

LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 55, No. 2

Summer 2021

Monikers have meaning. A slogan or nickname is intended to epitomize the chief quality or characteristic of a person or a group. For members of the NYPD, it's "the Finest"; the Fire Department is "the Bravest" and the Sanitation Department, "the Strongest". For Local 237 members, with titles from A to Z, it's a lot more complicated to identify one nickname that encompasses all of the jobs we do. So, what is the common thread that applies to our members — whose daily work makes a significant difference in the lives of all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable — and who rose to new heights as essential workers throughout the pandemic? What one word would best describes them all? How about **"The Most Reliable"**? New Yorkers count on us and we deliver. And through our editions of Newsline, we have featured and will continue to feature Local 237 members whose tireless work underscores the fact that yes, we need "the Finest", "the Bravest" and "the Strongest" and we certainly need the "Most Reliable" too.

Peace Officers of the Department of Homeless Services

DHS Police 2021 Medal Day May 12, 2021

More than one half million people are homeless in America. 35% are unsheltered. The more than 80,000 homeless people in New York City — 4,000 of whom sleep on the street and in the subways — accounts for 20% of the nation's entire homeless population. The pandemic hit everyone hard, especially homeless people, for whom the shelter system made enforcement of Covid-related restrictions and precautions virtually impossible to implement and enforce. The City sought to devise a way to limit the risks by transferring 8,000 homeless people from shelters into hotels, which was greeted with tremendous community opposition. Most recently, with Covid-19 infection rates at a record low, Governor Cuomo lifted most remaining restrictions prompting the DeBlasio Administration to prepare to move those homeless back into the shelters. Our members of the Department of Homeless Services' Police Officers really have their work cut out for them! Taking on this new challenge demonstrates that among their many attributes, the "Reliable" moniker surely fits. They have a tough job that deals with a very vulnerable clientele, the bureaucracy, and the public who just want the problem to go away. It has been 5 years since their efforts were publicly recognized. In May, those DHS Police Officers, who gave above and beyond the call of duty, were honored at an award ceremony. Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** was on hand to congratulate them. He said at the time: "These DHS Officers are heroes. No, they may not run into a burning building every day, or apprehend a killer every day or even protect us from rats and other vermin every day, but their work does entail all of these essential acts at any time, and for this, we must be grateful." ■



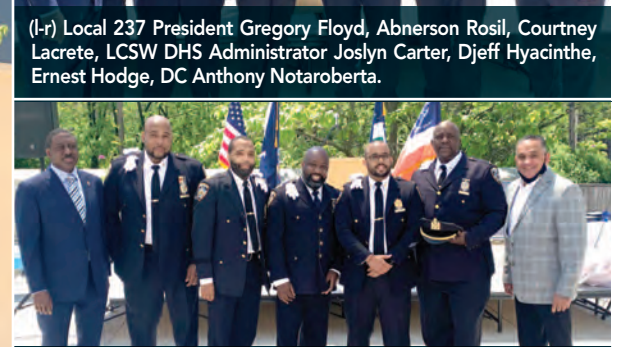
(l-r) Local 237's Martha Bodhnarain and Charlie Cotto, Officer Malik Forbes, Officer Luis Rivera II, Officer Martine Outlaw, Det Miriam Torres, Lt Samantha Cruz, Officer Deshawn Alexander, Officer Jason Martinez, Local 237's Larry Bosley and President Gregory Floyd.



(l-r) Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, Abner Rosil, Courtney Lacrete, LCSW DHS Administrator Joslyn Carter, Djeff Hyacinthe, Ernest Hodge, DC Anthony Notaroberta.



Gregory Floyd addresses the audience.



(l-r) Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, Dep. Inspector Helmut Darbouze, Capt. Gregory Adams, Capt. Shundell Henry, Capt. Miguel Martinez, Deputy Inspector David Eddie and Local 237's Charlie Cotto.

Excellent Duty Awards • Meritorious Duty Award • Commendation Awards • Unit Citation Award

SEE PAGE 3 for a listing of those who were honored at the ceremony.

Officer of the Year • Sergeant of the Year • Lieutenant of the Year • Captain of the Year • Milestone Years of Service Awards

"I had the honor to present some awards to some of our DHS Peace Officers, Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains at the DHS Police Medal Day held on May 12th. When I think of the DHS Police Department, I cannot think of a more resilient, compassionate and honorable group of individuals. DHS Police Officers are faced with daily high risk situations and adversities, and despite all of this, they give it their best every single day. DHS Peace Officers help keep homeless clients, staff, stakeholders, and our communities safe, and they do it with pride and honor. I salute them all!"



— **David Eddie,**
Deputy Inspector



Peace officers who work at Charles Gay facility. David Eddie is the Borough commander.

Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

212-924-2000
216 West 14th Street
New York, NY 10011-7296

LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

CITYWIDE, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

LAW ENFORCEMENT, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Derek Jackson, Director

HOUSING, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Carl Giles, Housing Director

SPECIAL PROJECTS, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Debbie Coleman, Esq., Special Projects Director

LONG ISLAND
631-851-9800
100 West Main Street, Babylon,
New York 11702
Benedict Carenza, Director
Long Island Welfare Fund:
For information on the various
funds call 800-962-1145

RETIREE, 8th Fl.
212-807-0555
Provides a variety of pre- and post-
retirement services, including
pension and health insurance
counseling to members. (Pension
counseling by appointment, Thurs-
days only). General retirement
counseling and retirement plan-
ning series during spring and fall.
Julie Kobi & Susan Milisits,
Co-Directors

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS (Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director
Susan McQuade, Coordinator

MEMBERS HEALTH, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Susan McQuade, Director
smcquade@local237.org

MEMBERSHIP, 3rd Fl.
212-924-2000
Jean Stokes, Director
Provides membership services and
records, including address changes.

WELFARE FUND, 3rd Fl.
212-924-7220
The Fund administers the eligibility,
enrollment, disability, optical and
death benefits directly by the Fund's
in-house staff, as well as prescription
and dental programs indirectly.
Mitchell Goldberg, Director
Jean Stokes, Director of Collections

SOCIAL SERVICES, 3rd Fl.
212-924-7220 ext.7562
The Local 237 Social Services Depart-
ment features free social work
services that are available to all
members. Social workers connect
people to much needed assistance
and resources. The union knows that
its members have tough jobs and
that when encountering tough per-
sonal challenges, learning about pos-
sible solutions to those challenges
would make things that much easier.
Contact us to learn about the many
service we can provide.
Ayana Ali, Director

LEGAL SERVICES, 4th Fl.
212-924-1220
Lawyers advise and represent
members on covered personal
legal problems, including do-
mestic relations (family court pro-
ceedings, divorce and separation),
purchase and sale of a primary re-
sidence, wills, adoptions, credit and
consumer problems, tenant rights
and bankruptcies.
Mary Sheridan, Esq., Director
Kenneth Perry, Esq., Deputy Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000
Gregory Floyd, President
Ruben Torres,
Vice President
Donald Arnold,
Secretary-Treasurer

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director and
Chief Negotiator

**POLITICAL ACTION &
LEGISLATION**, 5th Fl.
646-638-8501
Local 237 protects members'
rights by helping to sponsor
legislation that is important
to members, and by communicat-
ing with and supporting elected
officials serving our best interests.
Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

**GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY
PROBLEMS**, 7th Fl.
212-924-2000

For grievances and job related
problems, first contact your
shop steward and/or grievance
representative. If they can't
resolve the issue, contact your
business agent.
Mal Patterson, Director of
Grievances and Hearings
Diana Doss, Esq.
Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSN

7th Fl., 212-675-0519
Saul Fishman, President
Aldona Vaiciunas,
Office Administrator and
Grievance Coordinator
Abbott Gorin, Esq.,
Business Representative
CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl.
646-638-8501
Phyllis S. Shafran, Director
Local 237 Newsline and
Retiree News & Views, Editor
Website: www.local237.org

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
8th Fl.
212-807-0550
Provides a variety of training
and educational advancement
opportunities for members.
Bertha Aiken, Director

USEFUL NUMBERS FOR PRE-RETIREEES

NYCERS (New York City Employees Retirement System)

By Mail:
335 Adams St., Suite 2300,
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3751

In Person:
340 Jay Street, Mezzanine,
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Gen'l Information:
347-643-3000

Outside NYC toll-free:
877-6NYCERS

NYCERS Internet
www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

**NYC Department of
Education Retirement
System**
65 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-935-5400

**Social Security
Administration**
800-772-1213

**NY State and Local
Retirement Systems**
518-474-7736



By Gregory Floyd

President, Teamsters Local 237 and Vice President-at-Large on
the General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

This year's New York City Primary was different from ever before. It was held in June — not in September, which has been the case forever. For previous elections, there was never early, in-person voting — but now there was. And there was rank choice voting, which enabled a voter to make more than one selection in their order of preference. Many viewed these voting innovations as an experiment intended to expand the number of voters and encourage a bigger and more diversified reservoir of candidates from which to choose.

But did this “experiment” work? Did it yield the results intended?

Unless a candidate clearly won by over 50%, the answers may not be known for weeks. But one thing is known for sure: Overall, the number of voters throughout the City did not dramatically increase. Why? With so many examples of voter suppression and disenfranchisement seen in other states, these measures in New York were supposed to do the opposite. They were supposed to motivate more people to vote. They were supposed to make it easier to vote. They were supposed to create a broader base of candidates — more appealing, newer, “woke” candidates to choose from — who were not beholden to political party machines and big money interests. So, what happened?

Perhaps the answer lies in the root problem. It's not just government-inflicted voter suppression, it's self-inflicted voter suppression... also called voter apathy. Something stuck in my mind as I exited my voting place on Election Day. I heard a campaign worker, who had been handing out literature for his candidate on the street corner, saying to people exiting the poll site wearing a sticker that read: I Voted! “Thank you so much for voting.” Now, maybe this person was just trying to be pleasant or magnanimous, but I couldn't help but think, are “thanks” really appropriate? Throughout history, around the globe, voting has been viewed as a sacred, much fought-for privilege. Can we ever forget the newspaper images of long-denied voters, among them, first-time women voters in several Middle Eastern countries known for voter suppression, proudly displaying their ink-stained forefinger indicating that they had voted. Some even paid the price for such a display, with the chopping off of that finger by government opposition forces. Yet, in America, where voting — albeit imperfect — is considered a right and not a privilege, we have to find ways to persuade people to go to the polls. In New York, our new attempts at increasing voter turnout also led to new voter excuses. “I didn't know about the June Primary.” “I don't understand that new rank choice system.” “I tried to vote early but it wasn't my usual polling place, so I gave up.” For others, the excuse was simply, “It was raining.” It troubles me to think we need more voting enticements as much as we need better, more equitable voting laws. Consider the strategy used in

A message from the President

NYC's Voting “Experiment” a remedy a mistake or none of the above?

Australia, where voting is compulsory and failure to do so results in a monetary penalty, but where voter turnout is typically over 90%! Here, this solution would probably result in protests and lawsuits against “forced voting”. So, the question remains: How do we elect the leaders we really want? How can we achieve a truly representative government that is not just trendy and, although seemingly attempting to be more inclusive, focuses on issues and manipulates the voting process that games the system and winds up excluding me? New York City's recent “experiment” saw more than 300 candidates vie for the City Council and a huge number of candidates bidding for top of the ticket spots. With millions of dollars spent, thousands of campaign workers and volunteers, huge labor support and a pandemic year of candidates braving it to beg for votes — it's mind boggling to think how a candidate can get only 2,000 votes. No voting innovation or voter rights law can adequately get people to the polls. Something more is needed. We hear and read so much about our country being like no other. America's democracy, despite its flaws, inequalities, and injustices, basically stands for great principles for the greater good. This country's Founding Fathers set up the concept in the opening line of our Constitution with the words “We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union”, yet nowhere in that document is the notion that while voting may be considered our right, it is also our obligation. It's our duty — school children should be taught it, young adults as they are filling out paperwork for a driver's license should be given voter forms as well and for other segments of our population, like our union brothers and sisters, the message that needs to be hammered home is: When you vote, you win. ■



**You're not
in Newsline?
Why not?**

**YOU ARE
NEWSWORTHY!**

We want to hear from you!
Send us your photos, stories and ideas.
We're interested in you: On the job,
special accomplishments, family news, etc.

**Email pshafran@local237.org or call
Phyllis Shafran at 646-638-8501**

Here are those who were honored at the 2021 DHS Police Medal Day Ceremony and those who continue to personify "The Most Reliable".

EXCELLENT DUTY AWARDED FOR:

This year's honorees for the excellent duty category have collectively saved dozens of lives with overdose reversals, distributed PPE's paid for out of pocket to all of DHS police at the height of the pandemic, stopped a significant quantity of drugs from making it into shelters and have spent countless hours deescalating tense situations.

Alexander Macleod, PO	James Didonato, PO	Malenie Mathieson, PO
Amos Woods, PO	James Irizarry, PO	Martine Outlaw, PO
Andrene Reid, PO	Johan Cordero, PO	Mary Miller, PO
Catherine Negron, PO	Jose Bustelo, Sgt.	Raven Bailey, PO
Cecil Payne, PO	Jose Vasquez, Sgt.	Regina Griffin, PO
David Santos, Sgt.	Juvonne Gray, PO	Robert Garrison, PO
Desmond Barton, PO	Karim Elsergany, PO	Roy Amiker, PO
Donald Peart, PO	Kashena Stukes, Sgt.	Samantha Cruz, Lt.
Evelton Stroman, PO	Ken Qiao, PO	Shaday Battle, PO
Freddie Rodriguez, PO	Lashell Lipscomp, PO	Tabitha Acaba, PO
Gleend Jarrin, Sgt.	Lewis Holton, PO	Terrell Caines, PO
Ian Bourne, PO	Luis Rivera, PO	Tracy Finnerty, Sgt.

UNIT CITATION AWARDED FOR:

Outstanding performance by a unit or site for achieving the Agency's goals and objectives or other meritorious accomplishments during the course of a year.

This year's unit citation is awarded to **DHS Police Training Academy**. The staff at the training academy have been instrumental in the successful transition of the academy from NYPD trainers to DHS Police staff. With their dedication and hard work, they were able to work hand in hand with DACS to get over 300 DHS Police Officers recertified in the required annual training which focuses on the use of defensive tools. This was accomplished in a two-month time period, which is outstanding. Due to the unit's commitment and willingness to work extended hours, the Training Academy has created a curriculum and rolled out over a dozen courses which have created an exciting learning environment for the division staff. The unit works diligently to continue to develop new curriculum to remediate issues/challenges faced by DHSPD staff, helping move the division forward.

CAPTAIN, LIEUTENANT, SERGEANT AND OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The staff being recognized have been nominated by their peers, supervisors and subordinates for the exceptional work they have done and their tremendous impact on the department.

Officer of the Year	Lieutenant of the Year
Vantina Trumble from PATH	Robert Diaz from 30th Street
Sergeant of the Year	Captain of the Year
Nadia Disalvo from 30th Street	Miguel Martinez, Bronx Borough Commander

Local 237 NEWSLINE

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Executive Board

Gregory Floyd President	Ruben Torres Vice President	Donald Arnold Secretary-Treasurer	Jeanette Taveras Recording Secretary
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Phyllis S. Shafran
Editor

Special thanks in the preparation of Newsline to:
Gisela (GiGi) Reyes, Executive Administrative Assistant

IF YOU MOVE – Please send your change of address in writing to **Membership** to insure that you continue receiving your newspaper.



(L-R) DHS Dep. Commissioner Anthony Notaroberta, Dep. Insp. David Eddie, Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, Dep. Insp. Helmut Darbouze, Capt. Gregory Adams, Capt. Shundell Henry, Capt. Miguel Martinez, Lt. Natasha Dunmeyer, DHS Asst. Commissioner of Administration Velaunche Priester, DHS Chief Operating Officer James Russo, Charlie Cotto.

MERITORIOUS DUTY AWARDED FOR:

Personal danger in the intelligent performance of duty, or a highly credible unusual accomplishment.

This year's honoree for Meritorious Duty is **Steven Mann**. Detective Mann has demonstrated dedication, integrity, leadership and exemplary performance for over 5 years. Last year, he assisted on 17 arrests, which resulted in found narcotics, weapons and illegal contraband. While on patrol, Detective Mann was called to respond to a disturbance in the dorm area of 30th Street and, in the course of investigation, uncovered 130 decks of heroin valued at \$1300. He is praised for his exceptional work.

COMMENDATION AWARDED FOR:

An act of bravery intelligently performed involving personal risk to life.

The awardees for this Commendation are **Abnerson Rosil**, **Courtney Lacrete** and **Djeff Hyacinthe**. These officers have a reputation for being respectful, and compassionate to homeless clients. These officers went above and beyond the call of duty when, on December 13, 2019, they responded to a call at the roof of 200 Tillary, in which they saved the life of a suicidal client by handcuffing themselves to the client, who was ready to jump off the roof. They called 911 and EMS responded to care for the client. Their act of bravery is a great representation of the DHS Police mission.

MILESTONE YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

20 YEARS

Edward Caver, Sgt.
Glorione Murray, PO
Michael Grant, PO

15 YEARS

Ebony Chance, Sgt.
Jorge Manon, Sgt.
Kirk Baldwin, PO
Miracle Blair, Sgt.
Peter Weston, Sgt.
Roxanne Aquart, Sgt.
Tracy Morris, PO

10 YEARS

Nathaniel Ervin, PO

5 YEARS

Ajamu Barry, PO
Alton Davis, PO
Amos Woods, PO
Andre Armstead, PO
Andrene Reid, PO
Andrew Lovick, PO
Anthony Hodge, PO
Belyboot Desrosiers, PO
Brandon Davis, PO
Brandon Bullock, PO
Brittney Wilson, PO
Danielle Baker, PO
Darren Brown, PO
Dashawn Alexander, PO
Delroy Barbee, PO

Denise Abraham-Sexius, PO

Deshawn Irby, PO
Destiny Shepp, PO
Ernst Desrameaux, PO
Freddie Rodriguez, PO
Gamal Holder, PO
Gee Wah Hwee, PO
Henry Garcia, PO
Ikeya Evans, PO
James Fong, PO
James Irizarry, PO
Jason Mercury, PO
Jason Martinez, PO
Jeanette Registe, PO
Jemel Hamer, PO
Jennifer Pritchard, PO
Jennifer Figueroa, PO
Jephte Perez, PO
Jerome Bennett, PO
Jewell White, PO
John Thomas, PO
Julian Cherry, PO
Juvonne Gray, PO
Kareem Harrison, PO
Lakeisha Joe, PO
Latoya James, PO
Lawrence Goldfarb, PO
Leandra Deane, PO
Lenore Cullum, PO
Luis Rivera, PO
Madinah Percell, PO
Mahogany Foy, PO

Marlene Taylor, PO
Marsofia Macon, PO
Md Salak, PO
Melina Cardona, PO
Michael Diaz, PO
Nicole Smith, PO
Nnamdi Eneanya, PO
Okechi Nwachukwu, PO
Paul Fernandez, PO
Phillip Hibbert, PO
Raven Clemente, PO
Renee Henry, PO
Ricardo Van Reil, PO
Robert Garrison, PO
Rochelle Sinkfield, PO
Roger David, PO
Selena Keitt, PO
Sequoya Zimmerman, PO
Shavonne Conway, PO
Sierra Crismali, PO
Stacey Beauchamp, PO
Tabitha Acaba, PO
Takiera Young, PO
Tammara Bannister, PO
Theresa Williams, PO
Tiffany Piper, PO
Tonya Simmons, PO
Tyrone Robinson, PO
Walter Chang, PO
William Hernandez, PO
Willie Minter, PO
Yve Cyriaque, PO

During this time of national crisis, our members served Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

So many of our members go above and beyond the call of duty, performing acts of heroism, ingenuity, kindness and generosity that demonstrate their professionalism and heart. They were willing to go that extra mile, and by so doing, made a difference in someone's life. Here are some of the pictures and stories they want to share:

CONGRATS TO ALL!



ACS Crossroads facility cooks congratulating Annie Simmons on her last day at work retired from the job but not from the union (l-r) Shop Steward Renee Washington, Annie Simmons, Curtis Scott, Dennis Malloy.



SSA Cesar Rodriguez from PBBxEast retired on March 2, 2021 after 33 years of service.

JACOBI HOSPITAL CELEBRATES POLICE WEEK



(l-r) Sgt. Orlando Badillo, Sgt. Rafael Hued, Sgt. Jeffrey Vasquez, PO Sylvester Heggie, PO Tristen Hammonds, PO Melissa Alvarez, PO Jennifer Inoa, PO Nicodemos Quarcoo, PO Adalis Lopez, Captain Moises Suero, PO John Cortijo, PO Hafiz Ali, PO Stephanie Crespo, Asst Director of Hospital Police George Pagan, PO Astley Graham, Director of Hospital Police Kevin Campbell.

TANYA MOORE PROMOTED, AGAIN



Tanya Moore started her career as a Special Officer, July 15, 2002 at Woodhull Hospital when NYC H+H was known as New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. It didn't take long for Woodhull Hospital to recognize her talent and promote her to Detective in 2005. Not content to remain a Detective, she studied for and took the Sergeant exam (Supervising Special Officer level I). Of course she passed and was promoted to Sergeant, June of 2009. She was subsequently transferred to Kings County Hospital. Ms. Moore would serve in various positions during her tenure. These included, Training Instructor for the PMCS course and Integrity Control Officer, to name a few. While serving as a uniformed officer, Ms. Moore was promoted two additional times, to Lieutenant in December of 2009, and to Captain, in January of 2018. She never dreamed she would make HISTORY! May 24, 2021, Tanya Moore became the first female ever to be promoted to Assistant Director, Hospital Police, Kings County Hospital.



Shavelle Knox is present during the John DeCarlo award ceremony for NYCHA.



Ian Morris Caretaker X is the recipient.



Ian Morris and his co-workers are NYCHA's unsung heroes behind the scenes.

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QUEENS SOUTH SCHOOL SAFETY AUTISM WALK



PBQS Autism Committee (l-r) CO Lavington, L3 Morales, L1 Feeley, L3 Connor, L1 Rembert, XO Sharpe, PO Barrett, L1 Osorio, L1 Davila, SSS Gibbons, L1 Bender and L1 Blaze.



Local 237's President Gregory Floyd (second from left) was on hand for the event.

SCHOOL SAFETY RALLIES



School Safety Rally in Staten Island. Pictured is Local 237's Jeanette Taveras, and advocates Nicole Meachum, Tabitha Robinson, Latoya Miller, Stacy Mack-Arryo, Jeffery Griffin and Sherry Roberson.



Protesters on the steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall.

COLLABORATION AND EXCITEMENT



Agents in the Bronx West were so welcoming to visitors coming into their building and spoke to the superintendent about the community initiatives they have been supporting the school with. The collaboration and excitement in all their eyes is a model for all to follow!

SI SSAs ASSIST ELDERLY WOMAN



(l-r) Agents Almedia and Agent Varghese, assigned to School Safety Staten Island, aided an elderly woman who has dementia after she fell and suffered a deep gash to the head. These agents exemplify true heroics as they rendered aid to the woman until her daughter and EMS arrived.



Rally coordinator Mona Davids, parent and district leader Irene Estrada and Local 237's President Gregory Floyd.



Queens public school student speaks from the heart.

During this time of national crisis, our members served Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

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SSAs TO THE RESCUE

An incident at Health & Opportunities H.S. involving a freshman student underscores the meritorious work of our School Safety Agents. The female student entered the school shivering. She was approached by staff and school safety who asked her if she was cold. She told them that an unknown male had sexually assaulted her. **School Safety Agent III Paulemon Jean**, along with **Agent Jaqia Powell**, quickly canvassed the area and spotted an individual walking by the school entrance where the student had entered. **Agent Brenda Batista** and a school administrator brought the student to the area where she was able to identify the perpetrator. As Agent Powell was attempting to handcuff the perpetrator, who was resisting, Mobile Task Force **Agents Louis Smith and Edwardo Delgado** arrived at the scene and assisted in placing the perpetrator under arrest. **Supervisor Taheen Oliver** prepared a Line of Duty report for Agent Delgado, who was slightly injured. The perpetrator, Carlos Ramos, has an extensive criminal record and was charged with forcible touching and child endangerment. **Mobile Task Force Agent Louis Smith** processed the arrest.



(l-r) 1st row - ASS Yolanda Soto, SSA Brenda Batista, ASS Dipa Joardar, NYPD / Chief of School Safety Chief Obe, Bx West CO Cindy McNeil, SSA III Christina Diodonet, SSA Ja-Qia Powell, SSS Taheen Oliver
2nd row - SSA Eduardo Delgado, SSA Juan Soliman, SSA Josea Bueno, ASS Chris Amalfatano, SSA III Paulemon Jean, SSA Louis Smith



Congratulations to the first 22 grant recipients of the "50 Grants for 50 Precincts." Among them are School Safety's own: **ASSSII Welch, PBBN**; **Agent SCA Miller, PBSI**; **Agent SAC Osorio**; **Agent SCA Murray** and **Agent SCA Feeley, PBQS**



Sometimes when you give to the community, the community returns the favor tenfold. **My Sisters Keeper** at Martin Van Buren HS did just that. They made cards and gave all the Agents Certificates of Appreciation for being Unsung Heroes of the school.



By Anny Rosario Diaz

Assistant District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

Outreach To Vulnerable Populations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

People who struggle with low-income, limited English proficiency, homelessness, or with mental illness have historically relied on meeting with us in person at our local offices to get the help they need. Currently, Social Security offices are open only for in-person appointments for limited, critical situations, depending upon local office conditions.

If you cannot use our online services, please call your local office or our National 800 Number for assistance. If we cannot help you by phone, your local office can determine if an in-person appointment or other option may be available to help you.

To serve those who need us most, we've partnered with community-based groups to launch a national outreach campaign. The goal of the campaign is to increase public awareness of our Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit programs and support third-party groups that are assisting vulnerable individuals to apply for benefits. The SSI and SSDI programs provide critical financial assistance, and, in many cases, grant access to healthcare and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

Key components of our outreach campaign include:

- Working with community-based groups that can assist with taking applications for SSI and SSDI.
- Launching a national advertising campaign on TV, radio, and social media, with emphasis on benefits for children with disabilities.
- Adding new online tools and informational pages, including:
 - Resources for people helping others access our services at www.ssa.gov/thirdparty.
 - Outreach materials for partner groups working with vulnerable populations at www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/groups/vulnerable-populations.html.
 - Updated information for faith-based and community groups, including a new toolkit and fact sheets about SSI and SSDI, at <https://www.ssa.gov/third-party/groups/faithandcommunity.html>.

We want to thank the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships for working with us and sharing our website and products with their national network of community leaders.

We also want to thank members of the claimant



advocacy community for their collaboration on this campaign. We will feature their perspectives on serving vulnerable populations on our blog over the coming weeks. Please be sure to visit and subscribe at blog.ssa.gov to receive alerts when we publish new articles from our partners, and share the latest information about our national outreach campaign. ▮

Personal Notes

As of May 3, 2021, **Donald Arnold**, Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters Local 237 IBT received a new weekly salary of \$3,654.00 (\$190,008.00 per year).



Keeping you in the know

FREE, STIPEND PROVIDING, AND LOW COST SUMMER PROGRAM/INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR N.Y.C. BASED HIGH-SCHOOL AGE YOUTH

The resources below are a guide for NYC-based high-school age students seeking summer educational enrichment opportunities. While the chart below does provide a framework, further research is needed when looking to secure a position.

Summer College Access Leadership Institute

Rising 11 & 12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/high-school-programs/nyu-cali.html>

NYU ARISE (Applied Research Innovations in Science and Engineering)

Current 10 & 11 *Paid internship
<https://engineering.nyu.edu/research-innovation/k12-stem-education/student-programs/arise>

The Science & Technology Entry Program @ Fordham University (Rose Hill)

Grades 7-12 *Unpaid/Low cost internship
<https://www.fordham.edu/info/20964/step>

The Science & Technology Entry Program @ Fordham University (Lincoln Center)

Grades 7-12 *Unpaid/Low cost internship
<https://www.fordham.edu/info/20964/step>

Bronx Zoo Project TRUE Field Research Assistant

Grade 11 *Paid internship
<https://bronxzoo.com/teens/project-true/summerprogram>

NY Historical Society Student Internship Program

Grades 10, 11 or 12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.nyhistory.org/education/teen-programs/student-historian-program>

Summer Pre-Health Internship Program

Grades 10, 11, 12 & college freshman *Unpaid internship
<https://msiahec.org/programs/ship/>

Sadie Nash Leadership Project Summer Institute

High School Students who identify as young women & gender expansive youth
<http://www.sadienash.org/summer-institute/> *Paid internship

Dorot (Elderly Care) Summer Teen Internship Program

Rising 10-12 *Unpaid internship
http://www.dorotusa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=vol_youth_D#.XMOZCM9KjUo

Museum of Natural History Saltz Internship Program

14 years old by July 1 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/teens/internships>

Museum of Natural History Science Research Mentoring Program (SRMP)

High School *Paid internship
<https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/teens/internships>

Museum of Natural History Planetary Boot Camp

High School *Unpaid internship
<https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/teens/planetary-bootcamp>

Museum of Natural History Brown Scholars for Self-Identified Girls

Grade 8, 9 & 10 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/teens/brown-scholars>

PENCIL Fellows Internship Program

16 - 22 years old, High School & College *Paid internship
<https://pencil.org/resources-for-students/>

GO Project High School Summer Internship

Grades 9-12 *Unpaid internship
<http://goprojectnyc.org/get-involved/volunteer#GOGetter>

The Metropolitan Museum of Art H.S. Internship

Rising 11 & 12 *Paid internship
<https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/internships/high-school/summer-high-school-internships>

Woodland Ecology Research Mentorship

Grades 9, 10 or 11 *Paid internship
<https://www.wavehill.org/education/woodland-ecology-research-mentorship/>

Wave Hill Forest Project Internship

Grades 10, 11 or 12 *Paid internship
<https://www.wavehill.org/education/forest-project/>

Art, Community, & Environmental Stewards Internship Program

15 - 20 years old *Paid internship
<https://www.wavehill.org/education/art-community-and-environmental-stewards-internship-program/>

YMCA Teen Career Connection Internship Program

High school up to 19 years old *Paid internship
<https://www.teencareerconnection.org/apply>

Human Oncology & Pathogenesis Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Current 9th -12th Grade Students (14 yrs old +) *Paid internship
<https://www.mskcc.org/education-training/high-school-college/hopp-summer-student>

Whitney Art Museum Youth Insights Introductions

Students entering grades 10-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://whitney.org/Education/Teens/GetInvolved>

Whitney Art Museum Youth Insights Arts Careers

Students entering grades 10-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://whitney.org/Education/Teens/GetInvolved>

John Jay College Upward Bound

Current Students in 9th or 10th Grade *Unpaid/Low cost internship
<https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/admission-requirements-0>

New York County District Attorney's High School Internship Program

10th, 11th or 12th Grade at the time they apply *Paid internship
<https://www.manhattanda.org/careers/internshipopportunities/high-school-in-ternship/>

Entrepreneurship School for Young Women @ NYU

Rising High School 10-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://eschool4girls.org/>

The Municipal Forum of New York, Inc. Urban Leadership Fellows Program

12th Grade *Paid internship
https://www.futuresandoptions.org/fao/what_we_do/how_to_apply/urban_leadership_fellows/urban_leadership_fellows_application/

Futures and Options Internship Program

11 or 12 Grade, 16 or older *Paid internship
https://www.futuresandoptions.org/fao/what_we_do/how_to_apply/

NYC Office of the Mayor Internship Program

16 years old, current working papers/employment certification *Paid internship
<https://a002-oom03.nyc.gov/nycmointernship/timeline.html>

NYC Ladders for Leaders Internship Program

16 and 22 years old *Paid internship
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/services/jobs-internships/nyc-ladders-for-leaders.page>

Einstein Enrichment Program (EEP)

High School Students *Unpaid internship
<https://www.einstein.yu.edu/departments/familysocial-medicine/bxshop/academic-programs/enrichment-program.aspx>

All Star Code Summer Intensive

Identify as male of color, Grade 10-11 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.allstarcode.org/>

The Wooster Group Summer Institute

Students 12 years old -12th Grade *Unpaid internship
<http://thewoostergroup.org/summer-institute>

New York University Science & Technology Entry Program

Grade 7-12 — Free *Unpaid internship
<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduateadmissions/how-to-apply/all-freshmen-applicants/opportunity-programs/pre-college-programs.html>

New York University Urban Journalism Workshop

16 years of age *Unpaid internship
<https://journalism.nyu.edu/about-us/institute-projects/urban-journalism-workshop/?ref=shortlink>

PowerPlay NYC's SuperSTARS Leadership Academy

Girls in Grades 8 -12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.powerplaynyc.org/>

Computer Science for Cyber Security (CS4CS) Summer Program for High School Women

Young women, Rising Grade 9-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://engineering.nyu.edu/research-innovation/k12-stem-education/student-programs/computerscience-cyber-security-cs4cs>

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Ages of 14 - 24 *Paid internship
<https://application.nycsyep.com/default.aspx>

BCAPteen Summer Photojournalism Internship

Ages 14-17 *Paid internship
<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/bcap/teen>

The Bronx Junior Photo League "Middle School" Summer Program (BJPL)

Rising Grade 6-8 — Free
<https://www.bronxdoc.org/education/bronx-junior-photo-league>

The Bronx Junior Photo League "High School" Summer Program (BJPL)

Grades 9-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.bronxdoc.org/education/bronx-junior-photo-league>

Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program

Girls Grades 10-11 *Unpaid internship
<https://girlswhocode.com/summer-immersion-programs/>

Columbia University State Pre-College Enrichment Program (S-PREP)

Grades 7-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.ps.columbia.edu/sprep>

The Center for Excellence in Youth Education High School Summer Program

High School Student *Unpaid/Low cost internship
<https://icahn.mssm.edu/about/diversity/ceye/programs/summer>

NBC News Young Leaders in Journalism Program

Grade 11-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/all/learn-more-about-nbc-news-young-leaders-journalism-program-n1097026>

Baruch College STEP Academy

Grades 7-12 *Unpaid/Low cost internship
<https://www.baruch.cuny.edu/step/>

Bronx Community College Pre-College Science & Technology Entry Program

Grades 7 -12 *Unpaid/Low cost internship
<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/academics/student-success-programs/collaborative-programs/>

City University of New York Summer Programs

Grade 12 *Unpaid internship
<https://k16.cuny.edu/collegenow/>

Summer Program for High School Students

Grade 10, 11 & 12 *Unpaid/Low cost internship
<https://www.lehman.cuny.edu/special-academic-sessions/summer/summer-program-high-school-students.php>

John Jay Law and Criminal Justice Summer Institute (CJSI)

Grade 11-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/summer-program>

CUNY School of Medicine/ Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Pipeline Program

NYC Rising High School Juniors *Unpaid internship
<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/csom/pipeline-program>

Stem Institute NYC at the City College of New York

Grades 9, 10, 11 *Unpaid internship
<https://steminstitutenyc.org/>

High School Biomedical Engineering Program at Columbia University

Grades 11 & 12 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.hypothekids.org/hk-maker-lab/>

New York Bioforce Internship Program

High School Students *Unpaid/Paid internship
<https://www.hypothekids.org/new-york-bioforce>

Sound Thinking NYC

Grades 9, 10 & 11 *Unpaid internship
<https://creativeartsteam.org/programs/sound-thinking-nyc>

Artslife Paid Summer Internship Program

Grades 10 & 11 *Paid internship
<https://madmuseum.org/learn/artslife>

Summer Neuroscience Program (SNP)

16 years old *Unpaid internship
<https://www.rockefeller.edu/outreach/snp/>

Folk Culture Summer Internship Program

Grade 11 & 12 *Paid internship
<https://www.mind-builders.org/>

New York University College & Career Lab

Grade 8-9 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/high-school-programs/nyu-cpcs.html>

Computer Science for Cyber Security (CS4CS)

Young Women Grade 9-12 *Unpaid internship
<https://engineering.nyu.edu/research-innovation/k12-stem-education/student-programs/computerscience-cyber-security-cs4cs>

New Youth Museum Teen Apprentice Program

Ages 14-19 *Paid internship
https://www.newmuseum.org/pages/view/teensand-youth?mc_cid=b891635c25&mc_eid=a3b8229cc7

Bronx Museum Teen Summer

NYC High School Students *Unpaid internship
<http://www.bronxmuseum.org/education/teen-programs>

Med-Start Program

Grade 6-8 *Unpaid internship
<https://webcommons.mssm.edu/med-start/Middle-schoolstudents>

Thurgood Marshall Summer Law Internship Program

High School students (work aged) *Paid internship
<https://www.nycbar.org/serving-the-community/diversity-and-inclusion/student-pipeline-programs/thurgood-marshall-summer-law-internship#foremployers>

Harlem Grown Counselor-In-Training Program

Ages 15-17 years old *Paid internship
<http://www.harlemgrown.org/summer-camp/>

Harlem Grown Summer Camp

Youth ages 7 to 14 *Unpaid internship
<http://www.harlemgrown.org/summer-camp/>

Exploring The Arts Summer Internship

Grade 11 & 12 *Stipend internship
<https://www.exploringthearts.org/about>

World of Money Youth Financial Education Training Institute

Youth ages 7-18 years old *Low Cost internship
<https://worldof-money.org.coursesform.com/>

Folk Culture Summer Internship Program

Ages 14 - 21 *Stipend internship
<https://www.mind-builders.org/>

NYUSPS HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY - The Aspire Program

Rising high school juniors and seniors *Unpaid internship
<https://www.sps.nyu.edu/high-school-academy/aspire.html>

Science of Smart Cities (SoSC)

Grades 6-9 *Unpaid internship
<https://engineering.nyu.edu/research-innovation/k12-stem-education/student-programs/science-smart-cities-sosc>

Manhattan College Summer Engineering Awareness Program

Rising juniors and seniors *Unpaid internship
<https://manhattan.edu/academics/schools-and-departments/school-of-engineering/high-school-programs.php>

Manhattan College Engineering Summer Institute

High school student *Low Cost internship
<https://manhattan.edu/academics/schools-and-departments/school-of-engineering/high-school-programs.php>

Kode with Klossy Camp for Young Women

Young women ages 13-18 *Unpaid internship
<https://www.kodewithklossy.com/>

Vaccines

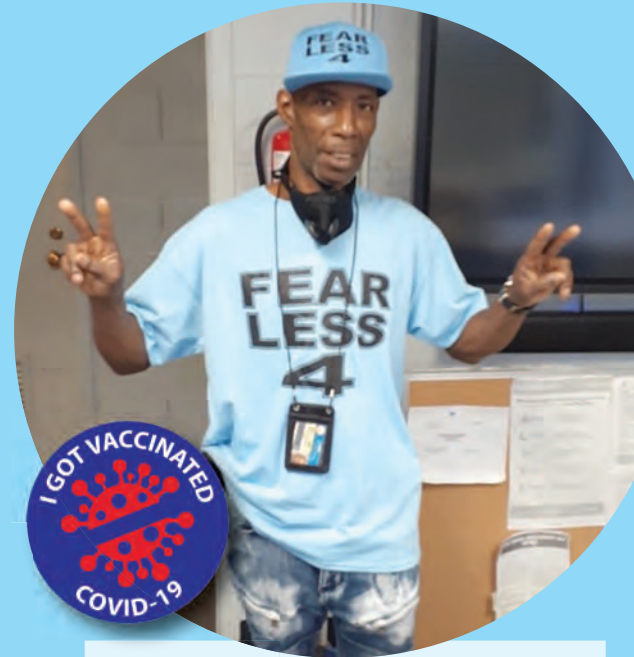
*are leading us
back to normalcy.*

With more and more New Yorkers getting vaccinated every day, the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths have sharply decreased. That's a clear sign that the vaccines are working to protect us from the dangerous health effects, both short-term and long-term, of COVID.

However, we are not out of the woods yet. The CDC warns that those who are not vaccinated are still at risk of contracting the virus, and with new and more dangerous variants, the vaccines are a highly effective way to protect you, your loved ones, and the community at large.

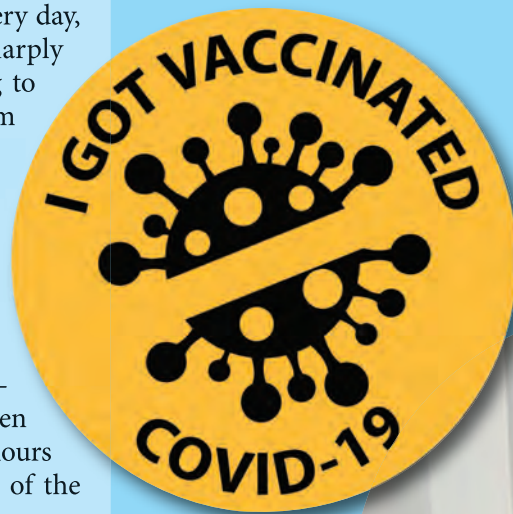
If you have not been vaccinated and have questions or concerns about the vaccines, talk with your doctor and seek out information to get your questions answered. If you haven't been vaccinated and decide to do so, you will be given up to four hours of compensatory time for each shot, and upon completion of the vaccinations, you will be awarded 3 hours of compensatory time.

Our members have been on the front lines of this pandemic, from the very first day, as essential workers who kept this city going during the toughest of times. We applaud your efforts – thank you!



"I got vaccinated to protect myself, my family, and others from the spread of Covid-19. I feel everyone should get vaccinated."

— William Depugh, Caretaker X and Safety Associate, Pelham Houses



"I got vaccinated because I feel safe."

— Lalu Kurian, Housing Assistant Gunhill Houses



"I got vaccinated to keep myself, family, and others safe."

— Md. Asaduzzaman, Housing Assistant Gunhill Houses



"I got vaccinated to work around co-workers safely and enjoy traveling out of state safely."

— Julian Roberts, Caretaker G, Penn-Wortman Houses

"I got vaccinated to stay safe and to supervise staff safety and most importantly, to see and be around family."

— Linda Brown, Supervisor of Caretakers Penn-Wortman Houses



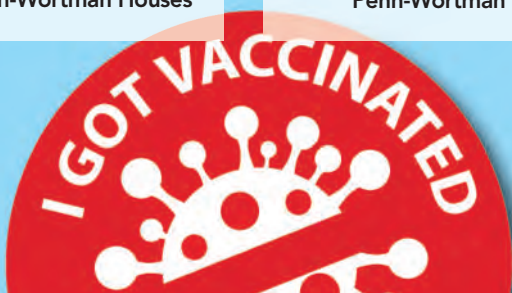
"I got vaccinated to stay healthy for family members and co-workers."

— Vijai Pariag, Maintenance Worker, Brownsville Houses



"I got vaccinated to help end this pandemic and for my family's well being"

— Korey Jones, Caretaker X Drew Hamilton Houses



*"Gettin
our fan
glad w
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"I got vaccinated because I didn't want to put my family and co-workers at risk of contracting Covid-19"

— Sidiya Harris,
Supervisor of Housing
Caretakers, Chelsea Houses



"I can protect my family better now that I am vaccinated against COVID."

— James Dash, Jr.
Superintendent
Ingersoll Houses



"I took my vaccination because as a maintenance worker I deal with more people than anyone else and go inside sick people's apartments. I want to protect myself and my family. So, we all are vaccinated."

— Walter Gregoire, Maintenance Worker, Harlem River Houses



"Getting vaccinated protects ourselves, families and our co-workers – we're proud we did it!"

— Jason Price, Angelina Floyd,
Julia Saldana, Monroe Nash
Ingersoll Houses



"My job puts me in close contact with the public, so the COVID vaccine will protect me if I get exposed."

— Raymond Acevado
Maintenance Worker
Ingersoll Houses



"I went to get vaccinated so I would be able to spend more time with my grandchildren safely."

— Ken Roper
Assistant to the President
Local 237



"I got vaccinated to protect myself and others from getting sick."

— Dave Falcon,
Assistant Superintendent
Beach 41st Street



"We are happy we all got vaccinated!"

— (l-r) Elise Dornagon, Tyson Dunn,
Toolsieram Singh, Felix Rondon
Pomonok Houses



"Being vaccinated keeps me and my loved ones and co-workers safe."

— Darshand Raiford,
Caretaker J, Beach 41st Street





LONG ISLAND REPORT



Welcome to Local 237 Teamsters Northshore Paraprofessionals! Hard work 24-7, days and nights pays off. Their former (organization) UPSEU suffered a huge defeat, 52 votes for Teamsters and 1 vote for UPSEU. Looking forward to helping them out as they had NO service or support for many years. Special thanks to **Marie DiVincenzo**, **Kristin Calo Dakin** and others for their dedication to see it through.



Congrats to Richie, a great member from Commack, on the birth of his son Anthony Cole! He weighed in at 9 lbs -11oz!



Town of Babylon Teamsters working hard for the community on STOP Day (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants). Great members working hard, helping all.



Local 237 contract signing with **Jim LaCarrubba**, President & CEO of Suffolk Regional Off-Track Betting. Jim cares about his employees and we appreciate it! Special thanks to **Cathy Rice** for all of her hard work to get this done.



Congrats to all of the Jakes 58 casino members for approving an awesome contract by a 97 -1 vote! Pictured is Business Agent **Cathy Rice** and Count/Drop team, Local 237 member **Gopaul**. Special thanks to President **Jim LaCarrubba** for seeing the value in these members and agreeing to a package that recognizes them!



School Transportation Assistant **Joanne Frohberg's** last day at North Babylon schools. She is moving on to a bigger opportunity and we are all very happy for her. She will be missed by all of her coworkers and especially her Teamster Liaison **Demetra Ambelas Tietjen**. Good luck!



Half Hollow Hills members **Bob Leigh Manual** (l) and **Gene Romano** retire. Great members who we congratulate and wish the best!

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

State and City Legislative Year-end Review

By Vito R. Pitta, Esq. Member, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno, LLC

June is always a busy month in New York State and City government and politics. This year certainly proved to be no exception. The New York State Legislature concluded its regular legislative session on June 10, 2021. Governor Cuomo announced on June 15, 2021 that since 70% of all New Yorkers had received at least their first dose of a vaccine, all COVID-19 restrictions imposed by New York State would be lifted. New York City citywide primary elections were held on June 22, 2021 for the offices of Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President, and City Council, as well as for the District Attorney of Manhattan and certain judicial races. And the Mayor and City Council on June 29, 2021 announced that they had reached agreement on the Fiscal Year 2022 budget in time for the July 1, 2021 deadline.

New York State Legislative Session

This year's legislative session marked a return to almost a pre-COVID-19 normalcy. While restrictions on visitors to the Capitol and Legislative Office Building were still in effect throughout the entire legislative session, the legislature was not consumed only with COVID-19-related legislative items and approved a significant increase in legislation under consideration (about 900 bills passed both houses), when compared with the prior session (only about 400 bills passed both houses). As is customary, many bills were passed at the very end of session and delivered to the Governor for consideration.

ONE PACKAGE OF BILLS RELATED TO GUN SAFETY:

- **Fire Arm Industry Responsibility:** Legislation (S7196) sponsored by Senator Zell-nor Myrie and Assemblymember Pat Fahy would allow those responsible for the sale, manufacture, importing or marketing of guns to be held liable for the public nuisance caused by such actions. The bill complies with the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) as interpreted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in *City of New York v. Berretta USA Corps*.
- **Jose Webster Untraceable Firearms Act:** Sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman and Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, the Act (S14A) would prohibit the possession of ghost guns which are unserialized firearms typically assembled from unserialized parts. It would require licensed gunsmiths to serialize and register with the New York State Police any unserialized firearm, rifle, shotgun, finished frame or receiver, or unfinished frame or receiver in their possession.
- **Scott J. Beigel Unfinished Receiver Act:** This Act (S13-A), sponsored by Senator Anna Kaplan and Assemblyman Charles Lavine, would prohibit the possession and sale of unfinished frames and receivers by individuals that are not licensed gunsmiths. Because guns assembled from unfinished frames and receivers do not have serial numbers, they are untraceable and can be built and transported without the normal background checks required when purchasing a gun from a licensed retailer.
- **Gun Possession Prohibition for Individuals with Outstanding Warrants:** This legislation (S500B), sponsored by Senator Brian Kavanagh and Assemblymember Amy Paulin, would prohibit the purchase, acquisition, sale or disposal of a weapon by or to anyone known to be the subject of an outstanding warrant of arrest for the alleged commission of a felony or serious offense. It would also prohibit an individual from purchasing or acquiring a gun on behalf of another person who the purchaser or acquirer knows to be the subject of such a warrant.
- **Extreme Risk Protections Orders:** This legislation (A1005A) that would require mental health facilities to provide patients and their authorized representative with information on how to seek an extreme risk protection order prior to a patient's discharge or conditional release. This builds on the 2019 red flag law, which allows law enforcement to confiscate firearms and prohibit an individual from purchasing a firearm if they are deemed to be a threat, and if an extreme risk protection court order is issued. It is sponsored by Assemblymember Amy Paulin and Senator Peter Harkham.
- **Gun Crime Reporting:** Sponsored by Senator Michael Gianaris and Assemblymember Diana Richardson, this bill (S1251) would require the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Division of State Police to publish quarterly reports providing information on firearms, rifles and shotguns that are used in the commission of crimes in New York.
- **Toy Guns:** This legislation (A6522) would amend the definition of "disguised gun" to include any rifle, shotgun or machine gun that resembles a toy gun. This would prohibit the possession, manufacture and design of such disguised guns. It is sponsored by Assemblymember Steve Stern and Senator John Brooks.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNOR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **A108B** -- Assemblymember Gunther/Senator Rivera -- Establishes clinical staffing committees in each general hospital to develop and oversee a clinical staffing plan.
- **A1634** -- Sponsored by Assemblyman Perry/Senator Bailey -- Provides that the State Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct shall investigate complaints and may make

CSBA President Saul Fishman Re-Elected to a Fourth Term

Civil Service Bar Association President Saul Fishman was re-elected to a fourth three-year term, without opposition, at the CSBA nominations meeting on Wednesday evening May 12th.

Saul attributes this to recognition by the membership that he and his team have worked hard to assist and protect all members as best as possible, regardless of their agency or the stage of their career. "Whether the issue is safety from the COVID pandemic, avoiding layoffs, successfully passing probation, student loan reduction, paid family leave, grievance and disciplinary representation, collective bargaining advocacy including a fair distribution of Recurring Increment Payments and Longevity Differential monies, or keeping the members informed about the Early Retirement Incentive via our Facebook page, website or by letter, email or phone, we strive to help all members throughout their careers as Agency Attorneys or in related titles," said President Fishman.

Also unopposed were Lester Paverman, First Vice President; Michael Bober, Second Vice President; Kevin Hsi, Corresponding President; Ka Ng, Recording Secretary; Abbe Kalnick, Treasurer; Gladys Egwuonwu and Michele Mirro, Welfare Fund Trustees; and the following individuals to the Board of Directors: Kiiru Gichuru, Brigitte Rajacic, Robert Spiesman, Renee Storey, Bernard Tordesillas, Helen Thomas Tsalevich, and Vincent Verdi.

For more information, please contact CSBA President Saul Fishman via his cellphone at (718) 640-3722. ■

a recommendation to the Governor that a prosecutor be removed; provides that the commission shall transmit its findings of fact and recommendations to the appellate division; provides that the appellate division may accept or reject such recommendations or impose a different sanction.

- **A7119** -- Sponsored by Assemblymember Gunther/Senator Rivera -- Provides for standard minimum nursing home staffing levels by regulations promulgated by the commissioner of health.
- **A7127** -- Sponsored by Assemblyman Bronson/Senator Kaplan -- Provides for certain commercial small businesses to be eligible for relief under the "COVID-19 Emergency Protect Our Small Businesses Act of 2021."
- **S523A** -- Sponsored by Senator Hoylman/M of A Lavine -- Revises and clarifies the uniform foreign country money judgments recognition act.
- **S4201A** -- Sponsored by Senator Savino/M of A Abbate -- Prohibits public employers from retaliating against employees for absences related to COVID-19.

END OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

New York State reached the 70% vaccination milestone on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 with Governor Andrew Cuomo tweeting, "... That means we can return to life as we know it. Effective immediately, state-mandated COVID restrictions are lifted across commercial and social settings." However, as the day progressed, it was clarified that all New Yorkers may not be free to move about the State.

Governor Cuomo lifted the mandatory State COVID-19 restrictions and New York Forward Industry Guidance across commercial settings, including retail, food services, offices, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops, and personal care services. However, unvaccinated individuals are responsible for continuing to wear a mask, per federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance. In addition, large-scale indoor events venues, Pre-K to 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes and health care settings must still adhere to existing COVID-19 health protocols per CDC guidelines.

Following the Governor's initial announcement, further information was released by his office specifying that the State's health guidance and New York Forward industry specific guidelines are now "optional" for the newly opened settings and that the reopening guidance will be "archived and made available as a public reference." With the removal of the State's minimum standards for reopening, the Governor's office explained that businesses are free to choose to lift all or some restrictions, continue to adhere to the State's archived guidance, or implement other health precautions for their employees and patrons.

According to the Governor's press release, businesses are also authorized to require masks and six feet of social distancing for employees and patrons within their establishments, regardless of vaccination status. Any mask requirements that businesses choose to implement must adhere to applicable federal and state laws and regulations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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Keeping you in the know

Who do I call when I have questions about my benefits?



By Mitch Goldberg

Director of the Welfare Fund

The Welfare Fund office is always available to help our members with questions and concerns. In many instances, if a member had just called one of our benefit providers or gone online, the answer he or she is seeking could have been easily found. By providing you with a listing and some information about our benefit providers may be your next call or online visit will allow you to find what you need without calling the Fund office. When you need to get timely benefits information, often it is best to go directly to the source for specific information, although staff are always available to help.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Office of Labor Relations/Employee Benefits Office

22 Cortlandt Street New York, NY 10006 « 212-513-0470
Call them if you plan to change your health insurance plan or any issue regarding your Health Insurance Coverage.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Aetna, if you have any questions call Aetna at 1-855-352-1599 or visit the website at www.Aetna.com. Registering on the website will allow you to set up your secure account which will provide you with information and tools regarding your prescription drug coverage. You will be able to download forms and research drugs, look at your Rx history for drugs you may be taking to name a few. If you are having an issue with a pharmacy providing you your prescription, then you should absolutely be calling the Fund office.

DENTAL

Healthplex, Healthplex Customer Service Department is available Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with any eligibility, claims or provider availability questions, call 1-800-468-0600. You can also visit the Healthplex, Inc. website at www.healthplex.com to set up and view your account. Once your account is set up you can look at your group number, order cards or print one out instantly, look at your EOB's which show you services you and your family have had, plus much more information regarding your plan. Searching for a provider especially for a specialist is one of the most helpful tools provided on the website. If you can't find what you need then feel to call Healthplex or the Fund office for help.

VISION COVERAGE

CPS, to find a network provider, go to the CPS website. This can be accessed either directly at www.cpsoptical.com/FindProvider.aspx or through the Local 237 website (www.local237.org). If using the Local's website, under the Benefits tab, select NYC Agencies. Then scroll down and click the link for Welfare Fund Optical Plan. After that, select the "Search for a Provider near You" link. Once on the CPS site, under Select Your Plan, choose the option for Local 237. Then complete the Zip and Search Radius fields. You may wish to search near your home or work location. If you do not have Internet access or want to speak to a CPS representative to find a location, call CPS at (212) 675-5745. If you are having an eligibility issue, then please call the Fund office for help at (212) 924-7220. ■



New York's New Power of Attorney

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

On June 13, 2021, New York's new Power of Attorney law went into effect. There are some big changes to the standard form and legal requirements which will simplify the process. It is important to know that if you have a power of attorney which was properly completed and signed prior to June 13th, you do not have to execute a new one. But, if you executed a power of attorney using the old form after June 13th, then you will have an invalid power of attorney.

The old law required that any power of attorney had to strictly comply with the language in the New York statutory short form. This caused many problems for people when inadvertent errors were made in preparing the form. Now, the legal requirement is that the power of attorney form must only "substantially conform" to the statutory form.

In the 2010 power of attorney form, the Principal (person giving another the power to sign their name) had to execute a Gift Rider in order to allow the named Agent (person to whom the power is given) to give gifts on behalf of the Principal over the amount of \$500.

Now, you can add modifications to the Power of Attorney spelling out gifting powers and if you do not, the Agent may still gift up to \$5,000 each year on behalf of the Principal.

Another big change relates to situations where a Principal is unable to physically initial or sign the document. The new law allows the Principal to direct a third party to sign for him or her so long as they sign in the Principal's presence.

Finally, under the previous law, institutions would often wrongly reject a power of attorney form. Most often this came from banks incorrectly stating that the bank form power of attorney was required. The new law specifically states that institutions may not unreasonably reject a power of attorney and if they do unreasonably reject, then they are subject to penalties by a court.

Having a Power of Attorney as part of your estate planning is incredibly important. Your Legal Services Plan can prepare the Power of Attorney form for you, along with drafting your Will and Health Care Proxy. Call us at (212) 924-1220. ■



What is ransomware and how do you protect yourself from being a victim?

By Anthony Morano

Chief Information Officer

In the most recent weeks, Ransomware has been a hot topic in mainstream news- with the most recent attacks being the Colonial Pipeline and JBS meat processing. But what exactly is ransomware and how do you prevent yourself from being a victim? Ransomware is a type of malware (or deliberately malicious software) that, when executed, encrypts all the files on your computer. To decrypt the files, the end user is asked to pay a "ransom" to gain the code for decryption. Ransomware has been around for many years but has recently gained a lot of traction because of cryptocurrency (an online currency). Cryptocurrency has provided a gateway for hackers both inside and outside our borders to be paid, without leaving a trail of breadcrumbs to the actual person/entity that cashes out the online currency into physical monetary dollars.

So how do you prevent yourself from being a victim of ransomware?

1. Never open emails from people that you are unfamiliar with. If possible, do a web search of the From address and see if it is known to have come from a known malicious sender.
2. If you get an email from someone that you are familiar with, and you open it, but it has an attachment or a clickable link in the body, and you were not expecting it- do not open the attachment or click the link. Contact the sender and let them know that items

within the email looked suspicious and ask them to confirm if they sent you that email (perhaps their email account was compromised).

3. Ensure you that you have some form of Antivirus protection on your computer. There are many free options available:
 - a. Microsoft Defender (built into most Windows 10 computers today)
 - b. AVG Antivirus
 - c. Avast Antivirus
4. Be careful which websites you go to on the Internet. If you do a web search for a specific topic, be vigilant of the description of the website. If the description does not make sense, e.g. misspelled words or the description seems choppy, avoid the website.
5. Avoid any emails, websites, or programs that have special characters in their names. If you find that something was supposed to have a "0", but it instead has a "o", that is probably from a noncredible source and has been comprised.
6. If you are still unsure after all the above points have been reviewed, ask a friend or relative. Find someone who is more tech savvy and ask them to look at what you received or what you were trying to go to. It always helps to have another pair of eyes determine if something looks suspicious or is in fact legitimate. ■

— Continued from Page 12 **State and City Legislative Year-end Review**

The State's COVID restrictions remain in effect for large-scale indoor event venues—now defined as indoor venues that hold more than 5,000 attendees. Consistent with the State's implementation of the CDC guidelines, proof of vaccination can be used to eliminate social distancing and remove masks for fully vaccinated individuals. Unvaccinated or unknown vaccination status individuals who are over the age of four must continue to present proof of a recent negative diagnostic COVID-19 test result and wear masks within the venue. However, social distancing can be reduced or eliminated between tested attendees, allowing venues to reach 100 percent capacity in all sections.

JUNE 22, 2021 NEW YORK CITY PRIMARY ELECTION

As polls closed on Primary Election night and New York City completed the 2021 primary election, it became clear that many competitive races across the City would be decided by the new ranked-choice voting system. Under ranked-choice voting, voters in primary and special elections are able to rank up to five candidates for any covered election in order of preference. If a candidate obtains over 50% of the votes cast in the first round, they win and the counting stops. If no candidate gets more than 50% in the first round, then the candidate with the lowest votes is eliminated and their votes are redistributed to the voter's next preferred candidate.

As of the closing of the polls, only a small number of races could be considered certain, with a mathematically impossible change in the top-ranked candidate. No results are actually "final" according to the NYC Board of Elections (BOE). Military and absentee ballots are only counted after election day and may continue to be received by the BOE for up to a week following the election. On June 29, 2021, the BOE began publishing the results of unofficial preliminary rankings, before taking into account absentee, military, special, and affidavit ballots. The update of tallies with absentees was anticipated to be published on July 6, 2021. The final RCV results were anticipated to be published and certified by the BOE on July 12, 2021.

NEW YORK CITY FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

By July 1 of every year, the Mayor and City Council of the City of New York are required to have passed a budget for the city. Each fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. On June 29, 2021, Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson announced that they had reached agreement on such a fiscal year budget by the statutory July 1 deadline. According to a joint press release, the Mayor and Speaker referred to the FY22 budget as a "Recovery Budget," which had five core goals: replenishing reserves, finishing the fight against COVID-19, boosting economic growth, driving academic recovery, and keeping communities safe. The press release announced the following key features of the FY22 budget:

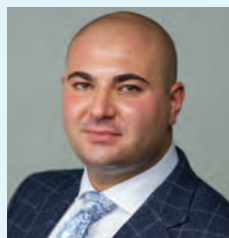
- Strong Fiscal Management includes Building and Maintaining Reserves
 - The Adopted Recovery Budget adds \$500 million to the City's Rainy Day Fund. This brings total reserves in FY22 to \$5.1 billion, with \$3.8 billion in the Retiree Health Benefits Trust, \$993 million in the Rainy Day Fund, and \$300 million in the General Reserve.
 - The Adopted Budget achieves \$4.0 billion in savings over Fiscal Years 2021 (FY21) and 2022 since last June – the second largest two-year savings total at Budget Adoption of this Administration.
 - The City's tax revenue forecast exceeded expectations in FY21 with an increase of \$2.1 billion driven by higher than expected personal income tax.
- Finishing the COVID Fight
 - The City spent nearly \$8 billion in the fight against COVID-19, including administering 9.2 million vaccinations, with more than 4.6 million New Yorkers having received at least one dose. While long term trends show the City's aggressive and comprehensive vaccination campaign has driven down cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, the fight continues.
 - In this Recovery Budget, the administration promoted public health by expanding the grassroots vaccination campaign and, making investments to establish New York City as the public health capital of the world.
- Boosting Economic Growth
 - The Recovery Budget commits \$11 million to NYC Business Quick Start, a program that will help slash red tape and help small businesses navigate City regulations.
 - The budget also invests in programs that are intended to build generational wealth and tackle the racial wealth gap, including:
 - * Expanding NYC Kids Rise with Universal NYC Baby Bonds, a program that gives every kindergartner a savings account with at least \$100 this September (\$15M in FY22)
 - * Establishing four-year CUNY Scholarships at full scale for Black and low-income students (\$4M in FY22)
 - * Providing paid internships in science, business, public health, and the green economy for students at Medgar Evers College to pair academic pursuits with an opportunity to make change and help our city recover (\$500,000 in FY22)
 - * To boost the local economy, in April's Executive Budget the Administration made a \$30 million investment – the largest in city history – to promote tourism.
- Driving Academic Recovery
 - In Fiscal Year 2021, the administration established fully universal free 3-K for All, expanded early childhood special education and Restorative Justice for

Social Emotional Learning in middle and high schools, and strengthened special education services.

- This summer, all New York students have access to Summer Rising, a program to address their academic and social emotional needs through tailored support. This program will provide a bridge to next school year and allow students to reconnect with one another and with their schools.

• Building Recovery through Public Safety

- Since June 2020, the administration has added nearly \$39 million to expand Cure Violence and the Crisis Management System. The NYPD has re-deployed an additional 200 officers performing administrative functions to the field full time, specifically assigned to high violence commands.
- In the Adopted Budget, the Administration has made targeted investments to break the cycle of incarceration and take on recidivism. This budget uses employment as an anti-violence measure. That effort includes:
 - * Increasing healthcare, housing, and employment counseling for justice-involved New Yorkers who are returning to the community (\$57M in FY22)
 - * Expanding "Jails to Jobs" to provide more formerly incarcerated individuals with comprehensive healthcare services and transitional employment (\$6.6M in FY22)
 - * Providing peer mentorship for incarcerated individuals with Crisis Management System Credible Messengers (\$5M in FY22)



Vito R. Pitta is a partner at Pitta LLP, a firm whose practice consists primarily of traditional union-side labor law, employment law, employee benefits law, and campaign finance compliance law. The firm counts more than forty local and international labor unions as its clients. Mr. Pitta's practice consists of counseling the firm's clients on traditional labor and employment matters, as well as advising the firm's political campaign and political action committee clients with respect to federal, state, and local campaign finance laws. Mr. Pitta is also a Partner in Pitta LLP's affiliated personal injury firm, Pitta & Baione LLP, which represents victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks; and a member of Pitta LLP's affiliated lobbying firm, Pitta Bishop & Del Giomo LLC.

New Benefit!

STUDENT LOAN COUNSELING

Get help navigating your student loan repayment program. Learn how you, your spouse and/or child may qualify for **lower monthly student loan payments and debt forgiveness!**

Start your journey to financial wellbeing. Join the NSDFC free webinars. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to register, or contact NSDFC for more information.

Phone: 646-766-1330 EXT 213



When calling NSDFC, please identify yourself as a Local 237 member.



Resumen En Español

Los apodos tienen significado. Un slogan o sobrenombre tiene la intención de representar la cualidad o característica principal de una persona o un grupo. Para los miembros del Departamento de Policía de la Ciudad de Nueva York (NYPD por sus siglas en inglés) es "los mejores", para el Departamento de Bomberos es "los más valientes" y para el Departamento de Salud es "los más fuertes". Para nosotros los miembros de Local 237, en donde hay todo tipo de cargos, es mucho más complicado identificarnos con un solo sobrenombre que incluya todos los trabajos que hacemos. Por eso, ¿qué es lo que hay en común entre todos nuestros miembros, cuyos trabajos diarios hacen una diferencia importante en la vida de todos los neoyorquinos, en especial los más vulnerables, y que alcanzaron nuevos niveles como trabajadores esenciales durante la pandemia? ¿Qué palabra los describiría mejor a todos? ¿Qué tal **"Los más confiables"**? Los neoyorquinos cuentan con nosotros y cumplimos. Y a través de nuestras ediciones de Newsline, hemos presentado y continuaremos presentando a miembros del Local 237 cuyo trabajo incansable subraya el hecho de que sin dudas necesitamos a "los mejores", "los más valientes" y "los más fuertes" y ciertamente necesitamos a "los más confiables" también.

Oficiales de la fuerza pública del Departamento de Servicios para Personas sin Hogar

**Policía del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional
2021 Día de la medalla
12 de mayo de 2021**

Más de medio millón de personas carecen de hogar en Estados Unidos. El 35 % no tiene un techo para vivir. Las más de 80.000 personas sin hogar en la ciudad de Nueva York, 4000 de las cuales duermen en la calle y en el metro, representan el 20 % de toda la población sin hogar del país. La pandemia afectó a todos, especialmente a las personas sin hogar, para quienes el sistema de refugios hizo que la aplicación de las restricciones y precauciones relacionadas con Covid fuera prácticamente imposible de implementar y hacer cumplir. La alcaldía trató de idear una forma de limitar los riesgos transfiriendo a 8000 personas sin hogar de los refugios a los hoteles, lo que fue recibido con una tremenda oposición de la comunidad. Más recientemente, con las tasas de infección por Covid-19 en un mínimo histórico, el gobernador Cuomo levantó la mayoría de las restricciones restantes, lo que llevó a la Administración de De Blasio a prepararse para trasladar a las personas sin hogar a los refugios. ¡Nuestros miembros de los oficiales de policía del Departamento de Servicios para Personas sin Hogar realmente tienen mucho trabajo por delante! Asumir este nuevo desafío demuestra que, entre sus muchos atributos, sin duda les sienta bien el apodo de "Confiable". Tienen un trabajo duro que trata con una clientela muy vulnerable, la burocracia y el público que solo quiere que el problema desaparezca. Han pasado 5 años desde que sus esfuerzos fueron reconocidos públicamente. En mayo, estos oficiales de policía del DHS, que hicieron más de lo que su deber les requería, fueron homenajeados en una ceremonia de premiación. El presidente del Local 237, Gregory Floyd, estuvo presente para felicitarlos. Dijo en ese momento: "Estos oficiales del DHS son héroes. No, no pueden chocar con un edificio en llamas todos los días, ni detener a un asesino todos los días o incluso protegernos de las ratas y otras alimañas todos los días, pero su trabajo implica todos estos actos esenciales en cualquier momento, y por esto, nosotros debemos estar agradecidos".



(De izquierda a derecha) Martha Bodhnarain y Charlie Cotto de Local 237, el oficial Malik Forbes, el oficial Luis Rivera II, el oficial Martine Outlaw, la detective Miriam Torres, la teniente Samantha Cruz, el oficial Deshawn Alexander, el oficial Jason Martinez, Larry Bosley de Local 237 y el presidente Gregory Floyd.



(De izquierda a derecha) Gregory Floyd, presidente de Local 237, Abneron Rosil, Courtney Lacrete, administradora de LCSW DHS Joslyn Carter, Djef Hyacinthe, Ernest Hodge, DC Anthony Notaroberta.



Gregory Floyd se dirige a la audiencia.



(De izquierda a derecha) El presidente de Local 237, Gregory Floyd, Inspector adjunto Helmut Darbouze, Capitán Georgy Adams, Capitán Shundell Henry, Capitán Miguel Martínez, Inspector Adjunto David Eddie y Charlie Cotto de Local 237.

Premios a la excelente labor • Premio al deber meritorio • Medalla de elogio • Premio a la unidad destacada

CONSULTE LA PÁGINA 3 para ver una lista de los que fueron homenajeados en la ceremonia.

Oficial del año • Sargento del año • Teniente del año • Capitán del año • Premio a los años de servicio


"Tuve el honor de presentar algunos premios a algunos de nuestros oficiales de la fuerza pública, sargentos, tenientes y capitanes del DHS en el Día de la Premiación de la Policía del DHS que se llevó a cabo el 12 de mayo. Cuando pienso en el Departamento de Policía del DHS, no puedo pensar en un grupo de personas más resistentes, compasivas y honorables. Los oficiales de policía del DHS se enfrentan diariamente a situaciones de alto riesgo y adversidades, y a pesar de todo esto, dan lo mejor de sí mismos cada día. Los oficiales de la fuerza pública del DHS ayudan a mantener seguros a los clientes, el personal, las partes interesadas y nuestras comunidades sin hogar, y lo hacen con orgullo y honor. ¡Los saludo a todos!"



— David Eddie,
Inspector adjunto



Oficiales de la fuerza pública que trabajan en las instalaciones de Charles G-ay. David Eddie es el comandante del municipio.



Members of Teamsters Local 237 do not forget. Their co-workers and their friends will forever be remembered, and the memory of their loss during the pandemic will be permanently embedded in their hearts and minds.

On behalf of President Gregory Floyd, the Executive Board and Staff, we offer sincere condolences to the families, and appreciation for sharing your loved one with us.

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
AT NEW YORK, NY


NEWSLINE
Local 237, IBT
216 W. 14 Street
New York, NY 10011

DATED MATERIAL

SUMMER 2021

Are you moving?


To change your address, fill in the form below, cut it out, and mail it back to Newsline at the above address.

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)



Funding is currently available through ERAP for New York City households who are behind in their rent. Eligible low and moderate-income households can get up to 12 months of their back rent paid, along with 3 months of future rent and other assistance.

Residents of New York City are eligible if they:

- Fell behind in rent since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 **AND**
- Qualified for unemployment benefits **or** have lost income and/or have an increase in expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic; **AND**
- Have a monthly gross (before tax) household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

PRIORITY GROUPS

During the first 30 days of the program New York State is prioritizing households with income at or below 50% AMI and at least one household member within the following categories:

- unemployed for at least 90 days
- veteran
- experiencing domestic violence or is a survivor of human trafficking
- has an eviction case pending in court
- lives in a community that was disproportionately impacted by COVID-19
- lives in a building with 20 or fewer units
- resides in a mobile home


AFTER THE INITIAL 30-DAY PERIOD APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. FUNDS ARE LIMITED SO ALL ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS SHOULD APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE IN A PRIORITY GROUP.


Gross Annual Income Limits		
Household Size	At or Under 80% AMI	At or Under 50% AMI
1	\$66,850	\$41,800
2	\$76,400	\$47,750
3	\$85,950	\$53,700
4	\$95,450	\$59,650
5	\$103,100	\$64,450
6	\$110,750	\$69,200
7	\$118,400	\$74,000
8	\$126,000	\$78,750


All payments will be made directly to the landlord/property owner on behalf of the tenant. Landlords may initiate an ERAP application on behalf of tenant(s) who are otherwise eligible for ERAP. Tenants will be notified of the amounts paid on their behalf.

Qualified utility arrears may also be covered by ERAP.

To learn more, visit the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program Page:
otda.ny.gov/erap

 **844-NY1-RENT**

 **Human Resources Administration**
Department of Social Services



Eligibility For Spouses' Benefits

By Anny Rosario Diaz

Assistant District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

Social Security helps you secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, information, and tools that support you throughout life's journey. If you don't have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be one of the following:

- 62 years of age or older.
- Any age and have in your care a child who is younger than age 16 or who is disabled and entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

Your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, you'll receive your full spouse's benefit amount, which is up to half the amount your spouse can receive. You'll also get your full spouse's benefit if you are under full retirement age, but care for a child and one of the following applies:

- The child is younger than age 16.
- The child has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If you're eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit. For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse's benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse's record. You can find out more by visiting www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html for more information. |