



# NORWOOD NEWS

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## STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!

By SÍLE MOLONEY

The wake service for Pamela Alcántara Rubiera, a beloved daughter, friend, faith leader, *Dominicana*, New Yorker, and tragically, also a fatal victim of domestic violence, was celebrated with love, on Monday, March 17, at the New Life Outreach International Church at 2757 Morris Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights.

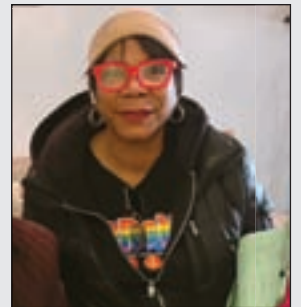
As family, friends, fellow clergy leaders, politicians, including some from the Dominican Republic, and community members gathered to pay their respects and prepare for the repatriation of Alcántara Rubiera's remains to her homeland, a community was left asking an all-too-familiar question: what more can be done to help prevent the epidemic of domestic violence?

Former Councilman for City Council District 14 Fernando Cabrera lead the service, along with other church members. The Latin American Clergy Asso-

*(continued on page 15)*

Photo by Sile Moloney

**THE WAKE SECTION** of the funeral service for Pamela Alcántara Rubiera was held at New Life Outreach International Church, 2757 Morris Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Monday, March 17, 2025. Her body was due to be repatriated later to the Dominican Republic for burial, alongside her sister.



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# Danielle Guggenheim Petitions to Run in Council District 11

By **SILE MOLONEY**

Petitioning is underway for those seeking to get on the electoral ballot to become candidates in the upcoming June primaries in New York City, and Danielle Herbert Guggenheim, a self-described, single mother, Black and Caribbean American who has served 25 years with the City's Board of Education, and has tutored children with special needs, is among them.

Guggenheim, a cofounder and former vice-president of the Unity Democratic Club, is seeking to win the Bronx Democratic primary for the district 11 city council seat held, since 2022, by Council Member Eric Dinowitz, son of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz (A.D. 81). Both the assembly district and the council district overlap substantially.

The council district covers some or all of the neighborhoods of Bedford Park, Norwood, Kingsbridge Heights-Van Cortlandt Village, Kingsbridge, Riverdale-Spuyten Duyvil, and Wakefield-Woodlawn, along with Woodlawn Cemetery and Van Cortlandt Park.

"People are power, but that power must be amplified and mobilized if we're ever going to elevate The Bronx to where it belongs in the larger story of New York City," Guggenheim said on launching her campaign in December 2024. "My people are crying out for a leader in City Hall who will confront the towering challenges suffocating our borough. The Bronx needs a fighter, not a caretaker, and it's time to rise to that call."

Elected previously as a [Bronx] county committee member for District 31, Guggenheim also co-chairs the Unity Democratic Club's political affairs committee, shaping policies and endorsements. She is no longer a committee member.

She also serves as a board member of Jerome Park's James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center. In this role, she said she has addressed child education, food and housing insecurity, and bringing zero-emission buses to The Bronx, scheduled to roll out in 2025. She is also a judicial delegate for Assembly District 78, which broadly covers Bedford Park, Kingsbridge Heights, University Heights, Fordham Manor, and Belmont.

On launching her campaign last year, Guggenheim said she was ready "with a commitment to social justice and equity," to bring "bold leadership and representation to the district, tackling significant issues that have been overlooked in a borough that has the highest home insecurity, pollution, inequitable education opportunities and little access to healthcare."

Though Guggenheim has a broad agenda, the Unity Democrats said her key campaign issues are housing, tackling pollution, healthcare, and education.

On housing, Guggenheim said rents in The Bronx are crushing working families and pushing the unemployed and working poor toward homelessness. "In District 11, 27% of residents live in poverty, well above the city average,"

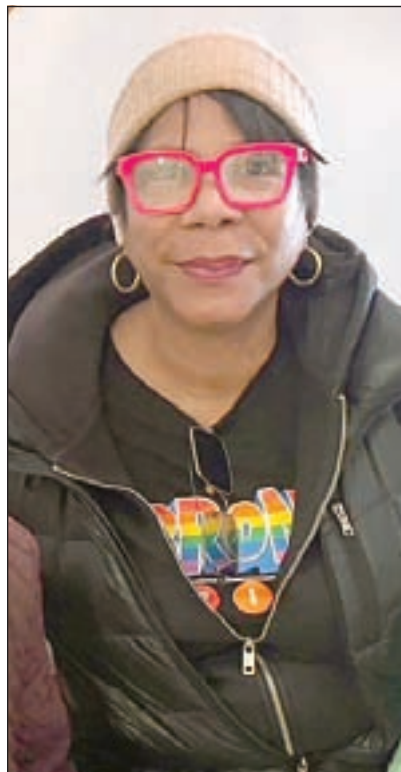


Photo courtesy of Danielle Herbert Guggenheim

**DANIELLE HERBERT GUGGENHEIM** is seen petitioning for signatures in Norwood in March 2025 in order to get on the ballot to run for City Council District 11 in the June Democratic primary election.

she said. "We need immediate action to unite and empower tenants, community boards, and city planners to work with nonprofits, developers, and landlords to create solutions prioritizing people over profit."

On pollution, Guggenheim said, "The Bronx is choking under the weight of relentless industrial pollution, waste transfer stations, and constant truck traffic. The air we breathe is killing us, manifesting in the highest asthma rates in the nation." She said "Asthma Alley" was not just a nickname known in the borough but a tragic reality. "We must demand cleaner air and limit pollution in our school zones, parks, and high foot traffic areas because every Bronx resident deserves to breathe without fear of becoming sick," she added.

In terms of healthcare, the candidate said the bridges connecting the borough's sick and vulnerable to life-saving healthcare have collapsed. "This gap is a moral crisis that demands immediate action," Guggenheim said. "Despite healthcare being the largest employer group, The Bronx has the worst healthcare results in the City."

She said new, stronger bridges must be built "by collaborating with hospitals, clinics, schools, and healthcare leaders to ensure a higher patient-to-provider ratio, and better emergency response capabilities." She added, "Support having doctors and nurse practitioners do rotations in public schools to service all community stakeholders."

When it comes to education, Guggen-

heim said Bronx schools need more funding, are overcrowded, and are in dire need of necessary school materials. "This disparity contributes to an achievement gap that disproportionately affects students from low-income families," she said.

Guggenheim said because of this, the borough's children are being denied their right to a quality education. "The future of The Bronx depends on leveling the playing field, investing more in historically disenfranchised public schools and infrastructure investments to open new schools," she said. "Teachers should be supported to ensure that every child, regardless of their ZIP code, has an equal shot at success."

For his part, Dinowitz first won his council seat in a special election in 2021, after the former councilman Andrew Cohen resigned before his term ended to take up a judgeship. The move sparked controversy at the time because some felt it was an abrupt strategic decision by the so-called and all-powerful "Bronx Democratic Party machine" to ensure the assemblyman's son was guaranteed to win the seat.

Outside or new candidates typically find it harder to win public support without the backing of the Party's stalwarts, which the councilman's father was considered to be, and since the Party usually has its own candidates in mind for each role.

During a special election, with a shorter campaign cycle, name recognition is also regarded as a major advantage, and with the assemblyman's name already well known in the district since he holds the A.D. 81 seat since 1994, this likely helped his son's campaign. At the time, the assemblyman denied being part of any orchestrated effort within the Party to nominate his son for District 11, and said he abstained from voting on the matter.

However, he has built up several alliances within the Party over time who are no doubt loyal to him. There were also allegations at the time of lack of transparency by the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club around the club's endorsement of the councilman's candidacy.

He ultimately won the special general election with 63.6 percent of the vote in 2021, despite opposition from five other candidates. Progressive Democrat Mino Lora came closest, winning 36.4 percent of the vote.

During that election cycle, one of the points raised was the fact that District 11 has typically always been represented by a candidate from its wealthier northwestern side e.g. the broader Riverdale area, as opposed to anyone from the lower-income neighborhoods of Wakefield, Norwood, Kingsbridge and Bedford Park. The latter areas typically see a much higher rate of crime and social problems.

Pushing ahead with her campaign, Guggenheim vowed, "We leave no one behind. I am not doing well if my neighbor isn't. ¡Nadie Atrás! [Nobody behind!]"



All photos by Ariel Pacheco

**MEMBERS OF FDNY'S EMS Station 26 in Morrisania, and Paul Bolanos, father of the late EMT and U.S. Navy Member Marc Bolanos, attend the Wayne Center for Nursing and Rehab's Rehabilitation ADL Suite renaming ceremony in Marc's honor in Norwood on March 12, 2025.**

# Wayne Center Honors Former Navy Member & EMT

By **ARIEL PACHECO**

The Wayne Center for Nursing and Rehab, located in Norwood, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, March 12, dedicating its Rehabilitation ADL Suite in honor of the late Marc Jansen Bolanos, a former U.S. Navy member and EMT.

Jansen Bolanos tragically and suddenly died on March 20, 2024, while training for the U.S. Navy in Great Lakes, Illinois at just 29 years of age. His father, Paul Bolanos, has served as a physical therapist at the Wayne Center, located at 3530 Wayne Avenue, for nearly 30 years.

Speaking to *Norwood News* on the day, the proud dad said, "I think this gesture is amazing. This dedication of

this activity room that the facility has provided to him [Marc] and to me, it's very touching." He added, "It's very important because what Marc believed, his character; it just translates to this activity room. He loves to take care of patients, and we love to take care of patients, so it just means a lot."

Bolanos said as an EMT, Marc had worked at the FDNY's EMS Station 26, located at 1264 Boston Road in Morrisania, for four years before going on military leave to train with the U.S. Navy. He recounted a story of how during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, his son had said to him, "Hey Dad! You know what this job taught me is that life is just so quick and because of that, you have to reflect on what you do to other people."

Bolanos said that while Marc knew the dangers and risks involved in working on the front lines, he still chose to help people because "he took an oath, and he pledged to do his job regardless."

The proud father concluded, saying, "[Marc] was really into servicing people and in being an EMT. He wanted to serve the local community." The FDNY and Station 26 were in attendance to honor Marc's life and service.

Polunin Natalia, who serves as division chief for the FDNY and who worked with Marc, said, "This is his legacy; he was an incredibly caring and kind, generous man. Station 26, like many other stations, [is] very tight. It's truly a brotherhood, so when he passed away, it was a huge blow to the station."

Natalia continued, "This is really what he was about, helping people. This space is going to be able to help people out so it's just incredible. We're very honored to even be invited here and be present for this ceremony and we are very grateful for the space."

Meanwhile, Matt Molina, who also worked alongside Paul, as his partner at the FDNY, said of friend, "I miss him dearly he was such a fun and loving person. He always tried to put a smile on your face, and seeing this plaque here just warms my heart."

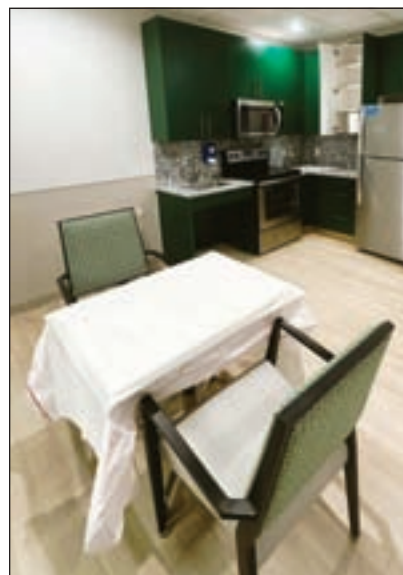
Molina added, "Outside of his service of helping people and saving lives, he was a very down-to-earth person who would be there in your time of need."



**A PHOTO OF** the late U.S. Navy Member and EMT Marc Jansen Bolanos and a plaque are seen outside the Rehabilitation ADL Suite of Norwood's Wayne Center for Nursing and Rehab on March 12, 2025, renamed in his honor.



**PAUL BOLANOS, FATHER** of the late U.S. Navy Member and EMT Marc Jansen Bolanos, and EMT Matt Molina speak at the renaming ceremony of the Rehabilitation ADL Suite at Wayne Center for Nursing and Rehab in Norwood, renamed in Marc's honor, on March 12, 2025.



**THE WAYNE CENTER** for Nursing and Rehab's Rehabilitation ADL Suite is renamed in honor of the late U.S. Navy member and EMT Marc Bolanos on March 12, 2025.



**THE WAYNE CENTER** for Nursing and Rehab's Rehabilitation ADL Suite is renamed in honor of former U.S. Navy Member and EMT Marc Bolanos in Norwood on March 12, 2025.

# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By **DAVID GREENE**



This week, we asked readers for their opinions on the rising cost of eggs in The Bronx. Egg prices ranging from \$9.99 to \$32.99 were seen in one Bronx supermarket on March 11 and were selling at \$13.50/dozen in one deli. U.S. President Donald Trump said on March 12, during an Oval Office press briefing, “We’re doing very well right now. We had a little thing like the cost of eggs, little to you but big to people out there.....down almost 30% in the last few days. We got it down. We did a lot of things. We got a great Secretary of Agriculture, and we did a lot of things. We got the cost of eggs down substantially.” We contacted NYC Department of Consumer Affairs for comment on whether the culling of hen flocks due to recent bird flu outbreaks in New York State, resulting in a scarcity of hens, is the sole contributing factor for price increases, and will share any feedback we receive. In case consumers suspect price-gouging is taking place, check out our November 2021 article online: “Price Gouging: What Consumers Can Do to Address the Situation,” on [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org).



“I feel like the price of eggs has to do with the economy. Yes, eggs are expensive; I’ve been eating cereal. The solution is cheaper eggs. I think the FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) plays their part, but I don’t think any prices are decreasing yet.”

**Anthony Pierre,**  
Bedford Park  
Photo by David Greene



“The egg prices are obscene! At the grocery store right across the street, it’s \$9 minimum for a carton of eggs, and they’re small eggs too, so it’s not even what we used to have. It means I have to change my breakfast around, and I’ll have canned fish for breakfast instead of eggs, and it makes my life difficult. No, I’m not eating eggs at all.”

**Luke Foster,**  
Van Cortlandt Village  
Photo by David Greene



“I think it’s an issue that should have been taken care of by the government at the very beginning and they didn’t. I know it’s not the only issue. It’s not only political, but it also has to do with financial issues, and I think it’s a disease that is going around with the chickens, and that’s why the eggs are pricey. Putting that in perspective, they should do something about it. I think I paid \$11.99 and I’m not going beyond \$15.”

**Daniel Mozoub,**  
Norwood  
Photo by David Greene



“It’s obvious that the prices of eggs are too expensive. Yes, they keep going up - it’s ridiculous! I have stopped buying eggs as much. I have no price limit; I just won’t buy eggs too often.”

**Michelle D,**  
Norwood  
Photo courtesy of Michelle D.



“Well, I feel like I can’t even go out of state right now, because I know when I went out of state and came back, all the natural eggs were completely gone. Now, I feel like I have to go back to my country, Trinidad and Tobago, to get natural eggs. I feel like they are price gouging for sure. I feel like bodegas probably have cheaper prices than the grocery stores. The prices are absurd.”

**Henry Rodriguez,**  
Parkchester  
Photo by David Greene

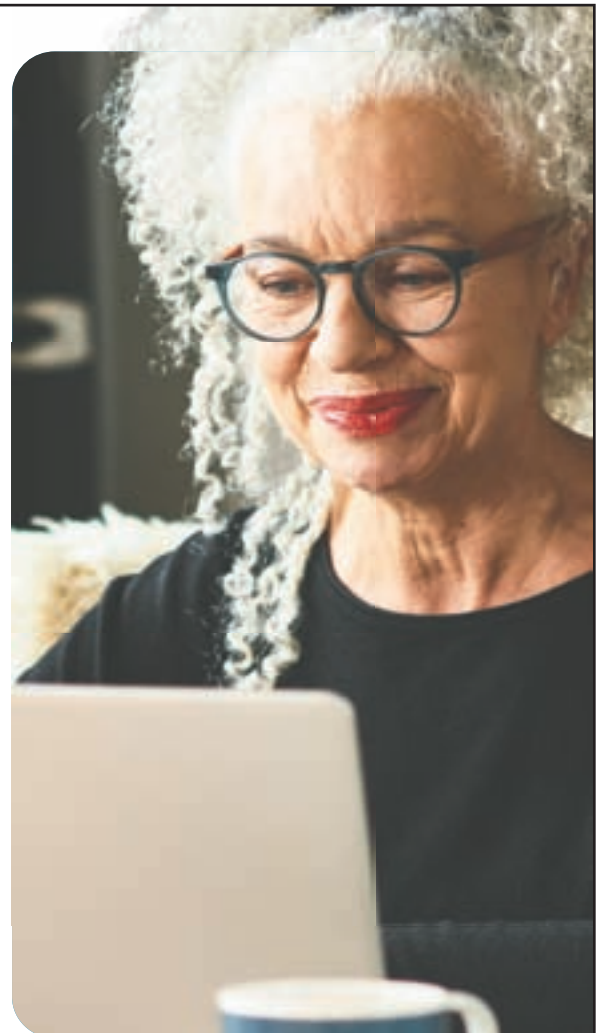
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# NEWS BRIEFS

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

## AOJ Introduces Bill to Cap CC Interest Rates

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14), a Democrat, and Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (FL-13), a Republican representing Florida, have introduced legislation that, if passed, would immediately cap credit card interest rates at 10%. U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT), an independent representing Vermont, and Josh Hawley (R-MO), a Republican representing Missouri, introduced companion legislation last month in the Senate.

According to the congress members, while banks borrow at the federal interest rate of 4.25%, credit card interest rates have nearly doubled over the last decade to 23.8%, allowing credit card companies to reap massive profits while consumers struggle to keep up with debt. "Credit cards with high interest rates regularly trap working people in endless cycles of debt," said Ocasio-Cortez, who represent parts of The Bronx and Queens, "At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, we cannot allow big banks to shake down our communities for profit."

She said during his campaign, U.S. President Donald Trump pledged to cap credit card interest rates at 10% and legislators introduced the bill to make that pledge more than a talking point and protect working people from remaining trapped under mountains of debt. In 2019, Ocasio-Cortez and Sanders introduced the Loan Shark Prevention Act to impose a 15% federal cap on interest rates.

## U.S. VA Tight-Lipped on Bronx Impact of More Layoffs

Further to the announcement dated Feb. 24 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that it had terminated 1,400 non-critical employees across the country, Norwood News learned in March that, according to an internal VA memo, 80,000 employees are due to be terminated.

We reached out to the VA to ask if the latest layoffs were in addition to or part of the previously announced 1,400 layoffs, and if they would affect Fordham Manor's James J. Peters VA Hospital. We were provided with a video in which U.S. VA Commissioner Doug Collins sought to present the layoffs as being beneficial to servicing veterans' needs in terms of targeted efficiency.

Collins said the aim was to bring VA numbers down to "2019 levels" from 470,000 to 398,000. He did not reference

where across the country, or when, the cuts would take effect. We therefore asked the VA again if this could be confirmed. A VA spokesperson replied on March 19, saying, "Apologies. We do not have any information for you right now, but we are working on your request."

After the initial layoffs in February, the VA told Norwood News on Feb. 27, "Bronx VAMC has dismissed a small number of probationary staff this month. This decision will have no negative effect on Veteran health care, benefits or other services and will allow VA to focus more effectively on its core mission of serving Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors."

As reported, NY Gov. Kathy Hochul encouraged former VA employees to apply to become New York State employees since it is currently hiring for a range of positions. Check out <http://ny.gov/wewantyou> for details.

In reference to a comment made by Collins about 300,000 mission-critical positions, a VA spokesperson later clarified that, broadly speaking, the VA continues to recruit to keep around 300,000 mission-critical positions filled at any given time, but this does not mean the VA has 300,000 open mission-critical positions currently.

When we asked if these 300,000 mission-critical positions fall within the target number of 398,000 employees, we were informed that the situation is fluid, that they cannot be more precise currently, and that more information will be shared in the next few months.

## Off Duty MTA Train Operator Arrested for False Reporting

The NYPD said that an off-duty, female MTA train operator, Caridad Goodloe, 56, was arrested on Wednesday, March 19, at 12.25 p.m. in the confines of the 49th Precinct, which covers the neighborhoods of Allerton, Morris Park, Van Nest, Pelham Parkway, Eastchester Gardens, and Pelham Gardens. They said she was charged with falsely reporting an incident in the third degree. We asked the NYPD for more details and also reached out to the MTA for comment. We will share any feedback we receive. We were advised that an investigation is ongoing. No further details were provided. Goodloe is deemed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

## Manhattan University Announces New Dean of Business School

Manhattan University, the 172-year-old Lasallian Catholic institution, announced that Dr. Hany Guirguis is the new Dean of its O'Malley School of Business (OMSB). Guirguis' appointment is effective immediately. He previously served as the interim dean.

A full tenured professor, college officials said Guirguis has a broad and deep background in leadership positions at the Business School. Joining the university in 2000, they said he

became a professor of economics and finance in 2010 and chaired that department from 2010 to 2018. From 2013 to 2018, they said he was named the Louis E. Capalbo professor of business, and from 2019 to the present, he has been the Ambassador Charles A. Gargano endowed chair. He assumed the interim dean position in 2024. They said Guirguis has published extensively on real estate finance, macroeconomics, financial modeling, and applied economics and has previously lectured at various other renowned universities.

They said Guirguis has been active in the university's academic community serving in the university senate, the educational affairs committee, and the council for faculty affairs. He holds a Ph.D. in macroeconomics and econometrics from the University of Oregon, an MBA from Baruch College, a Master of Science in economics from the University of Oregon, a master of



Photo courtesy of Manhattan University.

**DR. HANY GUIRGUIS** is the new dean of Manhattan University's business school.

arts degree in economics from American University in Cairo, and a BA in accounting and business administration from the University of Helwan, Cairo.

# Bronx Buccs Start New Season Without "Coach D"

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

The Bronx Buccaneers football team were back at the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood for the first training session of the new season on Saturday, March 15, this time without their beloved coach Dwight "Coach D" Downer, who, as reported, was tragically killed in a hit & run incident involving six vehicles in the East Bronx just after midnight on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024.

We spoke to Coach Keith on Saturday and asked how everyone's emotions were holding up. "Pretty sporadic," he said. "You know, they're everywhere right now. He (Downer) used to do Saturday mornings; was his deal. He used to go to storage, pick up all the equipment. We're trying to make substitutions for it but they always say you never, ever know what you have until you miss it."

As reported, police said Downer, 60, who also coached Bedford Park's DeWitt Clinton High School football team, had been standing at the intersection of Givan Avenue and Eastchester Road, south of Edenwald, when he was struck by a 2013 BMW 328 XI, driven by a 24-year-old man traveling eastbound on Eastchester Road.

The NYPD determined that prior to this collision, the BMW driver had struck an unknown pick-up truck that had been traveling northbound on Givan Avenue. After the initial impact, they said the BMW collided with a parked, unattended 2020 Acura MDX, a 2007 Nissan Murano, and with Downer who had been standing alongside the Nissan.

They said the BMW then also collided with a parked, unattended 2014 Honda Accord and a 2007 Toyota Camry. EMS responded and transported Downer to Jacobi Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased. The driver of the BMW remained on scene and was later

also transported to Jacobi for minor injuries. There were no arrests, and the investigation remained ongoing.

On Thursday, March 13, police said they arrested 27-year-old Orville Barry of Yonkers in connection with the incident. They said he was charged with leaving the scene of an incident resulting in death, and third-degree aggravated, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Barry is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. With collision investigations, the NYPD handles all criminal aspects of the investigations, while NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) reviews the street design at the locations of such crashes.

Tasha Harris, Downer's partner, a member of Bronx Community Board 7, and organizer of the Bronx Buccaneers, gave her reaction to the arrest, writing in part, "I am grateful that those involved will be brought to face the deviation and loss that we all must face and live with. Thank you to all of the law enforcement members who have worked to make this happen."

Back at the Oval, some new recruits joined seasoned Buccaneers on what was a chilly Saturday morning, as the coaching team put them through their paces, determined to carry on despite the obvious void. Kids were taught the importance of punctuality, order, listening, respecting those around them and their training facilities, and being prepared, which started with ensuring there were no loose boot laces!

"We have to appreciate this field; this is our home," one of the coaches said in part. "You have one of the better fields in the City, so you will treat yourself and this field as such. You will not drop stuff all over the ground and leave

(continued on page 7)

# Second Ceiling Collapse reported on Dekalb Ave

By DAVID GREENE

For the second time in two months, firefighters were called to a second Dekalb Avenue building in Norwood for a report of a ceiling collapse. In the latest incident, Jumratan Inshanali, a 33-year resident of 3561 Dekalb Avenue, said she was sitting in her bedroom with her home health aide on Monday, March 10, when water started to pour out of her ceiling and into her first-floor apartment.

On Saturday, March 15, Inshanali told *Norwood News*, “We were sitting down, and water came from upstairs. She grabbed me and said, ‘C’mon! Let’s go; something’s wrong!’” According to Inshanali and her super, firefighters waited for nearly an hour for Inshanali’s upstairs neighbor to return home so that the water flow could eventually be stopped.

*Norwood News* later contacted the FDNY on three occasions for details of the incident. We did not receive a response. Referring to her exposed ceiling, Inshanali said, “The firemen said there was a lot of lead [in the paint]. I can’t stay here at night. Even when I sleep, I can’t swallow, and I have asthma.” She said the FDNY told her it was not healthy for her to live in the apartment due to mold and

lead. She added that she recently spent four nights in a hospital due to her asthma.

Asked why she was still living in the building given what the FDNY reportedly said, Inshanali replied, “Yes, but where am I going to go? The landlord didn’t call me. He didn’t say anything. He didn’t do anything. I just pull the door and leave it like that.” Asked if she has had other problems in the apartment, Inshanali fumed, “Every day! Every day, problems every day.”

*Norwood News* spoke with both the super of the building who didn’t speak much English, and his wife, who asked not to be identified, about the background to the collapse. His wife explained, “There was a leak from an apartment. There was a blockage in the big, big pipe in the wall.”

She said this happened on Sunday, March 9, and added that all the residents were informed not to turn on the water in their kitchens. Despite this, she said the following day, one upstairs resident turned on the water and that’s when Inshanali’s bedroom was flooded. She said her husband had committed to fixing Inshanali’s ceiling.

*Norwood News* reached out to NYC Department of Build-

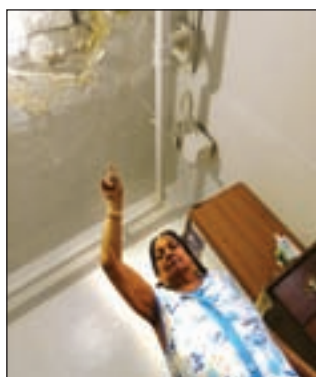


Photo by David Greene

**IN A PHOTO** taken on Sunday, March 16, 2025, Jumratan Inshanali, a resident of 3561 Dekalb Avenue in Norwood, points to her damaged ceiling, where she said water poured into her apartment on March 10, 2025.

ings (DOB) to ask if they were aware of the incident and Ryan Deegan, deputy press secretary, said, “I don’t see that we were called to any incident matching that description at that address.” We also attempted to contact the landlord, referred to as “Dinko” by both Inshanali and the super, on the number provided by them but it was not in service when we called.

The owner appears to be ADP Realty Ltd, with an address at 2275 Barker Avenue in the Bronx, according to City records.

According to HPD Online, there were 105 complaints filed in respect of this address over the last two years, many refer-



Photo by David Greene

**A CEILING COLLAPSE** was reported on Monday, March 10, 2025, to the FDNY at this building located at 3561 Dekalb Avenue in Norwood, pictured Saturday, March 15, 2025.

ring to “mold,” “water supply,” and “ceiling,” among others, including some relating to “carbon monoxide” and “pests,” though only two were open as of March 19. One was for a blocked toilet. Meanwhile, there were 41 open violations, many referring to “defective plastered surfaces.”

When contacted, FDNY *did* confirm the department had responded to a separate incident at nearby 3459 Dekalb Avenue, also in Norwood, a block away from Inshanali’s building, on Friday, Feb. 7, at 7.56 a.m. in response to a report of a ceiling collapse. *Norwood News* was not on site on the day in question. A fire of-

ficial later said of the incident, “One civilian refused medical assistance.”

*Norwood News* visited the building on several occasions after the incident in efforts to speak with the affected resident but were unsuccessful. We left a number and asked him to call us but received no feedback.

Speaking to *Norwood News*, the building’s super alleged there was no ceiling collapse and that the resident of the affected apartment was taken by EMS to hospital for an existing leg injury. However, as above, FDNY said the resident refused  
*(continued on page 13)*

# Norwood Man Charged with Harassment over Threatening Texts

By DAVID GREENE

Police in Norwood have arrested a man after he allegedly sent threatening texts to a woman. A police spokesperson told *Norwood News*, “It was reported to police that on March 16, 2025, at approximately 4:30 p.m., an individual sent threatening messages to a 40-year-old female in the vicinity of Dekalb Avenue and East 212 Street.” The source added that no injuries were reported.

Police said they subsequently arrested Kevin Guzman, 21, of Dekalb Avenue, who was charged with aggravated harassment and harassment. Attempts to reach Guzman were unsuccessful. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

The NYPD investigates incidents of stalking, among other crimes. They say residents can sometimes be un-

sure if they are, or have been, a victim of a crime, but help is available. “If you are in immediate danger, or have been a victim of a crime, please call 911,” they said. “If you are unsure if you have been the victim of a crime, the NYPD encourages you to visit your local precinct and speak to a police officer to discuss the details of your situation.”

They said if you are seeking information and services, call the NYC Crime Victim Hotline at 866-689-HELP (4357). For the deaf or hard of hearing, call TDD: 866-604-5350. The NYPD reminds residents that as a crime victim, you have rights granted by federal and state law. Learn more about your rights through the Office of Victim Services at <https://ovs.ny.gov/>. For more resources on this and related topics, check out our front-page story.



Photo by David Greene

**POLICE VEHICLES ARE** seen in the vicinity of Dekalb Avenue and East 212th Street where they say they arrested Kevin Guzman, 21, who was charged with sending threatening messages to an unidentified 40-year-old woman on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

# Bronx Buccs Start New Season Without “Coach D”

(continued from page 5)

it there. You will pick up behind yourself and you will pick up behind each other. Got it?” A chorus of “Got it!” followed.

The team of coaches were patient and were seen explaining various drills to new young players of different ages, shapes, and sizes as they lined up in various formations. There were some lighter, instructional moments too where players were asked to raise their right hand.... and then their other right hand...

Of Downer, Coach Keith said “Him gone, it kind of showed me a lot of what he did for the organization, and now we got to pick up the pieces and move on. He would want us to move on. Kind of hard to, but he wouldn’t quit so we not. Plus, a lot of kids rely on us trying to get them into high schools and stuff, so we can’t let them down either. We’re mentors to them. We got to come out here and be here for them.”

Coach Keith said early in the season, until April 14, the Buccaneers, who play in the Metro North [Westchester] league, meet once a week on Saturday mornings. “April 14 is going to be the first time we have weekday practices, which would be Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. He said they also play crossover games against a few other leagues and their age range is 6 to 14.

“We ask the kids do the best they can. We just make sure that they know what they’re doing, that they train correctly, and winning is not the end all, be all, you know?” he said. “It’s about teaching them football, teaching them accountability, reliability, how to make friends, how to be a part of a community, and pretty much to grow up to be a productive member of society.”

Coach Keith then pointed out a young man on the field, Adande Nartey, who he said started with the Buccaneers at age eight. “He’s now 18, and plays for Columbia University, downtown,” he said. “So, a few of our kids come back to help.” It was a similar story for two twins who were with the team since they were eight, and now coach at Rutgers. “They’re history students, and they’re actually on Rutgers coaching staff,” Coach Keith said, adding that some kids don’t realize they can have a career in sports in other ways aside from being a player.

When we later spoke to Adande, he said it’s not just about applying to schools, but getting recruited by the schools, themselves. He said he missed a season when he was in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade due to COVID, and in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, he was at Horace Mann. He then transferred for a better chance at football.

“I ended up at Iona Prep,” he said.



Photo courtesy of Bronx Buccaneers

**DWIGHT DOWNER (RIGHT)**, a beloved coach of the Bronx Buccaneers and DeWitt Clinton High School football team, is seen along with a colleague and some of players in an undated photo. Downer was killed in a hit & run incident at the intersection of Givan Avenue and Eastchester Road in the East Bronx on Nov. 30, 2024.

“After that, I spent junior year and senior year there, and after that, I didn’t really get recruited by any of the colleges. I wanted to, and on top of that, my grades weren’t where I wanted to be at, so it locked up a lot of opportunities for me.” He said after that, he went to a post graduate school in Connecticut called Suffolk Academy and is just finishing out the year there before he starts at Columbia. “Now, I’m just here giving back,” he said.

Asked if he would continue to help the Buccaneers, he said, “Oh yeah, most definitely, because I know there’s people that did the same for me when I was younger. So as long as I’m here, I’m always going to try and show up whenever I can for these kids.”

Asked about Coach D, Adande said, “While I was here, that man was like a second father to me. With football, it’s a sport that involves a lot of, like, grit and determination, so he instilled that in a lot of kids, and he also inspired me to keep going with it. So, even after his passing, I think he’s always going to be inside me as an inspiration. I know that Coach Keith as well, he’s going to do his best to keep pushing that message to these children.”

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# CRIME FILE - MAJOR CRIME STISTICS

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



ComptStat Book		Week of 03/10/25 - 03/16/25					
	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	0	6	-100.0 %
Rape	- %	3	1	200.0 %	6	3	100.0 %
Robbery	-72.7 %	18	27	-33.3 %	68	62	9.7 %
Felony Assault	63.6 %	55	49	12.2 %	150	147	2.0 %
Burglary	-71.4 %	12	24	-50.0 %	24	51	-52.9 %
Grand Larceny	-36.8 %	49	56	-12.5 %	122	145	-15.9 %
Grand Larceny Auto	50.0 %	16	15	6.7 %	41	41	0.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-23.6 %</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>-13.1 %</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>-9.7 %</b>
Patrol	-24.5 %	147	172	-14.5 %	402	443	-9.3 %
Transit	0.0 %	3	3	0.0 %	3	7	-57.1 %
Housing	0.0 %	3	1	200.0 %	6	5	20.0 %
Shooting Victims	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	1	6	-83.3 %
Shooting Incidents	-100.0 %	0	4	-100.0 %	1	6	-83.3 %
UCR Rape*	- %	4	2	100.0 %	7	8	-12.5 %
Other Sex Crimes	-50.0 %	2	4	-50.0 %	11	17	-35.3 %
Petit Larceny	-18.8 %	57	62	-8.0 %	175	205	-14.6 %
Misd. Assault	5.9 %	72	75	-4.0 %	169	235	-28.1 %
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 (NYSP/L) definitions. \* Uniform 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 March 16, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 46th Precinct as of March 16, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Fordham, University Heights, Morris Heights and Mt. Hope.

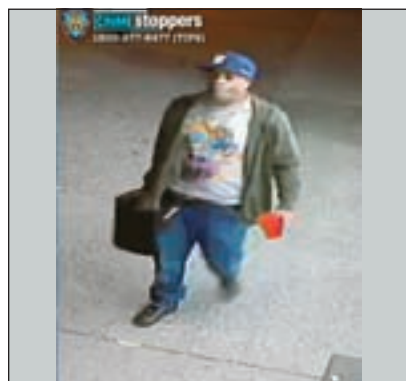
ComptStat Book		Week of 03/10/25 - 03/16/25					
	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	- %	1	0	- %	5	1	400.0 %
Robbery	0.0 %	9	10	-10.0 %	25	38	-34.2 %
Felony Assault	-50.0 %	13	11	18.2 %	42	32	31.3 %
Burglary	-33.3 %	8	14	-42.9 %	26	25	4.0 %
Grand Larceny	-35.7 %	33	57	-42.1 %	91	160	-43.1 %
Grand Larceny Auto	28.6 %	19	31	-38.7 %	47	86	-45.3 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>-18.8 %</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>-32.5 %</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>-31.2 %</b>
Patrol	-19.4 %	78	118	-33.9 %	221	327	-32.4 %
Transit	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	2	0	- %
Housing	0.0 %	5	5	0.0 %	13	16	-18.8 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
UCR Rape*	- %	1	0	- %	6	4	50.0 %
Other Sex Crimes	-50.0 %	4	7	-42.9 %	7	11	-36.4 %
Petit Larceny	18.8 %	65	78	-16.7 %	178	215	-17.2 %
Misd. Assault	-57.1 %	17	23	-26.1 %	64	63	1.6 %
Hate Crimes	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
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 (NYSP/L) definitions. \* Uniform 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 March 16, 2025, compared to last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 50th Precinct as of March 16, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Kingsbridge, Fieldston, Riverdale, Marble Hill, and Spuyten Duyvil.

# CRIME FILE BY SÍLE MOLONEY



**Norwood: Man Arrested for Stabbing**

The NYPD said they arrested a man sought for an assault that occurred in Norwood. They had released the accompanying photo above of a person of interest in the investigation and said that on Monday, March 10, at around 9.55 p.m. in front of 33 East 208th Street, a 32-year-old male victim got into a verbal dispute with an unidentified person who displayed a knife.

They said the assailant stabbed the victim in the torso and then fled the location on foot, traveling southbound on Jerome Avenue to parts unknown. They said the victim was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition and the suspect was described as male,

had a dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a blue baseball cap, a dark-green, hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans, and black sneakers.

On Tuesday, March 18, pursuant to an ongoing investigation, police said Victor Andino, 57, of Norwood, was arrested the same day. They said he was charged with second-degree assault and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

**Kingsbridge Heights: Man Assaulted on D Train**

Police said a man was assaulted aboard a D train as it approached Kingsbridge Road subway station on Monday, March 17 at around 9.25 p.m. They said a 35-year-old man was aboard a northbound D train in the vicinity of Grand Concourse and East Kingsbridge Road when, amid a verbal dispute, an assailant punched the victim in the face, causing bruising and pain. They added, "The victim refused medical attention."

Norwood News was inside the station and witnessed the aftermath of the incident when police pursued those involved, and three men were later interviewed. Police also asked bystanders if they had witnessed the incident. One of

(continued on page 11)

ComptStat Book		Week of 03/10/25 - 03/16/25					
	28 Day			Year to Date			
	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg	2025	2024	% Chg
Murder	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Rape	100.0 %	7	4	75.0 %	16	13	23.1 %
Robbery	25.0 %	27	43	-37.2 %	68	115	-40.9 %
Felony Assault	240.0 %	63	56	12.5 %	155	135	14.8 %
Burglary	100.0 %	20	13	53.8 %	41	43	-4.7 %
Grand Larceny	-13.3 %	62	48	29.2 %	166	144	15.3 %
Grand Larceny Auto	100.0 %	20	14	42.9 %	51	76	-32.9 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.0 %</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>11.8 %</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>-5.7 %</b>
Patrol	54.8 %	196	175	12.0 %	489	518	-5.6 %
Transit	-100.0 %	3	2	50.0 %	8	8	0.0 %
Housing	0.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %	0	1	-100.0 %
Shooting Victims	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	1	10	-90.0 %
Shooting Incidents	0.0 %	0	2	-100.0 %	1	6	-83.3 %
UCR Rape*	100.0 %	8	5	60.0 %	17	19	-10.5 %
Other Sex Crimes	-50.0 %	8	8	0.0 %	16	22	-27.3 %
Petit Larceny	40.9 %	110	129	-14.7 %	327	420	-22.1 %
Misd. Assault	-52.2 %	62	79	-21.5 %	139	182	-23.6 %
Hate Crimes	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %
Traffic Fatalities	0.0 %	0	0	0.0 %	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 (NYSP/L) definitions. \* Uniform 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 March 16, 2025, compared to the same timeframe last year (left), and year-to-date major crime statistics for the 52nd Precinct as of March 16, 2025, compared to last year (right). This precinct covers some or all of Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge, Norwood, Bronx Park, and University Heights.

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# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

COMPILED BY ARIEL PACHECO



## Register to Vote in the Primaries by June 14

Primary Election Day in New York is Tuesday, June 24, when polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Early Voting runs from June 14-22. To be eligible to register to vote, a person must be a U.S. citizen; be 18 years old on June 24; a New York State resident for at least 30 days before the election; not be imprisoned for a felony conviction; not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court; and not be claiming the right to vote elsewhere. The last day to register to vote in person and by mail is June 14. Visit <https://vote.gov/register/new-york> for more information.

## Chancellor's Day Holiday Trip

Registration is open for kids aged 5 through 12 for the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center's Chancellor's Day Holiday Trip on Thursday, June 6, from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$135. Join for a fun adventure at Big Kahuna's Water Park. To register and find more information, visit [https://mmcc.campmanagement.com/p/request\\_for\\_info\\_m.php?action=enroll](https://mmcc.campmanagement.com/p/request_for_info_m.php?action=enroll).

## Spring Cleaning Event

Bronx Community Board 7 (CB7) is

hosting a spring-cleaning event to recycle e-waste, shred documents, and swap apparel on Saturday, March 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at P.S. 246, located at 2641 Grand Concourse in Kingsbridge Heights. For more information, call (929) 496-0748.

## Applications Open for Paid Internship Program

Youth aged 14-21 can apply now for the Dr. Beverly J. Robinson Community Folk Culture Internship Program. This is a 5-week, paid summer internship that gives a chance to develop skills while working with artists and community leaders. The internship runs from July 8 through August 8. The application deadline is April 30. For more information, call (718) 652-6256.

## Poetry Writing Workshop

The Bronx County Historical Society will be hosting "The Kindness Session," a poetry-writing workshop with Anne Leighton, on Tuesday, April 1, at 6 p.m. at Poe Cottage, 2460 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY. This workshop is free to all. Bring paper and writing tools. There will be reading and writing. For more information, call (718) 881-8183.

## African Community Resource Fair

The Office of Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson is hosting an African Community Resource Fair on Tuesday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bronx Borough Hall, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451. Access free resources on immigration, jobs, legal advice, medical care, and mental health support. For more information, email [dcoulbaly@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:dcoulbaly@bronxbp.nyc.gov).

## 4th Annual Prom Dress & Suit Drive

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and Bronx Fashion Week are accepting donations of gently used, formal dresses and suits for high school seniors for their annual prom until Friday, April 18. Suits and dresses must be clean with no rips, tears, or damage. Bags and shoes are welcome too. The drop-off location is at the Bronx District Attorney's Office, 198 East 161st Street, Bronx from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Citibike services will be expanding in Bronx Community District 7 and 8

beginning Fall 2025. An online feedback portal is available for residents to identify locations where they would like to see, or not see, new Citibike stations. The portal is open until mid-April. For more information, visit <https://nycdot-projects.info/project-feedback-map/suggest-station-bronx-cb7-cb8>.

## Community Clean-Up

Future of Mosholu Parkland (FOMP) is hosting a community clean-up event on Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to noon at East 204th Street and East Mosholu Parkway South. Meet at the Circle of Friends Garden. For more information, text (347) 371-3085.

## Affordable Housing Lotteries

NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) has open affordable housing lotteries for housing units in The Bronx. These include the following open lotteries:

1351 Jerome Avenue, with a deadline of March 31

3641 Johnson Avenue, with a deadline of March 24

Visit <https://housingconnect.nyc.gov/PublicWeb/searchlotteries> for more information.

# Out & About

Compiled by ARIEL PACHECO

## EVENTS

Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservatory is hosting a "Lost at Sea Trolley Tour" on Sunday, April 6, at 10 a.m. at 4199 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10470. Explore Woodlawn's Maritime History with a tour of gravesites and memorials of those who survived the Titanic shipwreck, those who perished on the Titanic, and those lost on the Lusitania. For more information, call (718) 920-0500.

Join Mosholu Public Library for **Adult Bingo** on Wednesday, March 26, at 3 p.m. at 285 East 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10467. Come and play a game of bingo with a chance to earn prizes. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

The Bronx Historical Society is showing the exhibit "Historias: The Stories Behind The Images" until Sunday, April 6, at 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467. This exhibit is an interactive, multimedia exhibition

that explores the collective's early documentary photographs of The Bronx, as well as those of friends and colleagues. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

## LITERATURE

Join the Norwood Community Library for a "Free Books for All" event on Sunday, March 23, from noon to 3 p.m. at 169 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10467. All books available will be free. For more information, follow @norwoodcommunitylibrary on Instagram.

One Book One Bronx is hosting a **Book Talk** on "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston on Saturdays, March 22 and 29, and April 5, from noon to 1.30 p.m. at the Bronx Art Space, 700 Manida Street (entrance on Spofford Ave), Bronx, or on Tuesdays via Zoom from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 25 and April 1. To register, visit <https://onebookonebronx.com>.

## ART

The Bronx Library Center is hosting **Collage Crafting** Friday, March 21, at 4 p.m. at 310 East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. Express yourself

in the form of a collage cutting and pasting different materials together to visually represent your thoughts and interests. For more information, call (718) 579-424.

## MUSIC

The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, located at 250 Bedford Pk Blvd W, Bronx, NY 10468, presents **Adalberto Santiago's 70th Anniversary Concert** on Saturday, March 22, at 8 p.m. Adalberto Santiago is an internationally renowned vocalist, celebrated for his timeless contributions to salsa and Latin music. Tickets range from \$50 to \$125. For more information, call (718) 960-8000.

## KIDS

Visit St. James Recreation Center at 2530 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468, for **Toddler Time with Kelize** on Friday, March 28, from 10.30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Toddlers aged 1-5 will be provided with arts, drawing, and physical activities in a safe, structured environment. For more information, call (718) 367-3657.

Join the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) at 2900 Southern Blvd, Bronx,

NY 10458, for **Everett Children's Adventure Garden Pop-Up** on Sunday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This will be a child-centered space with a hands-on exhibit that allows kids to play with natural materials and read the story "Best in Snow" by April Pulley Sayre. For more information, call (718) 817-8700

## FAMILY

The Jerome Park Library is hosting **Family Movie Day** on Saturday, March 22, at noon at 118 Eames Place, Bronx, NY 10468. Join for a showing of "Frozen II" and refreshments, followed by an arts and crafts activity. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

## MOVEMENT

The Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, located at 3225 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, is hosting an **Adult Health and Fitness** event on Saturday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants will complete certain body conditioning, endurance training, and/or resistance training using high-intensity workouts. Teens, adults, and seniors are invited to join. For more information, call (718) 543-8672.

# Holi Celebrated at the Oval

By SÍLE MOLONEY

There were plenty of smiles, squeals, and laughs when the Hindu Festival of Colors or “Holi” was celebrated by residents in the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on Saturday, March 15. A major festival, Holi celebrates the eternal and divine love of the deities, Radha and Krishna.

The event incorporated traditional music, costumes, a dance performance, henna painting, and resources. There was tabling by Norwood Community Library, Jerome Gun Hill Business Improvement District (BID), Destination Tomorrow, the Bronx’s designated LGBTQIA+ resource center, SAPNA NYC, a nonprofit which, according to its website, serves low-income South Asian immigrant women and families, as well as the NYPD’s DESI Society, representing the Southeast Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities.

Ramdat Singh, who happens to be president of the Bronx-based Unity Democratic Club, kicked off proceedings explaining the story behind the festival. Welcoming the arrival of spring, Singh said in part, “We’re here today to celebrate this holiday that’s full of color, full of life, full of happiness, and just be happy with music, and food, and warmth.”

As the crowd grew larger, and the music and dance reached a crescendo, attendees were later offered bags of brightly colored powder which they were encouraged to use to randomly paint on other people’s faces. Amid a joyful atmosphere, reminiscent of a snowball fight, the residual powder trails seen flying through the air appeared to unleash a streak of wildness in everyone but it was all in good fun.



**RESIDENTS CELEBRATE THE** Hindu “color” festival of Holi in the Williamsbridge Oval in Norwood on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

## CRIME FILE - CONTINUED

BY SÍLE MOLONEY



*(continued from page 8)*

the men was seen holding his head in pain and had a bloodied face. Another who appeared to be possibly under the influence of alcohol appeared to be telling police that he and the victim were related, saying something like, “He’s my cousin.”

However, the victim appeared to deny this and was heard saying, “I don’t speak Spanish.” Pursuant to an ongoing investigation, Rolando Lopez, 23, of Brooklyn was arrested. He was charged with assault in the third degree. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.



### Kingsbridge: Older Woman Pushed onto Platform

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying and locating the person seen in the accompanying photo above who they said is wanted in connection with an assault that occurred in Kingsbridge. Police said that on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at around 8.15 a.m. at the West 231 Street and Broadway subway station, a male assailant approached a 63-year-old woman as she was exiting a northbound 1 train and pushed her. They said this caused her to fall onto the platform and sustain multiple injuries to her face, wrist, and ribs. They said she was treated on scene, and the suspect fled on the moving northbound 1 train.



Photo by Síle Moloney

**A MAN IS** seen holding his face at Kingsbridge Road subway station while talking to police after he was assaulted on Monday, March 17, 2025.

### Three Sought for Bronx Robbery & Assault Pattern

The NYPD is asking for the public’s help identifying and locating the people seen in the accompanying screenshot at right who they say are wanted in connection to a robbery pattern identified across Morris Heights and Fordham Heights in February. Police said the first incident occurred Saturday, Feb 22, at around 00.10 a.m. in front of 70 West Burnside Avenue in Morris Heights, when a 52-year-old male victim was approached by three people who slashed the victim across the face with a cutting instrument and demanded money.

They said the group then fled the location on foot to parts unknown, the victim sustained a laceration to the face and was removed by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition, and no belongings were taken. Police said a second incident took place Saturday, Feb. 22, at around 1 a.m. in the vicinity of Creston Avenue and East 182nd Street in Fordham Heights.

They said a 40-year-old male victim was, again, approached by a group of three people who slashed the victim across the face with a cutting instrument and attempted to steal his wallet. They said the group then fled the loca-

tion on foot to parts unknown, the victim sustained a laceration to the face and was removed by EMS to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition.



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.

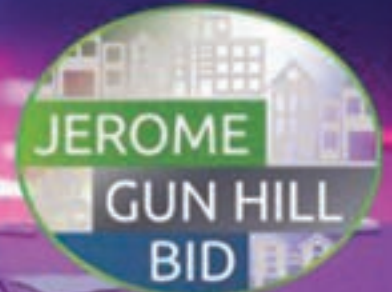
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# BP: Firefighters Need Mental Health Counseling

By SÍLE MOLONEY

Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Nancy Carbone, executive director of Friends of Firefighters, “an organization that provides counseling to New York’s Bravest,” recently wrote an op-ed in *The Bronx Times* in which they talked about a critical need for available mental health counseling for NYC firefighters.

“We have all seen the recent devastation of deadly fire across our city and nation,” they wrote. “A recent fire in the Bronx ravaged the homes of more than 250 families, just as wildfires in Los Angeles killed more than two dozen people, destroyed thousands of homes, and uprooted thousands of families. Both happened around the two-year anniversary of another tragedy, the Twin Parks fire in The Bronx, that killed 17 residents.”

Gibson and Carbone said the events brought on a tsunami of emotions for the City’s firefighters as they reflected upon and recalled the sights of devastation. “When a fire burns, our firefighters come calling, putting their lives on the line to save our neighbors,” they wrote. “But sometimes it is their own lives that may later need saving from... wounds not visible to the naked eye.”

They went on to talk about how the Sept. 11th attacks dramatically displayed the need for counseling and mental health support for the City’s firefighters. “The city buried 343 firefighters who gave their lives that day, and the more than 350 firefighters (and counting) who have subsequently died from 9/11-related illnesses over the last 24 years,” they said.

Gibson and Carbone said they have each witnessed firsthand the growing calls for help from both active and retired members of the FDNY and their families, and added that over the years, the same people have been on the frontlines of countless devastating fires.

“But we have also seen a positive shift in firefighter culture,” they wrote. “What was once considered taboo, seeking help, has now become more accepted and normalized. This transformation is a remarkable change from 15-25 years ago when asking for help could have resulted in negative consequences.”

However, the two said such normalization comes with a stark reality; the number of firefighters seeking mental health support is outpacing available services. “The number of counseling sessions conducted by Friends of



Photo by David Greene

**FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO** a five-alarm fire near Jerome Avenue and West Burnside Avenue in Morris Heights on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Firefighters increased by more than 300% between 2018 and 2023,” they said. “Last year, nearly 4,500 counseling sessions were conducted, on par with 2023’s record year.”

They added, “We hear repeatedly from our firefighters that counseling saved their lives, including one retired firefighter who recently shared that counseling ‘provides a source of support and comfort whenever we need it’ and that they ‘wouldn’t know where they’d be today without it.’”

However, they wrote that as mental health walls come down, there is now a waitlist of more than 60 firefighters waiting for counseling services, and a waitlist in this realm is dangerous. “When firefighters (or any individuals for that matter) need help, they need it now, especially since firefighters are more likely to die from suicide versus in the line of duty,” Gibson and Carbone said.

They said that according to a recent report by the U.S. Fire Administration, firefighters develop PTSD at a similar level to service members returning from combat. In fact, they said the suicide rate among firefighters is about 40% higher than the general population. They said the number of firefighter suicides is estimated to be at least 100 per year.

Gibson and Carbone went on to say

that the FDNY’s counseling services unit, which provides mental health evaluations, direct treatment, and referrals for all employees, refers some firefighters to trusted organizations like Friends of Firefighters because of the overwhelming demand for support services.

They said other studies reveal that around 20% of firefighters and paramedics meet the criteria for PTSD at some point during their career, more than three times the rate of the general population.

## Solutions?

Gibson and Carbone said the City Council made a significant impact last fiscal year by providing record discretionary funding, which they said has been crucial in reducing the waitlist for services. Now, they are asking the council to increase that funding again in the upcoming fiscal year (FY 26), to better support the FDNY firefighters and emergency personnel.

Additionally, with half of the State’s population living in the downstate region of Long Island, Westchester, and New York City, they said the State must double efforts to support the mental health of NYC firefighters. “Some of these firefighters were deployed out west to assist their colleagues in Los Angeles,” they said. “We’ve seen the mental health initiatives Gov. Hochul pro-

posed as part of her budget, and those efforts should be expanded to provide more mental health resources specifically for our NYC firefighters.”

Lastly, Gibson and Carbone called on Congress to also support their efforts, citing landmark legislation that arose in the aftermath of certain tragedies like the James Zadroga Act and the 9/11 WTC Health Program. They said as the 25th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, emotions are sure to weigh heavily on firefighters.

*Norwood News* reached out to the FDNY, the Mayor’s Office, and the City Council for comment on the op-ed. Fire Commissioner Robert Tucker, said, “Every day, our firefighters do incredible work in highly stressful situations. Their mental health is critically important to the Adams administration, which is why the FDNY’s Counseling Service Unit provides support through assessment, treatment planning, treatment referral and follow-up.”

He added, “CSU has a robust peer support program, and we welcome any enhancements to ensure our firefighters get the help they need.” On the broader topic of mental health, a representative for Mayor Eric Adams said that coinciding with Mental Health Week, which began March 17, Adams joined NYC Health + Hospitals to celebrate one year of a three-year plan: “Behavioral Health Blueprint: Turning Crisis into Opportunity.”

He said there, the mayor welcomed news of another \$33 million to support behavioral health from New York State’s Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence program, adding to the \$41 million the program contributed last year.

The representative said that on March 18, the mayor marked the opening of the City’s 16th school-based mental health clinic, providing in-person support to more than 6,000 New York City Public Schools students across The Bronx and Central Brooklyn. We had not received feedback from the City Council as of press date.

In conclusion, Gibson and Carbone said, “When the tones go off at the firehouse, firefighters drop everything to respond to the emergency. They run into danger at significant risk to extinguish the flames and save lives. Sometimes, it is their own flames that need extinguishing. Together, we can help these heroes by responding to their needs. It is our responsibility to keep our first responders safe, as they do for us.”



## Letters To The Editor

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

### CUNY Laureates

I just saw an interesting documentary on CUNY-TV's "CUNY Laureates" on print reporter Sylvan Fox. He used to write for The New York World-Telegram way back in the 1950s and 1960s.

Finding his story quite interesting, I decided to do a brief synopsis of his background and life. He was a musical prodigy, who loved playing the piano. He went to Juilliard and learned to read sheet music. Eventually, he met his wife during his studies and tried to pursue his original vocational dream.

But, as fate would have it, he went on to become a newspaper reporter. Because his first job in the business was to re-write, as a news scoop, what other reporters told him over the phone in brief, he was nicknamed "The Re-Write Man."

This has further inspired me, to keep trying to pursue an interest in at least local reporting in both print and TV, such as my gigs at The West View News and at BronxNet Television. Watch this show; I hope it will inspire others as well!

**Bryan Gerard Briggs  
Wakefield**

### Need Congressman Torres' Help

Ms. Silé Moloney, as the great editor of the *Norwood News*, has done a tremendous job in investigating all types of corruption and news reporting in our beloved Bronx. That professionalism has not been displayed by some government agencies in return.

Ms. Moloney has requested NYC Law Department numerous times if expelled former District 12 City Councilman Andy King paid his \$15,000 fine. She has not received a response in over two years from that agency. NYC Mayor Eric Adams, are you reading this?

She has also asked the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York if former convicted NYS Sen. Efrain Gonzalez (S.D. 33), former District 12 City Councilman Larry Seabrook, and former Bronx-born COBA (Correction Officers'

Benevolent Association) President Norman Seabrook have paid their fines after being released from federal prison.

After two years, she has not received a reply from either of them. The U.S. Parole Commission used to collect such fines, but that agency was disbanded. Their work was shifted over to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons but as we all know, they have a severe staffing shortage so is anyone picking up the Parole Commission's work?

We need Congressman Ritchie Torres to assist Ms. Moloney in this case. It would be great if AOC would team up with the Congressman to tackle this problem!

**Richard Marias,  
Norwood**

*Editor's Note: Mr. Marias first raised this issue in March 2023 when he asked to know the status of pensions/benefits, fines paid, and sentences served in respect of Gonzalez, King, Larry Seabrook, and Norman Seabrook. To date, Norwood News has received feedback from some agencies at various intervals. The following is a recap of where we stand to date.*

*As reported in our Aug. 10, 2023, print edition, we initially asked the Unified Court System (UCS) administration team for a response. A representative of the UCS said, "Once a case is adjudicated, the court is not involved with further notifications. You would have to ask either [NYS] Parole [Board] or the convicting DA if the sentence was carried out."*

*He continued, "As to pensions, the OSC - State Comptroller administers them, and would know if they were eligible to collect them." Also in August 2023, we reached out to both the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and to the Office of the Bronx District Attorney as we didn't know in which courts the criminal cases had been heard. A representative for the latter replied, saying the cases were not handled by the Bronx DA's office.*

*We also reached out to the City Council Ethics/Investigations committee to ask if King's fines were paid. We continued to follow up with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York for the others, as we understood this court's prosecution team handled the referenced cases.*

*We had earlier reached out to NYS*

*Parole Board on the status of sentences served, and to the State Comptroller's office on the status of pensions and social security benefits.*

*On Sept. 26, 2023, NYS Patrol Board advised they had no record of the individuals being in custody at NYC DOC. We were referred to the "jurisdictions/governing bodies/courts" in which the referenced individuals were charged.*

*In our Sept 28, 2023, print edition, we advised that we followed up again with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the OSC State Comptroller's office, and the New York City Council Ethics/Investigations committee for feedback on the various points raised. OSC and the City Council said they were investigating.*

*On Oct. 2, 2023, through a verbal conversation with a source, in respect of the fine imposed on King, we were made aware on an unofficial basis that a decision was reportedly reached between the parties during the appeals process (in June 2022) not to enforce the fine since the councilman's failure to pay the fine resulted in his expulsion from the council.*

*However, this point was to be checked with the City's Law department for accuracy. We duly reached out to the City's law department at the time but never received any answer despite numerous follow-up requests.*

*On Nov. 20, 2023, regarding the status of pensions for Norman Seabrook, Larry Seabrook, and Andy King, the NYS Comptroller's Office said these three were not in New York State's pension system (NYSLRS), and referred us to the NYC Comptroller's office, with whom we are following up.*

*Regarding Efrain Gonzalez, the NYS Comptroller's Office said he was a retiree of NYSLRS, and his date of retirement was May 14, 2009. They said his gross monthly pension is \$3,239.19 and added that a pension forfeiture requires the District Attorney to commence a separate court action [to have it forfeited].*

*We were referred to the Bronx DA's office to check if such a forfeiture court action had been taken in respect of Gonzalez. We were informed that if there is no forfeiture action, the State has to continue to pay the benefits. We have since followed*

*up with the Bronx District Attorney's Office to ask if there has been a forfeiture action and will share any updates we receive.*

*In our print edition dated Nov. 23, 2023, we shared that we were continuing to follow up with our sources. In our print edition dated Dec. 21, 2023, we shared that we were awaiting feedback from the Southern District of New York.*

*In our March 21, 2024, print edition, we shared that the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York referred us to the Federal Bureau of Prisons database for more information on the release dates of those sentenced to prison time. According to the database, Larry Seabrook is not in custody as of July 14, 2017, Norman Seabrook is not in custody as of March 6, 2023, and Efrain Gonzalez is not in custody as of Aug. 3, 2016.*

*The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York also referred us to "the judgments of conviction on the public dockets, and the sentencing transcripts on the public dockets (which will have the surrender dates)." We were also referred to public dockets regarding "the potential imposition of a fine," though we were informed that it may be likely no public record exists of whether any such fine was paid.*

*We were further informed, "Any action taken against those assets should be reflected on the public dockets. Otherwise, will decline to comment." There is a multitude of documents in the referenced public dockets database which are not easily searchable for a variety of reasons. However, we will continue to research the topic when we have some time and will share any further updates we find.*

*Meanwhile, regarding King, who we understand did not serve time, we have continued to follow up with the City's Law department for an update on the status of his fine.*

*Please send all letters to the editor, along with supporting hyperlinked sources, to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), or by mail to Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, by the Friday before each publication day. Letter writers should aim to write no more than 300 words on local issues or in response to published articles.*

## Second Ceiling Collapse reported on Dekalb Ave

(continued from page 6)

medical attention at the scene.

The super went on to say that he visited the resident's apartment on the day the FDNY were called and added, "No ceiling; no nothing. He [the resident] said to me the kitchen cabinet fell on him. He doesn't know what he's saying, you know?" The super said he asked the resident which cabinet fell on him and the resident didn't answer. The super said there were cabinets in the apartment, but it didn't look like anything had fallen [unless they had already been picked back up before he got there].

Asked why EMS transported the man to hospital if there was no ceiling collapse and no fallen cabinets, the su-

per replied, "He had one side of his leg all black, all... like sick in his leg from a long time ago." The super alleged that a day before EMS arrived at the building, the resident had told him, "I'm sick. They want to cut my leg." The super said he understood by this the resident was referring to his doctor.

*Norwood News* reached out to both DOB and NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD) to ask about this earlier incident. We were informed that neither agency had been notified of it.

A HPD spokesperson said, "HPD takes situations like this extremely seriously. We urge tenants to report hazardous maintenance issues to 311." He

said this was to have inspectors assess the building's conditions and issue violations, where necessary.

According to HPD's records as of March 19, there are 13 open violations in place for this property, some referring to defective surfaces, tiles, floors and some referring to carbon monoxide, among others. There were no open complaints but several relating to a lack of heat, roaches, mice and needed repairs were closed.

According to City records, the building appears to be owned by Zotpri LLC, with an address in White Plains, NY.

*\*Silé Moloney contributed to this story.*



Photo by David Greene  
**FDNY RESPONDED TO** a reported ceiling collapse at 3469 Dekalb Avenue in Norwood on Feb. 7, 2025, pictured Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025, though the super of the building disputes the collapse.



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## Public and Community Meetings

The 52<sup>nd</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL meeting will take place on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The meeting ID is 84618488357 and the passcode is 4R4Uiu. 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, March 25, at 6.30 p.m. at KIPP Elementary School, 2720 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468. Contact [KCabreraCarrera@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:KCabreraCarrera@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 (CB8) full board (hybrid) meeting will be held in April (date tbc). 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).



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# STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(continued from page 1)

ciation, of which Alcántara Rubiera was a member, provided a guard of honor. Some were seen in tears, consoling each other. Another large clergy group was also present.

The victim's parents, aunt, and other family members were seated in front of her semi-open, white casket in which she was laid out, appearing peaceful, and dressed in a blue, chiffon-style dress. Members of *Las Hermanas de Apoyo* (The Support Sisters) were also in attendance. The group exists to support women affected by domestic violence.

During the service, it was announced that a new organization called "P.A.R.A." (meaning "STOP"), which will incorporate the victim's name, Pamela, is to be launched in her memory in efforts to stop domestic violence.

As reported, the body of 26-year-old Alcántara Rubiera of 2200 Morris Avenue in Fordham Heights was found inside a red suitcase on a highway near Yonkers on Thursday, March 6, after she was reported missing days earlier.

Her partner, Junior Perez Diaz, 46, with whom she had shared her apartment, has since been arrested and charged in connection with her death. The cause was homicidal asphyxiation, according to evidence presented in court by the Bronx District Attorney's office on Saturday, March 8.

At a press conference held before her

body was discovered, her mother had said in Spanish, "I don't know if it was because he was desperate to see that she [Alcántara Rubiera] was actually moving out. The red suitcase is not there. It's a big red suitcase. So, I start thinking my God, yes, if he did something to her... my God!"

During Perez Diaz's arraignment at Bronx Criminal Court on March 8, prosecutors spoke of how Alcántara Rubiera had indeed planned to leave her abuser, a step which domestic violence experts say frequently triggers a violent reaction from abusers. The court also heard that Perez Diaz had been "secretly recording" the victim.

A bail request by his defense attorney was denied by presiding Judge C. Ortner due to a flight risk, based on Perez Diaz's "prior history," a prior failure to appear in court, and the severity of the allegations in the context of the murder case. Based on the evidence, it was the position of one of the parties in court (who was not facing the media) that Perez Diaz "puts his own self-interests above those of society's."

The court heard that Alcántara Rubiera's body had been found with bruising to the neck, arm, and head. The prosecution said Perez Diaz was the only person to enter and exit the couple's apartment after her last sighting, alive.

Prosecutors outlined how neighbors tried to contact her after her disappear-



Photo by Síle Moloney

**MEMBERS OF LAS HERMANAS de Apoyo** (The Support Sisters) attend the wake of Pamela Alcántara Rubiera at New Life Outreach International Church, 2757 Morris Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Monday, March 17, 2025. The group exists to support women affected by domestic violence.

ance but couldn't get inside her apartment. The prosecution alleged Perez Diaz "lied" to neighbors about her disappearance and allegedly gave false information about his girlfriend's whereabouts, as well as those of the red suitcase.

Perez Diaz, who has dark hair and a medium build, appeared in court dressed in blue jeans, white sneakers, a black sweatshirt with red lettering on the front, a black jacket, and some facial hair / stubble.

His head was neither lowered nor raised, he did not *appear* to be emotional and he maintained a neutral expression in court. His hands were cuffed behind his back. His attorney requested an order of protective custody for his client while remanded, along with medical attention.

Perez Diaz was charged March 7 with second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter, and second-degree kidnapping. He is presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law.

According to the NYPD, the agency responds to around 230,000 domestic incidents annually, or nearly 600 calls a day. "Domestic violence prevention police officers face unpredictable, potentially volatile situations and therefore, are highly trained to help ensure victims' safety as well as their own," they said.

Police said more than 400 NYPD domestic violence prevention officers, investigators and supervisors assist victims of domestic violence citywide. They said domestic violence officers visit the homes of victims, make referrals to court, provide counseling services and shelter alternatives, facilitate obtaining orders of protection, and help in personal safety planning.

They said the department is committed to serving all communities in the City of New York, especially those vulnerable to victimization. They said victims of domestic violence, stalking, and other related crimes who have entered the United States on a temporary basis may be eligible for U nonimmigrant status.

In addition to enforcing the laws and working to ensure victims' safety, the NYPD said their Domestic Violence Unit performs domestic violence awareness outreach. Each local precinct and public service area has a domestic violence office. The NYPD has prepared three separate brochures in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic, about domestic violence and the strategies that can help combat or prevent it. Contact your local precinct for more information.

The Bronx District Attorney's domestic violence unit can be reached on (718) 838 6688. The nonprofit, Freedom Youth NYC, has long been working to help survivors of both domestic violence and human trafficking in The Bronx. Email [Moniqueriley@freedomyouth-familyjusticecenter.org](mailto:Moniqueriley@freedomyouth-familyjusticecenter.org) or call (929) 612-3667 for more information.

Speaking outside the church on the day of the wake, a representative for the family thanked the community for all their support as they continue to grieve. Alcántara Rubiera's aunt also thanked all those who supported the family and helped in the search for her niece who she described broadly in Spanish as a sweet person, very mature, even as a child, and a person of faith. "We're all going to remember her now," she said. "We want everyone to remember her, as an example, especially women. Don't let nobody hurt you."



Photo by Síle Moloney

**AN AUNT OF** Pamela Alcántara Rubiera speaks to reporters outside New Life Outreach International Church, 2757 Morris Avenue in Kingsbridge Heights on Monday, March 17, 2025, ahead of her wake.

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