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## **SAFE CANARSIE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**



Photo courtesy of The Flossy Organization

Story on page 2

**Our office will be closed Monday, January 20th,  
in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



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**Breaking the Cycle of Violence: A Vision for Canarsie's Future**

By Jibreel Jalloh

This past weekend, we made a bold stand against the violence that has gripped our community. At the inaugural Safe Canarsie Basketball Tournament, hundreds of residents — youth, families and advocates — gathered to declare that enough is enough. Over two days, we transformed the gym at Isaac Bildersee I.S. 68 into a hub of hope and action, hosting workshops on gang violence, hate and trauma while empowering young people with tools to envision a better future.

The energy and unity at this event were inspiring, but they also underscored a harsh reality: Canarsie, like so many underserved neighborhoods, remains in urgent need of investment in public safety and community infrastructure. Too many of our youth are left with limited opportunities for positive engagement, while families grapple with the fear of gun violence. Just blocks away from our anti-gun violence rally on Friday, January 10th, there were two shootings — yet another reminder of the challenges we face and the urgency of our mission.

We remain committed to making Canarsie a safe and thriving community. Last year, our coalition secured \$1.6 mil-

lion in city funding for violence intervention efforts, but the challenges demand even more comprehensive action. We need spaces that promote healing, safety and opportunity—community centers, green spaces and programming that give our youth an alternative to the streets.

This is a pivotal moment for Canarsie. State and city leadership, including Governor Kathy Hochul, must recognize the urgent need for additional resources in our neighborhood. Communities like ours cannot keep waiting for tragedy after tragedy to receive the investment we deserve. We are not asking for hand-outs; we are asking for the same opportunities that safe and thriving communities enjoy.

The Safe Canarsie Basketball Tournament was more than an event; it was a call to action. It demonstrated the power of community collaboration and what we can achieve when we come together. Now, we need our elected officials to amplify that momentum by prioritizing public safety and youth programming.

Our youth deserve spaces to grow, to dream and to thrive. They deserve to feel safe walking to school or playing basketball at the park. They deserve a community that values their potential. It's



time for bold investments and concrete action. We need a community center built in Canarsie utilizing State and City funding. Together, we can end the cycle of violence and build the Canarsie that our children deserve.

Jibreel Jalloh is an award-winning organizer with experience working at the highest levels of government. He is the Founder and Executive Director of The Flossy Organization, a non-profit dedicated to closing the advocacy gap through education and activism. Over the past few years, they have worked to end gun violence, increase transit options and secure investments in local green spaces. Jibreel recently won the prestigious Obama Foundation Scholar award at Columbia University. You can learn more at [theflossy.org](http://theflossy.org) and follow @theflossyorg.

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Both RFPs are open from January 6, 2025, through March 10, 2025. Instructions on how to submit proposals and other details can be found at [Do Business With Us - Gateway National Recreation Area \(U.S. National Park Service\)](http://Do Business With Us - Gateway National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service))

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## Teen Suspect Arrested for Shooting a Woman

By Lloyd Mitchell and Linda Steinmuller

A 17-year-old male was arrested in connection to the shooting of a 57-year-old woman in Canarsie last week.

Police sources said there was a dispute at 755 East 81st Street, between Flatlands Avenue and Glenwood Road, which led to the shooting around 5:40 p.m. on Friday, January 10th. Upon arrival, officers from the 69th Precinct found the woman

with a gunshot wound to her right thigh. It's unclear what the relationship was between the shooter and his victim.

The victim was taken to Brookdale Hospital in stable condition, according to police.

On Monday, January 13th, the teen was arrested and charged with attempted murder, assault, menacing and criminal possession of a weapon.

Photo by Lloyd Mitchell



## Man with a Gun Shot by Police Outside Canarsie Deli

By Lloyd Mitchell and Linda Steinmuller

Police shot and wounded a gun-toting suspect after he pointed a firearm at an officer on a Canarsie street last week.

The incident occurred on Friday, January 10th, outside of Muamer Inc., a convenience store located at 776 East 80th Street, at Flatlands Avenue.

At a press conference the following day, NYPD Chief of Patrol Philip Rivera, accompanied by Assistant Chief Charles McEvoy, commanding officer of Patrol Borough Brooklyn South, said that, according to a preliminary investigation, four uniformed officers, in two unmarked cars, heard one gunshot in the vicinity around 9:45 p.m.

They saw a 50-year-old male exit the convenience store and run northbound on East 80th Street. Two of the officers chased the suspect on foot, while the other two followed him in the unmarked car. Rivera said that the officers identified themselves and issued verbal commands to the sus-

pect, but he did not comply.

The man ran behind a tree and pointed a gun at an NYPD sergeant. All four officers discharged their firearms, striking the man in the torso. He was taken into custody, and a firearm was recovered at the scene. The suspect was taken to Brookdale Hospital in critical condition, and the officers were taken to an area hospital for evaluation.

A ghost gun was also recovered inside the convenience store, Rivera said.

McEvoy said it appeared that another shooting that took place just one block away, three hours earlier, is not connected to this incident.

Rivera said further violence was prevented because of the police officers' actions. Evidence of the shooting was viewed on body-worn camera and store security surveillance.

Photo by Lloyd Mitchell



## Pedestrian Fatally Struck in Canarsie

By Baqir Ahmad and Linda Steinmuller

An 87-year-old woman was struck and killed while crossing the intersection at East 88th Street and Avenue L on Friday, January 10th.

Officers from the 69th Precinct responded to the scene around 6:45 p.m., where they found the elderly woman with trauma to her body, lying in the roadway. EMS rushed the victim to Brookdale Hospital where she unfortunately succumbed to her injuries.

A preliminary investigation revealed that a 39-year-old

male, driving a Honda Odyssey, was traveling westbound on Avenue L when the tragic collision occurred. The driver was making a left turn onto East 88th Street when the pedestrian was hit.

The Honda driver remained at the crash site, but no arrests were made as an investigation is ongoing by the NYPD Highway District's Collision Investigation Squad.

The woman's identity was not released pending family notification.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad



### East Flatbush

## Shooting Leads to Death of Dollar Van Driver in Possible Road Rage Incident

By Lloyd Mitchell

A dollar van driver was shot and killed on Utica Avenue on Sunday, January 12th.

Officers from the 67th Precinct found Johanci Chapman, 25, of East Flatbush, outside of 837 Utica Avenue, between Linden Blvd. and Church Avenue, with a gunshot wound to the left arm around 12:55 p.m., police sources said.

Paramedics rushed him to Kings County Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, police said.

The suspect, also a dollar van driver, fled in a white van eastbound on Church Avenue.

A NYPD spokesman said the incident may have stemmed from a fare pickup dispute or a road rage incident.

No arrests have been made, and an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers Website at [crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/](http://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/), or on X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.



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# Single Mom Devastated After Hit-and-Run Leaves Her Without a Car

By Bristol Hendrix

For a young single mother working tirelessly to provide for her family, a car isn't just a luxury — it's a lifeline. But in the early hours of Monday, December 23rd, that lifeline was shattered when her vehicle was severely damaged in a hit-and-run on Flatlands Avenue, near Remsen Avenue, in front of the former Sally's Fish & Things and right across the street from Oak Street Medical.

The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous and commutes daily across Brooklyn to Canarsie for work, had just wrapped up a Christmas party for her child when the unthinkable happened. "I came out later and had to park farther away than usual. By the time I came outside, my car was crushed," she said, her voice heavy with exhaustion and frustration.

A white Nissan Pathfinder sideswiped her small Infiniti, which she describes as her only means of transporting her 3-year-old son and getting to work. The Pathfinder pushed her car three feet from its original position and left her immobile. Surveillance footage shows the offending driver hitting her car at approximately 10:11 a.m., stopping briefly — likely blocked by an MTA bus — and then fleeing the scene after two minutes.

"I use this car for everything," she shared tearfully. "I work hard every single day to make sure my son doesn't have to struggle. Yesterday, I spent thousands of dollars on maintenance so it would be safe, and now it's gone."

The damage to the vehicle is extensive. The rear of the car was crushed, rendering one tire completely unusable. To make matters worse, the car was left partially in a bus lane, putting her at risk of receiving tickets while she scrambled to figure out her next steps.

"I don't have comprehensive insurance. Liability only covers the other person, so I need to find them to get help," she explained. "Mistakes happen — there was snow and ice — but you don't just drive off. You don't leave someone stranded like this."

The mother is finding it nearly impossible to get the help she needs to identify the driver. Despite multiple cameras in the area, she says property managers have refused to release footage, citing privacy concerns. The police, she adds, told her she'd need to wait for detectives to follow up.

"Every hour that passes, I'm afraid the footage will be erased, and I'll have nothing to prove what happened," she said. "It's Christmas, my son's third birthday is just weeks away, and now I don't even have a way to get him to school or pick up groceries."

She described the crushing reality of the situation, saying she's no stranger to hardships but always found a way to keep going for her son. "This car is everything to us. It's how I get to work, how I make sure my son doesn't have to take three buses in the freezing cold. Now, I feel like all the progress I've worked so hard for is gone."

Friends have urged her to turn to social media and local news outlets to spread awareness. They believe the public could help track down the driver, who was seen fleeing in the Pathfinder without front plates, possibly indicating they're from out of state.

Luckily, later that day, the police were able to find the white Nissan Pathfinder and are working with the victim to get some form of justice.



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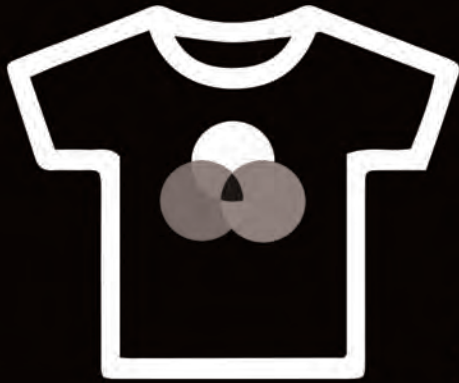
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## KCC STEM Lab Showcases 3D-Design and 3D-Printing Technology to 'PAL Kids' at Annual Holiday Party

By Arthur De Gaeta

On Saturday, December 7th, the Police Athletic League (PAL) kids, staff, administrators and guests experienced 3D-design and 3D-printing technology demonstrated by Michael Victor Danza from the Kingsborough Community College/CUNY STEM Lab at the PAL annual Holiday Party.

When instructor Danza was asked why he showcased Kingsborough's 3D-design and 3D-printing technology to the PAL community, he replied, "Well, three reasons."

"First, I was a 'PAL kid' when I was young, and the PAL programs influ-

enced my decision to become a professional artist and scientist."

"Second, it is imperative that the PAL kids experience this state-of-the-art technology because — in the future — every company and every house will have a 3D printer so they can 3D-print 'prototypes' for new inventions and 'functional parts' for household appliances ... it will be DIY (Do It Yourself) time!"

"Third, Kingsborough has a fantastic, affordable Engineering Program which enables the PAL kids to become The Next Generation of American Engineers!"



PAL kids pictured with Kingsborough Community College/CUNY STEM Lab instructor Michael Victor Danza at the PAL annual Holiday Party.

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## Floyd Bennett Field Shelter to Close Amid Shifting Political Tides

By Robert Pearl

In a decision that underscores the consequences of the 2024 Presidential Election, the migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field (FBF) is set to close on January 15, 2025, five days before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration.

The controversial tent shelters, which have been a flashpoint for civic activism, political maneuvering and community outrage since their inception, will be dismantled, marking an end to a contentious chapter in New York City's handling of the migrant crisis.

For many community members and activists, this closure represents a hard-fought victory. The Coalition for Better Communities and New Yorkers First, which organized rallies and protests against the shelter, released a statement thanking their volunteers and highlighting key figures in the fight. "We would

like to thank all the volunteers and elected officials who helped us get illegal migrants out of our national park. Special thanks to Curtis Sliwa, Assemblywoman Jaime Williams, Brenda Lee, Sal Calise and our committee members." In addition, honorable mention was given to Congresswoman Nicole Maliotakis, who led the charge at the federal level, Assemblymen Michael Novakhov and William Colton, State Senator Steve Chan, Councilwoman Joann Ariola from Queens, former Councilman Ari Kagan, Lina Chan and DJ Ross the Boss providing sound equipment for the rallies. "These were the folks in the fight from the beginning," said Ron Canterino, chairman of the Coalition.

Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels and a mayoral candidate, played a significant role in rallying opposition to the shelters. "From the start, I stood with the community because it was the right thing to do. Floyd Bennett Field is a historical landmark, not a dumping ground for failed policies," Sliwa stated. The Guardian Angel was a key participant in the organization of the rallies, spoke about and promoted them on the radio, showing up every time in person to be in solidarity with the communities that were targeted.

The Coalition's efforts, combined with widespread community opposition, brought together residents from both sides of the Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge and across the political spectrum. While humanitarian concerns were raised, the loudest objections centered on public safety, environmental issues and the adverse effects on local residents, including increased crime and panhandling.

Mayor Eric Adams, whose administration faced sharp criticism over its handling of the migrant crisis, offered a contrasting narrative. "Thanks to our smart management strategies, we've turned the corner," Adams stated in December 2024. "This additional slate of shelter closures is proof that we're managing this crisis better than any other city in the nation."

Community leaders, however, remain skeptical of such claims. "Beware of elected officials taking credit where it isn't due," a spokesperson for the Coalition warned. "The real catalyst for this decision was the election of a new president who prioritizes border security and deportation."

Trump's campaign rhetoric emphasized using federal authority to shut down migrant shelters, including FBF. While his intervention is no longer necessary, the outcome of the presidential election could have influenced the decision to close the facility.

As the tents are dismantled, questions linger about the legacy of the shelter and the role of the National Park Service. The community is demanding transparency about the lease funds and whether the promised upgrades to the historic park will materialize.

Many are curious where all these migrants and families are going. While it is reported some are leaving the country, most will be redistributed to other shelters throughout the city. While FBF is being closed down, another large migrant shelter is going up in the South Bronx, to house 2,000 migrants, according to Sliwa and others familiar with the effort.

Stephanie Benshimol, a local resident, expressed relief at the news. "When elected officials work together with the community, the job gets done. Floyd Bennett Field being cleared is a win for public safety. I'll now feel much safer," she said.

While the closure signals a victory for activists, it also serves as a reminder of the power of organized grassroots efforts. As FBF reclaims its historic purpose, the Coalition vows to remain vigilant, ensuring that similar missteps are not repeated in the future.



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# Assemblywoman Jaime Williams Speaks Out on Sid & Friends



Assemblywoman  
Jaime Williams  
on Sid & Friends in the  
Morning on WABC radio.

By Robert Pearl

In a candid interview on 77 WABC's popular radio show, *Sid & Friends In The Morning*, on Monday, January 13th, Assemblywoman Jaime Williams shared her perspectives on a range of critical issues, from the imminent closure of Floyd Bennett Field's (FBF) controversial migrant shelter to congestion pricing, local governance and national politics.

The interview began with host Sid Rosenberg highlighting Williams' steadfast opposition to the migrant shelters at FBF. "You were out there for every rally," Rosenberg said, acknowledging Williams' two-year effort alongside Curtis Sliwa and other activists. The assemblywoman didn't mince words in addressing the role of Mayor Eric Adams and Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, who recently took credit for the decision to shut down the shelter.

"Mayor Adams is shameless," Williams declared. "We've been out there for over a year, fighting, testifying and protecting our communities. He was nowhere to be found during flooding and freezing temperatures at the shelter. This sudden rush to close Floyd Bennett Field is not about the people — it's about political optics and the upcoming [mayoral] election."

Williams attributed the decision to close the shelter by January 15, 2025, to the election of President-elect Donald Trump, whose hardline stance on border security was a defining feature of his campaign. "We have a new sheriff in town," she said. "The people have spoken. They want secure borders and policies that make New Yorkers feel safe again."

Williams also addressed congestion pricing, criticizing its disproportionate impact on Brooklyn and Queens residents who lack reliable public transportation. "We don't have subways running through our district, and with crime on

public transit, driving is often the only option." She dismissed claims by city officials that subway crime has decreased, noting, "They're living in an imaginary world; they are not taking public transportation, while we face the reality."

Rosenberg pressed Williams on her stance regarding the upcoming mayoral race, given her disapproval of Adams' policies. While she stopped short of endorsing a candidate, Williams emphasized the need for leadership that prioritizes the community over political self-interest. "We have to choose wisely — someone who cares about New Yorkers, not just their friends in office," she said.

The assemblywoman concluded by calling for accountability and transparency from the National Parks Service regarding the funds col-

lected from the FBF lease. "They promised upgrades to our park, but we've seen nothing. It's like a fart in the wind," Williams quipped.

As the city prepares to dismantle the tents and repurpose the site, Williams' relentless advocacy alongside Sliwa and local coalitions underscores her commitment to her constituents. With the closure of FBF, she and her allies see this as a hard-fought victory. "We've been out there for over a year, fighting, testifying and protecting our communities. This wasn't about one person — it was a collective fight," Williams declared.

The fiery interview ended with Rosenberg's acknowledgment of her efforts: "Congratulations, Jaime. You were terrific in this endeavor, and you deserve a lot more credit than the mayor."

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# TriniJam and Visit Canarsie Ring in the New Year with Festive Celebration



By Bristol Hendrix

Canarsie kicked off the New Year in spectacular fashion as TriniJam BK and Visit Canarsie hosted their much-loved annual Christmas party, a tradition that has become a cornerstone of the holiday season in the neighborhood.

Held in late December at TriniJam restaurant, at 9501 Flatlands Avenue, the event was a vibrant blend of community, culture and Caribbean flair, leaving attendees inspired and energized for 2025.

The evening featured unforgettable performances, including a breathtaking finale by world-renowned pianist Kris Lawrence, whose steelpan melodies resonated with warmth and joy. Khamani Daniels, the 2023 Junior Panorama solo pianist winner for ages 14–17, also captivated the audience with an awe-inspiring solo performance, showcasing the extraordinary talent of Canarsie’s young artists.

Guests enjoyed traditional Caribbean dishes prepared by the culinary experts at TriniJam, while the beautifully adorned venue set the stage for dancing, laughter and togetherness. From savory delights to sweet treats, the flavors of the islands brought an authentic taste of the Caribbean to the heart of Canarsie.

The event drew support from local leaders, including Assemblywoman Jaime Williams, Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, Councilman Chris Banks and representatives from organizations such as My Time Inc. and Sesame Flyers. Members of the FDNY were also in attendance, reinforcing the evening’s spirit of unity and appreciation for the community’s dedication and service.

“This party is more than a holiday celebration — it’s about starting the new year with pride and positivity as a community,” said one attendee.

The collaboration between TriniJam BK and Visit Canarsie highlighted the neighborhood’s rich cultural heritage and fostered a strong sense of belonging. As the night came to a close, many left with fond memories and excitement for what’s to come in the new year.

With this event, TriniJam BK and Visit Canarsie reaffirmed their commitment to creating experiences that celebrate Canarsie’s unique spirit. As the calendar turns to 2025, residents can look forward to even more vibrant celebrations that bring the community together in style.

*Photos courtesy of TriniJam BK and Visit Canarsie*



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## From Military to Education to Community, Bob Spieler '64 Lives a Life of Service

By Stephanie Flynn

Director of Marketing and Communications for Alumni and Development, Hofstra University

*Editor's Note: The following article was published in News@Hofstra on December 2, 2024. Bob Spieler, who was chosen as Hofstra's "Alumni of the Month," is a Marine Park resident and U.S. Army veteran. He is the co-founder of the Marine Park Pickleball Club and is affectionately known as "Pickleball Bob."*

This year marks 61 years since Bob Spieler graduated from Hofstra University. And at 82 years old, he shows no signs of slowing down.

When Bob was three years old, his father died in World War II's Battle of the Bulge. Later, Bob chose to honor his father's legacy by serving his country as well. As a teen, he declined a survivorship exemption, which excused surviving sons of deceased service members from the draft. Bob joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) on Hofstra's campus while earning his chemistry degree. He picked chemistry for his major "because it was my favorite class in high school, even though I didn't get an A in it. It was something of a challenge."

"It was the Vietnam War era when I graduated from college, and I didn't really know what I was going to do. I knew I loved my country, and I had a piece of paper that said 'Chem Degree.'" So, upon graduation in 1964, Bob joined the Army.

The Army gave him more than work experience. "Before I went into the service, I was a kid. And then, I became a man. The military really straightens you out, teaches you discipline, teaches you love of country, teaches you how to get along with other people .... The work was hazardous and dangerous, but I did my job."

In 1966, Bob returned to civilian life, briefly working as a research chemist at Geigy Pharmaceuticals before pivoting to teaching. "I didn't like [research]. It was not for me. So, I looked for other ways to work and enjoy life. And I found teaching."

And, just as he did in the Army, Bob excelled in his new career. He taught math and science in New York City schools for 35 years, earning accolades such as 1992 Teacher of the Year, induction into the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics and nomination for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching.

Both in the classroom and out, Bob has engaged people of all ages in learning. As a teacher, he sought out ways to better connect with his students by donating his lunch periods to play chess and softball. In his community, he established the first chess club at the Brooklyn Public Library, an organization that has thrived for over a decade.

Five years ago, Bob established Brooklyn's first official outdoor pickleball association through diligent advocacy. What began with 10 seniors is now a thriving club with over 1,500 members. His years of military service, as well as his hard work and dedication to the Brooklyn community,

were recognized by his local state senator, Simcha Felder, who nominated Bob for the 2023 Veterans Hall of Fame.

Bob and his wife of 57 years, Susan, share two sons and eight grandchildren. Their son Andrew is the Robert F. Dall Distinguished Professor in Business and professor of finance at Hofstra's Frank G. Zarb School of Business.

Bob's advice to current Hofstra students, whether they are considering chemistry, teaching, or another career, is to "pick out a subject you are good at, but don't keep your eyes closed. I didn't see teaching as a possibility when I was in college. It's good to be open to professional opportunities."



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## Senator Persaud Hosts Student Conversations on School and Public Safety

By Brenda Cox

On Thursday, January 9th, State Senator Roxanne Persaud (SD19) hosted two forums in the auditorium of the South Shore Educational Campus, 6565 Flatlands Avenue, one which addressed school safety and the other public safety.

Each forum comprised students from various schools in Persaud's district and a number of professionals from institutions such as the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, which was represented by Jeannie Melendez; Police Athletic League (PAL), represented by Marcel Braithwaite; New York Edge, represented by David Cruz; and NYPD, including Explorers.

The discussions were moderated by Persaud, who posed a series of thought-provoking questions to the panel. She began by asking the stu-

dents, "How do you define safety? What does it mean to be safe at school? Is it social? Is it physical or is it emotional?"

There were mixed responses from each of the eight students involved in the discussion. All agreed that "safety at school" could entail a combination of all three attributes but some acknowledged that it might not always feel the same for everyone.

One student said, "Safety should provide comfortability in all aspects because when you come to school, it shouldn't just be about safety for your life, but you should be able to converse with people and not feel left out or shut out in your school."

Another added, "Without all three, you wouldn't want to come to school."

The other panelists agreed with the students and offered some explanations as to why they believe safety is not black-and-white or one-size-fits-all.

"It's 50/50," stated Melendez, who serves as the chief of youth empowerment and community enrichment officer at the DA's Office. "I get mixed feelings from the students. At times, they feel safe because they do create friendships, and they have peers; there are teachers in the classrooms and the principals who care about their education and their livelihood and their safety."

"But then, I've heard that there are students that are facing what they believe to be different things in their homes, whether it's social issues, mental issues, lack of nourishment or clothing. Some of them don't even have permanent housing."

Melendez explained that those children usually carry their "baggage" to school and, according to their peers, sometimes weapons and often "act out" in class.

Cruz, a program director at New York Edge, sees the issue of school safety as "situational." He noted that everyone's circumstance is different and believes the approach to remedying each case should also be different. He spoke of instances of which he is aware, where students got along well with their teachers and peers, but added that he has also seen the other side of the coin.

"As somebody who has run programs inside of schools, I have seen both the side of the students and the teachers," the program director shared. "We have the structures for how we should engage in school systems and school buildings and with one another – be it teachers, peers, safety support systems – but the situation someone is going through also plays a huge impact."

"One of the things that makes that impact even greater is whether or not the people around those students or around those situations have the experience – the shared experience of how to engage with those individuals to continue to make things safe."

Braithwaite, who is a director of community engagement at PAL, also noted that safety is different for everyone. He stated, "Schools exist in the environments where they are. My version of safety could be very different from somebody else's. I feel this school is very safe but somebody could come from a different community and feel it's not. We can't control that. What we can control is how we react to the environments that we receive."

He explained that one way of doing so is by being prepared. To simplify, Braithwaite gave the

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State Senator Roxanne Persaud surrounded by a panel on school safety at the South Shore Educational Campus on January 9th.

example of a fire drill as a way of preparedness. Similarly, he stated, there should be “preparedness in terms of having dialogues with your colleagues and teachers; your community; preparing for conflicts.”

He also stated, “The Department of Health does a First Aid Mental Health training, so that if one of my friends or peers or student I don’t even know is having an episode, at the very least, I might have the tools to recognize and ask for help – to stand in if there’s bullying going on. These are examples of how to get to a better sense of safety for us all.”

The panel also discussed some students’ indiscriminate use of social media as being another huge threat to school safety. They cited instances of online bullying, lack of parental supervision and access to inappropriate content as some of the ways in which their safety could be jeopardized. The spread of misinformation was also considered dangerous, especially now that Meta has ended its fact-checking program.

Immediately following the discussion on School Safety, Persaud held a second roundtable conversation on public safety, which she also moderated. The panel consisted mainly of NYPD officers, Explorers and students, two of whom, Kiara Bijoux and Alex Cuevas, work at the senator’s office.

As with the prior session, the senator posed questions to the panel but allowed the students to lead the discussion. When asked, “What do you believe to be the greatest threat to your safety in or around school?” surprisingly, some students’ answer was “ourselves.”

They spoke at length about the kinds of threats they face routinely. Issues such as bullying, gang activity, frequent fights, other students acting out and drug use were some of the concerns they expressed.

Sixty-ninth Precinct Officer Stephanie Toussaint said that she felt that more of the blame should really be placed on the adults “who turn a blind eye and let the youths run the street.”

One girl even recounted a harrowing story about eating a “candy” that a boy in her school had given her. Soon afterwards, she began throwing up and quickly became so violently ill that her mother, who came to pick her up, had to rush her to the hospital. She couldn’t return to school until a month later.

Another mentioned having to deal with unsafe encounters on her way to school. The School Safety officers on the panel encouraged her to speak with them further about the situation at the end of the discussion.

The *Canarsie Courier* asked the officers whether fear of reprisals for “snitching” might be a deterrent to students coming forward with problems they may be facing and whether those who are brave or smart enough to come forward are placing themselves at greater risk.

Officer Michael Dugue replied, saying, “The kids that need our help, we are there for them no matter what. We protect them.” He said that sometimes means giving them his personal phone number so they could contact him anytime.

Persaud also told the *Canarsie Courier*, “Engaging directly with our students is not just about hearing their concerns, but about actively involving them in shaping the future of school safety.” She added, “This roundtable was a critical opportunity to listen to their voices and understand the challenges they face – both physical and emotional. We must work together to develop solutions that prioritize their safety, build trust and foster an environment where every student feels secure and supported.”



State Senator Roxanne Persaud with the panel on public safety, including members of the NYPD, the second forum held with students participating.

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## Flatlands

## Two Alarm Blaze Displaces Over a Dozen People

By Lloyd Mitchell

Firefighters battled a stubborn two alarm fire at 2196 Schenectady Avenue, off Avenue N, on Sunday, January 5th.

Fire Department personnel were met by fire on the second floor of the private residence around 6:45 p.m. The fire made its way into the cockloft, the area between the ceiling and roof of the attached, two-story dwelling.

Members used saws to cut the wooden roof open and pulled down the ceiling using six-foot poles to expose the fire. Three hose lines were deployed to knock down the main body of fire. Although there were no reported injuries, the fire displaced 14 people and several animals.

The blaze, which is under investigation, was placed under control at 8:15 p.m.



## Firefighters Fight Fire and High Winds at Canarsie House Fire

By Baqir Ahmad

Firefighters quickly tamed a blaze – under very windy conditions – at a Canarsie home located at 1445 East 105th Street on Thursday, January 9th.

Engine Company 257 and Tower Ladder 170 found heavy fire blowing out of the home's windows, as well as the second floor of the two-story private residence, located between Flatlands 9th and Flatlands 10th Streets, around 7:30 a.m. The FDNY deployed two hose lines to contain the blaze, which was brought under control by 8 a.m.

After a search was conducted, it was determined that there were no trapped residents or injuries as a result of the fire.



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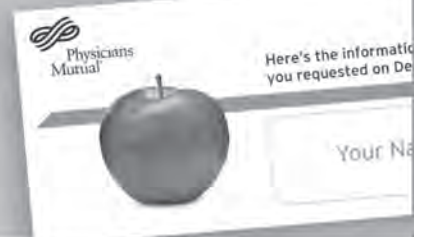
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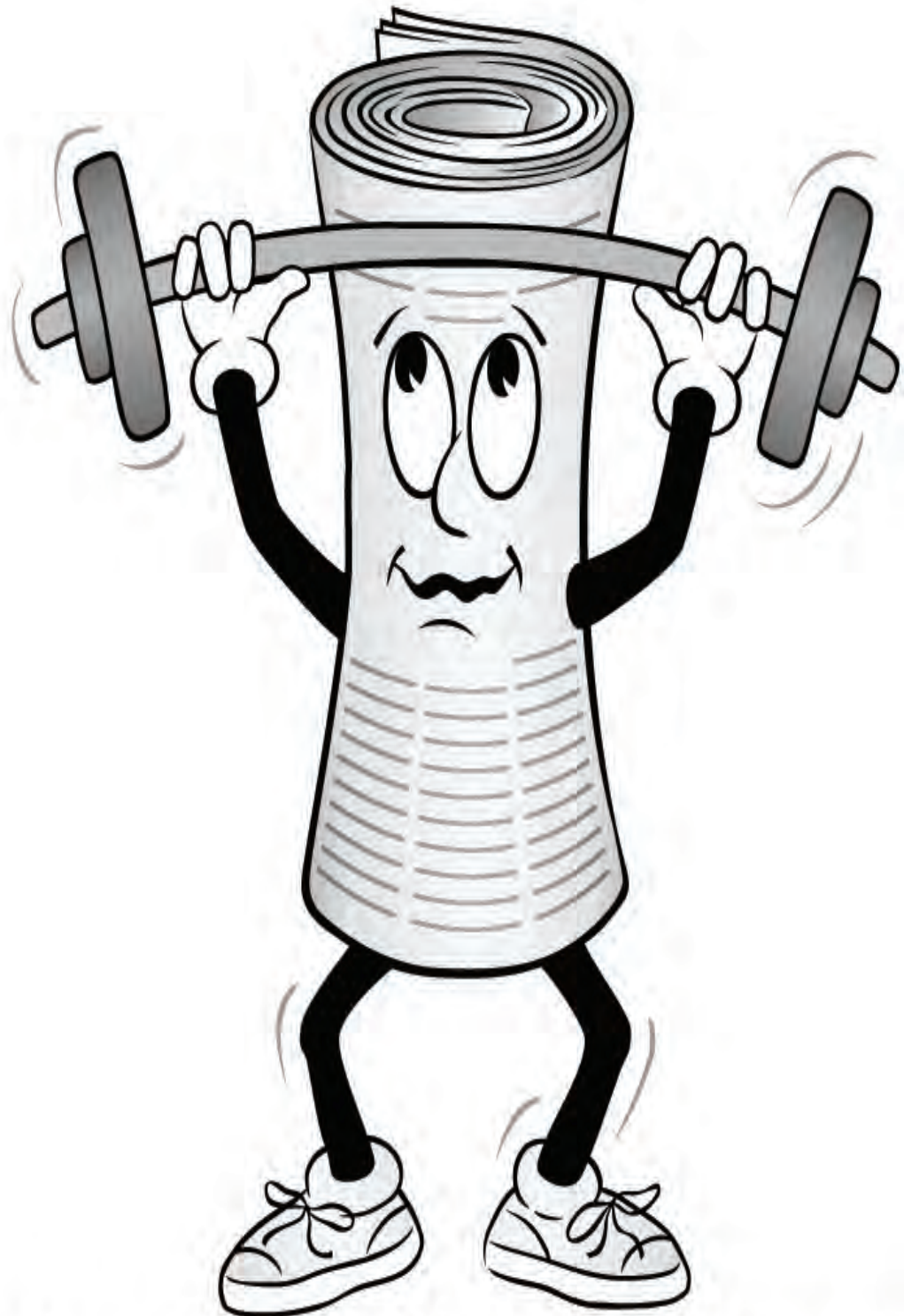
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**Contact:** Taruna Sharma at 917.664.2343 or via email at [Sharma.Management.LLC@Gmail.com](mailto:Sharma.Management.LLC@Gmail.com)

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**Bergen Basin Realty**  
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## CONDO FOR SALE

### Canarsie

Studio condo, new kitchen, new bathroom, near transportation/shopping, vacant, Ready To Go!!, \$175K.

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\*\*\*\*\*

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## House For Sale

### Canarsie

Great Investment Property! Huge legal 3 Family. Building features 3 Bedroom over 3 Bedroom over 1 Bedroom and studio/office. Huge driveway and garage. Main unit comes with huge enclosed balcony over garage. B103, B17 & BM2 right outside your door. House comes with solar. Close to Park, Athletic Complex, Yacht Club and Shopping. A MUST SEE!

**Asking \$1,500,000**

### Canarsie

Canarsie: Huge 2 family brick house, 4 bedroom duplex with 2 1/2 baths over 1 bedroom apartment and garage over a full finished basement. Beautiful big back yard. Close to shopping and transportation. B103 and BM2 is right on the corner. Delivered vacant! Must See!

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### ROOMS FOR RENT

E Flatbush: Unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, \$900 Broker (347) 393-9403

E Flatbush: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, \$240 weekly. Broker (718) 451-1000 (917) 690-2338

Canarsie: Unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, near transportation, \$950. Broker (347) 393-9403

ENY: Unfurnished small room with central air. All utilities included, close to transportation and shopping. \$870 montly. (347) 484-4083

ENY: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, near transportation/shopping. (718) 885-5385

Canarsie: Beautiful furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking. (516) 881-0675

Bergen Beach: Unfurnished, share w/1 person, no smoking/pets, \$1,300 monthly. Exit All Seasons RE (347) 782-8571

OMB: Unfurnished, Share kitchen/bath. 2wks rent/2wks security. \$200/wk. No smoking/pets. Plottage Realty Inc. (917) 202-3656

OMB: Unfurnished, Clean, share kitchen/bath, own closet. 2 weeks rent, 2 weeks security. \$250/wk. No smoking/pets. Plottage Realty Inc. (917) 202-3656

Lenox Road/E 48: Unfurnished, mint condition, near transportation/shopping, no pets/smoking, No Brokers!, \$1,000. Owner (646) 515-4794

E Flatbush: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, all utilities included, except cable. \$1,200 Broker (646) 404-2306

Flatlands: Large furnished, new furniture, excellent condition, \$1,200. Broker (347) 471-5034

Flatbush/Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, close to transportation, no smoking/pets. Marcia Prince Realty - Leonard (646) 474-6640

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, 2 weeks rent, 2 weeks security, 3 month job reference, \$300 weekly, no smoking/pets. (704) 641-9370 (leave a message)

Canarsie: Furnished, share bathroom/kitchen, no smoking/pets, 2 weeks security 1 week rent, \$190 weekly. Call Terry (646) 344-9318

### ROOMS FOR RENT

Flatlands: Unfurnished, share bath, no pets/smoking/cooking, \$1,150. (347) 785-3778

Flatlands: Unfurnished, share bath, no pets/smoking, \$1,100. (347) 785-3778

Canarsie: Unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, \$1,250. (917) 816-8177

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, near transportation/shopping, no pets/smoking. (917) 589-1384

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no smoking/pets, \$225 weekly, near transportation/shopping. (347) 861-1612

Canarsie: Unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, no smoking/pets, near all transportation/shopping. (347) 432-0243

OMB: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, utilities included, \$275 weekly, 2 weeks rent/security. (347) 453-7962 (347) 742-9828

Canarsie: Unfurnished, 1st floor, share kitchen/bath, \$1,200 monthly, all utilities included, no smoking/pets. (917) 863-8666

Canarsie/E86: Furnished room w/refrigerator, TV, air conditioner, queen size bed, huge walk in closet, \$270 weekly. (631) 507-0114

E25/Ave D: EXTRA LARGE UNFURNISHED ROOM, share w/1 other person, QUIET RESIDENCE, Near B8, B41, B44, B49, B103, #2 & #5 trains, \$1,000. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

### UNFURNISHED APT

Flatlands 1st/E105: COMPLETELY RENOVATED LARGE STUDIO, NEW KITCHEN/ BATH, NEW APPLIANCES, HWF's, \$1,450 includes gas/electric, near transportation, Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

E Flatbush: Studio, 1st floor, \$1,650 gas & electric included, newly renovated. (929) 370-6515

E Flatbush: Studio, no smoking, newly renovated, close to transportation, \$1,580. Marcia Prince Realty - Leonard (646) 474-6640

Georgetown: 1 BR, near transportation/shopping, no smoking/pets, tenant pays electric, \$1,900. (516) 548-5495

### UNFURNISHED APT

E Flatbush: 1 BR basement apartment, excellent condition, Private entrance, \$1,800, utilities included. Broker (347) 453-0327

E21/Ditmas: COMPLETELY RENOVATED 1 BR in ELEVATOR BUILDING, LARGE LR & DINING AREA, HARDWOOD FLOORS, LAUNDRY ON PREMISE, near B8, B41, B103, B & Q trains, \$1,750. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Canarsie/Ave M: Newly renovated, Large modern 1 BR, New SS appliances. Available Immediately, \$2,000. Broker (929) 855-7576

Ave B/Rockaway Parkway: 1 BR, newly renovated, new appliances, \$1,700, No Brokers!! (347) 607-3272

Canarsie: Excellent condition 2 BRs, new kitchen/bathroom, HWFs throughout, \$2,600 Broker (347) 471-5034

E Flatbush: 2 BRs, HWF's throughout, near Downstate Hospital, \$2000. PATTI- Kings View Realty (917) 826-7466

E Flatbush: Newly renovated Large 2 BR, HWFs, near transportation, \$2,200. Broker (347) 393-9403

E35/Church Ave: COMPLETELY RENOVATED 2 BRs, LARGE LR, HWF's, EIK, ALL NEW APPLIANCES, close to SHOPPING & TRANSPORTATION, B34, B44, buses, #2 & #5 trains, \$2,350. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300; (917) 679-3017

Canarsie: Newly renovated 3 BRs, near transportation, \$2,750, Programs Welcome. Broker (347) 393-9403

Canarsie: Newly renovated 3 BR, near transportation, Programs welcome, \$3,500. Broker (347) 393-9403

Canarsie/E 92/Ave D & Foster: Beautiful 3 BRs, parquet floors, mint condition, separate entrance, \$2,900. Broker (646) 515-4794

Flatlands: Large 3 BRs, very good condition, front porch, nice kitchen, \$2,800. Broker (347) 471-5034

Church Ave/E 32: Newly renovated 3 BRs, near all, Asking \$2,800. Indies RE (917) 578-9727

Flatlands/Fountain Street: 3 BR, 2 full bathrooms, near transportation/all shopping. Available Feb 1 st. (917) 442-0592

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### UNFURNISHED APT

Snyder/E54: COMPLETELY RENOVATED NEW 3 BRs, LARGE LR, NEW KITCHEN, w/ STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES, HWF's, LOTS OF CLOSETS, NEAR B35 bus, PROGRAMS ACCEPTED, \$3,200. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

E Flatbush/NewKirk Ave: Large newly renovated 3 BR, Available Immediately, \$3,700. Broker (929) 855-7576

OMB: 3 BRs, 5 rooms, spacious living room, large eat in kitchen, 1 bathroom, lots of closet space, near shopping/transportation, \$3,500 negotiable, (347) 225-7189 (917) 982-6876

E Flatbush: 4 BRs, programs accepted, near transportation, newly renovated, new appliances. M P Realty - Leonard (646) 474-6640

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