins Two More Grammys

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx jazz artist and an alum of Fordham High School of the Arts, Samara Joy, took home two more Grammys at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards held in Los Angeles on Sunday night, Feb. 2. Joy won her fourth and fifth Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album for "A Joyful Holiday" and Best Jazz Performance for "Twinkle Twinkle Little Me," featuring Sullivan Fortner.

Accepting one of her awards on the night, the Castle Hill native said, "Oh my gosh! Thank you again. Dang, how to do this while also being funny and charming? Thank you all so much, one more time. I want to shout out all the musicians who created this record with me. I want to shout out the McLendon family, my family, Elder Goldwire and Ruth McLendon, the patriarch and matriarch of my family, the Savettes of Philadelphia."

Joy's paternal grandparents were



Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for The Recording Academy

**SAMARA JOY, WINNER** of Best Jazz Vocal Album for "A Joyful Holiday," poses in the press room during the 67th Annual GRAMMY Awards at Crypto.com Arena on Feb. 2, 2025 in Los Angeles, California.

founders of the Philadelphia gospel group, The Savettes, according to Wikipedia. She continued, "They trickled all

(continued on next page)

# CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STSTISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 046

CompStat Book Week of 01/20/25 - 01/26/25

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	1	3	-66.7 %	1	2	-50.0 %
Robbery	75.0 %	25	30	-16.7 %	23	26	-11.5 %
Felony Assault	0.0 %	53	61	-13.1 %	45	54	-16.7 %
Burglary	-60.0 %	8	15	-46.7 %	6	15	-60.0 %
Grand Larceny	27.3 %	44	40	10.0 %	38	39	-2.6 %
Grand Larceny Auto	16.7 %	20	13	53.8 %	19	13	46.2 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.5 %</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>-7.4 %</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>-12.0 %</b>
Patrol	13.5 %	150	159	-5.7 %	131	148	-11.5 %
Transit	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	1	0	- %	1	0	- %
Shooting Victims	- %	1	1	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %
Shooting Incidents	- %	1	1	0.0 %	1	1	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	0.0 %	1	6	-83.3 %	1	5	-80.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	-75.0 %	7	7	0.0 %	5	7	-28.6 %
Petit Larceny	-22.2 %	72	61	18.0 %	66	58	13.8 %
Misd. Assault	10.0 %	69	66	-19.8 %	63	79	-20.3 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 6/13/17.  
 - Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSPL) definitions.  
 \* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

**MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS** for the 46th Precinct for the 28-day period ending Jan. 26, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of Jan. 26, 2025, compared to last year (right).

Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 050

CompStat Book Week of 01/20/25 - 01/26/25

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Rape	0.0 %	2	1	100.0 %	2	1	100.0 %
Robbery	-66.7 %	8	19	-57.9 %	7	16	-56.3 %
Felony Assault	100.0 %	17	20	-15.0 %	17	17	0.0 %
Burglary	100.0 %	10	8	25.0 %	8	7	14.3 %
Grand Larceny	-77.8 %	32	54	-40.7 %	28	53	-47.2 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-25.0 %	14	36	-61.1 %	14	33	-57.6 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-33.3 %</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>-39.9 %</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>-40.2 %</b>
Patrol	-21.7 %	78	131	-40.5 %	71	120	-40.8 %
Transit	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Housing	-100.0 %	5	7	-28.6 %	5	7	-28.6 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %	3	4	-25.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	- %	2	3	-33.3 %	2	3	-33.3 %
Petit Larceny	46.7 %	66	78	-15.4 %	62	71	-12.7 %
Misd. Assault	125.0 %	28	19	47.4 %	26	17	52.9 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 6/13/17.  
 - Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSPL) definitions.  
 \* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

**MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS** for the 50th Precinct for the 28-day period ending Jan. 26, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of Jan. 26, 2025, compared to last year (right).

(continued from previous page)

of this musical legacy down to my cousins and my aunts and uncles, my Uncle Ronie, my Aunt Patsy, my Uncle Kenny and Aunt Beverly up in heaven.”

The now five-time Grammy winner concluded, “This family means everything to me. It means everything to be able to highlight what I come from, the stock that I come from, and to be able to highlight who inspires me the most. Once again, all the nominees in this category, I love you! I love your music! Thank you, thank you for your contributions, for inspiring me, and I will see you soon. God Bless you all. Thank you.”

Last year, Joy, 25, won her third Grammy for Best Jazz Performance, and in 2023, she won her first two Grammys for Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album.

This year, in the Best Jazz Performance category for new vocal or instrumental solo, duo/group, or collaborative jazz recordings, Joy, featuring Sullivan Fortner, beat fellow nominees, The Baylor Project for “Walk With Me, Lord (SOUND | SPIRIT),” Lakecia Benjamin, featuring Randy Brecker, Jeff “Tain” Watts and John Scofield for

“Phoenix Reimagined (Live),” Chick Corea and Béla Fleck for “Juno,” and Dan Pugach Big Band, featuring Nicole Zuraitis and Troy Roberts for “Little Fears.”

Meanwhile, in the Best Jazz Vocal Album category for albums containing greater than 75% playing time of new vocal jazz recordings, she beat fellow nominees, Christie Dashiell for “Journey in Black,” Kurt Elling and Sullivan Fortner for “Wildflowers Vol. 1,” Milton Nascimento and Esperanza Spalding for “Milton + esperanza,” and Catherine Russell and Sean Mason for “My Ideal.”

Joy [née McLendon] is also an alum of SUNY’s Purchase College and was a relatively unknown jazz singer before she was awarded her first Grammy for Best New Artist in 2023.

A series of special performances highlighted the 67th Grammys, including a star-studded salute to the life and legacy of Quincy Jones, and touching tributes celebrating the spirit of the City of Los Angeles following the recent wildfires. Donations can be made to <https://grammy.com/firerelief> with all money raised going to aid those impacted by the fires.

Patrol Borough: Bronx Precinct: 052

CompStat Book Week of 01/20/25 - 01/26/25

	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Rape	-100.0 %	3	2	50.0 %	2	2	0.0 %
Robbery	-50.0 %	22	41	-46.3 %	21	39	-46.2 %
Felony Assault	28.6 %	47	41	14.6 %	44	37	18.9 %
Burglary	-100.0 %	13	12	8.3 %	12	12	0.0 %
Grand Larceny	12.5 %	62	59	5.1 %	55	53	3.8 %
Grand Larceny Auto	-77.8 %	18	37	-51.4 %	17	35	-51.4 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-25.5 %</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>-14.1 %</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>-15.2 %</b>
Patrol	-22.2 %	163	189	-13.8 %	149	175	-14.9 %
Transit	-100.0 %	2	3	-33.3 %	2	3	-33.3 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	2	5	-60.0 %	1	5	-80.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	2	3	-33.3 %	1	3	-66.7 %
UCR Rape*	-100.0 %	4	5	-20.0 %	3	5	-40.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	-100.0 %	3	7	-57.1 %	3	6	-50.0 %
Petit Larceny	-40.0 %	140	213	-34.3 %	122	203	-39.9 %
Misd. Assault	-9.1 %	46	61	-24.6 %	44	55	-20.0 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %

- All figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision. Data Summary as of 6/13/17.  
 - Unless otherwise noted, crime statistics reflect New York State Penal Law (NYSPL) definitions.  
 \* Uniformed Crime Reporting (UCR) Rape consists of all crimes defined in the FBI UCR definition of rape.

Source: NYPD

**MAJOR CRIME STATISTICS** for the 52nd Precinct for the 28-day period ending Jan. 26, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of Jan. 26, 2025, compared to last year (right).

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# Out & About

Compiled by **ARIEL PACHECO**

## EVENTS

The Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson is hosting a **Dominican Heritage Celebration** on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. at Bronx Borough Hall, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451. For more information, email [chernandez@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:chernandez@bronxbp.nyc.gov).

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458, is opening **The Orchid Show: Mexican Modernism** on Saturday, Feb. 15, and continues to Sunday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Go on a journey where the fusion of tradition and contemporary artistry takes center stage amid awe-inspiring displays of orchids. Tickets and more information can be found at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).

To mark Black History Month, The Bronx County Historical County Society is hosting a free lecture, **“Black-owned Land in The Bronx of the early 1800s,”** on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6.30 p.m. at the Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. There will be limited space so arrive early for a seat.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Affairs team is hosting **Books and Badges** on Friday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. at the Chick-fil-A on 201 East Fordham Road Bronx, NY, 10458. Kids will get the chance to read with police officers. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

## MUSIC

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts presents **Lehman Merengue Con Amor 3** on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m. at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468. for a third annual concert to celebrate Valentine’s Day season. The night will feature some of the biggest names in Merengue, including Ramón Orlando, Carlos Davis, Aramis

Camilo, Peter Cruz, Tony Bravo, and Sin Fronteras. Tickets range from \$40-\$100. For more information, call (718) 960-8000.

## ARTS

Visit the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467 for a **Valentine’s Day Celebration** on Sunday, Feb. 9, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. This is a do-it-yourself crafts event for children. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

The St. James Recreation Center is hosting a **Love and Paint** event on Friday, Feb. 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 2530 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Enjoy an evening of painting, music, and relaxation when participants will paint from preselected still-life subjects. Supplies will be provided, and refreshments will be served at the event, which is free and open to the public. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

## KIDS

The Moshulu Public Library is hosting **Baby Lapsit Stay and Play** on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. at 285 East 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10467. Join librarians during time dedicated to interacting with new friends. This event is intended for families with babies and toddlers ages 0 months to 18 months. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

Join Literacy in Community (L.I.N.C) for **Toddler Talk** on Wednesday, Feb. 20, from 11.30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Bronx Library Center, 310 East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. This session gives caregivers insight into four types of toddler communication and how to respond. For more information, call (212) 620-5462.

## MOVEMENT

NYC Parks is hosting **Step Aerobics** on Monday, February 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at New Settlement Community Center, 1501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10452. Step Aerobics is a cardio workout that will elevate your heart rate, strengthen muscles, and improve coordination and balance. For more information, call (718) 758-5901.

# FYFJC Continues to Fight Human Trafficking

(continued from page 3)



Photo by Síle Moloney

**VARIOUS HONOREES, INCLUDING** Danielle King-Stennett, Desia Monsanto, and Lisa Dawson, pose for a photo with Monique Riley, founder & CEO of Freedom Youth Family Justice Center (FYFJC), and Joshua Lespier, executive administrator of FYFJC, during the Center's "Stars of Freedom" annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**HONOREE, JOSEPH RILEY**, executive director of Freedom Youth Family Justice Center (FYFJC) is presented with a proclamation on behalf of New York City Mayor Eric Adams by Joseph's wife, Monique Riley, founder & CEO of FYFJC, during the Center's "Stars of Freedom" annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**GLORIA BENT AND** honoree, Pastor Franklyn Williamson, pose for a photo during the Freedom Youth Family Justice Center's "Stars of Freedom" annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**YOUNG CLASSICAL MUSICIANS** perform during Freedom Youth Family Justice Center's "Stars of Freedom" annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**A DANCER PERFORMS** during Freedom Youth Family Justice Center's "Stars of Freedom" annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.



Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**HONOREE, ALINA K. DOWE**, Bronx borough director for the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, poses for a photo with Sheikh Musa Drammeh during Freedom Youth Family Justice Center's "Stars of Freedom" annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.

Photo by Miriam Quiñones

**HONOREE, ROCHELLE BENT**, is presented with an award by Monique Riley, founder and CEO of Freedom Youth Family Justice Center (FYFJC), and fellow honoree, Joshua Lespier, executive administrator of FYFJC, during the Center's "Stars of Freedom" annual gala held Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Williamsbridge section of The Bronx.





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## Public and Community Meetings

The next 52<sup>nd</sup> **PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** meeting will be held virtually via Zoom, Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. Meeting details to follow. Call the 52nd Precinct Community Affairs office at (718) 220-5824 to be added to the email distribution list.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 7 (CB7)** general board meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 6.30 p.m. at Monroe College's King Hall (Mintz auditorium), 2501 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact [KCabreraCarera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabreraCarera@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list. All meetings are in person unless otherwise notified by Bronx CB7.

The next **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8** full board (hybrid) meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 7 p.m. at In Tech Academy Library, 2975 Tibbett Ave., Bronx, NY. Contact [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:BX08@cb.nyc.gov) to be added to the distribution list.

The **BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. South in Apt. B1 (lobby floor). For more details, please contact [bedfordmosholu@verizon.net](mailto:bedfordmosholu@verizon.net).

## Inside Broadway Hosts “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at P.S. 78X

*(continued from page 7)*

immensely. They get the opportunity to showcase their arts, showcase the genius they have.”

Asked how he enjoyed the show, David Efobi, a 10-year-old student at the school, said, “I felt good about the performance and I thought it was very funny. I liked the character’s reactions and everything.” Meanwhile, Victory Aibogu, also 10, said, “I think the performance was really funny and it felt alive, like they weren’t even acting.”

Victory added that “Lucy” was her favorite character. “I thought that she was very dramatic and very bossy!” she said. “She wanted everything for herself and she was the protagonist.”

Previous productions which Inside Broadway have put on have included “On The Town,” “Smokey Joe’s Café,” “Duke Ellington’s Sophisticated Ladies,” “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella,” “The Pirates of Penzance,” “Kiss Me, Kate,” “Bye Bye, Birdie,” “Land That I Love,” “Real Magic,” “All Kinds Of People,” and “My Town.”

bringing professional tours of classic Broadway musicals directly to school auditoriums throughout the City. They said Inside Broadway also serves over 75,000 students across the five boroughs through in-class residency programs, afterschool workshops, summer theatre camps, senior citizen programs, and its popular “Creating the Magic” series.



Photo by Ariel Pacheco

**P.S. 78X STUDENTS** line up to meet the cast and crew of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at their school on Jan. 15, 2025.

Inside Broadway officials said the nonprofit was first founded in 1982 by Michael Presser as a free ticket program,



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# ICE RAIDS

## Feds Converge on Bronx as Immigration Raids Begin

(continued from page 1)

tion enforcement efforts which resulted in the arrest of one for kidnapping, assault & burglary charges.”

Noem joined agents on the raid, later posting on X, “Arresting some criminal aliens this morning in NYC – thank you to the brave officers involved.” According to published media reports citing law enforcement “sources,” agents first raided 1372 Ogden Avenue in the Highbridge section of The Bronx where Anderson Zambrano-Pacheco, 25, a suspected leader of the Venezuelan gang, Tren de Aragua, was taken into custody.

Pacheco is reportedly wanted in Colorado where he faces charges of kidnapping, burglary, and weapons charges. Media outlets also reported that raids were conducted at 660 Rosewood Street in Olinville and at 2075 Creston Avenue in Fordham Heights.

Later that day, New York City Mayor Eric Adams posted on X in reference to the raids, “Beforehand, I directed the NYPD to coordinate with DHS’ Homeland Security Investigations, and other federal law enforcement agencies—as allowed by law—to conduct a targeted operation to arrest an individual connected with multiple violent crimes, both here in New York and in Aurora, Colorado, including burglary, kidnapping, extortion, firearms possession.”

He added, “As I have repeatedly said, we will not hesitate to partner with federal authorities to bring violent criminals to justice.” Responding to Adams’ X post, the Standing for Freedom Center posted an ad that read, “Like a plot to a dystopian movie, New York will now monitor social media writings, collect data, and use law enforcement to crack down on any expression it deems to be hate speech.”

Trump’s Jan. 22 executive order read, in part, “President Trump has further restricted access to the provisions of the immigration laws that would enable any illegal alien involved in an invasion across the southern border of the United States to remain in the United States, such as asylum.”

Speaking through a translator, on Thursday, Jan. 30, a resident of the raided Creston Avenue building told *Norwood News*, “Criminals should be deported, but law-abiding citizens shouldn’t be taken away.”

Former state senator and councilman Ruben Díaz, Sr., a pastor with New York Hispanic Clergy Organization, Inc., who is a staunch Trump supporter who had joined him on stage during his Bronx rally in Crotona Park on May 23, 2024, also posted on X after the raids, and after it was announced law enforcement were given permission to enter “sensitive locations” amid the raids, such as houses of worship, hospitals and schools.



Photo courtesy of Secretary Kristi Noem

**NEWLY CONFIRMED U.S.** Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem speaks to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and members of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration before accompanying agents on several raids in The Bronx on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025.-



Photo courtesy of a resident of the block who declined to be identified

**A CELLPHONE PHOTO** shows ICE agents outside 2075 Creston Avenue in Fordham Heights on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025, after raiding the building and reportedly taking one man into custody.

Díaz began, “I am among the people who strongly supported, supports, and will continue to support the Trump agenda of restoring order.” However, he added, “We strongly believe that churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, or any houses of worship must be respected as sacred ground.” Díaz said he wanted to see Trump “publicly clarify” his executive order.

Democratic Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15), who represents much of The Bronx, stretching from the northwest to the south, also reacted on X, writing, “I strongly favor surgically removing violent criminals, especially gang leaders, from The Bronx. If you are among the activists who want to open your homes and communities to violent gang leaders, you’re more than welcome to roll out the red carpet for them. But we in the Bronx want them gone.”

Speaking on ‘PIX on Politics’ on Friday, Jan. 31, Frank Tarentino, special agent in charge of the New York division of the DEA, said, “We are 100% targeting the worst of the worst.” He added, “Maybe there’s other people in that apartment and / or structure that *do* have immigration issues and in those instances, we will do our job” [as directed under Title 8 immigration laws].

The same day, *Norwood News* sought comment on the matter from the Office of City Councilmember Pierina Sanchez (C.D. 14), who recently gave birth and whose Bronx office is located around the corner from the site of the Creston Avenue raid. On Tuesday, Feb. 4, a staffer replied, “Unfortunately, we weren’t able to meet your deadline.”

Meanwhile, one female, Van Cortlandt Village resident said of the ICE raids, “I just think that these people are being treated very unfairly. As I said, they get up every morning and I take the train to go to work and they sit right next to me. They make contributions to this nation; not everyone is a criminal.”

Asked if she knew anyone in danger of deportation, the resident replied, “My sister is one of those people who is afraid because, unfortunately, my sister lost all of her citizenship documents during a move, and it’s taken her so many years to replace just some of those documents. So, I’m concerned that she could be swooped up in all of this.”

Several media outlets also reported that a Puerto Rican man who is also a veteran was the target of a raid by ICE officials inside a New Jersey seafood store last month. Several Bronx Democratic elected officials, as well as Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) representatives, are encouraging residents who may be fearful of being confronted by ICE officials to know their rights.

Some elected officials are sharing information at their constituency offices in different languages. For example, immigrants are being informed that they have the right to remain silent, that they can ask ICE officials for both ID and documentation such as a federal arrest warrant.

They are also being informed that if ICE officials enter an immigrant’s home without permission, the immigrant can say, “I do not consent to you being in my home,” and if they start to search the home, the immigrant can say, “I do not consent to your search.”

Immigrants are also being made aware that ICE officials cannot enter private, employee-only sections of a workplace, but can enter public sections, that residents have the right to an interpreter, an attorney, that they do not have to sign documents or answer questions before speaking with a lawyer, and that they can inform ICE officials of medical and / or childcare needs, as appropriate.

*Norwood News* is currently looking into allegations of an ICE raid on a Bx36 bus and at a Bronx homeless shelter and will share any updates we receive.

\*Sile Moloney contributed to this story.

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