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R.I.P. Christian Montrose



Photo by Baqir Ahmad

Story on pages 8, 9



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We Must Cure Violence In Canarsie

By Jibreel Jalloh

Our community is mourning the loss of Christian Josiah Montrose, a 19-year-old whose life was abruptly ended by a senseless act of violence. The fatal shooting of Christian, a young man described by his family as a peacemaker with aspirations of becoming an automotive technician, has become a focal point for a community's outcry against the relentless tide of gun violence that continues to plague our streets. His sister Joanna remembers him as someone who "always wanted to help people," a testament to the kind soul he was. The circumstances of his death – a reported case of mistaken identity – only adds to the profound senselessness of the violence.

As the New York State budget nears its finalization, with a whopping \$233 billion at stake, the plea from Canarsie for a mere \$1.8 million to fully fund an anti-gun violence initiative in the neighborhood seems not only reasonable but necessary. This request isn't just about a number; it's a call to honor Christian's life by investing in programs that aim to prevent such tragedies from recur-

ring. His mother, Annette Montrose, expressed a desire for her son's life to matter, to "make a difference." We have an opportunity to heed her call.

Cure Violence programs have shown promise in communities across the nation, focusing on violence prevention through community-based interventions. By addressing the root causes of violence, providing support and opportunities for at-risk youth, and working to change community norms around the acceptance of violence, these programs can make a tangible difference. Investing in such initiatives isn't just a fiscal decision; it's a moral one. It's about deciding whether we value our youth and communities enough to prioritize their safety and well-being over other expenditures.

Critics may argue about budget constraints and competing priorities, but we must ask ourselves: What is the cost of a life? If we cannot allocate a fraction of the state budget to save our future generations, then our priorities are misplaced. Christian's loved ones highlighted his love for cars and his peaceful nature, emphasizing the shock

and disbelief that such a fate could befall someone so uninvolved in the violence that plagues our community. This is a stark reminder that gun violence does not discriminate; it can touch any family, any individual, regardless of their involvement or stance.

As we stand on the brink of finalizing the state budget, it's crucial that we remember Christian and the countless others like him whose lives have been cut short. This isn't just about numbers on a page; it's about human lives, about the potential that is lost every time a bullet finds its mark. An investment in Cure Violence programs is an investment in our children's futures, in the safety of our streets, and in the health of our communities.

In memory of Christian and in the name of all those who have suffered due to gun violence, we must advocate for this funding. Let's make a choice for life, for potential and for hope. As Christian's family and village demand justice and change, let us heed their call and ensure that such tragedies become a thing of the past.

Stop the Gun Violence Rally Held in Canarsie After Tragic Murder of Christian Montrose

By Bristol Hendrix

On Sunday, March 31st, The Flossy Organization hosted a Rally Against Gun Violence at the site of Christian Josiah Montrose's homicide on East 104th Street and Avenue K. Jibreel Jalloh, leader of the youthful Canarsie nonprofit, pulled together local leaders to speak with members of the press alongside Christian's grieving parents. Their son was murdered on March 19th after returning home from giving a friend a ride, in the early morning hours.

Christian was known as a good teen by friends and family, who all claim he was respectable, peaceful and loving. Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse spoke to the crowd, telling them, "This is a failure. We failed as a society." She promised to continue to work hard to make sure another mother doesn't lose her child. Narcisse stressed it's her duty to ensure the children of Canarsie live to see their dreams realized and that our children's lives matter.

Reverend Edward-Richard Hinds, president of the 67th Precinct Clergy Council (The God Squad), who are working closely with the 69th Precinct, also spoke, encouraging neighbors to pray for justice and to never give up on the fight to end gun violence in the community. He called upon the community to be more vigilant, and if they see something, to say something. This isn't the time to hide or hold back, but to speak up and share what you know to help the family find justice.

Pastor Dobson, also a member of



Mrs. and Mr. Montrose at a Rally Against Gun Violence in front of their Canarsie home on Sunday, March 31st.

The God Squad, spoke with the media. He lost his son to gun violence on Avenue L and East 98th Street in February 2022. His story is very similar to the Montrose family's. Tajay Dobson was shot in front of their family home and, to this day, his killer hasn't been found. Dobson called his son's and Christian's killer a "coward" and spoke of the senseless act of violence as deplorable and cowardly. He said, "No matter what, nothing will bring your child back, and this is a club no parent wants to be a part of but we must forge on." He never expected he and his family would be victims of gun violence. As part of the Clergy Council, Dobson works with families like the Montrose's to help them heal after a great loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Montrose spoke with the press, expressing their deep desire to find their son's killer and have justice. Nothing is more important to them than getting justice for their child



The Montrose family, loved ones of gun violence victims, community leaders, elected officials and members of The God Squad gather near a large picture of Christian Josiah Montrose who was fatally shot on March 19th.

and working with the community to prevent another senseless murder. Mrs. Montrose, choking up with tears while she spoke, wants to know why this happened to him and who did this.

Jalloh and The Flossy Organization are asking Mayor Adams, who recently visited Canarsie for a Town Hall Meeting on February 26th at the Canarsie Educational Campus, to approve a \$1.8 million budget that would go toward anti-violence initiatives targeted at young people here in Canarsie. The Flossy Organization has been pushing for this anti-violence initiative for the last two years.

Anyone with any information on Christian Montrose's or Tajay Dobson's homicide is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 800-577-TIPS (8477). All calls and tips are fully confidential, and your identity will be kept private.

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NCOs Take a Bite out of Crime in Sector D

By Brenda Cox

The second quarterly Build the Block meeting for Sector D was held on Thursday, March 28th, at the Hebrew Educational Society (H.E.S.), located at 9502 Seaview Avenue. Sergeant Brian Maher, Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) Gunvinder Singh and his partner, Daniel Irving, addressed a modest group of residents who took time off from their Easter preparations to be informed of happenings in their community.

Sector D spans Avenue L to Seaview Avenue, including Canarsie Park, and East 94th Street to Paerdegat Avenue North.

The officers were pleased to announce that crime had dropped overall but warned that that was no reason for residents to let their guard down. In fact, NCO Singh warned that they should be just as vigilant especially with their vehicles (mostly Hyundais and Kias) which continue to be major targets for robbers. The officers also reminded them to remain alert to various phone scams which seem to be on the rise. Singh encouraged all to register their phone numbers with

the National Do Not Call Registry and also referred them to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) where complaints could be filed against those who violate the Do Not Call rule.

Singh also gave an update on some quality of life issues. He reported that on the previous night they towed away 36 illegal vehicles. Additionally, they were preparing to place orange cones along Seaview Avenue to further deter those who park there illegally, especially with the warmer weather upon us when there is an increase in visitors to the park.

Jennifer Viechweg-Horsford, Constituent and Community Relations Coordinator for State Senator Roxanne Persaud, updated residents on services available through the senator's office. They included office hours on some Saturdays for those who work 9 to 5 jobs, Monday through Friday. Their offices will be open on April 13th to serve their constituents. During such meetings, they can receive assistance with a variety of issues including accessing Unclaimed Funds – something Sgt. Maher encouraged everyone to look into, because you just never know.



Sgt. Brian Maher, NCOs Daniel Irving and Gunvinder Singh, with residents of Sector D.

Canarsie Man Arrested in Deadly Parking Dispute

By Linda Steinmuller

A Canarsie resident was charged with assault in the death of an East Flatbush man when a parking dispute turned deadly last month.

Kevon M. Johnson, 30, was arrested in the confines of the 67th Precinct on Sunday, March 17th, and charged with Assault: Recklessly Causing Physical Injury, one day after a confrontation with a 61-year-old male inside a Shell gas station at 1143 Clarkson Avenue, at Rockaway Parkway.

Police said Johnson, the tow truck driver, and the victim, Carlyle Thomas, got into a dispute around 8:45 p.m. on Saturday, March 16th. The dispute became physical, and Johnson punched Thomas in the face, causing the 61-year-old victim to fall and hit the pavement. A 911 call was placed; EMS arrived and took Thomas to Brookdale Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 9:17 p.m., a half-hour after the altercation, according to police.

Sources said the gas station owner allowed Thomas, a former horse racing jockey when he lived in Jamaica, to park there for \$10 if he could not find a parking spot. For some reason, the owner called a tow truck to remove the vehicle. The victim tried to stop Johnson from towing his minivan, and that's when things got out of control.



Firefighters Battle Blaze in Canarsie Home for One Hour

By Lloyd Mitchell

Firefighters fought a fire on the first and second floors of 1692 Rockaway Parkway, between Avenues K and Avenue L, around 4:20 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27th.

Fire Department personnel consisting of 65 firefighters utilized three hose lines to knock down the main body of fire, placing the blaze under control by 5:20 a.m.

There were no injuries or trapped residents after a search was conducted of the house.

The cause and origin of the fire is under investigation by the FDNY Fire Marshal's Office.



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Fresh Creek: Still Waiting for City Agencies to Remedy Flooding

By Angela G. Nannetti

Due to the heavy winds and rain that battered much of Brooklyn on Saturday afternoon, March 23rd, Fresh Creek Civic Association (FCCA) President Maria Garrett opted to hold the group's meeting virtually, instead of in person.

The meeting, which was very well-attended, featured a presentation on financial literacy by a local financial advisor, Brandi Hydleburg, who provided the group with a wealth of information. Hydleburg acknowledged the pinch everyone has been feeling lately – what used to be a 25-cent bag of chips at the corner store is mostly air now and costs 50 cents; the days of a \$20 wash and set or a full set of acrylic nails are long gone. With the cost of living increasing at the rate it is, she explained how important it is,

now, more than ever, to manage money wisely by developing a financial plan. She discussed the importance of budgeting and setting aside emergency funds, identified several high-yield savings accounts with lesser-known banks (some offering 5% interest rates, with no minimum balance and unlimited withdrawals) and discussed the tax benefits of opening a Roth IRA for retirement, leaving attendees with much to consider.

Also of great importance was a discussion about ongoing flooding in Canarsie, which frequently occurs during storms and periods of heavy rain. While it is by no means a new problem, it is certainly one that has gone unresolved for far too long, in some cases dating as far back as 40 years. In fact, it was the flooding caused by Superstorm Sandy in 2012, and the

inadequate response of government agencies, that prompted the foundation of the FCCA, the aim of which was to remediate the problem once and for all. Unfortunately, members of the civic have been fighting an uphill battle ever since, and despite their best efforts, they have been unable to get the kind of multi-agency cooperation required to find a permanent solution.

Members expressed their frustration with their flooded basements, the compounding expenses they have incurred making repairs and how they feel vastly overlooked by the City. One resident spoke about how many local meetings he has attended to ask for help from the spokespeople of various agencies and how nothing ever gets done. Another said she has been waiting an unreasonable amount of time for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to take the first step and send someone to survey her basement. Another still, likened the lack of government response to the crisis at the border. "It's not an immigrant issue; it's an American taxpayer issue. As taxpayers, our needs must be addressed."

There was also discussion on the grant money that Canarsie residents are often encouraged to apply for to help cover the cost of repairing/retrofitting their homes, but Garrett explained that the working class families in the neighborhood are often precluded right off the bat, because their combined household income exceeds the \$80-90,000 limit. She told the group that Bergen Beach residents had recently experienced similar flooding and were successful in getting DEP to conduct a study and report back, because they showed up collectively, in numbers. Garrett assured the group that their elected officials were in the process of setting up a multi-agency town hall in coming months, dedicated to their flooding problem, and urged the group to take a page from Bergen Beach's book, by coming together in great numbers to show up and voice their concerns. Only time will tell if the City will do right by Canarsie.

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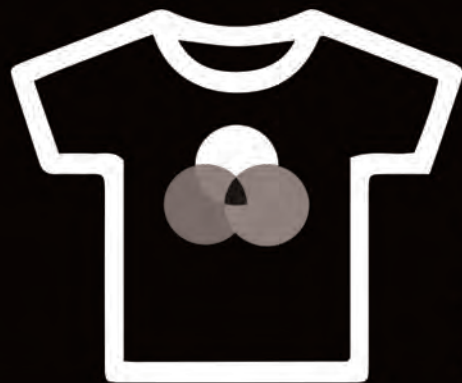
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Sheepshead Bay

Happy Faces on Kids, Parents and Pancakes at P.S. 312's First IHOP Fundraiser

By Loretta Chin

Trays filled with plates of Happy Face pancakes, milkshakes and all kinds of delicious eats and treats exited the kitchen doors of the IHOP at 2951 Avenue U to serve the steady procession of families who came to participate in their first P.S. 312 fundraiser for their school on Monday, March 25th.

"It's easy to set it up, but it's not so easy to make sure people come," Parents Association (PA) board member Lauren Callahan said. But after working with IHOP's outreach and fundraising manager, Danielle Altamirano, they were able to fill 43 tables and generate over \$500 for their school between the hours of 3 and 10 p.m., allowing plenty of time for family and friends to gather and have a good time.

The restaurant generously donated 20% of all sales back to the school as long as customers brought in one of the printed flyers. IHOP's owner, Victor Artieda, has fundraising events for local schools booked every Monday until the end of June and has supported the community through donations, gift cards and these events.

"Everyone I know is here and I get to eat with my friends," Callahan's son, Jayden, 6, said. He had a hearty plate of fried chicken on a waffle and hopes the school buys more ice cream with the money they raised.

Fourth-graders Madelyn Muslu and her friend Madison Alvarez, both 9, said they've never been to this IHOP before and it was really nice. Alvarez said she really thought about it and she'd like to see the money used for safety or entertainment expenses at the school.

"Families loved it — families seeing each other,

kids seeing each other — it was a wonderful congregation," Altamirano said. Callahan said that the parents and kids hope they have another event.

Even the staff were happy. Although many of the meals were discounted because there were so many kids meals purchased, the staff received good tips, which meant that the parents were happy too.

Many of the parents told Altamirano that it was their first time there, but they'd be back. "They loved the cleanliness, service, food and the fact that there was parking," she said. "So, we had a lot of positive feedback."

The IHOP manager said that a lot of people still don't know that they're there no matter how much they advertise, but word is starting to get around on social media and by word of mouth. She said these events fill up the place so it's a win-win for everyone.



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Saying Goodbye to Christian Josiah Joel Farrel-Montrose

By Bristol Hendrix

"My son didn't deserve to die. MY SON DIDN'T DESERVE TO DIE!" Mrs. Montrose shouted inside the Harmony Funeral Home in Flatbush on Tuesday, March 26th, around 7 p.m. Her voice touched over 200 people who came to pay their final respects to her 19-year-old son, the young man who everyone said was a joyful, respectful soul. Christian Josiah Joel Farrel-Montrose, a victim of gun violence, was murdered in front of his family home on East 104th Street on March 19th, after returning home from giving a friend a ride.

Mourners piled into the funeral home, all crying and angry about a life taken randomly and senselessly. Christian was never affiliated with a gang; he was a standout good kid, his family and friends tell the *Canarsie Courier*. Testimony after testimony, people

spoke of his character, from past daycare workers to former babysitters, former schoolteachers, school friends and, most recently, his coworker from Budget Car Rental who couldn't miss the opportunity to say his final goodbye to a young man with exceptional character. They all told the same story: he was well-mannered; he said good morning, good afternoon or good night. He called his elders "Sir" or "Mrs." He was the peacemaker in the home, and among his friends, he was the one they would go to for wisdom.

One by one, his family took to the podium – his brothers and sisters all distraught because the youngest son (who was also a twin) of Mr. and Mrs. Montrose's seven children will never get the opportunity to live out his dreams, and the idea of burying their little brother is still abstract to them. He passed away on the birthday of one of his eldest sisters, and now his twin

sister, Crystal, must carry on without her twin brother. The family shared stories of how anything they asked, he did, and he wanted to be an example for his nieces and nephews. His last words to his mother and sister were printed on the back of his grief card, words so beautiful that he sent to both of them in hopes of bringing the two who were feuding back together.

His brother, Joshua, who Christian ran to the night he was shot, said he didn't even have a favorite color; red was his mother's favorite color and blue was his dad's, and he chose both. Joshua was frozen as he spoke about his brother. The words barely reached his lips. The night on replay in his memory. From surveillance video, Christian pulled up to the home around 2:45 a.m. after taking his friend home, and as he was coming out of the car to go into the house, someone pulled up and shot him, for no known reason. The police believe it's a case of mistaken identity. Christian headed straight to the house and collapsed in the arms of Joshua, who helped him get into the ambulance. Christian died in the ambulance before arriving at Brookdale Hospital.

His friends told the *Canarsie Courier* they were in total disbelief when they heard he died. The news of his death broke on Snapchat immediately. They started texting each other, "What's Christian's last name?" One of them confirmed his last name to the group. As they all heard their friend, the peacemaker, the one they went to for wisdom and guidance, was killed, they broke down. One was riding the bus and said he just started crying right there. Another friend was at work and just stood frozen; he couldn't move, he couldn't do anything. One by one, they shared stories of Christian being the light of the group. They all live in the Canarsie area, and since his death, they are extra cautious when going home. They say he is the last person on earth anything like this should have





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happened to. He was peaceful to the point where he would turn off rap music and play seven-hour nature sounds from YouTube. He never lost his temper, and none of them, none of them are gang-affiliated; they are regular young men who are starting their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Montrose are both government workers who have raised their seven children here in Brooklyn, spending the last few years in their Canarsie home. To say their lives have changed is a gross understatement. The *Canarsie Courier* was granted the opportunity to speak with them about their son, and as they shared videos of him, Mrs. Montrose said she wants to remind parents to take as many videos and photos with their children as possible. These videos of her son, hugging her, smiling with her, or just moments with his siblings, are carrying them through.

Mrs. Montrose shared about the night Christian went to pick up a friend and she told him, “No, let him take a cab,” and he said, “Mommy, this is not how you raised me,” and he went to be a good friend. Mrs. Montrose told the *Canarsie Courier* that this is who her son was and that he always went out of his way no matter what.

Mr. Montrose shared with the *Canarsie Courier* how loving and supportive his son was. He was always by his side helping him with anything. He would cook for him and his wife. Mrs. Montrose seconded this statement, telling the *Courier* outside of his passion for cars, her son loved cooking. She said he was an over-cooker, meaning he cooked more than what was needed. Mr. Montrose said he was the best child, the best son, extremely loving, compassionate and that he wished he could have been like him even though he was younger. Christian loved his family. He loved to hug people; his mom talked about a time during the pandemic that he would run and hug family and friends because he was a hugger.

The pleasant memories and stories of Christian are endless – too many to fill in this article. Now the hard part starts – life without their son. Their family home is the site of great loss, and with their son’s killer on the loose, the family is rightfully uneasy about coming and going from their home. The 69th Precinct has been helpful with the transition and support. They’ve

also received so much help from The God Squad, but moving forward is unthinkable.

Christian’s death was one of many senseless deaths in Brooklyn last month. An East Flatbush man was killed on March 16th when a tow truck driver punched him because he parked his car at the gas station. Then, the following day, March 17th, two twin sisters were attacked in Park Slope; one died from her injuries after refusing to give a young man her phone number. The sisters left the home to get snacks after having a long night of family games.

Josiah – the name Christian’s mother prefers to call him – leaves behind so many who love him. Along with his mother and father, friends and family, far and near, he also leaves behind his twin sister, Crystal, their five siblings, Joanna, Andrew, Joshua, Kayla and Faith, and his niece, Kylie, and nephew, Isaac.



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Marine Park

Some-Bunny Loves You: A Spectacular Easter Bonnet & Egg Hunt Extravaganza

By Robert Pearl

On March 24th, amid the chilly yet splendid Palm Sunday spring weather, Marine Park came alive with a hop, skip and a jump for the Some-Bunny Loves You Easter Bonnet & Egg Hunt, which took place behind the Carmine Carro Community Center, 3000 Fillmore Avenue. Sponsored by Assemblywoman Jaime Williams and East Flatbush Village Inc., in partnership with State Senator Kevin Parker and Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, the event was a delightful fusion of family-friendly fun activities and community engagement.

Assemblywoman Williams officiated the ceremonies with ebullient enthusiasm, engaging with kids and parents alike, leading the festivities and distributing Easter goodies. The park buzzed with activity and happy faces as families immersed themselves in music, games, contests and more. Laughter echoed as children frolicked around the jubilee jam, parents taking pictures of their little ones against the cardboard bunny cutouts and reveling in games like giant Connect 4 and Jenga.

The atmosphere brimmed with excitement as kids eagerly lined up to partake in various activities, including guessing the number of jelly beans in a glass

jar. Young Noah Jenkins and his mom emerged victorious, guessing the closest, claiming the prize and the coveted jelly beans. There was quite a busy turnout, as the throngs gathered in glee, with children taking turns in potato sack races, with spirited competition. Alina Mathew from Councilwoman Narcisse's office was the official announcer calling off the races – “on your mark, get set, and no-go,” as she playfully teased the bunny-hoppers to false starts. As the adult potato sack race got underway, the assemblywoman herself took part, allowing her constituents to hop ahead to the finish line.

The 63rd Precinct Community Affairs officers, Podd, Walsh and Belkin, were present, preserving the peace, calling the winners, and attempting to keep order among the merry masses. Once the Easter Egg Hunt commenced, it was every bunny for themselves, as the grassy area became a playground for eager children and parents alike, reminiscent of wild rabbits scurrying amid eggs and vibrant colored grass. Every participant, regardless of the outcome, was rewarded with holiday treats, spreading joy throughout the crowd.

Williams extended her gratitude to the event's sponsors and staff, recognizing

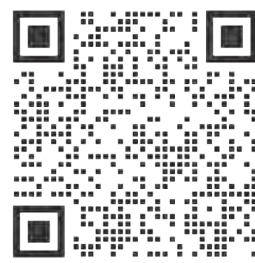


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their invaluable contributions to its success. Among them were East Flatbush Village Inc., Marine Park Alliance, Marine Park Community Association, Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, Millennium Development, NYC Parks, 63rd Precinct Community Affairs, Christina Cap of Mill Basin Civic, and entertainment provided by Stella.

The Some-Bunny Loves You Easter Bonnet & Egg Hunt was a resounding success, fostering community spirit and celebrating the joy of Easter. Thanks to the organizers, sponsors and participants, the event concluded on a high note, leaving behind cherished memories of laughter, camaraderie and festive cheer. Happy Easter!



Assemblywoman Jaime Williams kicks off Potato Sack Race for children.



Kids swarm for the Easter Egg Hunt



Alina Mathew from Councilwoman Narcisse's Office, Police Officers Podd, Walsh and Belkin, with Assemblywoman Jaime Williams (center).

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East Flatbush

Students Showcase Their Artwork at Wit and Wisdom Exhibit

On Wednesday, March 27th, first grade students at P.S. 233 the Langston Hughes School, located at 9301 Avenue B, presented their First Grade Art Gallery.

For the past two weeks, our students have been reading the book, *Wild About Books*, and analyzing the artwork of Marc Chagall. This is our introduction to the new ELA curriculum, Wit and Wisdom.

As a culminating activity to Module 0, students created a piece of artwork that described their neighborhood. They used colors, shapes and sizes to tell their story.

Students invited their parents, teachers and other classes to showcase their pieces of artwork. Parents, teachers and students used post-it notes to share one thing they noticed and one thing they wondered about as they viewed the artwork.

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Crime Stats, Traffic Safety and Legislative Updates at 63rd Precinct Council Meeting

By Robert Pearl

The community gathered on Wednesday evening, March 27th, at the John Malone Center, located at 2335 Bergen Avenue, for the monthly 63rd Precinct Community Council meeting, led by Terri Cadet-Donald in the absence of Community Council President Greg Borruso. The meeting was abuzz with discussions ranging from crime statistics to legislative initiatives.

Deputy Inspector Rachael Kosak delivered an update on crime statistics and policing efforts in the precinct. She said that a request was made for a crossing guard at Roy H. Mann Junior High School, but at the current time there were no available crossing guards to occupy the post. The request was originally made last fall to Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse's office in response to concerns made by the community. That request was subsequently sent to 63rd Precinct Traffic Safety; however, due to limited crossing guards, it was not approved.

Further to the matter of crossing guards, where reported accidents were much higher, Kosak confirmed that a new crossing guard will be added to the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and Kings Highway. Additionally, a second crossing guard, currently in training, will be stationed at Flatbush and Flatlands Avenues. Kosak emphasized the importance of data-driven decision-making in traffic safety initiatives.

Officer Randi Knepper received accolades as Cop of the Month for her pivotal role in a recent firearms discovery, which was connected to a homicide leading to a broader investigation. During a routine traffic stop, the loaded gun was found with an individual who had a prior gun arrest. In addition, Alex from State Senator Roxanne Persaud's office presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Cop of the Month. The awards underscored the dedication of local law enforcement in ensuring community safety.

Representatives from various elected officials' offices shared legislative updates and initiatives. Donald Cranston, liaison for Assemblywoman Jaime Williams, said that she has helped introduce two bills in the NYS Assembly. The first one she authored is in response to the police officer who was attacked recently in Times Square. The bill provides that if ANY uniformed public servant or officer – whether it be Sanitation, NYPD, FDNY or EMS – is attacked, there will be NO BAIL for the perpetrator. A second bill that she co-sponsored would allow lawful homeowners to remove squatters by redefining them as “trespassers” rather than “tenants,” making it a felony if you're squatting in someone's house.

The proposed bills garnered considerable attention and applause from attendees. The bipartisan efforts to combat squatting reflect the community's unified stance on property protection and law enforcement support.

In addition to legislative updates, attendees were informed about an upcoming Public Safety Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th, at 6 p.m. The meeting aims to address community concerns and expectations as warmer weather approaches, with a focus on issues such as the migrant crisis, crime prevention and panhandling. The meeting will be held at the Carmine Carro Center, located at 3000 Fillmore Avenue in Marine Park.

Attendees were also informed about an upcoming “Save Our Communities” rally on Sunday, April 14th. The rally, organized by concerned citizens, various civic associations and local leaders, will take place near Kings Plaza Mall, starting at 12:30 p.m. with the meetup point located at Kimball Street, between Avenues U and V. The event is meant to unite all New Yorkers and show unified support against the policies they say have failed the taxpaying public, bringing us increased crime, less

safety and migrant mayhem. All local residents across the boroughs, who are affected, are encouraged to participate and voice their concerns about community safety and well-being.

Throughout the meeting, community members emphasized the importance of cooperation with law enforcement and encouraged active participation in reporting crimes in progress for prompt response. Identity theft scams, particularly those involving cryptocurrency, utility and gift cards, were highlighted as areas of concern, underscoring the need for vigilance and awareness.

Please note the change of venue for the next meeting on Wednesday, April 24th, at 7 p.m. will take place at the Purpose Life Church, located at 1895 Flatbush Avenue.



Deputy Inspector Rachael Kosak and Officer Randi Knepper, Cop of the Month

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Community Council Member Honored by NY Legislative Caucus for Women's History Month

By Linda Steinmuller

The 69th Precinct Community Council held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 26th, at the Hebrew Educational Society (H.E.S.), 9502 Seaview Avenue. Before giving his monthly report, Commanding Officer Captain Dion Hinds extended his condolences to the family of Christian Montrose, the 19-year-old who was tragically shot outside his home on East 104th Street in what's believed to be a case of mistaken identity.

Hinds said he was at the murder scene on the morning of March 19th, and it hit him pretty hard. "To see what I believe to be a normal everyday child being murdered senselessly is definitely heart-wrenching. There are a lot of innocent young men and women being murdered senselessly out here in the streets and this is something we definitely need to address." He told attendees to keep the family in their prayers. "He was definitely one of the more positive individuals in the neighborhood," Hinds said, stating that Montrose had recently applied to join the FDNY.

On a more positive note, crime in the precinct is down 10% in all major categories for the recent 28-day period and 5% overall this year. Hinds warned about one crime that is on the rise – grand larceny, specifically bank and credit card scams, check fraud, etc. – and older adults are the target. He advised everyone to check their bank and credit card statements daily to watch for any type of fraudulent activity. Victims of these scams report that credit card accounts are being falsely opened in their names, and phones are purchased through their Verizon and T-Mobile accounts.

Residents should also be aware of imposters posing as Con Edison workers, complete with fake badges. The best way to handle this is to call Con Ed directly to confirm if any work is scheduled in your home or building.

Auto theft – particularly of Kias and Hyundais – has consistently been one of the biggest crimes in the 69th Precinct, so when Hinds announced that car theft has decreased by 53%, the announcement was met with applause. The precinct had set up a deployment zone and arrested a couple of individuals responsible for the thefts, some who are repeat offenders. Two of them, who are under 18, have been placed in youth facilities where they will be held for six to 12 months.

Next, Captain Hinds presented Officers Mariam Shengelia and Kingsley Okafor with Cop of the Month awards for February.

On February 24th, around 11 p.m., Officer Shengelia and Sgt. Sean Keegan observed a group of males walking southbound on Rockaway Parkway alongside the Bayview Houses. One of the males was wearing a surgical mask and purple latex gloves. When the group saw the patrol car, they went in the opposite direction. The officers approached one of the individuals who was clutching at his right pocket and asked him to take his hands out of his pockets. "A tussle ensued and the firearm came out of the individual's pocket," Hinds said. "The officers recovered a loaded 40 caliber Glock."

On February 27th, Officer Okafor and his partner were doing "verticals" inside the Bayview Houses. This is where officers check each floor and make sure everything is clear in the hallways. On the sixth floor hallway, they saw one young man passing a firearm to the other one. A chase ensued, and one of the individuals fell down a flight of steps. The officers recovered a loaded 9 mm gun.

Each member of the New York Legislative Caucus was asked to select an honoree from their district in celebration of Women's History Month, and this year's theme is "women who advocate for equity,

diversity and inclusion." On behalf of State Senator Roxanne Persaud (SD19), Jennifer Viechweg-Horsford presented the award to Vice President Melba P. Brown.

"The senator wants you to know that she is honoring you for your determination, courage and your quest in equality," she said. The plaque read in part, "We take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary women who have made history through their work. The State of New York is grateful for your selfless service." On a personal note, Viechweg-Horsford said she looks forward to hearing Brown's poems, speeches and all the research she does for Women's History Month each year.

The next meeting of the 69th Precinct Community Council will be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30th, at the H.E.S.



Officers Mariam Shengelia and Kingsley Okafor receive Cop of the Month awards for February.



Melba P. Brown is honored with a Certificate of Recognition from the New York Legislative Caucus in celebration of Women's History Month. Jennifer Viechweg-Horsford presented the award.

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Protect Yourself from Home Improvement Scams

The Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) shares tips to prevent home improvement scams, which have consistently ranked among New Yorkers' top five consumer complaints. In the spring, you may be considering making home improvements; however, contractor fraud and home improvement scams can cost homeowners thousands of dollars and leave them with poor workmanship or unfinished projects.

Before you decide on a contractor, consider the following list of tips to avoid common home improvement scams.

1. Shop around: Get at least three estimates that include detailed information about materials, services to be provided and a projected timeline.

2. Know who you hire: Ask friends and neighbors to recommend contractors they have worked with. Check their references. Look into local home builder associations that may recommend reputable contractors and provide support if there is a dispute.

3. Check your local government licensing requirements: NYS does not license home improvement contractors, but some counties and local municipalities do. Look into what is

required in your area and be sure the contractor has proper licensure and has insurance.

4. Get it in writing and be sure the contract includes: the contractors' name, address and phone number; estimated timeline with start and finish date; detailed description of the work; and detailed pricing that includes a list of supplies and labor costs.

Scammers will knock on your door suggesting improvements they can help you with like new windows or the latest solar panels. Some may claim to be in the area and to have materials left over from a previous job. They will pressure you for an immediate decision and recommend a lender they know to help pay for the job. Don't finance through your contractor.

Know your rights: You have three days to cancel after signing a contract for home improvements. All cancellations must be in writing.

Never pay full price up front: Establish a payment schedule tied to completing specific jobs. Don't pay with cash or wire transfer. Withhold final payment until the entire project is completed to your satisfaction.

If a resolution is not possible, file a complaint with DCP at <https://dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection>

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Brooklyn Author Publishes Book on Personal Empowerment

By Angela G. Nannetti

Native New Yorker and longtime Brooklyn resident Delilah Campos had always dreamed of becoming a published author and since she was home all day during the height of the COVID pandemic, she took the opportunity to start writing *I Am What I Think I See*, a truly fascinating book that fosters personal development and empowerment, available on Amazon.

While completing her Master's Degree in Screenwriting at Brooklyn College, Campos, who lives in Flatbush, developed a personal blog, ThankfulCreator.com, where she began to write about the power of giving thanks and finding everyday reasons to be thankful, hoping to inspire others to see and appreciate the good in their lives too. Expanding on those concepts of gratitude and positivity, her book goes a step further.

"*I Am What I Think I See* touches on the topic of self-talk and how it directly shapes our self-image and our perception of the world around us. What we say to ourselves has manifesting powers that we often forget, and because our self-talk is done quietly in the confines of our own minds, we often don't point out or correct when we're speaking negatively to ourselves," she explained, in an interview with the *Canarsie Courier*, having experienced this firsthand.

"In my own life, I recognized that I was tremendously critical of every single thing I did and I was not kind to myself by way of my inner speech. I lived this way for a majority of my life, and as you might imagine, this affected my level of self-esteem, confidence and overall joy in life. I wrote this book because I began experimenting with changing my self-talk. I was seeking joy and willing to experiment to find it," she shared rather candidly of her own very successful journey to self-empowerment.

"Years before, I remember watching a video about Louise Hay – a famous teacher on self-love and healing – speak about Mirror Work, which is the act of speaking positive affirmations to your reflection in the mirror. When I heard her speak about this practice, I vividly remember dismissing it completely. How can repeating some words you don't believe cause a change in your perspective? It just didn't make sense to me at the time, but I

eventually reached a point where my confidence and happiness was so low that trying anything would be worth a shot," said Campos of what turned out to be her catalyst for change.

"I wrote my own series of affirmations and resolved to do them every morning for 90 days straight, and if I didn't see or feel a difference in that time, I would stop. What I came to realize is that even if you're repeating a series of affirmations that you don't yet believe of yourself (i.e., I love myself, all is well in my life, I am enough, etc.), your mind will begin to absorb the words as something familiar, something that belongs there," explained Campos, who reports having felt a tremendous shift within herself after just one month.

"I can only tell you from my own experience that Mirror Work really does make a difference,

but it would take actual practice and commitment for someone to truly know that for themselves. For anyone who seeks to develop a greater sense of self-worth, self-confidence, peace and the ability to love their reflection in the mirror, I would encourage them to check out my book and try the three-minute Mirror Work practice found there," she said.

"My hope for anyone seeking to improve their life in any way is that you don't give up. Our minds are powerful and can convince us to just quit and succumb, but that same powerful mind that you have can also pull you through hard times," she explained. "Your mind can change for the better, and what better time to have a positive change of mind!"

Photo courtesy of Delilah Campos



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LEGAL NOTICES



KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of And SMWHR. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/20/2024. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Jessica Palmer: 367 St Marks Ave PMB1129, Brooklyn, New York 11238, US. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Pilgrim Village Ventures LLC filed w/ SSNY 2/1/24. Off. in Kings Co. Process served to SSNY - desig. as agt. of LLC & mailed to the LLC, 150 Myrtle Ave, Ste 2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Any lawful purpose.

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KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given a license, NYS Application ID: NA-0346-24-110629 for a catering establishment have been applied for by the undersigned to sell liquor at retail at a catering establishment under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 68 33rd Street- Suite 08-01-BB, Courtyard 7-8, Brooklyn, NY 11232 for on-premises consumption.

IC Food & Beverage LLC d/b/a Box Factory

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Simi Leiv Mental Health Counseling. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Deborah Weinstock: 1270 east 18th street Brooklyn NY 11230. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of 1896 EAST 4TH STREET, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/15/24. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of LLC: 901 Ave. K, Brooklyn, NY 11230. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Philip J. Michaels, c/o Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP, 1301 Ave. of the Americas, NY, NY 10019. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Notice of Formation of Kaifuyem LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Daniel Michael Kalinin: 1740 Ocean Avenue APT 10C, Brooklyn NY 11230. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BFC River North LLC filed w/ SSNY 1/31/24. Off. in Kings Co. Process served to SSNY - desig. as agt. of LLC & mailed to the LLC, 150 Myrtle Ave, Ste. 2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Any lawful purpose

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of 5819 FIVE STAR BARBER SHOP LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/26/2024. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to JOWEL MARTINEZ: 5819 4TH AVE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11220. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given a license, NYS Application ID: NA-0340-24-109231 for beer, wine, cider and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine, cider and liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 55 Water Street, Unit S, Kings, NY 11201 for on-premises consumption.

JG DUMBO LLC d/b/a ABC KITCHEN

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FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED!!!

We are looking for **EXPERIENCED WRITERS** to cover meetings, events and human interest stories in Canarsie and surrounding areas!

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Crown Heights: Large Furnished, no smoking/pets,
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