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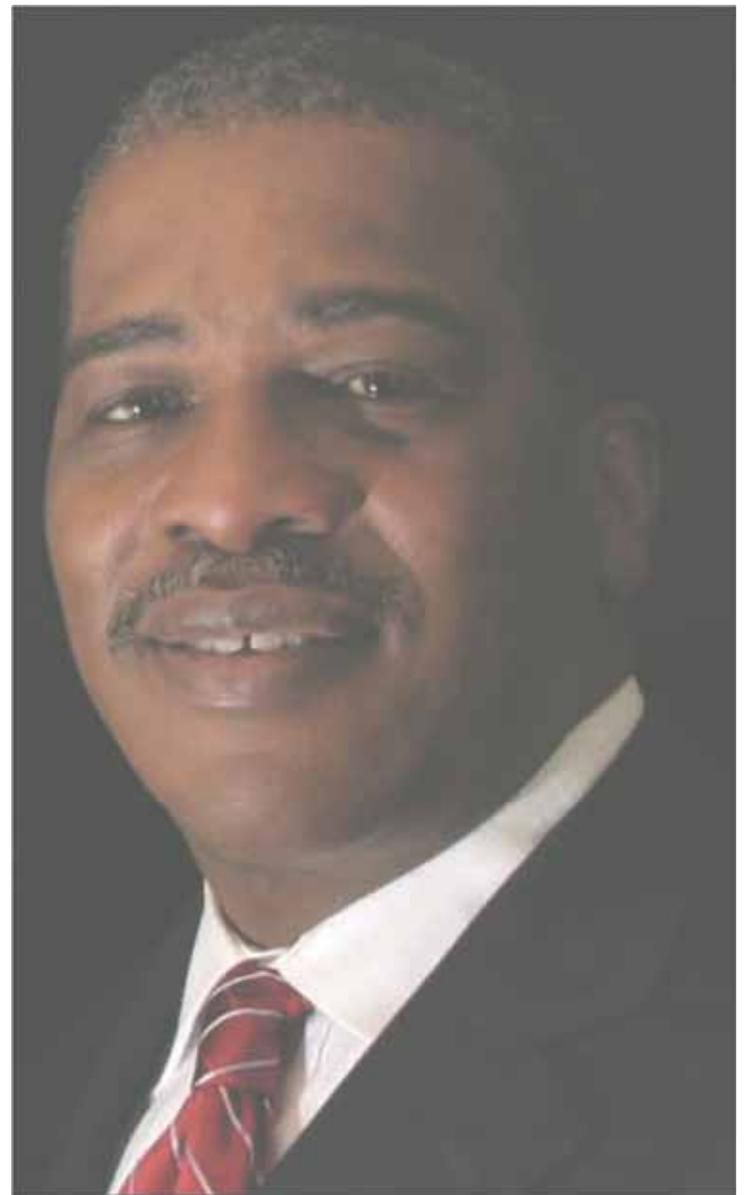
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## EAST ORANGE & IRVINGTON WIN GROUP STATE TITLES



## FORMER IRVINGTON MAYOR WAYNE SMITH APPOINTED AS LOCAL TALK'S NEW ADVERTISING DIRECTOR



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**Dhiren Shah**  
Editor-In-Chief

*Hello Readers,*

Do politicians protect Americans? In New York, there is a proposal to allow non-citizens to have voting rights. If it goes this way, the day will come that citizens will be in the minority and non-citizens will have all the rights, so they don't need to become citizens. If they commit a crime, then the US government will just deport them. So, the US will become a haven for criminals. Some politicians are taking advantage of this and allowing more and more rights to undocumented US Citizens. This is really sad, but we are electing the same politicians over and over again by a landslide vote.

Congresspersons or US representatives have to run for reelection every two years, and I have noticed that once they are elected, they will be there for

most of their life. Even Senators, whose elections are every 6 years, are there for life. There is no term limit like we have for the president, which is two terms, or 10 years in special circumstances. Also, we are spending millions of dollars on elections every two years, plus whatever the candidates collect in their fund is a part of the election. Why not to have an election every four years for the congresspersons and term limits on them and senators? If there's a term limit, they might work for the people and stop playing politics.

New Jersey is not improving. The poverty line is a key source of my opinion. In 2019 about 800,000 New Jersey residents were under the poverty line according to the US Census Bureau. In 2021, according to Federal Government sources, it's nearly 3 million. By a few different sources, for a family of 3 persons to live comfortably in New Jersey, the income needed is over \$70,000 a year. Anyone under \$70,000 for a family of 3 will count under the poverty line. More than one third of New Jerseyans are under the poverty line.

In Orange, the board of education hires police officers from the city of Orange and pay high dollars. The cost of the police officers hired by the board includes all the benefits police officers are receiving, and the calculation includes future retirement benefits they will receive. Orlando Soto, a retired police officer from Orange, had a very good suggestion. Once the police officers retire, they have a vast knowledge of handling the job and understanding of the community where they served as police officers. Many of them retired at a young age. So rather than paying top dollars, the board of education can directly hire retired police officers and save money. This could be possible only with the full cooperation of the mayor, the administration and the police department. If the police department and mayor support this and propose it to the board of education, they will save hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

As I mentioned last week in my editorial, I am fully vaccinated, including a booster shot. However, I still have doubt as to

political motives. In October or November 2020, the vaccination ratio was 0 and the confirmed COVID-19 cases were about 100,000 cases per day. In February 2021 there were about 220,000 cases per day. Since the vaccines got emergency approval in December 2020, the government and hospitals and medical industry are pushing for vaccinations. Today, around 70 percent are vaccinated with at least one dose.

In the beginning, President Biden was stating that once we get 70% people vaccinated, the virus will run away. Now after 70% of vaccination, we should have less than 70% new cases. However, in the past week there are about 100,000 cases per day in the US. If 70% of the cases are there, mathematically it should be 30,000 cases per day. It is not easy to adopt everything the politicians and the pharmaceutical industry say. The cost of the vaccination is another issue, I will tell my opinion later.

*Have a wonderful week.*

*I'll talk to you next week.*

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**WEATHER FOR THE WEEK**

| <u>THURSDAY</u> | <u>FRIDAY</u> | <u>SATURDAY</u> | <u>SUNDAY</u> | <u>MONDAY</u> | <u>TUESDAY</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Partly Cloudy   | Mostly Cloudy | Rain            | Partly Cloudy | Sunny         | Mostly Sunny   | Partly Cloudy    |
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# The Doctor Is In



**Dr. Adil Manzoor OP/ED**

## Get Your Vaccines!

Hey, Adil, what is Omicron and why is it spreading? Hello, Adil, will the vaccines I have taken protect against the Omicron variant?

There are tons of questions people have about the variant, which is not at all surprising, given the intrigue and hype new var-

iants of the coronavirus bring. But the fact that people expect me or any other scientist for that matter to have answers to all their questions is amazing. COVID-19 is literally a novel virus, which means we don't have all the details about the virus. But if there's one question I can confidently answer, it's whether you need to be vaccinated. The answer is an emphatic yes.

I get Deja vu when I write and try to convince people to take the vaccine. Like, why do we always have to do this? If there's one thing we can clearly prove over the course of the pandemic, it's that vaccines work. There's a reason we all sat on the edge of our seats hoping for them to arrive soon last year.

Not only do vaccines offer protection against several COVID strains, but they also prevent serious health problems from the coronavirus. The vaccines are literally the only thing we have against the virus.

People often argue against the vaccine by pointing to the fact



that some variants - first, Delta, and now Omicron - can evade the protective efforts of the vaccine. Well, guess why? Of course, it's because the virus is still persisting among us. The longer the virus remains, the higher the chances of it mutating into more resistant and dangerous strains, which will just send us back to square one.

Right now, being fully vaccinated isn't even enough to guarantee full immunity from the virus. Many countries, like the UK, are fast tracking booster doses, which are additional shots of the vaccine that boost the antibodies level in the body. Then there's Israel, already considering administering 4th doses. That sounds ridiculous but there's literally no other choice.

I shouldn't have to beg people to take a vaccine that could end up saving thousands of lives, but here we are. There's the risk of the virus developing some sort of resistance to all vaccines and booster doses but it's one we have to take. I mean, the other option is watching people die while we wait for an Omicron-specific vaccine - you decide.

There are several misconceptions about the vaccine, like it causing myocarditis, which is plain stupid as the virus exposes one to even greater risk of getting myocarditis. Most of the arguments against the vaccine are more political than factual, and that's just how we've handled the pandemic since last year. I am fed up.

Without the vaccine, we

have little chance of winning the war against COVID, and finally ending these deaths. You'd think that would be enough to convince people to get the vaccine, but we live in America so, no.

We don't have all the details about Omicron, except that it was first discovered in Southern Africa although some cases were in Europe before that. We also know it's more transmissible than Delta, although with a lower risk of causing severe cases. But when transmission is widespread, the maths start 'mathing,' and people start dying in numbers.

Please, for the love of God, take the vaccine. And stay safe.

*This article was written by Dr. Adil Manzoor DO, a Board Certified Internist & Board Eligible Pediatrician, who works as a Hospitalist, and Emergency Room Physician. He is also the current President of Garden State Street Medicine, a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide free preventive and acute urgent care services for the homeless. He is also the co-founder of his own unique medical practice Mobile Medicine NJ.*

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- <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/rcna7451>

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# SPORTS WRAP

**Jaguars Coach Rae Oliver with the team's championship trophy. Photo By Keith Munford**



By William Hathaway, Jr.

There were some special New Jersey high school football regional football championship games that took place this past weekend at Rutgers' SHI Stadium. Thanks to the work of diligent coaches and players, Essex County now has two new true state champions.

First, the Irvington Blue Knights finished their amazing season by winning the first ever group state championship in school history. After winning a state sectional title, the 11-2 squad beat Northern Highlands 19-14 in

Evans and brothers Famah and Vaboue Toure recorded interceptions and sacks for the now legendary Irvington defense.

Of course, the main attraction was the undefeated East Orange Campus Jaguars, who sought to win their first Group 5 Championship in school history. They had to go through a tough Clifton team, who did not care about the other team's record. What took place was a high school classic, and will go down as one of the most talked about championship games ever.

The end of the game saw Clifton fumble the ball on the 1-yard



a comeback title win, capping off a seven game winning streak for the North Jersey Group 4 Championship.

Leading Irvington was a tough defense and a stellar offense led by Saquan Gordon, who connected with Trent Jones on a 61 yard touchdown pass. Justin

line, and East Orange's Ahmad Nalls run it back for a 100 yard touchdown return to win the game and championship in the third overtime, 30-24. While Clifton fans complained about that call, EO fans at the game had their own gripes about how officials were not giving the Jaguars calls,



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especially when spotting the ball during the game.

As usual, East Orange was led by senior quarterback Raeden Oliver, with 142 yards passing, along with Joshua Richards, who posted 64 yards and two touchdowns. Richards caught a TD pass from Oliver in the first overtime. The sensational Kyle Louis recorded 11 tackles, while Damon Phillips also gave fits to Clifton.

Head coach Rae Oliver, Raeden's dad and a graduate of Orange High School, has compiled a 39-11 in his fifth year at the helm of EOCHS. The last state championship victory was back in

December 2007 against Montclair High for the Sectional crown.

While there is nothing known as of deadline for Irvington, the City of East Orange has scheduled a parade on Dec. 11 for the 13-0 Jaguars team that owned 2021.

The parade will begin at 11 a.m. at the corner of Central Avenue and Oak Street, and will travel up Central Avenue and down South Clinton Street before ending at Paul Robeson Stadium, 215 North Clinton Street. A victory celebration will immediately follow the parade and take place on the stadium field



## NYC MANDATES VACCINATIONS

### UNITED STATES

With the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, one big city is taking a big step.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Dec. 6 major expansions to the “Key to NYC” program, the first-in-nation vaccination mandate for workers and customers at indoor dining, fitness, entertainment and performance venues. Starting December 14th, the program will require children aged 5-11 to show proof of one vaccination dose for those venues. Starting December 27th, New Yorkers aged 12 and older will be required to show proof of two vaccine doses, instead of one, except for those who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The mayor also announced a first-in-the-nation vaccine mandate for private-sector workers. The mandate, which will take effect on December 27th, will apply to roughly 184,000 businesses.

Finally, the mayor announced children 5-11 years of age will be required to get vaccinated to participate in high-risk extracurricular activities. These activities include sports, band, orchestra, and dance. This requirement for the initial vaccine dose will take effect on December 14th.

“New York City will not give a single inch in the fight against COVID-19. Vaccination is the way out of this pandemic, and these are bold, first-in-the-nation measures to encourage New Yorkers to keep themselves and their communities safe,” said Mayor Bill de Blasio. “From workplace mandates to \$100 incentives, to mobile and at-home vaccination offerings, no place in the nation has done more to end the COVID era.

And if you have not taken this step yet: there’s no better day than today to stand up for your city.”

“New York City has led the nation when it comes to decisive action on COVID-19,” said Health Commissioner Dr. Dave A. Chokshi. “We have to be more relentless than the virus, and I know that our vaccine policies will save lives and help prevent unnecessary suffering.”

The City will issue additional enforcement and reasonable accommodation guidance on December 15th, along with additional resources to support small businesses with implementation.

Acceptable proof of vaccination includes a CDC issued vaccination card, the New York State Excelsior Pass, the Clear Health Pass, and the NYC COVID Safe App.

These expansions follow recently announced vaccination mandates for City employees, childcare providers, and non-public school employees. Ninety-four percent of the City workforce is vaccinated.

New York City has administered over 12.5 million vaccination doses. Nearly 6.5 million New Yorkers - including 89% of adults - have received at least one dose. More than 125,000 children aged 5-11 have already received at least one dose.

## U.K. SEEKS TO REFORM PRISONS

### EUROPE

Prisons in the United Kingdom could be in store for a major overhaul.

The Prisons Strategy White Paper, published December 7, 2021, sets out a new plan to deliver the biggest prison-building program in more than 100 years - creating the right conditions to reform and rehabilitate offenders and ultimately cut crime, keeping streets safe.

Key measures include:

- A zero-tolerance approach to drugs - all new-build prisons will have cutting-edge body scanners and airport-style security as standard to pre-

vent offenders from continuing criminal activity behind bars

- Getting offenders clean and treating addictions that thwart rehabilitation - assessing all prisoners on arrival for drug and alcohol addictions and putting in place a comprehensive plan to support them to properly recover from day one - including abstinence-based treatment
- Making sure prisoners gain basic standards of numeracy and literacy while inside - ensuring every single prisoner has a basic level of English and math so they are equipped for work on release, and a new Prisoner Education Service to train up offenders with vocational skills including construction and coding - improving their job prospects and steering them clear of crime
- New drive to get offenders into work - introducing a new job-matching service that pairs offenders up with vacancies in the community on release and dedicated employment advisors in prisons to help offenders find work
- Resettlement Passports to put proper plans in place for prisoners on release - providing all prisoners with a personalized passport that brings together all the things offenders need to start looking for work straight away, including a CV, identification and a bank account as well as vital support services in the community
- New fast-tracked punishments - bringing forward a speedier punishment scheme when prisoners transgress. Penalties will be linked directly to their offence and support rehabilitation, for instance forcing prisoners to repair their cells or prison landings if they cause damage

Deputy Prime Minister, Justice Secretary and Lord Chancellor Dominic Raab said, “We’re building the prisons to incarcerate dangerous and prolific offenders. We’re deploying the

tech to stop the flow of drugs, weapons and phones into prisons. And we’re re-orienting the regime to get offenders off drugs for good, and into work - to cut crime, and keep the public safe.

This new strategy will be backed by unprecedented investment and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Last month, the government allocated an extra £550 million to reduce reoffending and £3.75 billion to create 20,000 extra prison places across the estate. These will ensure the right modern, innovative and secure conditions are in place to truly rehabilitate offenders and keep the public safe.

The 6 new prisons to be built over the next 5 years will have the latest in technology - meaning more in-cell learning so offenders leave prison with the skills they need to move away from crime and into employment. This will include basic education like math and English, vocational skills such as IT and engineering, and even driving theory tests so they can get a license on release - helping them get to and from work.

The White Paper follows the publication of the 10 Year Drugs Strategy yesterday which outlines plans backed by record investment to crack down on supply chains and criminal gangs profiting from the trade in illegal drugs, as well as boost treatment services to get people off the drugs responsible for driving crime in the first place, so that everyone across the country can benefit from the safety and security that comes from a safe neighborhood.

## MAN CHARGED IN CYBER SCHEME

### CANADA

A federal indictment unsealed Dec. 7 in Alaska charges a Canadian national with committing cyberattacks.

According to court documents, Matthew Philbert, 31, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, conspired to and did damage a computer belonging to the State of

(Continued on page 15)

# WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL'S ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FAHEEM ELLIS ABUSED HIS POWER FOR THANKSGIVING SOUL BOWL & THE CUSTODIAN CALLED THE POLICE ON MARCHING BAND STUDENTS

*Weequahic High School's Athletic Director Faheem Ellis Abused His Power by Demanding Terrance L. Bankston be Removed as Half-Time Show Commentator of The Thanksgiving Soul Bowl & Custodian Called Police on Marching Band Students*

to seeing, so I found it very disrespectful and concerning when Mr. Faheem gave us the directive to cancel Terrance as commentator. That is a despicable misuse of his power, which unfortunately silenced our students."

After the COVID shut down ended and Newark schools returned to in person learning, when the band directors came into the building to do inventory, they were mortified to discover approximately \$30,000 dollars' worth of brand new uniforms, instruments and equipment, thrown in garbage cans and permanently damaged; making them unusable.

"Over the years, we have fundraised and gotten financial support and resources from people like Terrance Bankston and the Newark fire department, to be able to afford to purchase this expensive equipment and seeing it all destroyed was a slap in the face," shared Mr. Littles. "Clearly Weequahic High School doesn't care about the marching band. They praise us when we win national championships around the country. They care when it makes them look good. They wanna take the credit when the band does well and puts the school's name in the paper and the spotlight, but don't wanna give us the proper funding to keep the band afloat. Often times, we've had to take money out of our own pockets to clean uniforms. It was our breaking point!"

"This type of deplorable behavior, poor leadership and never ending disrespect, lodged against the Weequahic High School Marching Band by Mr. Ellis, coupled with the lack of interest from the Newark Board of Education in funding music programs, is precisely why we started the non-profit program, 'The Essex & Union County Marching Band,' declared Mr. Littles. "So when we came to Terrance a year ago, looking to find rehearsal space for our

(Continued on page 13)

Newark, NJ: Weequahic High School's Athletic Director, Faheem Ellis, abused his power by summarily demanding Terrance L. Bankston, be removed as the half-time show commentator for The Thanksgiving Soul Bowl, between the Weequahic Indians and the Malcolm X Shabazz Bulldogs and the custodian called the police on the marching band students at their final rehearsal, falsely accusing them of trespassing, so that he can go home.

Assistant band director, Jamal Littles, was devastated when he learned late Tuesday night, November 23, 2021, that Darryl Taylor, the band director, received a phone call from Mr. Ellis, demanding they rescind Mr. Bankston's invitation to commentate the event. Making the accusation that it would be a conflict of interest because he'd "use" the platform to "promote" his campaign for South Ward Councilman and because they failed to get pre-approval by the Newark Board of Education, prior to selecting a commentator.

"That's not true at all," explains Mr. Littles. "Mr. Ellis is lying! For one, in my over 20 years as assistant band director, we have never been questioned about who we've selected to commentate our halftime show. Secondly, the political conflict of interest theory is totally far-fetched and absurd, because we vetted Mr. Bankston. We asked him to accept the role, because he's an outstanding guy! He's an experienced MC. HE KNOWS HOW TO WORK A CROWD! That's what we were looking for. The kids were very excited that he was onboard, because he's a familiar face they're used

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| Municipality   | 12-1-2021    | Deaths      | 12-8-2021     | Deaths      |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Belleville     | 6435         | 121         | 6476          | 121         |
| Bloomfield     | 6216         | 127         | 6302          | 127         |
| Caldwell       | 729          | 16          | 753           | 16          |
| Cedar Grove    | 1862         | 121         | 1903          | 121         |
| East Orange    | 8415         | 338         | 8528          | 338         |
| Essex Fells    | 228          | 2           | 232           | 2           |
| Fairfield      | 1101         | 33          | 1117          | 33          |
| Glen Ridge     | 480          | 14          | 486           | 14          |
| Irvington      | 5610         | 246         | 5697          | 245         |
| Livingston     | 2277         | 90          | 2324          | 90          |
| Maplewood      | 1654         | 42          | 1699          | 42          |
| Millburn       | 1085         | 11          | 1109          | 11          |
| Montclair      | 2779         | 76          | 2834          | 76          |
| Newark         | 42171        | 1070        | <b>42821</b>  | <b>1072</b> |
| North Caldwell | 607          | 8           | 618           | 8           |
| Nutley         | 3628         | 68          | 3678          | 68          |
| Orange         | 4031         | 142         | 4069          | 143         |
| Roseland       | 585          | 17          | 599           | 17          |
| South Orange   | 1216         | 18          | 1244          | 18          |
| Verona         | 1253         | 18          | 1298          | 18          |
| West Caldwell  | 1247         | 54          | 1282          | 54          |
| West Orange    | 5395         | 237         | 5510          | 237         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>99004</b> | <b>2869</b> | <b>100579</b> | <b>2871</b> |

**OTHER COVID-19 TALLIES (As of December 8, 2021)**  
**NJ: 1,111,709 cases / 25,688 deaths (Plus 2,830 probable)**  
**United States (approx.): 49.453 Million / 792,300 deaths**  
**Worldwide (approx.): 267.644 Million / 5.277 Million deaths**

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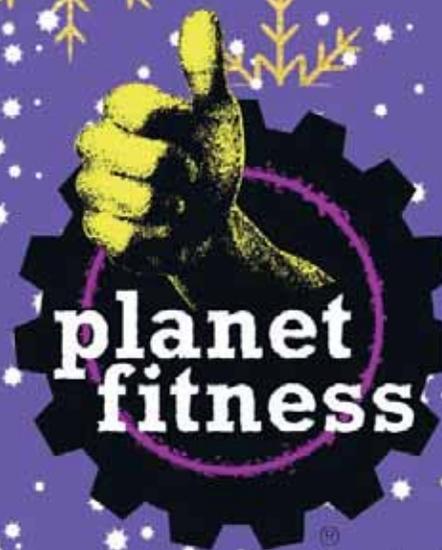
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# TOWN WATCH

**DISCLAIMER:** The following items are primarily drawn from first responders. Responders' accounts may not be their full activity range. Grand juries hand down indictments when evidence presented them warrant a trial. Named suspects/defendants are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

## FIRE CHIEF SUSPENDED

**EAST ORANGE** - Fire Chief Andre Williams, announced city spokeswoman Connie Jackson, has been indefinitely suspended with pay since Dec. 6, and Deputy Chief Bruce Davis, Jr. will be leading "East Orange's Bravest" as acting fire chief pending the conclusion of one or the other investigations on Williams.

By two investigations on Williams, First Ward Councilwoman and Public Safety Committee Chairwoman Amy Lewis said, on Dec. 3, that the Essex County Prosecutor's Office had opened its own investigation of Williams' behavior to other firefighters.

ECPO spokeswoman Katherine Carter, on Dec. 3, would not say that an investigation at their level exists.

Jackson, that same Friday, confirmed that the Public Safety Committee had hired outside counsel Victor A. Afanador, of Newark, in September to probe details of workplace harassment, discrimination and retaliation written by two firefighters.

The letter, by Capt. William Kingston and Ff. Garrett Winn, outlined incidents of promotional denial, retaliation, intimidation and discrimination that 11 EOFD had suffered by Williams going back to 2003. Williams' accusers include three deputy chiefs, four captains and three firefighters.

Kingston and Winn, as respective Fire Officers Association Local 223 and FMBA Local 23 presidents, called for either Williams' suspension or granting the 11 accusing EOFD personnel paid leave. It is not known whether Deputy Chief Davis is

among the 11 aggrieved members.

The letter was addressed to Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green, who forwarded it to Lewis, Chief of Staff Anthony Jackson and Business Administrator Solomon Steplight.

Williams, who joined EOFD in 2003, currently makes an annual salary of \$153,700. He has been chief of the 200-member force since 2017.

**NEWARK** - The city's first woman firefighter, Jacqueline Rendelman Jones, 70, has died Nov. 23, in Iron Station, NC.

The Ebony & White's Funeral Service, of Lincolnton, notified the "Gaston Gazette" of Jones' passing Nov. 30. Her service was held at E&B and burial at Mount Vernon Baptist Church Cemetery Dec. 4.

Jones, 70, rose to the rank of captain - the first African American firefighter in the state to be so promoted - in 1989 before retiring to North Carolina in 2006. While serving in NFD, "Jackie" was an active member of Newark's Vulcan Pioneers of New Jersey and among the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters' five founding organizations' charter members.

Jones was given a particular certification to sit for a 2001 battalion chief examination mainly because she was denied field position assignments and left in administrative assignments.

Although she failed that exam she noticed, as stated in court documents, that "Caucasian maple captains were permitted to take the examination without the same certification." This experience was part of a discrimination suit she, 23 other firefighters and the Vulcan Pioneers filed against NFD in U.S. Third Circuit District Court in 2002.

The daughter of Jerome Alexander Hunter, Sr. and Katherine Rendelman Hall was born in Irvington General Hospital March 25, 1951. The Weequahic High School (1969) and Dillard University graduate before joining "Newark's Bravest" in 1981.

The Order of the Eastern Star member, in retirement, worshiped at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.

**IRVINGTON** - If the late Dawn

then her first act here helped form her second in Bradford, N.H.

Rich, 92, who died Dec. 2 in New London, N.H., spent almost all of her first 48 years in Irvington. Born Dawn Foster in Newark in 1929, she was among the Irvington High School graduating Class of 1947. She worked as a secretary for Irvington Public Schools when its Board of Education office was at 1148-1150 Springfield Ave.

Foster married Newark native-turned Irvington police officer Marvin Rich in 1950. While Marvin rose to the rank of lieutenant, community officer, PAL National President and IPS Board of Education President, Emily was the Irvington PAL twirlers advisor. The Trinity Episcopal Church members raised Robert, Dawn, John, Donna and Michael here.

When Marvin retired from the IPD to become Bradford's police chief in 1977, Emily landed a secretarial job with the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School. The school, on her 1998 retirement, established the annual Dawn Rich Award for fifth-grade students.

The couple moved to New London's Woodcrest Village in May 2019. USN World War Two veteran Marvin, 93, died there Aug. 1, 2019.

Dawn's visitation and funeral were held Dec. 6 at the Chadwick Funeral and Cremation Service and St. Andrews Episcopal Church, both of Bradford. Her remains were interred next to Marvin's at Bradford's Sunny Plain Cemetery.

Eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and sister Lynn Kasper are also among her survivors. Memorial donations may be made to the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock at chadkinds.org or 1 Medical Center Dr., Lebanon 03756.

**ORANGE / MAPLEWOOD** - Orange's public buildings, for the second straight year, hosed a menorah and its lighting provided by Cong. Bris Avrohom Nov. 28-Dec. 5. The menorah, which first graced the Orange Public Library's front lawn in 2020, was lighted by Rabbi Avremy Kanelesky in the presence of Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, menorah sponsor Emanuel Klien

and several City Council members on City Hall's front lawn.

Orange's gaining a menorah, however, came the same time that a three-foot-tall indoor model, after several years, was not set up in the Maplewood Train Station waiting room.

Orange's nine-foot-tall menorah, indeed, is similar to same-size or 12-foot outdoor menorahs that have appeared in recent years within the Maplewood Train Station, Newark Penn Station, Newark Liberty International Airport and 100 other locations as far out as Atlantic City International and JFK airports. Most of these places never had the nine-place candelabras, lighting the eight days of Hannukah, before.

Kanelesky, from his Bris Avrohom office in Hillside, explained that his menorah placing and lighting is part of an outreach effort blessed by the late Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Schneerson (1902-94). The menorahs are to educate all of the miracle of the Jerusalem Temple's one night's worth of oil lasting eight days and to reawaken less orthodox Jews to that movement of Judaism. Schneerson founded Bris Avrohom at 910 Salem Ave., a half-mile southwest of the Newark border, in 1979.

"One day last year, I got a call from Emanuel Klien," said Kanelesky. "He said he had several properties in Orange and asked if I like to put up a menorah there."

The public menorah lighting at OPL last year may have been the first since Cong. Beth Torah left 270 Reynolds Terr. to join South Orange's Oheb Shalom in 1983. That congregation began with a meeting of Orange merchants at 20 Cleveland St. in the 1870s and grew into a formal synagogue at 153 William St., (now Ebenezer Baptist Church's sanctuary) by 1925.

Kanelesky, when asked about the Maplewood train station's menorah absence this year, suggested calling Cong. Beth Ephraim's Rabbi Sholom Bogomilsky. Bogomilsky has helped organize Maplewood's own outdoor menorah lighting at nearby Ricalton Square/Dickens Village Dec. 2. The township also held a second lighting, by the Springfield Avenue Gazebo,

(Continued on page 15)

# GARDEN SPIRES APARTMENTS UPDATE

By Lev D. Zilbermints

Since writing the initial story in its November 18 edition, "Local Talk" has unearthed new facts and information about Garden Spires Apartments. Information for this article was obtained through hours of interviews, obtaining copies of key documents, online research and other sources.

According to Delores Black, president of the Garden Spires Tenants Association, "the New York owners of the property do not care about the tenants, they only care about money."

In a two-hour written interview with "Local Talk," held at the South Orange Public Library on December 1, Black laid bare multiple grievances by tenants against management.

## Landlord not upholding conditions of the lease

According to a copy of the lease, "from time to time, various government regulatory agencies will need to perform monitoring inspections of the apartment units and Tenant files, in order to determine whether the

property continues to meet program requirements. Tenant will receive proper notice of these inspections and must be willing to allow access to its apartment..."

Black says that "management does not inform tenants properly." Tenants are not allowed to have inspectors, maintenance or anyone enter their apartments after business hours and unexpectedly. Not because of COVID."

The lease specifically stated that tenants could not allow inspectors into their apartments without approval and prior notice from property management. As reported by "Local Talk" in its November 18 edition, tenants will allow inspectors into their apartments with proper advance notice.

Black, the tenant association president, previously told "Local Talk," "We had inspectors come out, but management controlled what units they went to. [This] is not fair because of course, management sent them to units where folks had no issues. Mainly Section 8 tenants."

According to the lease agreement, utilities and services are

provided for by the landlord. This means that "the Landlord will provide water, heat and electricity. The landlord will also provide for removal of normal household trash in sealed plastic bags and dispose of it by placing it in one of the garbage dumpsters. The tenant is responsible for all other utilities and services, including but not limited to the cable and television services."

As was reported in the November 18 issue of "Local Talk," the landlord has failed to provide water and heat in a timely manner. Residents also complain of overfilled dumpsters, of the trash not being disposed by property management in a timely manner.

The lease agreement states that the landlord agrees to regularly clean all common areas of the complex; maintain the common areas and facilities in a safe condition; arrange for the collection and removal of trash and garbage; maintain all equipment and appliances in a safe and working order; make necessary repairs with reasonable promptness; provide extermination services as necessary; and maintain

grounds and shrubs.

As reported by "Local Talk" in its November 18 issue and by nj.com in its October 18 issue, the landlord has not provided extermination services; made necessary repairs with reasonable promptness; maintained the common and facilities in a safe condition; or arranged for the collection and removal of garbage in a prompt manner.

A May 4, 2020 notice informs tenants of a monthly \$10 air conditioning charge between June and September. However, Black asks why should tenants have to pay for air conditioners when Housing and Urban Development pays all utility bills?

As proof of HUD paying utility bills, Black offered a flyer from property management. It read, "STOP. YOUR LEASE HAS EXPIRED! You may have lost your HUD Rent-Assistance And/Or Will go to Full Market Rent. Contact the Office immediately."

## Parking Grievances

An undated letter on Garden Spires Urban Renewal, L.P. sta-  
(Continued on page 12)

# MAYOR BARAKA'S CAMPAIGN FINED OVER \$30,000

By Walter Elliott

**NEWARK** - The Committee to Re-Elect Ras Baraka as Mayor is in the midst of paying the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission \$30,634 to conclude the latter's investigation of the former's 2014 campaign finances.

The ELEC, from its Trenton office, announced a consent order settlement that the commission and attorneys for Baraka and then-campaign treasurer Frederick Murphy had arrived at on Nov. 16. The agency mailed out copies for respondents Baraka and Murphy and their lawyers to sign Nov. 29.

The \$30,634 is less than 10 percent of the around \$200,000 in 2014 contributions that caught ELEC investigators' attention in 2017. The commission issued a 48-page, 28-count complaint that October.

The commission cited 264

campaign violations on contribution and expense reports the last three quarters leading to the May 13, 2014 mayoral election. That year's Baraka campaign received \$385,118.38 from individual and/or corporate contributors in amounts from \$126 to \$11,300 as of the July 15, 2014 campaign filing to ELEC.

A majority of participating city voters May 13 elected Baraka over Shavar Jeffries, by 54 to 45 percent.

258 of the 264 reporting violations dealt with late and/or incomplete filing. One report was filed to the state commission 2,614 days late. By incomplete filing, several contributions were left off the reports.

Six violations involved Baraka and/or Murphy and or their delegated campaign workers failing to return \$5,544 of contributions that exceeded legal limits.

ELEC originally fined the

Baraka 2014 campaign \$37,993, based on 10 percent of the total of the contributions and expenses in question.

The commission, however, reduced the fine by 20 percent and accepted the \$30,634 when the Baraka campaign sent the check ahead of a Dec. 31 deadline. ELEC detectives and lawyers for Baraka and Murphy had also agreed to dismiss some of the 28 counts in exchange for repaying \$30,634. All four ELEC Commissioners signed the consent order Nov. 16.

"While ELEC imposed modest fines for technical violations, all of which has since been cured by amendments to campaign reports, these fines are far less than might have been assessed," said Baraka attorney Angelo Genova. "More importantly, this settlement acknowledges that the Mayor and his campaign committee, having denied any improper conduct on their part,

were victims of the wrongful behavior of his campaign treasurer whose conduct precipitated this ELEC complaint."

Genova was referring to Murphy pleading to a count each of wire fraud, bank fraud and tax evasion before a federal judge in Newark May 29, 2018. Murphy had confessed to cashing \$233,743 worth of campaign checks for fictitious services and not reporting them on his tax returns.

Murphy faces restitution of the said \$233,743 after serving his 30-month prison sentence - as well as facing his own \$37,993 fine.

The Nov. 16 consent order did not include the Baraka campaign having to make an admission of guilt.

There are no ELEC complaints filed against Baraka's 2018 re-election campaign.



## From The Pastor's Heart

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

### Terrorism Or The Way Of Peace

Lately, I have been taking note of the range of commentaries on the terroristic radicalization of individuals here in the United States and across the world. It has led me to think about the time of Jesus' first Advent.

If you can't remember that history, let me remind you that the world, at that time, was under Roman rule, and the culture of radicalization seemed to have been as intense as it is today. Yet, despite the iron presence of the Pax Romana - the Roman Army - everywhere, the radicalized found ways of expressing their personal and political grievances. They raised their militias, built their bunkers, and connected with those who would engage in insurrection as much as they could.

The issue of radicalization is a fact of interest, for many of the insurrectionists of Jesus' time fought with religious fervor. And this is one of the reasons that the religious leaders watched Jesus and his disciples so closely. Those curious and spiteful individuals who came to watch Jesus discovered that Jesus was not a terrorist and that the disciples he called were not radicalized to be terrorists.

In his Sermon from the Mount or Plateau (depends on whether you are reading in Matthew 5 or Luke 6), Jesus told his disciples clearly that the "blessed are peacemakers" (Mt 5:9). When James and John wanted Jesus to call down fire on a Samaritan village because the people in it had insulted them, Jesus turned and rebuked James and John and asked them, "Do you know what kind of spirit you have?" (cf. Luke 9:54, 55)

When Peter, in the Garden of Gethsemane, cut off the ear of one of those who had come to arrest Jesus, Jesus replaced the ear and said to Peter, "Put your sword back in its place." Jesus continued to chide Peter, saying, "all who draw the sword will die by the sword" (Matthew 26:52).

Yes, Jesus was the bringer of peace. At his birth, angels from heaven hovered over the shepherds in the field and sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)

Some persons have said that Jesus was quite "radical," but no one has ever been able to say that Jesus was a terrorist. On the contrary, those who hated Jesus, and could not find cause against him to secure his death, were willing to accept a terrorist in place of Jesus. Remember the story. At the conclusion of Jesus' trial, the vacillating Governor, Pilate, made an offer to see if he could release Jesus. The offer was a choice between Jesus, who was called the Christ, and Jesus Barabbas.

Matthew records it thus: "And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you:

Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

"Now, the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

"So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. (Matthew 27:16-26 ESV)

It is interesting how people are willing to accept radicalization or terroristic ideologies or support insurrectionists and other evil extremists instead of following Jesus' way - the way of peace.

So, I hope that as we reflect on the Advent in the days ahead, we will speak peace and kindness. And that we might remind anyone we see who is becoming radicalized that there is a better way, the way of peace. Speak peace and act peacefully.

### GARDEN SPIRES

(Continued from page 11)

tionery informs tenants that parking privileges will resume at the cost of \$35.00 per month, payable in 3 months in advance. This comes to \$105.00 for three months.

Delores Black organized a petition against the parking fees. At least 173 tenants signed the petition. On October 1, 2020 notice was sent to all tenants suspending the parking fees until further notice. However, this victory came with a price. According to Black, "management spitefully revoked my parking spot solely because I started the petition to submit the suspension of parking fees."

At the bottom of the undated letter, there is a statement,

"Garden Spires Urban Renewal, L.P. does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities." Delores Black told "Local Talk" that she disagreed with this statement.

By way of example, nj.com wrote in its October 18 article about Lucia James, a Garden Spires tenant who had both legs amputated due to complications from peripheral artery disease. James told nj.com that property management was slow to respond even on minor issues, such as providing a duplicate key for James when she was locked out of her apartment.

Delores Black told "Local Talk" that "the speed bumps actually make it hard for EMT and the Fire Department to enter the

premises."

### Illegal increase of rent during coronavirus pandemic

Documents show that tenant rent may be increased or decreased based on household income. According to an undated letter on Reliant Stationery to tenants, "As you may be aware, the HUD model lease includes a provision that permits assisted residents to report decreases in household income. ... With the awareness of the orders and guidelines recently issued by local and state governments that have restricted the operations of a wide range of businesses (e.g. restaurants, retail stores, etc.) Reliant wants to remind you of your right to report a loss of income so that the management staff can perform an interim

recertification that may result in a decrease in your tenant rent."

Delores Black showed "Local Talk" paperwork proving a decrease in income. This included job loss, unemployment, a school letter, and a 2019 tax return. Black also showed paperwork from Garden Spires management, increasing rent from \$1369 to \$1569 per month. The lease was dated by management as running from 9/1/2020 to 8/31/2021. However, during this time, both federal and state moratoriums on eviction were in effect. Put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic, the moratoriums forbade the eviction of tenants for non-payment of rent for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

According to Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium: Housing (Continued on page 14)

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### WEEQUAHIC (Cont. from page 7)

marching band, as always, with no hesitation, he advocated for us to get a permanent rehearsal space at Bloomfield College, where he served as Director of The Center For Student Leadership and Engagement & Social Programs at the time.”

The marching band is now the first ever official Bloomfield College Band and performs at graduations and campus events. However, whenever they’re asked to come back and perform at Weequahic High School games, such as The Thanksgiving Soul Bowl, Jamal shared, “at the end of the day, orange and brown is in our blood, so we always say yes.”

Terrance L. Bankston aka "S.K.," is also known as a veteran underground hip-hop artist, who founded the Hip Hop Press Conference in Jersey, to serve as a public advocate and actively engage in effectively bridging the gap between government and the hip-hop culture. It was during that time when he adopted the Weequahic High School Marching Band, oftentimes inviting

them to perform with him at his concerts. For over a decade, Mr. Bankston has been committed to supporting the marching band to ensure they have the essentials needed for success.

“Terrance is a dope MC who has been supportive of the marching band for many years and has consistently provided opportunities for our students,” proclaims Jamal. “We have practice videos with him on YouTube that go back as far as 2011. This is a longstanding relationship. Loyalty and safety is very key to us, because we don’t trust everybody around our kids; that’s something we don’t have to worry about with Terrance. He cares about the kids and that’s how he’s always been. To imply that we are a part of any sort of political war is not only an insult, it’s simply NOT TRUE! It really is all about the kids!

“Sadly, Mr. Ellis’ last minute demand to remove Mr. Bankston as the commentator, was cruel! This sudden change creates a huge hardship for the marching band, because it’s very crucial to have a commentator who knows

the flow of the show, and by that time, Mr. Bankston had already attended rehearsals and gone through the run of show. Mr. Ellis has put us in the tough position of finding a replacement who is an experienced, consummate professional, with the same kind of energy as Terrance, within less than 24 hours before show time; setting us up to fail, not succeed!”

Ashley Torres, a senior and the Weequahic High School Marching Band captain, was stunned and saddened when she discovered the Athletic Director Faheem Ellis, ordered band director Darryl Taylor and assistant band director, Jamal Little, to replace Terrance Bankston as the Thanksgiving Soul Bowl commentator. “Basically, I feel as though he agreed to commentate out of the goodness of his heart, not because he’s running for office,” implored Ashley.

“It was about him having fun with us and he was even gonna perform with us as part of our halftime show. We respect him very much. Mr. Bankston helped advocate for us to get a rehearsal space at Bloomfield College,

which is what put us in the position to be able to practice and get ready to perform at today’s event. Terrance is our number one supporter. He’s a good guy! Whenever we need him he’s there! He has a heart! He gives food to needy families. He has sympathy for others. He loves to help out, period!

“I feel that the Athletic Director doesn’t want to see us succeed. It really is not about the election. His opinion is ignorant!! His opinion is not valid! Having to find a last-minute commentator is disappointing. Plus, the students all wanted Terrance, because he has swag... now we had to search for somebody else. When we told the other students he would not be our commentator, they were soooo upset, because Mr. Bankston was at practices with us; putting in his work! This is yet another reason why we’re not really the Weequahic High School’s marching band anymore, we left because of the negative way they treat us.”

Fatimah Thomas is a Weequahic High School Marching Band member.  
(Continued on page 14)

**WEEQUAHIC***(Cont. from page 13)*

ing Band alum, who played baritone horn. The reason she came back to volunteer as a band mom and help the staff wherever needed, is because her daughter, Khamiyah, is in the band and plays the baritone horn as well. She's proud of her daughter for carrying on the legacy. So, Fatimah took the news about Terrance's last minute, unfair, dismissal, particularly hard.

"That's very unfortunate he can't commentate," she replies. "He loves the band and is very supportive of us. I'm very disappointed that he won't be a part of our performance. Especially finding out 24 hours before... that hurts. That puts the band in a bad spot. My daughter likes Terrance. All of the kids like him. When they found out, they were saddened, surprised and confused. It's gonna be hard to find a replacement at such short notice, especially because it is a tribute show. We lost an actual band member who passed away from COVID and another alumnus passed away as well. It puts us in a bad bind. It's difficult to find someone to commentate the day before Thanksgiving. We have to scramble! There is no

political ploy by Terrance. He's been around for 20 years!"

"Apparently when it comes to Mr. Faheem Ellis, particularly as the Athletic Director of Weequahic High School, his approach to leadership is the same script with a different cast," explains Terrance. "I am more than familiar with his type of behavior. The decision for Mr. Ellis, to dismissed me as the commentator of The Thanksgiving Soul Bowl, because of a non-existent board policy and some trumped up political agenda, is not only wrong, it's presumptive and irresponsible; our children deserve better! His unfair attack against me, disguised as an attempt to extract politics from the event, is wholly unwarranted. It seems Mr. Ellis is misinformed on policies and best practices on how to engage students and assist them in achieving the desired outcome that matters most to them. Simply put, his dismissive behavior is a constant reminder of why I do the work that I do."

Weequahic High School's lack of academic excellence, poor reputation of fiscal irresponsibility and accountable, has dogged them for decades. A million dollars annually of unused funds for student activities, continues to be a hot button issue for the school, which begs the ques-

tion, why isn't Mr. Ellis taking advantage of these moneys to help build the infrastructure of such beloved programs as the marching band, which includes engaging with respected community leaders like Terrance L. Bankston, rather than subjugating them.

"This type of childish behavior is an embarrassment and should not be tolerated," demands Bankston. "It's unacceptable for public servants to shun members of the community. We must not allow administrators like Mr. Ellis to dismiss the needs and requests of our students. His action is a constant reminder why I partner with local leaders like Tommy Luna and the NEED policy group, to make change, author new, and/or address obsolete, nonsensical policies and practices, that seek to exclude and discriminate against members of the South Ward community and the Newark community at large.

"Our schools, our children, our parents and the Mayor needs HELP; not more hype. The South Ward does not need additional administrators who will further compromise the Mayor's political legacy, the Mayor's administration and our South Ward. So, I encourage students to continue to shine, because, his

too shall pass. Please remain confident that the truth is still marching on. I will be in attendance today in solidarity with and in support of the hard work put forth by the youth representing our ward so well. I will always have your backs!"

"This is not Mr. Ellis' first time abusing his power. He needs to be held accountable for treating students with reckless disregard," says an anonymous source. Additionally, "today's performance is bittersweet, says assistant band director, Jamal Littles. Last night after our final rehearsal in preparation for the Thanksgiving Soul Bowl, it broke my heart to learn that Mr. Palmer, the Weequahic High School custodian, called the Newark police on our Marching Band students and falsely accused them of trespassing, simply because he wanted them to leave the building so he could go home. The broken look on their faces was too much to bear, so I am announcing that today will be the band's the last day ever performing at a Weequahic High School event. Also, please pray for my brother Darryl; because of all of the stress, his blood pressure went up and was rushed to the hospital. I thank all of you for your dedication and support."

**GARDEN SPIRES***(Continued from page 12)*

ing Relief Answers | RamseySolutions.com, the United States Supreme Court ended the federal moratorium on August 26, 2021. However, cities and states have their own moratoriums in place. For example, New York City has a moratorium in place until January 15, 2022. The city of Fresno, California, has a moratorium on evictions until further notice.

New Jersey's moratorium on evictions expires December 31, 2021 unless the Governor or the Legislature choose to extend it.

**Harassment**

According to Black, management harasses all tenants that are too vocal about management's tactics. For example, management revoked Black's parking spot because she started the petition to submit the suspension of parking fees.

Another time management tried to intimidate Black. Black said that Robert O'Connor and Earl Williams, both part of Mobile Response Team, called her into their office and started talking to her. This is how Delores Black describes what happened.

"These men called me into their office that was occupied with a room full of other men, some dressed in suits and others in plainclothes. They began speaking to me about my lease and I told them I was uncomfortable in this room full of men. I was bothered being a domestic violence survivor in a room full of men I was surrounded by. I also stated, why are you speaking to me about something that management should be speaking to me about? I got up and left the room."

According to Black, "management threatened security officers with losing their jobs if they allow me entry to my building at 175 1st Street Newark, NJ 07107."

As reported in the November 18 edition of "Local Talk," other vocal tenants were harassed by management.

"Yes, other vocal tenant are being harassed and threatened with eviction. Management have MRT (Mobile Response Team) put "Lease Violation" notices on the vocal tenants' doors, Black wrote in a previous email.

**Security based out of New York**

Documents show that Reliant Safety Properties are based in Newark. These are Garden Spires, located at 175-195 1st Street, Newark NJ, and Spruce Spires, located at 717,719,725 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard, Newark, NJ, and 90, 94, 100 Spruce Street, Newark, NJ. All are monitored by cameras.

Other camera - monitored sites in Newark include Grace West Manor; Villa Victoria; Pilgrim Village; 2 Court Street; and 2 Nevada Street.

The Reliant Partners in Secu-

rity is based out of 909 3rd Avenue, 21st floor, New York, New York 10022. According to Black, Robert O'Connor and Earl Williams are responsible for enforcing New York laws in Garden Spires. Both men are former members of the New York Police Department.

According to [www.reliant-safe.com/leadership](http://www.reliant-safe.com/leadership) the company has clients in eleven states, 20,000 residential units in low-income, affordable housing complexes; and 13,000+ water-resistant and tamper-proof video surveillance cameras are maintained and monitored by Reliant Safety across the country.

According to the website, the use of security cameras helps to reduce the amount of physical security on site, which in turn, can greatly reduce property operating expenses.

"Local Talk" will keep its readers updated regarding new developments on the Spires.

**WORLD NEWS** (Continued from page 6)

Alaska in April 2018.

In a separate and parallel investigation, the Canadian authorities today also announced cyber charges against Philbert. He was arrested on Nov. 30 by Ontario Provincial Police where he remains in custody.

Philbert is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit fraud and related activity in connection with computers and one count of fraud and related activity in connection with computers. This indictment in the

District of Alaska is part of an ongoing national effort by the Department of Justice to address cybercrimes that target U.S. citizens from abroad.

Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Polite Jr. of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, Acting U.S. Attorney Bryan Wilson of the District of Alaska, and Special Agent in Charge Antony Jung of the FBI's Anchorage Field Office made the announcement.

The FBI's Anchorage Field Office is investigating the case. Assistant Attorney Gen-

eral Polite, Acting U.S. Attorney Wilson and FBI Special Agent in Charge Jung thanked the Canadian and Dutch authorities for their assistance.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam Alexander and Trial Attorney Alden Pelker of the Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section are prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

**TOWN WATCH**

(Continued from page 10)

5 p.m. that Thursday.

**WEST ORANGE** - The Dec. 6 -10 week will be the first real-world test for Community Coach 77's latest schedule for riders between New York City and here, East Orange, Orange and Livingston.

Initial Dec. 6 CC77 riders postings on Facebook indicate relief in that the 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. NYC Port Authority Bus Terminal departures have continued beyond the Richard Codey Arena here. An initial Dec. 6 schedule, posted Dec. 3, had those two westbound runs end here.

CoachUSA official Derrick L. Wade posted the revised Dec. 6 schedule, reflecting riders west of Codey Arena's demands, later on Dec. 3. CoachUSA, of Paramus, is CC77's parent.

The schedule has all 11 eastbound and 11 westbound bus runs stop at the arena. Riders on the seven westbound runs that serve East Orange and Orange's Erie Loop, however, must tell the driver, upon boarding, where they are getting off. Seven eastbound runs have scheduled Orange-East Orange stops.

Community Coach 77's latest schedule, as of 4 p.m. Dec. 7, is available on the CC77 Riders FB page. Coachusa.com retains the Dec. 14, 2020 timetable - and was "temporarily down."

**SOUTH ORANGE** - Last rites for Anthony Wonski, who literally moved Town Hall Delicatessen to its present site, were set for Dec. 9 at the Preston Funeral Home and Dec. 10 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. His burial was scheduled to be at Paramus' George Washington Memorial Park, not far from where the 30-year villager had grown up in Teaneck and Hackensack.

Anthony Robert Wonski, 71, had died in RWJBarnabas Cooperman Barnabas Health Center in Livingston on Dec. 4, surrounded by his family. He had most recently moved to Essex Fells from South Orange.

Tony Wonski came to the village in 1991 while commuting to New York for

various retail jobs. He most likely stopped at Town Hall Deli, then at 18 South Orange Ave., for take-home dinner from work at Federated Stores and CompUSA - while dreaming of owning his own business.

Wonski bought the deli in 2003, modernized some of its operations and expanded its menu. He first moved the eatery to 60 Valley St. in 2007 and to its present 74 First St. in 2013.

Wonski was not through with 18 South Orange Ave or 60 Valley St, restoring both buildings and 309 Irvington Ave. He and son-business partner Matthew were recently awarded a dingy services contract with Seton Hall University.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and or Adopt a Boxer (dog) Rescue.

The Vietnam War veteran (U.S. Army 101st Airborne 1969-71 with distinction) is also survived by wife Beth, son Phillip, daughter Leah and sisters Maria Richardson and Marguerite Willard.

**BLOOMFIELD** - The initial feedback from the Bloomfield Zoning Board of Adjustment of an incoming daycare center's intention to use one of a historic church's buildings may be heard when you read this.

The zoning board has, among other Dec. 9 agenda items for consideration, an application by the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church and the Leonardo Da Vinci International Academy of Learning, Inc.

Da Vinci Academy, currently in the former N.J. Department of Labor/Unemployment Office at 75 Park St., wants to move into the Presbyterian Church on the Green's chapel/meeting hall on 67 Park Place.

The applicants are asking for a use variance for the chapel/prospective child care center is within a residential one-family R1-A zone.

The application will not use or affect the actual 1795 sanctuary on 147 Broad St. nor the usual Sunday worship services in the chapel. There may be midweek schedule adjustments for worship and its Monday night food pantry should the center for preschool and elementary school students are allowed to move in.

**MONTCLAIR** - Some of the shock of Dr. Alfred Davis, Jr.'s sudden Dec. 2 passing from heart failure may ease by when his scheduled funeral service at Rockaway's Christ Church, 140 Green Pond Rd., is held 11 a.m. Dec. 17.

Davis, 65, was a Montclair Public Schools Board of Education member since his May 2019 appointment by Mayor Robert Jackson. The Montclair African-American Heritage Foundation co-founder and Montclair's Civil Rights Commission member was also a Bloomfield College adjunct professor since 2017.

Former Fourth Ward Councilwoman Dr. Renee Baskerville has literally called Dr. Davis "The spine of the community," since his opening Davis Integrated Medicine at 316 Orange Rd. in 1981. The former State Board of Chiropractic Examiners chairman had been an encouragement to fellow South End business owners.

The township native had attended Bloomfield College and Seton Hall University before attaining his degrees from the Northeast College of Health Sciences and, in 1985, New York Chiropractic College.

One of Davis' proudest moments was when he personally gave his son, Alfred III, his diploma at the Montclair High School Class of 2021 graduation June 24.

Fellow chiropractor Peter Kofitsas has scheduled an RSVP "Friends and Family Table Celebration" of Davis at the practice Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m.



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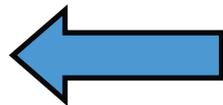
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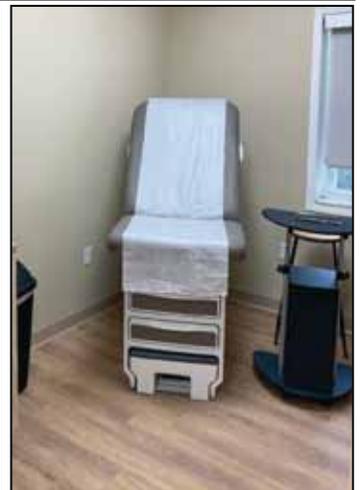
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