

# LOCAL TALK

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VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 48 \* OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 11, 2023

25¢

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**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

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1576 Springfield Avenue • Maplewood, NJ 07040

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**INDEX**

Editorial & Weather: 02

Man Sues University Hospital: 06

Fall Special: 08

From the Pastor's Heart: 12

Sports Wrap: 05

Pastor Huff Shooting Suspect: 07

Town Watch: 10

The Observation Booth: 14

## GRAND OPENING OF ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE'S WEST ESSEX CAMPUS

Front row from left: Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy, NJ Governor Phil Murphy, Essex County College Board of Trustees Chair Marion A. Bolden, Essex County Prosecutor Theodore Stephens. Photo By Dhiren Shah



By Dhiren Shah

Essex County College's West Essex Campus, located on Bloomfield Avenue in West Caldwell is a state of the art building with 21st century facility elements for the students and faculty / staff. A full house room of about 250 people were gathered for the Sept. 29 Grand Opening of the building in the presence of students, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, First Lady Tammy Murphy, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, West Caldwell Mayor Joseph Tempesta Jr. and many county and state dignitaries.

Marion Bolden, Chairperson of Essex County College Board of Trustees, said, "The visual of the building is very stunning and underlining purpose is far greater. The infrastructure is the state of the art, allowing flexibility and adopting future advancements and educational technology, teaching method

and students' collaboration...Century old building initially designed for elementary students. The West Essex Project is an ongoing commitment to transform lives, learn and empower students to achieve their full potential. The future of Essex County College is bright."

West Caldwell Mayor Joseph Tempesta Jr. thanked all who were involved, whether it was vendor, staff, contractors, sub-contractors. He further said, "You have a secret weapon in the world, Joe D. I get coffee 6:30 or 7:00 o'clock every morning, I would say three or four out of five Monday to Fridays, he is here at 7:00 o'clock making sure that contractors are doing their job. That's true, Joe."

Yadira Rosales, President of the College's Student Government Association said that she came to Essex County College year

(Continued on page 11)

## NJ TRANSIT TAKING OVER 24, 31, & 44 BUS ROUTES



By Lev D. Zilbermints and Walter Elliott

**EAST ORANGE** - New Jersey Transit, in Gov. Phil Murphy's Sept. 29 written announcement, will take over the operation of the Nos. 24, 31 and 44 bus routes from CoachUSA's Orange-Newark-Elizabeth Bus division 5 a.m. Oct. 8.

Riders along the 24, 31 and 44 bus routes here, in Newark, Orange, South Orange, West Orange's Erie Loop and Union County's Elizabeth will notice the changes straightaway.

Early morning, late night and Sunday service, that CoachUSA/ONE Bus had cut since July 17 and 22, will be restored.

They will be picked up and dropped off at the accustomed bus stops - but by NJTransit bus drivers in NJTransit buses.

They can still get transfers to other NJTransit bus routes - but, for the first time on these routes as of Oct. 8 - their weekly and monthly rail passes that carry the "Feeder Fare" markings will be honored. Coach, ONE and its predecessors, being privately run, had never honored the Feeder Fare feature.

(Continued on page 4)



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 9**



*Editorial*  
**Dhiren Shah**  
 Editor-In-Chief

**Hello Readers,**

Canadian activist Khalistan Sikh was assassinated in June 2023 and on September 19, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that he had been murdered by an Indian Government lead team. India denied the claim. The US and UK stand behind Canada as close allies. Canada expelled a high ranking Indian official and in retaliation, India expelled a high ranking Canadian official.

On top of traffic lights, you may find small signals or a light that is placed on top of the signals or on the side of the signals in major parts of the United States. What is this small light

signal? This is called a priority or preemptive signal. Emergency vehicles have access to those signals. By communicating with those systems, the regular signals might turn red on all sides or some places as a blinking light. This gives way for the emergency vehicles in the direction the emergency vehicle is going, and afterwards the light will restart for the regular signal. This is a really good system to help emergency vehicles through the traffic lights. According to hospital data, this system has saved about 11 seconds per signal to pass through.

The Republican primary presidential hopefuls are taking to TV and media. However, I haven't seen any enthusiasm with the community here. And the Democratic Party primary has no interest, as Biden is about 50 points ahead of Kennedy. For the Republicans, Trump is still 43 points ahead of Ron DeSantis. Since the second Republican presidential debate, Nikki Haley

has gone ahead of Vivek Ramaswamy in the national polls from fourth place to third place. Ron DeSantis has received the most contributions, but about \$130 million behind Trump. All other candidates have not crossed \$20 million yet.

The Republicans have a thin margin in Congress. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, with the support of some Democrats, passed a temporary bill to extend government funding for another 45 days. It happened with all the presidents, and many times with the cities as well. It is a process.

However, Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz was so upset that he proposed a resolution to remove McCarthy as Speaker. According to the new law, only one congressperson can propose to remove the Speaker of the House. Now, only a simple majority was needed to accomplish this. Gaetz has received some support from Republican representatives who were opposing him before. The main concern

for Gaetz and other Republicans is that with the funding extension to avoid a government shutdown, McCarthy has not kept his word and has helped President Biden. They want to control the budget, and make sure that less illegal immigrants come to the United States, and less money goes to Ukraine.

On Oct. 3, McCarthy was removed in a 216-210 vote. This is sad. It sends the message, "Party over the People - or else." (We did not get a new speaker as of press time unfortunately.)

Senator Dianne Feinstein has passed away at the age of 90. She was asked to resign or not to run for reelection (she later changed her mind, but was too late). However, she was reluctant, and California was naive to vote for her at the age of 87. Once any senator or congressperson passes away, the governor of that state has the right to appoint for the replacement of his/her term.

*(Continued on page 7)*

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR LOCAL TALK WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**

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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>
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**24, 31, & 44 BUS ROUTES**

*(Continued from page 1)*

The cash fare may be 10 to 20 cents per zone cheaper.

Gone with Coach and ONE are the border fare checking stops conducted by Newark Police Division officers on the bus company's behalf. Delays while police officers check receipts or passes to prevent going beyond the fare zone without paying will be no more.

And that is just on Oct. 8. NJTransit will be running a Saturday schedule that Monday for the federal and state holiday - a holiday which CoachONE has not observed.

Riders will start seeing the reappearance of 24, 31 and 44 paper schedules at Newark Penn Station and other places. An NJTransit Customer Service agent told "Local Talk" in July that it has not received Coach/ONE's multicolored schedules for a year.

And, starting Oct. 14, there will be a restoration of Sunday service. Coach/ONE had dropped all of its 24, 31 and 44 Sunday

service since July 22. Stretches of streets in Elizabeth, Newark and the Oranges became transit deserts those days.

All of this Gov. Murphy pronounced Sept. 29 as "emergency service" on the 24 A&B, 31 to Dover Street/South Orange Village and 44 to Orange Rail Station.

Murphy, NJTransit and NJDOT had used "emergency service" in April when restoring a minimal level of operation on four of Decamp's four bus routes.

Montclair-based Decamp - presaging Coach/ONE's Sept. 8's claims of post-pandemic declining ridership, lack of hiring bus drivers, inflationary costs, and the inability of tapping federal and state COVID recovery funds - called it quits on running six commuter routes to New York City April 7.

NJTransit, which had renumbered the four Decamp routes, chose not to renumber 24 A&B, 31 and/or 44 routes. The non-renumbering may be part of what Murphy (D-Rumson) called a "stabilization plan."

That plan - in part from hear-

ing riders and constituents' cries the past month - is this, as per NJTransit's website:

**New NJ TRANSIT #24 Line**

- Serves the Central Avenue Corridor in Orange, East Orange, and Newark, and the Frelinghuysen Avenue/Newark Avenue Corridor in Newark and Elizabeth. Also serves East Jersey Street and Elizabeth Avenue Elizabeth as well as Jersey Gardens. Provides service to Downtown Newark, Orange, and Elizabeth, and connections to NJT rail at Elizabeth, Orange, and Brick Church.
- Weekday 5:00 AM - 2:14 AM with service every 20 minutes, AM and PM peak, and Mid-day and every 30 minutes evenings and late night.
- Saturday 5:00 AM - 1:35 AM with service every 20 minutes mid-day, every 30 minutes early AM, evening and late night.
- Sunday 5:15 AM - 1:21 AM with service every 30 minutes, all day.

**New NJ TRANSIT #31 Line**

- Serves the South Orange Avenue Corridor from downtown South Orange, at the rail station, to Springfield Avenue in Newark, and continues to Penn Station, via Market Street, providing multi-modal connections.
- Weekday 5:00 AM - 1:53 AM with hourly service from South Orange and every 20 minutes AM and PM peak from South Orange Avenue/Dover Street Loop, and every 30 minutes off-peak, evenings and late night.
- Saturday 5:00 AM - 1:22 AM with hourly service from South Orange and every 30 minutes from Dover Street Loop.
- Sunday: 5:00 AM - 1:31 AM with service every 45 minutes in the mid-day from South Orange, and every 60 minutes early morning, evening and late night. All service operates South Orange - Newark Penn on Sunday.

**New NJ TRANSIT #44 Line**

- Connects Newark Penn Station with downtown Orange at the Orange Rail Station for multi-modal connectivity. Provides service to the Veteran's Hospital in East Orange. Serves Tremont Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue, Freeman Avenue, and Central Avenue in Orange, East Orange, and Newark.
- Weekday 5:00 AM - 12:28 AM with hourly service all day.
- Saturday 6:00 AM - 12:27 AM with hourly service all day.
- Sunday: 6:30 AM - 12:52 AM with service every 80 minutes all day.

The above restores 24, 31, 44 service to pre-July 22 levels. Previous Coach/ONE cuts - including the No. 31's Maplewood Loop, RWJBarnabas Health Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center and/or the Livingston Mall branches - remain.

The changes were made in part by constituents' complaints either directly to the NJTransit Board of Directors at their Sept. 14 meeting - or by way of their local elders' municipal meetings.



Attorney and Newark resident Orlando Webster, for example, urged Council President LaMonica McIver, her Municipal Council colleagues and city administrators on Sept. 19 to meet with NJTransit particularly regarding the No. 31 route before Oct. 8.

"We have seniors from St. Mary's Village that go to ShopRite, students from West Side High School, Seton Hall University and other schools who go up and down South Orange Avenue," said Webster at the Council's Sept. 19 pre-meeting. "There are those who work at our schools, who work at the airport. We need the council to take the lead on this issue."

McIver, later that Sept. 19 session, said that "there have been conversations for a month, if not longer" with CoachUSA, NJTransit, the Governor's Office and State Sen. M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Newark) on the matter.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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# SPORTS WRAP



Photos By  
David Armstrong



By William Hathaway, Jr.

Once again, MetLife Stadium hosted a Sunday Night Football and Monday Night Football game back to back, and once again the Giants were pitiful.

Seattle swooped in and beat Big Blue 24-3. Daniel Jones was 27-34 passing, but for only 203 yards and two interceptions, one of them being a pick six. In the Pete Carroll era, the Seahawks have not lost a game at MetLife, which is ironic as Carroll lost a lot of home games as the Jets head coach back in the day.

Speaking of the Jets, while they did not win like in their previous double night game affair, they were far more competitive in their 23-20 loss to the defending Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs. Gang Green had chances, but a dropped TD pass, an overthrow, a botched snap, and a controversial call proved too much to bear. (For decency sake, we will not mention the singer at the game.)

In Major League Baseball, the Mets announced David Stearns as their new president of Baseball Operations. This came after the team parted ways with manager Buck Showalter.

The basketball world was rocked by two trades, with one player involved in both. First, the Milwaukee Bucks acquired superstar guard Damian Lillard in a three team deal involving

several players, most notably Jusuf Nurkic to Phoenix, and draft picks, DeAndre Ayton and Jrue Holliday to Portland. Holliday never got to the Trail Blazers, as he was then sent to Boston for Malcolm Brogdon, Robert Williams III, and draft picks.

Locally, the Elks Batters Up Competition showcased these stars:

- Adelyn Isip, girls 9/10 year old group, from West Orange.
- Gabrielle Hunter, girls 11/12 year old group, from Orange.
- Benjamin Laureore, boys 5/6 year old age group, from Orange.
- Roman Laureore, boys 7/8 year old age group, from Orange
- Eli A. Chavis, boys 9/10 year old age group, from Orange. Defending his State Championship from last year.
- Kabir Thompson, boys 9/10 year old age group, from Orange.
- Nikos Laureore, boys 9/10 year old age group, from Orange.
- Lucas Laureore, boys 11/12 year old age group, from Orange.
- Samul Rosa, boys 14 year old group, from the Dominican Republic



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**24, 31, & 44 BUS ROUTES**

(Continued from page 4)

"There are things that we up here can do and cannot do and require the help from or state and federal obligations regarding the elimination of these bus routes," said McIver. "I thank (South Ward) Councilman (Rev. Patrick Council) for first bringing this to our attention and for (West Ward) Councilman (Dupree) Kelly and other Council members in working to try and find a solution. We're leaning on our state and federal delegations to not only help us but also East Orange, Elizabeth and other municipalities impacted by this."

"This' a major crisis for us," said Newark Mayor Ras Baraka at that time." Kids wouldn't be able to get to schools, parents to their jobs and residents to resources and programs that improve the quality of their lives. It is unconscionable and irresponsible to end bus service so abruptly."

"I join with many of my fellow urban mayors and NJTransit

in my extreme disappointment with CoachUSA's decision to discontinue ONE bus service on three vital routes in our communities," said East Orange Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green Sept. 22. "I'm committed to working with all impacted parties to find a feasible solution that works for everyone."

Orange Councilwoman Quantavia Hilbert, on Sept. 29, posted NJTransit's "emergency stabilization" bus service on an Orange Facebook page. A "George K. launched a Change.org petition to have the 24, 31 and 44 bus service restoration on a "Newark, Irvington, East Orange & Jersey City" FB page.

It should be noted that CoachUSA's ONE buses serving Megabus, Olympia Trails and charter/contracted service from ONE's Elizabeth garage. Community Coach's 77 bus route from West Orange and West Essex to NYC's Port Authority Bus Terminal continues from CoachUSA's Paramus garage and office.

# NEWARK NATIVE SUES UNIVERSITY NEWARK RUTGERS HOSPITAL FOR \$1 MILLION

By Lev D. Zilbermintz

**NEWARK** – Yusuf Ali Shabazz, a Newark native, is suing University Hospital Newark Rutgers with four counts of alleged medical malpractice, failure to supervise, failure to respond, negligence and deviation from accepted medical standards. He is seeking \$1,000,000 in monetary damages.

Mr. Shabazz is representing himself, or pro se, in legal slang. His case was not thrown out because the plaintiff need not submit an affidavit of merit in accordance with common knowledge exception. This means that if something is common knowledge, then you don't need a lawyer to represent you. Medical malpractice falls under common knowledge exception.

"Local Talk" met thrice with Mr. Shabazz to interview him. Mr. Shabazz gave "Local Talk" copies of his medical records and court documents. Mr. Shabazz agreed to go public with his story because he wanted people to know how University Newark Rutgers Hospital acts. For example, Patient Relations does not follow up on complaints as well Human Experience, says Mr. Shabazz.

## Yusuf Shabazz tells his story

According to Mr. Shabazz, on December 23, 2020, he had surgery at University - Newark Rutgers Hospital. Post-surgery, Mr. Shabazz was having pain. Mr. Shabazz explained to the doctor that it was a very high level of pain. Even so, said Mr. Shabazz, "I was released two days after surgery (December 25, 2020)."

It should be noted that the coronavirus pandemic caused Mr. Shabazz's quick release from the hospital. According to Mr. Shabazz, this helped to deviate from standard medical practice.

January 2021 found Mr. Shabazz in bad shape. According to Mr. Shabazz, "I was having pain in January. I could not eat,

swallow or move my bowels." Mr. Shabazz said that the surgery made his surface and stomach too tight," Mr. Shabazz told "Local Talk." "When this happened, I went to Patient Advocacy Office at 140 Bergen Street, where the main hospital is. Between January 7-10, 2021, I had a post-surgery medical analysis. I explained to them that I could not eat, swallow or move my bowels."

According to Mr. Shabazz, "After that, when I went in person, they (Patient Advocacy Office) took my information down, but did not do anything. I went through more follow-ups, more analyses. They said they would get back to me. They never did. At that point, I was at home, suffering."

Mr. Shabazz said that he spoke to Jean, a representative at the Patient Advocacy Office. Jean never got back to Mr. Shabazz. According to Mr. Shabazz, "Human Experience (Department) explained that Jean dropped the ball."

The follow-up visits continued through January, February, March, April, May and June 2021. The pain suffered by Mr. Shabazz was caused as a result of post-surgery complications. Things got so bad that Mr. Shabazz had to drop out of school at Essex County College, where he was a paralegal.

According to Mr. Shabazz, Dr. Aziz Merchant, without properly evaluating him, scheduled a wrong surgery that was not needed. This occurred December 23, 2020.

According to Mr. Shabazz, he told his daughter, Shalease M. Shabazz, about his problem. His daughter took him to Mountain-side Hospital in Montclair. Mr. Shabazz told "Local Talk," "as soon as they saw me, they prepared me for surgery." The surgery at Mountainside Hospital saved his life, Mr. Shabazz said.

Medical records state, "On June 12, 2021, ...daughter Shalease M. Shabazz took Plaintiff Yusuf A. Shabazz, to Mountainside Hospital where an emer-

gency surgery was performed to remove developed hernia from lower right side of Plaintiff Yusuf A. Shabazz's body. Medical records will reflect. Dr. Joao Lopes, MD., performed surgery."

## Notice of Professional Liability Claim Against University Hospital Newark Rutgers, New Jersey

According to court papers and medical records provided by Mr. Yusuf Ali Shabazz, "Claimant had an appointment with Dr. Kaye, when another assistant working with a different physician took his chart and gave claimant unknown (substance via injection) which was not prescribed by his Dr." This happened May 5, 2021.

Medical records state, "On May 5, 2021, Ms. Guadalupe inject(ed) a chemical into Plaintiff Yusuf A. Shabazz's nose, causing burning and nose bleeding. When the Doctor attending appeared, he informed that Plaintiff Yusuf A. Shabazz was not his patient. (When) Plaintiff Yusuf A. Shabazz immediately called for supervisor, none came forward."

Mr. Shabazz filed his claim on May 18, 2021. He stated that staff at the doctor's office deviated from the accepted standard of medical care. Mr. Shabazz's injuries included, but were not limited to, mental, psychological, and emotional issues.

According to the medical records provided by Mr. Shabazz, his diagnosis included, but was not limited to, dysphasia, or intermittent choking, dysphonia, or disorder of the voice. Internet defines dysphonia as functional voice difficulty. The diagnosis, according to medical papers, is dated April 16, 2021.

The medical records state that notice of all this was given to Megan Gargiulo, of Patient Relations, on June 21, 2021. At that point in time, Mr. Shabazz was not yet able to supply the names of University Hospital employees which allegedly were

at fault for the accident or occurrence, including information that would assist in identifying them.

## One Million Dollar Amount Claimed

In his papers, Mr. Shabazz claimed "all medical bills received by True Care Mental Health Center; any and all other medical bills received from any other doctor and hospital from date of accident to present and continuing relating to this accident."

Legal papers show that Mr. Shabazz is suing the doctors, hospital, nurses, etc., for \$1,000,000.

## University Hospital Responds

Patient Relations wrote Mr. Shabazz a one-page letter on June 21, 2021. This letter, a copy of which was provided by Mr. Shabazz to "Local Talk", assured him that his complaint was being taken seriously. Patient Relations is located at 150 Bergen Street, Room C-242, Newark, N.J. 07101-6750.

The letter thanked Mr. Shabazz for sharing his concerns regarding his registration experience at the Ambulatory Care Center and Radiology Department At University Hospital. Following that, Patient Relations apologized that "the experience did not meet your expectations."

Patient Relations assured Mr. Shabazz, "Matters like this are taken seriously by University Hospital leadership. Your concerns were investigated by Admitting and Radiology Leadership."

The manager of Patient Relations, Megan Gargiulo, wrote, "In your complaint you mentioned your concerns regarding nursing staff behavior. University Hospital takes staff professionalism quite seriously and enforces only the highest degree of behavior when interacting with patients. We understand that compassionate communication between the health care

(Continued on page 12)

# WARRANT ISSUED IN PASTOR TIMOTHY HUFF SHOOTING



Suspect Deidre Moses

**NEWARK** - Public Safety Director Fritz G. Fragé reports that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Deidre Moses, 28, of Bloomfield, in connection with a shooting that occurred on Thursday, August 24, 2023.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., Police responded to the 40s block of North 4th Street on a call of a shooting. Responding officers located a man who had been shot while inside a residence after suspects fired at the home from the outside. Before the shooting occurred, the victim heard an altercation outside the residence involving individuals vandalizing a vehicle parked in the area. The suspects fired a weapon, striking the home and injuring the man. The victim was transported to University Hospital for treatment and re-

portedly remains in critical condition.

Detectives investigating this incident have identified Deidre Moses as a suspect in this shooting and obtained a warrant for her arrest. She is described as 5'5" tall and 120 pounds with a tattoo on her chest of the word "Ram."

Director Fragé urges anyone with information about the identity of any of these suspects to call the Police Division's 24-hour Crime Stopper tip line at 1-877-NWK-TIPS (1-877-695-8477). All anonymous Crime Stopper tips are kept confidential and could result in a reward.

Anonymous tips may also be made using the Police Division's website at: <https://npd.newarkpublicsafety.org>Newark Police Division.

**EDITORIAL**

*(Continued from page 2)*

California governor Gavin Newsom appointed the President of Emily's Laphonza Butler as the replacement. In 2021, Newsom announced that he would appoint a black female for any vacated position. He kept his word and announced Butler, whose worth is about \$16 million dollars and had an

income last year of about \$5 million. She claims herself as lesbian, was married and got about \$4.6 million in a settlement. She owns a villa in Beverly Hills valued at \$3.9 million. However, I think Newsom had a good pick. Butler is smart, intelligent and knows how to manage.

*Have a wonderful week. I'll talk to you next time.*



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Family Support Organization of Essex County (FSOEC) offers support groups and workshops for parents and caregivers of children with special needs. You're not on this journey alone!

**SEPTEMBER 27:** Break the Silence—Suicide Prevention Symposium is a chance to understand how to prevent suicide and receive support. Join us on Zoom starting 5pm: <https://bit.ly/fsoecbreaksilence>.

**SEPTEMBER 28:** Better Together Dads meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 4th Thursdays to give fathers a safe place for connection with other passionate dads.

**OCTOBER 3:** Nurtured Heart Approach meets 6:30 p.m. monthly on 1st Tuesdays for English and Spanish-speaking parents to connect and address their concerns, questions, and feelings about raising a child with special needs.

Our activities and group meetings occur on Zoom and in person, visit our website for the details: <https://bit.ly/fsoeevents>

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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.

**NEWARK** - The Newark Public Schools Board of Education, by elevating colleague Hashini Council as their Council President at its Sept. 26 business meeting here, is halfway through in making panelist changes.

The board, that Tuesday night, unanimously elevated second-term board member Council, 27, to become its head. The Ras Baraka "Moving Newark Schools Forward" Team member was first elected by a majority of participating registered voters. Council was first elected in 2020 and re-elected him last April.

Council, a University High School graduate, holds a master's degree in law and governance from Montclair State University. He has been chief of staff for previous and current South Ward councilmen John Sharpe James and the Rev. Patrick Council.

The son of Rev. Council has also been a South Ward Democratic party district ward leader. Council succeeds Asia Norton, who had resigned to become a law clerk for a New Jersey Superior Court-Newark judge.

Council and his school board colleagues will be reviewing applications to succeed Norton as board member in October. They hope to have conducted interviews and name Norton's successor at their November meeting. That person would be subject to April's school board and budget election to fill Norton's unexpired term.

**IRVINGTON** - The woman who started life here as Annette Pepe in 1939 will have a memorial service, as Peppy Dallenbach, 12:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Millstone Elks Lodge No. 2613

at 22 burnt Tavern Rd.

Annette Marie Pepe was born, likely in Irvington General Hospital to Paul and Laura Pepe, of 116 Harper Ave., here Aug. 8, 1939. The South Ward apartment happened within a half-mile - or earshot - of Tri-City Speedway, which held AAA-sanctioned races 1933-41 but it is not known whether the Pepees ever attended.

Although the Pepees were recorded here in the 1940 U.S. Census, the real estate directories having them move out to East Brunswick. Brothers William, Daniel and Micheal were born there as was a Walton "Wally" Dallenbach, Sr.

How Annette and Wally met is unclear, but Dallenbach was a partner of M and D Contracting and tended to practice running stock cars in its back lot. Annette became "Peppy" when she and Wally got married Oct. 22, 1960.

Wally Dallenbach raced stock cars at the likes of Wall Stadium and Old Bridge Speedway, which led to his first USAC Indycar ride in 1965. He went on to win four USAC Indycar races in his 15-year career - including the 1973 California 500 in the LA suburb of Ontario. Wally used the winnings to buy a ranch at Basalt, CO and move Peppy, sons Wally, Jr. and Paul and daughter Colleen the next year.

Wally Sr. became the break-away CART series Chief Steward in 1981. Peppy joined that tour as an assistant registrar until Wally's retirement in 2004.

Annette Pepe/Peppy Dallenbach, 83, died in Basalt, CO. July 2. There are Pepees and Dallenbachs who have remained here, which is the reason for the Oct. 7 memorial.

**EAST ORANGE** - Tributes to Purnell T. "Goldie" Burbage, 98, have been pouring in since word of her passing became known on Sept. 24.

Burbage, as founder of the East Orange Historical Society, have been most recently known as a fountain of knowledge of city matters. the unofficial mayor of the Presidential Heights had been given an honorary Goldie T. "Mrs. B" Burbage Way sign at the corner of

Monroe and Roosevelt avenues Sept. 16, 2019.

"Mrs. B" was a history-maker in her own right.

She was often the first African American to serve as secretary to the mayor (James Kelly and William Hart), and the city's law and tax collection offices. Mayor Hart's Executive Assistant was also East Orange's first Chief Personnel Officer and created The Mayor's Office of Employment and Training, Drug Abuse and Personnel.

Burbage, who worked with Essex County College President A. Zachary Yamba, was President of the East Orange Educational Foundation, the Salvation Army of the Oranges and Maplewood, Chairwoman of the HIV AIDS Sharing Network and Bethany Baptist Church Board of Trustees and Vice President of the East Orange Chamber of Commerce.

"A humanitarian and one of the original change agents in our community," declared Mayor Theodore "Ted" Green, "Mrs. Burbage has left an unparalleled legacy in East Orange."

**ORANGE** - A city man became the center of the latest chapter of "What Were You Thinking?" here at Newark's Essex County Hall of Records early on Sept. 20.

Essex County Sheriff's Officers who were stationed at one of the Hall of Records metal detecting x-ray machines said they had to arrest Charles Pryor II when a semi-automatic handgun was seen in his book bag on the machine's screen that Monday morning.

Pryor told the officers that he had "forgotten that it was in there."

Pryor was promptly arrested and charged with second-degree unlawful possession of an unregistered weapon. He was remanded to Newark's Essex County Correctional Center until he had presumably posted bail.

**WEST ORANGE / SOUTH ORANGE** - Organizers of Sept. 23's Pet Pride March were all set to go until Tropical Storm Ophelia dumped rain on the area.

The owners of West Orange's Harper's Cafe and Pet

Wants SOMA have reset their march for a 10 a.m., Oct. 7 step off from the cafe. The march, where "socialized pets are welcomed," will go from South Valley Road to South Orange's Spiotta Park at 11 a.m., where remarks will be made and activities held.

The owners of Harper's and Pet Wants are decrying the homophobic harassment and vandalism that they have suffered the last six years.

Harper's have recorded two back-to-back paint splatterings and bricks through windows July 13-14. The incidents have been reported to and investigated by the West Orange Police Department. About 150 people, including some township leaders and the West Orange Chamber of Commerce, appeared July 16 to help with repairs and show support.

Pet Wants, after six years of vandalism and slurs, decided that a scribbled "Remove your crap (Pride) flag" note recently wedged into their front door, was the last straw.

**MAPLEWOOD** - There may well be people walking past 1609-11 Springfield Ave., lately, thinking, "Where have I heard that Daibes name before?"

Fred Daibes is the second generation real estate developer who has pleaded along with Sen Robert Menendez (D-Paramus), wife Nadine Menendez, one other real estate developer and a halal meat exporter in Manhattan federal court Sept. 27.

Daibes is also awaiting sentencing Oct. 26 after pleading guilty to a 14-count indictment in April. He had confessed to getting a \$1.8 million loan by misstating limits on Mariner's Bank, which he founded in 2001.

Daibes Enterprises, as Daibes Gas 14 LLC, bought and built the two-story, six apartment and street level commercial building that is 1609-11 Springfield Ave. Groundbreaking was made on the former Shell filling station on Jan. 9, 2013.

Maplewood's elders had welcomed the repurposing of the corner lot of Springfield and Burnet Avenue - just as they had in replacing the former Ameri-

(Continued on page 14)



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#### ECC WEST CAMPUS

*(Continued from page 1)*

and a half ago and was lost and finally learned the classroom numbers. When she sat down, it was with other students who came from a different background. She further said, “I also learned the value of community college. As I sat next to my classmates, they came from diverse backgrounds with unique stories. My lab partner was a mother of two and a full-time student. As well as myself, someone whose education was once interrupted, but the hope was never lost.”

Alumna Anabel Stracker, former student of Essex County College, said, “It is said that school is a temple. I came to the school in 2018 and I was nerv-

ous. I came with the intent to pursue a business major. But I soon realized that business is not for me. I decided to take advice from my faculty advisor Mrs. Torres to find out what my options are.

“Mrs. Torres was like a mother to me. She explained my options and guided me in the right direction. In 2020, when Covid started I was diagnosed with breast cancer for the second time. Then I saw how much faculty and staff cared for their students. The professors made accommodations, some gave me copies of their notes, extended time on classroom assignments, and told me that if I don’t feel good, it is okay to leave class.

“Despite my situation, with the help and support of my faculty, I was able to continue

school with chemo and radiation. It was not an easy task, but I was determined not to quit and finish what I started. Despite my health situation, I was nominated and inducted in the National Honor Society. I made Dean’s list three times and surprised myself that I graduated with honors.”

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo said that this project was \$50 million. The College building made up \$30 million, while the parking lot and soccer field were \$10 million each.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy first spoke about a nasty storm that was headed our way. He said, “I am begging people, if you don’t need to go out, don’t go out. We have 14 counties (in the path), including Essex as Joe knows. We will have 1 to 3 inch-

es and some places 6 to 8 inches of rain yet to come. Our particular concern is Hudson County, Hoboken, and Weehawken.”

He further said, “We must invest in 21st Century New Jersey with an innovation economy. One of and the most important one on that list was to revitalize and invest in our community colleges, we have done just that... There is no better example than Essex County College.”

The new Essex County College West Campus has 51,700 feet of school building and 325 adjoining parking lot with a state-of-the-art soccer field, which is getting more popular sports amongst the youth.

**SEE PHOTOS  
ON PAGE 13**



*From  
The  
Pastor's  
Heart*

OP-ED BY DR. ROBERT KENNEDY

**Exhort One Another**

I focused last on "encouraging one another," let me press a little in the extension of that idea by using this other idea that the apostle Paul has suggested to us, namely, "exhort one another." I have taken it that encouragement is a milder form of exhortation.

While encouragement means to inspire, cheer up, pep up, uplift, buoy up, and support someone with confidence and hope, exhorting means pressing upon someone, challenging them, calling them out, urging them, leaning on them, putting pressure on them, imploring them, provoking them, coaxing them, anything that can be done to get them to go in a good way.

The latter does not mean harsh, but it takes on seriousness so the one being exhorted understands the consequence of taking the wrong path. During the height of the pandemic, I remember how my wife used to

urge me to make sure that I put on my mask when I was going in public spaces and even in the house when I sneezed. Sometimes, I sensed a bit of angst in her voice as she tried to ensure we were safe. I did not blame her. We have been together for 53 years, and I knew she did not want to lose me or I losing her because of some reckless behavior.

What my wife was doing in cautioning me was not just a phenomenon in our house but was also being done by Dr. Anthony Stephen Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases from 1984 to 2022, and the chief medical advisor to the president from 2021 to 2022; Dr. Deborah Leah Birx, who served as the White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator under President Donald Trump from 2020 to 2021. Dr. Birx specializes in HIV/AIDS immunology, vaccine research, and global health. Other Coronavirus Response Coordinators would follow her under President Biden.

We must not forget the local Departments of Health, the pastors, churches and other community organizations personnel drawn in to be trained in Health Literacy and other aspects of supporting their communities. They offered strategies to exhort

individuals to take all precautions to combat the pandemic, confront the diverse conspiracy theories and political arguments against vaccination, etc. Yes, my wife and I were among those who went to training and needless to say, we learned a lot about giving advice without causing conflict or putting people down.

While we were taught to urge and try to persuade people about the more positive steps they could take to protect themselves, it also reminded us that people have "freedom of choice" and that exhorting does not mean commanding, or forcing. This does not mean that the urgency and passion should be left aside when we are trying to help someone in an emergency.

In moving from the pandemic, let's think of a person who decides to swim in dangerous waters, is approaching a massive fire, or is confronting a coming hurricane or storm. You would use all the passion in your voice to persuade them not to. Governors of many states were passionate and insistent in their warnings about impending catastrophes. For example, if a hurricane is coming, they get on the radio and TV or any other form of media, making their announcements urging those who live in the area to get out.

The climate change evangelists (if we can call them so) are making it clear to us that there are storms of various kinds on the horizon, and we must take caution. They are saying it as I have heard some parents say to their children, "I tell you a thousand times, and I do not want to tell you again, you'd better get out of there before it is too late." What the climate evangelists are doing and what some parents say might seem like an exaggeration, but the point is that if danger is near, we need to be clear in our exhortations.

The above reflection came as a result of reading Hebrews 3:12-13 which states: "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God." Therefore, We must not ignore or take lightly any exhortation given for the community's safety.

The call to exhort one another is directed to a community of believers but also to all who feel a need to help those in the world community to prepare for the crisis ahead. It is to help them enter the kingdom of God, and there is a need to heed the word. "Exhort one another every day."

**NEWARK MAN SUES**

(Continued from page 6)

team and patients is essential to quality care. Because we understand how important it is, we provide ongoing education focusing on compassionate communication with all nursing staff. Your experience was shared with teams mentioned in your complaint and the expectation of professionalism at all times was reinforced. In the future, please contact Patient Relations should you need assistance while at University Hospital.

"You also voiced concerns regarding your experience at Dr. Kaye's office. This concern was escalated to Ms. Odemaro Valencia as she manages complaints regarding Rutgers' physician practices. We hope Ms. Valencia was able to address your concerns to your satisfaction.

"We truly appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention. Your voice will continue to make a difference for others as we continue to improve services for all our patients. If we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call our office at

(973) 972-6410."

**Yusuf Ali Shabazz's response**

Mr. Shabazz essentially said that the letter from Patient Relations did not mean anything to him. While reading the letter, it is obvious that this is damage control mode for University Hospital. While the letter seeks to reassure Mr. Shabazz, it does not specify what action, if any, was taken against the doctors and nurses in question. Then again, that is a personnel matter, which means that such matters are private.

In his complaint, L-234-23, Mr. Shabazz states that his surgery was not properly structured, nor was his informed consent for it given. Moreover, the hospital failed to supervise Ms. Guadelupe, a physician assistant, who injected Mr. Shabazz with an unknown foreign substance.

**What do medical records say?**

Medical papers state that "Claimant had Foreign Substance injected into his body

(which) caused a reaction (Mental and Physical speech impediment). Mr. Shabazz claims in medical papers bodily injury." Mr. Shabazz defined these injuries as "stress related symptom and speech disorder."

The authorization for release of patient records was signed by Mr. Yusuf Shabazz on August 5, 2021.

**Appeal to University Hospital Newark Board of Directors**

On June 7, 2022, Mr. Shabazz wrote a brief letter to the University Hospital Newark Board of Directors. According to Mr. Shabazz's letter, the Board is composed of Tanya Freeman, Esq., Chair; Cecile A. Feldman, DMD, MBA, ex-officio; Keith Green, B.S.; Heather Howard, J.D.; Robert L. Johnson, M.D. FAAP, ex-officio; David T. Molowa, Ph.D.; Mary O'Dowd, MPH, ex-officio; Eric Pennington, ex-officio.

In his letter, Yusuf Shabazz wrote, "On December 21, 2021 I was a patient in your

(Continued on page 15)

# GRAND OPENING OF ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE'S WEST ESSEX CAMPUS

*A packed room was on hand for the presentation. Photos By Dhiren Shah*



*An artistic rendering of the planned renovation*



*Gov. Murphy with the ECC Soccer Team*



*ECC President Augustine A. Boakye*



*Alumna Anabel Stracker gave a touching speech about her life story with Essex County College*

*Yadira Rosales, President of ECC's Student Government Association*



The Observation Booth



OP-ED By Andrea Dialect

THROW YOUR HANDS UP

(ARCHIVED - TAKE 2)

"Logically, open minds make an ideal audience. Thus, such spectators in any environment would supposedly be a puppeteer's dream. But in 'Da Hood,' if void of imagination, short attention spans shun supportive script. In the minds of this particular audience, real puppets don't talk that jive talk that fosters learning and imagination, when puppets gotta spit rap lyrics 24/7 . . . How sad!" - Andrea

PULLING STRINGS

Jim Robinson:

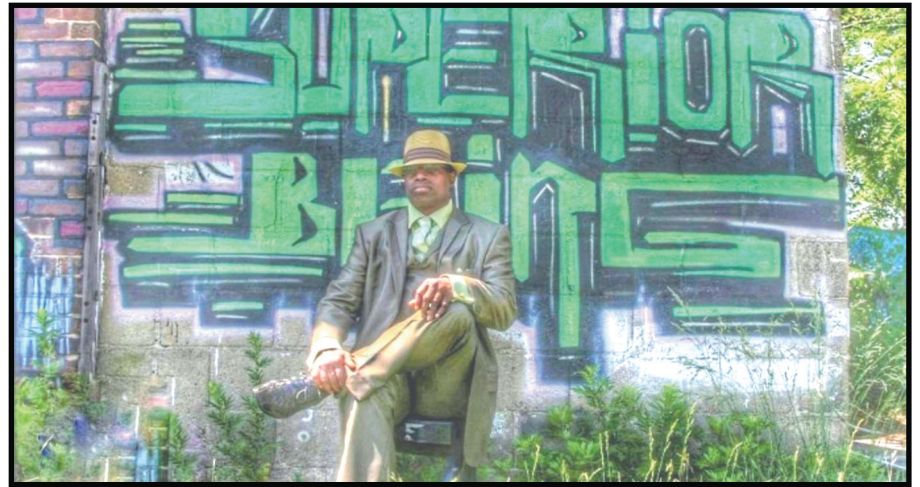
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Photos By Andrea Dialect

"It's more comfortable for people to hear rap vs. other types of music in the inner city, and it's hard to find clean, decent music out here. I used to use Bow Wow's work a lot when he was little Bow Wow, him and Romeo. But they've grown up now, and their music has gotten raunchy, so it's pretty difficult to pull over.

"I want to expose our people to more than a Hip Hop rap image or Gangsta Rap. There's so much more to be heard and learned, other styles. I have experimented with other types of music. There's a guy called Big Jeff that I use a lot, Craig, and company from Disney. Hope Songs which is the music of a guy from East Orange; his work is Disney-style. I'll also take that unsolicited demo from an artist and use it if it's befitting.



"Many of the kids' attention spans are kinda of short, and they can't follow the storyline unless it's something like a video game and there's bells and whistles sounding off continuously. Real dialog must be exchanged with children unless they suffer, and it is an issue because the vocabulary is not there.

"There is great difficulty for most when it comes to expressing who they are and what they are trying to portray because of limited vocabularies, and I'm speaking of adults. So imagine what it's like for kids. They cannot verbalize what they feel or see and when vocabularies are limited, things tend to go over the head.

"Despite challenges, I introduce the unfamiliar to every child. I utilize folk music for that child who is familiar with it, and accordingly, I introduce it to those who aren't. I use Raffy often, which surprisingly isn't as popular around here. Kids really need those types of songs be-

cause they expand their imagination; hearing and observing an artist being animated in such a way fosters their ability to become creative and animated as well.

"I use a lot of big Jeff, 'I was walking down the street, and I became a pterodactylus, I was doing this, and I became a frog.' It is these things that make children use their imaginations and, at the same time, teaching them about the pterodactylus (Tert-a-DAK-tie-luss). After hearing about new things like that, they go to Mom and Dad and say hey, what is a pterodactylus. If Mom and Dad are unsure, they should let them know that, and when time permits, find out." ...

Read this article in its entirety at [www.localtalkweekly.com](http://www.localtalkweekly.com) and type The Observation Booth, Andrea Dialect and/or Entertainment Section in the search bar. If you are interested in participating in a challenge, project sharing a topic, news or if you have any questions, comments or concerns, send them to [localtalkandrea@gmail.com](mailto:localtalkandrea@gmail.com).

TOWN WATCH

(Continued from page 10)

can Motors dealer across the street with a Walgreens. That welcoming turned into consternation when Daibes Enterprises, of Edgewater, fell behind on finishing the project, which opened for occupancy in 2017.

Daibes Gas 14 has been meanwhile sold to Kingwood Properties, of New Providence, who then turned residential leasing to AB Holdings. There is no connection to the Maplewood project, except that it was another done by Daibes Enterprises, of Edgewater, to the cases Fred Daibes is involved with.

**BLOOMFIELD** - Elevators and other improvements, thanks to a recently announced federal grants release, will be coming to NJTransit's Montclair-Boonton Line Watsessing Avenue Station.

Third Ward Councilwoman Sarah Cruz said she had received word from NJ Transit

Sept. 8 that the commuter rail station will be getting two elevators, wheelchair ramps, new platforms and canopies with a \$31.6 million USDOT "August Redistribution" grant.

The federal government, which runs on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 bidet calendar, redistributes unused funds from other line items. This is similar to how state, county and municipal budgets reallocate or "zero out" so far unused funds before their budget calendars run out.

The \$31.6 million allocation for Watsessing Station is just over six percent of \$425 million USDOT is sending to New Jersey for projects across the state.

This announcement does not come with a timetable on when station improvements will be made. This includes whether the existing interior freight elevator, going back to the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western days, will be used.

Watsessing Station, at the neighborhood's center, has had a street level waiting

room and depressed platforms since the 1910s. The station building had been headquarters to one of Bloomfield's police unions.

"The funding will give us improvements we need to revive the very important station," said Cruz Sept. 8. "I'm really looking forward to seeing this station better serving our residents and visitors."

**MONTCLAIR** - The Township Council re-appointed Angelese Bermudez-Nieves as Township Clerk Sept. 27 on a 5-2 split vote.

Bermudez-Nieves, who started in 2008 as legal assistant to the township attorney, was first appointed as municipal clerk in 2020. She has received her municipal clerk certification in March and is a candidate for Master Municipal Clerk.

Her appointment also gives her tenure to the job title.

(Continued on page 15)

**TOWN WATCH** (Continued from page 14)

Fourth Ward Councilman David Cummings and At-Large Councilman Robert Russo, after seeing their bid to delay Bermudez-Nieves appointment denied, pending an evaluation, dissented in the approval motion.

Cummings and Russo cited two public speakers' comments that Bermudez-Nieves had not responded to OPRA requests in a timely manner and had "used her discretion," in throwing out two signatures on a public question referendum.

**BELLEVILLE** - A Funeral Mass was held here at the Nutley's Holy Family Church, followed by burial at Bloomfield's Glendale Cemetery, Sept. 29 for lifelong Bellevillian Samuel Graziano.

Graziano, 89, the father of Councilman Thomas Graziano, died at home here Set. 24.

Born Aug. 22, 1934, Graziano was a Belleville High School. He retired Class of 1952 scholar-athlete. He played short-stop for the BHS Buccaneers baseball team; he later became a Belleville Little League volunteer baseball coach.

The US Army soldier was employed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Newark. "Sammy" retired in 1992 at age 57 to ride his Harley-Davidson motorcycle to Clifton's Rutt's Hut on Sundays. He passed on his hot onions recipe to daughter Judy.

Graziano and his wife of 67 years, Audrey, raised Thomas Graziano, Judy Catena and Linda Barbella here. 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren also survive him.

Memorial donations may go to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjudes.org.

**NUTLEY** - A 38-year-old father and his eight-year-old son who were bicycle riding together here Sept. 22 received injuries and tickets after being hit by a car.

Nutley police officers, who were responding to the mishap on Passaic Avenue and Kingsland Street that Friday, found both bicyclists and the motorist. The father and son were riding a two-seat bicycle when they were struck by the car.

The father was treated at the scene. The son was taken to a local hospital and was released after being observed.

Both the father and son were issued tickets for not wearing helmets.

The unidentified motorist was given motor vehicle summonses for careless driving and failure to yield. The driver is to face Nutley Municipal Court; the bicyclists have the option to appeal their tickets.

**NEWARK MAN SUES**

(Continued from page 12)

facility under the care of Dr. Merchant and his team. Records (show) a surgery was performed. Dr. Merchant and his team breached the applicable standards of medicine owed practitioner (Plaintiff Yusuf Ali Shabazz), which was a direct caused... physical injury to the Plaintiff. (It) ... was the direct and proximate cause of all the plaintiff's injuries and damages.

"I made a complaint to the Patient Advocates Office. As of today, no one has reach(ed) out to me or anything of that nature. I have suffered and (am) still suffering physically, mentally and emotionally. There is no estimate of monetary damages at this time because you can't put a value on human life and injuries at this time. (Why?) Because I am still seeking medical help.

"This brief letter is to inform you all of the treatment and non-cooperation from your facility related to the matter mentioned. I would like to personally speak with all board members related to this matter.

"Please take appropriate actions to address and help resolve. I await your reply as to what avenue you members will take assist me to resolution."

**Notice from University Hospital**

On the same day that Mr. Shabazz wrote his letter to the Board of Directors, he received a notice from University Hospital. The notice, dated June 7, 2022, denied Mr. Shabazz's request for on-campus outpatient hospital, Procedure 43497, effective 6/13 - 7/12/2022. In other words, the hospital denied Mr. Shabazz the necessary life-saving corrective surgery.

**Response by Mr. Shabazz**

Yusuf Shabazz told "Local Talk" on September 14 and 21, 2023 that he never heard back from the Board of Directors. However, medical records provided by Mr. Shabazz show that he did hear back from the Department of Healthcare and Claims Management of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

In a letter dated July 13, 2021, the Department asked for "information, essential to our evaluation." These included signed medical authorizations; names and addresses of all subsequent treating physicians and hospitals with dates of treatment and/or reports; completion of the enclosed Tort Claims Form; copies of all expert reports and medical records."

**What the law says**

The Department of Health Risk and Claims Management's letter referenced the provisions of the N.J. Torts Claims Act, New Jersey Statutes Annotated 59:1-1 et sequence in requiring Mr. Shabazz to provide "certain information." The letter warned, "Failure to supply the information required by statute may result in your claim being "forever barred."


**Mr. Shabazz responds**

According to Mr. Shabazz's medical and legal papers, "This is the pattern of University Hospital. All complaints go unacknowledged, or investigated, which is a continuous pattern of medical neglect, negligence and deviation from standards of care."

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CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY**

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