

From: [Brian Morris](#)
To: [InviteTheMayor](#)
Subject: Groundhog Day SI Zoo
Date: Thursday, January 02, 2014 3:22:03 PM
Attachments: [Invitation Ltr to Mayor de Blasio 2014.doc](#)

TO: Lindsay Scola

Please add this invitation to Groundhog Day – Feb. 2, 2014 – at the Staten Island Zoo to Mayor de Blasio’s calendar.

It is usually very well attended by the public and the media.

Brian Morris
718-442-6868



January 2, 2014

The Honorable William de Blasio
Mayor, The City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY, 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Just one month away ... Groundhog Day at the Staten Island Zoo is fast approaching. As he has since 1981, Staten Island Chuck will forecast the weather: six more weeks of Winter, or an early Spring. We hope that you will join us as the first to witness Chuck's prediction. It's uncanny; his accuracy rate has been 80 percent – tops among all groundhogs.

On Sunday, February 2 – traditionally Groundhog Day – Chuck at the Staten Island Zoo, New York City's **only** genuine groundhog meteorologist, will be making his annual prediction at 7:30 AM at the Zoo. The fun will actually begin at 7:00 AM, when visitors and members of the press will be on hand. Then, at exactly 7:30 AM, Chuck will emerge from his house to let us all know whether spring is just around the corner.

We certainly hope that you will join us for this year's festivities. It's only proper that New York City's Mayor should be the first to know of Chuck's prediction, and proclaim it to the city's citizens. Please respond to Brian Morris, the Zoo's Vice President of Marketing and Development, at 718-442-6868 by January 22, 2014. It promises to be another Groundhog Day you won't soon forget!

Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Mitchell
Executive Director

KCM/ecm
cc: William J. Frew, Jr.

From: bmorris@statenilandzoo.org on behalf of [Staten Island Zoo](#)
To: [Huus, Christie](#)
Subject: Groundhog Day is on the way!
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:52:59 PM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)




Celebrate Groundhog Day at the Zoo
SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 2

When Staten Island Chuck
emerges to tell us if
Spring is near...
or if there are
6 more weeks of Winter.
Presented by



Admission to the ceremony is FREE.
*6:30am Gates open * 7:00am Ceremony begins * 7:30am Chuck predicts*



*Staten Island Chuck has been selected
#2 nationwide as the Groundhog to Watch
on February 2 by the Weather Channel!*
[Read more here.](#)



Afterwards have

Breakfast with Chuck

\$10 per person; \$5 children 3-5; Children under 3 are FREE
Seating is limited. Reserve soon: 718.442.3101, ext. 33



*Patrick Raftery will perform
during the ceremony and at breakfast.*



**It will be a memorable way to begin
*Super Sunday!***

STATEN ISLAND ZOO
614 Broadway
Staten Island, New York
10310

Open daily 10:00am - 4:45pm
For more information:
* Call 718.442.3101
* Visit www.statenislandzoo.org



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Staten Island Zoo | 614 Broadway | Staten Island | NY | 10310

From: [Brian Morris](#)
To: [Grybauskas, Stefan](#)
Cc: [Kenneth C. Mitchell](#)
Subject: Groundhog Day
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 10:29:46 AM
Attachments: [Chuck Media Advisory update.docx](#)
[Groundhog Day Schedule 2014.doc](#)

Stephan: Attached is a draft Program (some revising will occur) and **draft** Media Advisory Update for your review and approval. When you approve the Media Advisory Update I will distribute.

Thanks again. Look forward to your reply.

STATEN ISLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

614 Broadway, Staten Island, NY 10310

www.statenislandzoo.org

January 28, 2014

Contact: Brian Morris

718-442-6868

bmorris@statenislandzoo.org

Groundhog Day at the Staten Island Zoo

MEDIA ADVISORY UPDATE

UPDATE: NYC Mayor, William de Blasio, will attend the Feb. 2 ceremony to proclaim Staten Island Chuck's weather prediction.

EVENT: February 2 each year is Groundhog Day, when groundhogs emerge from hibernation. Their behavior is known to predict the coming of Spring. If they are scared by their shadow, they return to their burrow to resume hibernation – hence 6 more weeks of cold winter. If they do not see their shadow, they abandon hibernation and seek food and a mate – Spring is coming soon.

WHO: Staten Island Chuck, the resident groundhog at the Staten Island Zoo, has been predicting weather since 1981 with a better-than-80% accuracy rate.

WHERE: The Staten Island Zoo, 614 Broadway, West Brighton, Staten Island, NY 10310

DATE & TIME: Sunday, February 2, 2014. Gates open at 6:30 am. To accommodate media, access can be provided from 5:00 am. Please call or e-mail to assure your access.

Chuck's prediction at 7:00 am. The event is free to the public.

Additional: Groundhog Day at the Staten Island Zoo is sponsored by Investors Bank.

The ceremony is witnessed live by an audience that has approached 700 visitors.

Following the ceremony, families may have Breakfast with Chuck.

**GROUNDHOG DAY
PROGRAM
SCHEDULE 2014**

- 6:30 Patrick & the Rock-A-Silly Band: Entertains Crowd
- 6:55 Gather dignitaries on stage
- 7:00 Acknowledge NYC Mayor Bill De Blasio
by William J. Frew, Jr., President Staten Island Zoological Society

Introduction of Deputy Borough President Ed Burke as Emcee
by William J. Frew, Jr.
- 7:03 Welcome to all: Deputy Borough President Ed Burke
(Recognize PS 29 Chorus & Kindergarten "Chuck Prediction Trackers")
- 7:08 Introduction of Public School elementary students to perform National Anthem
- 7:10 Introduction of Presenting Sponsor Investors Bank, represented by Kevin Cummings,
President & CEO.
- 7:11 Remarks by Kevin Cummings and presentation of check to William Frew
- 7:13 Introduction of Dignitaries by Deputy Borough President Burke:
list to be provided when finalized
- 7:18 Chuck facts: Deputy Borough President Ed Burke
- 7:20 Introduction of Mayor de Blasio by Deputy Borough President Ed Burke
- 7:25 John Franzreb blows traditional horn
- 7:30 Mayor de Blasio and Chuck proclaim prediction (scroll in place)
- 7:35 Wrap up: Ken Mitchell

Note: All times are approximate

*** PS 29 Kindergarten and Pre K will be keeping track of Chuck's Prediction – 40 +/- degree days in their class. We made them special boards.

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Erin Durkin](#)
To: [Norvell, Wiley](#); [Adams, Marti](#); [Walzak, Phil](#)
Subject: very important planning question
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:22:27 PM

Will the mayor be out with Staten Island Chuck Sunday at 7 am?

From: [Adams, Marti](#)
To: ["Erin Durkin"](#); [Norvell, Wiley](#); [Walzak, Phil](#)
Subject: RE: very important planning question
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:31:09 PM

Can confirm, FPPO

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Erin Durkin
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:22 PM
To: Norvell, Wiley; Adams, Marti; Walzak, Phil
Subject: very important planning question

Will the mayor be out with Staten Island Chuck Sunday at 7 am?

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Erin Durkin](#)
To: [Adams, Marti](#)
Cc: [Norvell, Wiley](#); [Walzak, Phil](#)
Subject: Re: very important planning question
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:34:08 PM

Thanks. Hope there will be a van?

On Tue, Jan 28, 2014 at 1:31 PM, Adams, Marti <MAadams@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

Can confirm, FPPO

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Erin Durkin
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:22 PM
To: Norvell, Wiley; Adams, Marti; Walzak, Phil
Subject: very important planning question

Will the mayor be out with Staten Island Chuck Sunday at 7 am?

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*******(NJ)**

From: [Adams, Marti](#)
To: ["Erin Durkin"](#)
Subject: RE: very important planning question
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:35:27 PM

I think so

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]] On Behalf Of Erin Durkin
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:34 PM
To: Adams, Marti
Cc: Norvell, Wiley; Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: very important planning question

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*****NJ)

From: [Brian Morris](#)
To: [Grybauskas, Stefan](#)
Subject: RE: Groundhog Day
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 12:17:54 PM
Attachments: [Chuck Media Advisory update.docx](#)

Any luck yet with my media advisory? Draft is attached here. Obviously, the mayor's appearance will attract more media attention to the event.

From: Grybauskas, Stefan [mailto:SGrybauskas@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Brian Morris
Subject: RE: Groundhog Day

Brian,

Is there any way you can send pictures of the gloves that the Mayor would wear to handle to groundhog?

From: Brian Morris [mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 11:07 AM
To: Grybauskas, Stefan
Subject: Groundhog Day

Wanted to let you know that

- Council Speaker will be attending Groundhog Day
- Representative of Gov. Cuomo also attending.

STATEN ISLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

614 Broadway, Staten Island, NY 10310

www.statenislandzoo.org

January 28, 2014

Contact: Brian Morris

718-442-6868

bmorris@statenislandzoo.org

Groundhog Day at the Staten Island Zoo

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Additional: Groundhog Day at the Staten Island Zoo is sponsored by Investors Bank.

The ceremony is witnessed live by an audience that has approached 700 visitors.

Following the ceremony, families may have Breakfast with Chuck.

From: [DNainfo Downtown Newsletter](#)
To: [Jones Morgan](#)
Subject: Rut-Busting Classes Help You Cycle, Jump and Kick Your Way to Fitness
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2014 11:35:58 AM



January 30, 2014

High 29 °F, Low 24 °F Partly Sunny

DNainfo.com NEWSLETTER DOWNTOWN

NEWS & FEATURES



large_thumb



Rut-Busting Classes Help You Cycle, Jump and Kick Your Way to Fitness

Get your sweat on with underwater cycling, roundhouse kicks and bounce-dancing on a...

large_thumb



iPhone Snatcher Smashes Phone While Running From Police, NYPD Says

A man smashed an iPhone he had just stolen from a woman in Greenwich Village, police...

large_thumb



This Week's Best Shows and a Spotify Playlist of the Bands

We have a list of all the essential concerts in New York City.

large_thumb



Don't Care About the Super Bowl? Here's How to Hide From the Blitz

Sports fans are taking over the city. If you're not one of them, here's how to...

large_thumb



Beastie Boys Square Street Naming Rejected by Community Board

Community Board 3 barred LeRoy McCarthy from reapplying for the street naming for five...

large_thumb



Suspect Withdraws \$800 From ATM Using Lost Debit Card, Police Say

Police were looking for a man who withdrew \$800 from an East Village Chase Bank ATM.

large_thumb



Millions of Dollars in Phony \$100 Bills Flooding the Big Apple

The counterfeit bills have two black 7s on the back, above the "100" mark.

For sales information please contact:
646.588.5314 | sales@dnainfo.com

REPORTER

Irene Plagianos

Reporter/Producer

irene.plagianos@dnainfo.com



Twitter

[@IrenePlagianos](#)

large_thumb



Video Shows Avonte Oquendo Running Through Open Door at School

The video shows the autistic teen running out of the school through an open door.



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Groundhog Who Sank Teeth into Bloomberg Set to Meet New Mayor Sunday

Staten Island Chuck had a testy relationship with the last mayor.

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New York, New York 10019
US



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From: [Flavorpill](#)
To: [Pierre, Samuel](#)
Subject: NYC: Welcome to Stoner Bowl City
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2014 3:44:04 PM

Filtered cultural stimuli :: Your Guide to events in NYC



Weekend Guide

Jan 30 - Feb 2

New York City



Art

Gridiron Greats: Vintage Football Cards

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Editor Note

It's been a long time coming, but the New York-hosted Super Bowl is finally here. Well, technically it's in New Jersey, but that's splitting hairs. If you haven't figured out your game plan yet, perhaps a visit to [Super Bowl Boulevard](#) is in order. It should put you in the game-day spirit in no time. It's also stoned throw from the heart-melting [Puppy Bowl Experience](#) at Discovery. Over in Bryant Park, Pepsi has moved in with [#PEPCITY](#), a huge 10,000 sq. ft. dome that plays host to top chef-prepared free food, performances by Ziggy Marley and Austin Mahone, and other fun activities. For those who want to catch celebrities in action, DirecTV is bringing in one million pounds of sand for their annual [Beach Bowl](#). The flag football challenge is free to attend and finds Joe Montana and Deion Sanders going head-to-head with Chace Crawford and Tracy Morgan. [Citi](#) is offering up some special football-themed perks to its card carriers, and Chase United MileagePlus members are entitled to free eats at their pop-up [VIP Lounge](#) in Times Square. The Metropolitan Museum of Art offers a look at players past with its [vintage football card exhibit](#) and come the big day, we plan on pulling into [BrisketTown's Super Bowl feast](#) in Williamsburg. If anyone has any tips for an easy way on board the [Bud Light Hotel](#), we're still looking. In non-Super Bowl related news, Louis C.K. made his first feature film, *Tomorrow*, available for

download on his [site](#), this week saw the passing of folk-singing legend and lifelong New Yorker Pete Seeger, and Sunday, Staten Island Chuck will make his annual prediction. Let's hope he doesn't see his shadow. [Happy Super Bowling!](#)

Mindy Bond, Managing Editor

Thursday

[See more](#)

Citi Evenings with Legends: Mike Ditka

McKittrick Hotel

Thursday, January 30



The football legend and former coach of da Bears pays a visit to the McKittrick Hotel

The Wind Up: Bright Winter Night

The Jewish Museum

Thursday, January 30



The museum bids adieu to Chagall with a party featuring open bar and music by Mirah

INPUT | Yellow Year Records Presents Prefuse 73 with Nosaj Thing and Falty DL

Output

Thursday, January 30



Prefuse 73 and gang stop in to provide the soundtrack at this edition of Input

Friday

[See more](#)

Brainwave 2014: Mind Over Matter with Walt "Clyde" Frazier

Rubin Museum of Art (RMA)

Friday, January 31



Basketball meets Neuroscience

Ecstatic Music Festival 2014

Various New York Locations

January 31 – March 29

Eleven utterly unique and highly original musical mash-ups

A Midwinter's Slumber Dance Party

The Playland Motel

Friday, January 31



The perfect one-night getaway for those seeking a change of dance floor

Saturday

[See more](#)

Dance on Camera: YAK FILMS

Walter Reade Theater

Saturday, February 1



Immerse yourself in the urban dance scene YAK FILMS style

Mister Saturday Night: Eamon Harkin & Justin Carter

Glasslands Gallery

Saturday, February 1



The Mister Saturday Night crew bring their loft party vibe to Glasslands

Sunday

[See more](#)

15th Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade

Chinatown NYC

Sunday, February 2



The annual Chinatown spectacle returns

Kim Gordon and Jutta Koether


MoMA PS1





Sunday, February 2

Gordon and Koether perform at the closing ceremony for

the Mike Kelley exhibit






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General Manager: Matt Dorville
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From: [NYMetroParents](#)
To: [Velazquez, Elisa](#)
Subject: Top 20 Activities for Your Kids
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2014 6:00:54 PM

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Play-Group-Theater



Superbowl XLVIII, Lunar New Year, & Groundhog Day

Jan. 31-Feb. 2



The interactive, [You Make the Call](#), exhibit at the Children's Museum of Manhattan gives kids a chance to get in the instant replay booth, get active with the NFL Play 60 obstacle course, and go behind the scenes of officiating in the NFL. Through Feb. 28.

Down. Set. HUT! The week of the "big game" has finally arrived and the region has rolled out a full [welcome wagon of activities](#) for football fans from all over. This weekend in Manhattan sports fans can [rub shoulders with their favorite players](#) when they pick up official Super Bowl gear. All month long, you can learn about the history of the video game [Madden NFL](#) at the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens. Throwing a party? Try out a few of these [8 healthy super snacks](#) to keep your team fueled up from coin toss to the last touchdown. To top it all off, go for the extra point with these [game-time activities](#) guaranteed to keep the little ones entertained. (It's Good!)

FASNY



Sponsored Events

Sunday, March 16, 2014

[Girls World Expo 2014](#)

Terrace on the Park, Queens

Enjoy a day of activities designed for girls ages 11-18. Festivities include the Girls of Merit Breakfast, hot-topic seminars, a street-style marketplace, a science fair, an art show, a college and

Party-Planning Central!



Make this year's party the best ever!

Check out our [birthday guide](#) for

career fair, live music, dance, poetry, and an opportunity to win great prizes.

Saturday, April 6, 2014

[Everything Kids Expo](#)

Long Island City YMCA , Queens

It's all about kids and fun at this second annual expo featuring entertainment from the Big Apple Circus; arts and crafts; face painting; karate; music and dance; soccer demos; and classes. Don't forget to sign up for great raffle prizes and giveaways.

Saturday, April 6, 2014

[Special Needs Expos: Long Island](#)

The Viscardi Center, Albertson

NYSMetroParents is proud to sponsor this event aimed at providing parents and caregivers of children with special needs with essential information and, of course, giving the kids a fun-filled day. Attend and discover the many resources specifically geared to make life more manageable and productive for you and your family.

all your local party needs.

Indoor Activity Guide



Snowbound (or just taking a break from the cold?) Get [50 amazing ideas for indoor fun!](#)



Get great NYC offers in our [Savings Pack](#).

Top 20 Activities for Kids

Friday, Jan. 31

- Have a hoot as you [learn how to talk like an owl](#) and even meet one at the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum in Rockland County
- Grab the girls and [paint portraits of each other](#) at the Katonah Museum of Art in Westchester County
- Experience [traditional Native American culture, folk stories, and dances](#) at a pow-wow in Manhattan. Also on Saturday and Sunday
- Throw on your PJs for a [night of crafts, games, and tumbling](#) on Long Island
- Learn about the [architects of the animal world](#) at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center in Stamford, CT
- Make a party hat to take home during a [Chinese New Year celebration](#) at the Brooklyn Children's Museum

Saturday, Feb. 1

- Follow [Frog and Toad](#) on a musical adventure through the seasons in Fairfield, CT. Also on Sunday
- Discover [what makes a mammal a mammal](#) at Lefferts Library in Queens
- Witness four-wheeled fury when [Monster Jam](#) takes over the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. Also on

Sunday

- ["Run" with the wolves](#) during their favorite time of year in Westchester County

Continued Below...

[Eglevsky-Ballet](#)



Saturday, Feb. 1 (cont'd)

- Learn how [plants and animals adapt during winter](#) at Wave Hill in the Bronx
- Team up with your favorite little engineer for a [bridge building challenge](#) at the New York Transit Museum in Brooklyn. Also on Sunday
- Whip up [your very own foodimal](#), inspired by the movie *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2*, at the Sony Wonder Technology Lab in Manhattan
- Take a magic carpet ride to Agrabah at a stage version [Disney's Aladdin](#) on Long Island

Sunday, Feb. 2

- Cheer on [Staten Island Chuck](#), NYC's favorite groundhog, as he predicts either an early end to winter or a late start to spring, at the Staten Island Zoo
- Head on down to Chinatown for the [15th annual Lunar New Year Parade & Festival](#) in Manhattan
- Get your wiggles out with an hour of music and dancing as [Jumpin' Juniper hosts Alex and the Kaleidoscope Band](#) at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange
- Learn how kids can make a difference and hear a [story about children during the Civil Rights Movement](#) at the Dimenna Children's History Museum in Manhattan
- Discover the history of the holiday with a [Groundhog Day craft](#) at Westmoreland Sanctuary in Westchester County
- Find out about the [phenomenon known as acid rain](#) at Alley Pond Environmental Center in Queens

Online Calendar

View all of the kid-friendly activities happening this weekend.

NYC

[Brooklyn](#)
[Manhattan](#)
[Queens](#)

Suburbs

[Fairfield, CT](#)
[Rockland](#)
[Westchester](#)

Long Island

[Nassau](#)
[Suffolk](#)

Our January Issue!



[Browse the January Education Issue](#)

[Where to Find Us](#)

Picks for You



Do you cringe when it's time to get the kids to brush? Bedtime routines are daunting enough (no, we can't have "just one more" book!) without the pressure of making sure your kid brushes for the recommended [full two minutes](#). We bet you didn't know that childhood tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, did you? Or that babies can ["catch" cavities](#) from their caregivers. As National Children's Dental Health Month kicks off, take a few minutes to read some [surprising facts about your kids' dental hygiene](#), all from [dentists in our area](#).



[NYMP Q&A: Teens And Social Media](#)

[Where To Go Ice-Skating](#)

[Family Outing: Greenburgh Nature Center](#)

[Local Party Planning Resources](#)

[Growing-Tree-Nursery-School](#)



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NYMetroParents, a division of Davler Media Group LLC
1440 Broadway, Suite #501
New York, NY 10018



From: bmorris@statenilandzoo.org on behalf of [Staten Island Zoo](#)
To: [Huus, Christie](#)
Subject: Join us for Groundhog Day This Sunday!
Date: Friday, January 31, 2014 12:09:58 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



**Celebrate Groundhog Day
with Chuck and Mayor DiBlasio
at the Staten Island Zoo!**

**THIS SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 2**

When Staten Island Chuck
emerges to tell us if
Spring is near...

or if there are

6 more weeks of Winter.




**ADMISSION
TO THE CEREMONY
IS FREE!**

6:30am Gates open



7:00am Ceremony begins

7:30am Chuck predicts!

----- Sponsored by -----

 ***BREAKING NEWS!)* Staten Island Chuck has been selected #2 nationwide as the Groundhog to Watch on Feb. 2 by the Weather Channel!** [Read more here.](#)

Following the ceremony,
Breakfast with Chuck
- SOLD OUT -
Please join us next year!

 *Patrick Raftery will perform during the ceremony and breakfast.* 

Hope to see You at the Zoo this Super Sunday!

STATEN ISLAND ZOO
614 Broadway
Staten Island, New York
10310

Open daily 10:00am - 4:45pm
For more information:
* Call 718.442.3101
* Visit www.statenislandzoo.org



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Staten Island Zoo | 614 Broadway | Staten Island | NY | 10310

From: [DiMenna Children's History Museum](#)
To: [Toole, Diana](#)
Subject: Family Programs for February
Date: Saturday, February 01, 2014 10:04:58 AM

[web version](#) | [safe guide](#) | [preferences](#) | [calendar](#) | [blog](#)

NYHS



Family Programs

February 2014

[The History of Chocolate](#)

Groundhog Day with Jerry Zelenka

Sunday, Feb. 2, 1 pm

Reading Into History: We've Got a Job

Sunday, Feb. 2, 3 pm

School Vacation Week

Saturday, Feb. 15-23, All day

The History of Chocolate

Monday, Feb. 17, 12-4 pm

Lost Arts: Miniature Portraiture

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2-4 pm

Family Calendar

[View now >>](#)



FAMILY PROGRAM

Groundhog Day with Jerry Zelenka

Sunday, February 2, noon

Celebrate Staten Island Chuck and ground hog day with animal expert Jerry Zelenka! Kids get up close to the exotic and the common, the fuzzy and the scaly in this celebration of animals of all kinds. *All ages.*

Fun with animals



[Learn More >](#)

READING INTO HISTORY: FAMILY BOOK CLUB

We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March

Sunday, February 2, 3 pm, Barbara K. Lipman Children's History Library

Book Club

Come to the wrap on February 2nd for a Skype discussion with author Cynthia Levinson, and celebrate young activists in the Civil Rights Movement and throughout history through our museum collections. *Ages 9-12 and their adults.*



[Learn More >](#)

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK

Presidents in Residence

February 15-23, All Day

School Vacation Week

Families explore, learn, and compete together in these presidential family programs. Search for presidential clues in a scavenger hunt, create an election slogan to print onto your own election button, and take part in the family Abraham Lincoln quiz. Prizes for participation and for winning. *Ages 4 and up..*



[Learn More >](#)

SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT

The History of Chocolate with American Heritage Chocolate®

Monday, February 17, 12-4 pm

[History of Chocolate](#)



See, smell, and taste colonial hot chocolate—watch as American Heritage Chocolate educators grind cocoa beans, add spices like red pepper, nutmeg and cinnamon, and heat up hot chocolate to taste. *All ages.*

[Learn More >](#)

CAMPS

Camp History

Tuesday, February 18-21, 9 am-4 pm

[Camp History](#)



Campers will work with artist and video game designer Ken Amarit to conceptualize, create, and set in motion their own animation project. Campers will also meet museum historians, designers, and conservators, and take a “behind-the-scenes” look at how objects are curated, preserved, and researched at the New-York Historical Society. *Ages 11-13.*

[Buy Tickets >](#)

SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT

Lost Arts: Miniature Portraiture

Sunday, February 23, 2-4 pm

In this first installment of the new series “Lost Arts,” families will go into the galleries to learn about the history of miniature portraiture by looking at examples and the tools artists used to create them, then families will paint their own! *Ages 6 and up.*

[Buy Tickets >](#)

STORYTELLING

Macy's Sunday Story Time

Every Sunday, 11:30 am, Barbara K. Lipman Children's History Library

Macy's Sunday Story Time



From the seventeenth century to the twenty-first, through fiction and through fact, hear tales of NYC and the people who made it great. Free with museum admission or [family membership](#). Ages 3-7.

Feb. 2: Groundhog Day

Feb. 9: Happy Birthday, Mr. Lincoln!

Feb. 16: Happy Birthday, George Washington!

Feb. 23: Get Creative!

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programming for Families to Enjoy Together

Barbara K. Lipman Children's History Library

Ongoing



Little New-Yorkers

Every Tuesday and Friday at 3:30 pm
New stories and fun crafts. Ages 3-5.

Cross-Stitch Circle

Every Thursday at 3:30 pm
Beginners and seasoned stitchers welcome. Ages 7 and up.

[View Calendar >](#)

SUPPORT

Enjoy Great Benefits with a Family Membership

Family membership



A family membership with the New-York Historical Society is a great opportunity for different generations to learn, share and experience history and art together. Plus, enjoy great benefits like free admission. Perfect for grandparents too!

[Learn More >](#)

FROM A FRIEND

French Institute Alliance Française presents *The Story of Babar*

Saturday, February 8 at 2pm (FIAF, Florence Gould Hall, 55 East 59th St)

From a Friend



Co-presented with Ardea Arts/Family Opera Initiative, the timeless tale of Babar by Jean de Brunhoff comes to life in this whimsical musical performance directed by Grethe Barrett Holby with music by Francis Poulenc. In French without English subtitles. Special offer: Use code **BABAR** for \$20 tickets!

[Learn More >](#)

Visitor Information

ADDRESS

New-York Historical Society
170 Central Park West
at Richard Gilder Way (77th St)
New York, NY 10024

Phone (212) 873-3400
TTY (212) 873-7489

MUSEUM / STORE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday: 10am - 6pm
Friday: 10am - 8pm
Saturday: 10am - 6pm
Sunday: 11am - 5pm

Museum will be open Monday, February 17, for President's Day. Please check the [online calendar](#) for special openings and closings updates.

PARTIES

Hold your next children's event at the DiMenna Children's History Museum! Perfect for birthday parties, please call (212) 873-3466 or [e-mail](#) for more info.



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Following the Friday-night screening of Frank Capra's political drama *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, experts examine the interplay between the U.S. Constitution, Congress, and the media. Featuring Kenji Yoshino, author of *Covering the Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*; Linda Greenhouse, author of a biweekly column on law for *The New York Times* online; and Robert Post, Dean and Sol & Lillian Goodman Professor of Law at Yale Law School.

[Buy Tickets >](#)

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ CLASSIC FILM SERIES

Justice in Film and WWI and Its Legacy in Film

Join us for these classic films featuring opening remarks by notable directors, writers, actors, and historians. Entrance to the film series is included with Museum Admission during New-York Historical's Pay-as-you-wish Friday Nights (6-8 pm). *No advanced reservations.* Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6 pm. New-York Historical Members receive priority.

Film Series

The Red Shoes (1948)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 7 PM
Award-winning filmmaker, novelist, and critic Antonio Monda introduces this tragic masterpiece in which film and dance are flawlessly integrated to tell the tale of a talented young ballerina who is forced to choose between her craft and her heart. *Note: The ma Schoonmaker is no longer able to introduce this film as she has been nominated for an American Cinema Editors award and will be attending the award's ceremony that evening.*
Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. Starring Moira Shearer, Marius Goring, Anton Walbrook. 133 min.

[Learn More >](#)

American Madness (1932)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7 PM
Released 14 years before *It's a Wonderful Life*, Frank Capra hints at the darker side of the American dream in this Depression-era film about an idealistic bank president who faces disaster after his institution is robbed. *Directed by Frank Capra. Starring Walter Huston. 75 min.*

[Learn More >](#)

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 7 PM
Robert Post, Dean of Yale Law School, and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Linda Greenhouse team up to present Frank Capra's classic political comedy-drama, which showcases Jimmy Stewart at his "everyman" finest. *Directed by Frank Capra. Starring James Stewart, Jean Arthur, Claude Rains, and Edward Arnold. 129 min.*

[Learn More >](#)

A Matter of Life and Death (1946)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 7 PM
Academy Award-winning editor Thelma Schoonmaker introduces her late-husband's visually stunning film in which a downed British WWII pilot argues his case to escape death in front of a celestial court. *Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. Starring David Niven, Robert Coote, Kim Hunter. 104 min.*

[Learn More >](#)

WALK & TALKS

Docent Led Gallery Tours of *The Armory Show at 100*

Armory Tours

Reserve online

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS, NOON
Through the remaining weeks of *The Armory Show at 100: Modern Art & Revolution* until February 23, catch a tour of the exhibition with one of our curator-trained docents. Tours for individuals are available each Tuesday and Saturday at noon February 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 22, and 23.

[Next Tour >](#)

Do you have a group of 10 or more? Schedule a separate [group tour](#).

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Visit the DiMenna Children's History Museum

The *DiMenna Children's History Museum* is the first museum dedicated to bringing American history to life through the eyes of children. For more information about activities for families, [sign-up](#) for the Family Programs e-newsletter.

Family programs

Celebrate Groundhog Day with Jerry Zelenka

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, NOON
Celebrate Staten Island Chuck and ground hog day with animal expert Jerry Zelenka! Kids get up close to the exotic and the common, the fuzzy and the scaly in this celebration of animals of all kinds. Free with Museum admission. *All ages.*

[Learn More >](#)

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[Learn More >](#)

The History of Chocolate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 12-4 PM
Chocolate was not always sold as a candy bar! See, smell, and taste colonial hot chocolate — watch as American Heritage Chocolate educators grind cocoa beans, add spices like red pepper, nutmeg and cinnamon, and heat up hot chocolate to taste. *All ages.*

[Learn More >](#)

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[Learn More >](#)

EDUCATION

The Black Fives High School Scholarship Contest

Armory Tours

Submit Entries Online

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 24
In conjunction with the upcoming *The Black Fives* exhibition, metropolitan area high school students can submit original essays, videos or photographs on the theme of using basketball to achieve a bigger social or community cause. The winner in each category will be given \$1,000 to be used toward college tuition. Entries should answer the question: *How has basketball profoundly changed New York City history, United States history, or your own personal history?*

[Learn More >](#)

SUPPORT

Join the New-York Historical Society today!

Membership



Enjoy Member Benefits

When you join as a member, your contribution helps the New-York Historical Society care for a priceless collection, made fully accessible to the public, and provides our education programs with the resources to serve over 200,000 New York City public school students each year. Become a member today—it's only through our partnership with history enthusiasts like you that we're able to continue *Making History Matter*.

[Learn More >](#)

MUSEUM STORE

Valentine's Day Savings

Museum Store



Jewelry and Apparel on sale now through February 14th. 20% off for members, 10% off for non members. Valid in store only, offer not valid on [museumboutique.com](#). The Store is open during regular Museum hours.

Member double discount day for this month is February 17 (20% off in-store purchases).

DINE

"It's a stunner, with a casual, dazzling sunniness that might make you feel you've stepped out of time" — Gael Greene

Caffe Storico



Caffe Storico

Last chance to enjoy our Amory inspired cocktail – The Old New York. A creative combination of two classic cocktails, the Old Fashioned and the Manhattan featuring Old Overholt, Carpano Antica Formula and Grand Marnier with an orange wedge, brandied cherries, muddled with raw sugar and a few dashes of angostura bitters.

[Learn More >](#)

FROM A FRIEND

The Studio Museum in Harlem

From a friend



The Shadows Took Shape

THROUGH MARCH 9, 2014
The *Shadows Took Shape* is a dynamic interdisciplinary exhibition exploring contemporary art through the lens of Afrofuturist aesthetics at The Studio Museum in Harlem. The *Shadows Took Shape* is one of the few major museum exhibitions to explore the ways in which this form of creative expression has been adopted internationally and highlight the range of work made over the past twenty-five years. Visit [studiomuseum.org](#) to learn more about exhibition-related programs like The *Shadows Took Shape* book club and more!

[Learn More >](#)

Visitor Information

ADDRESS

New York Historical Society
170 Central Park West
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New York, NY 10024

Phone (212) 875-3400
TTY (212) 875-7489

MUSEUM AND STORE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday: 10am - 6pm
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Saturday: 10am - 6pm
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LIBRARY

The Patricia D. Klingenstein Library is open:
Tuesday-Friday: 9am - 3pm
Saturday: 10am - 1pm

CONNECT WITH US



From: [Christine C. Raftery](#)
To: [Christine C. Raftery](#)
Subject: Happy Ground Hog Day!
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 2:07:19 PM



Best,
Christine C Raftery, Office Manager

dlandstudio
architecture + landscape architecture pllc
137 Clinton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
T 718.624.0244
F 718.360.8239
craftery@dlandstudio.com
www.dlandstudio.com



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From: [Gothamist](#)
To: [Perez_Kassandra](#)
Subject: Gothamist Daily: Philip Seymour Hoffman Found Dead In His West Village Apartment
Date: Sunday, February 02, 2014 5:04:00 PM

[view this in your browser](#)

TOP STORIES FOR SUNDAY

[FACEBOOK](#) [TWITTER](#)

Philip Seymour Hoffman Found Dead In His West Village Apartment

Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman was found dead in his West Village apartment this morning. [\[MORE\]](#)

Videos: Melissa McCarthy Hosts Best Saturday Night Live Episode Of 2014

Whether it's due to an emotional charge from Seth Meyers leaving or host Melissa McCarthy's energy, last night's "Saturday Night Live" was possibly the best episode of the season yet.... [\[MORE\]](#)

Justin Bieber Gives Middle Finger To The World At NYC Hotel Party

Since Bieber landed in the NYC area, it's been nothing but headaches for the amateur mustache grower.... [\[MORE\]](#)

Video: Woody Allen Confronted By Paparazzi About Daughter's Open Letter

As you can see in the video below, an uncomfortable-looking Allen ignores his questions, then fiddles with his smartphone.... [\[MORE\]](#)

Chris Christie Showered With Boos At Times Square, Attacks Political Enemies

"Bottom line—David Wildstein will do and say anything to save David Wildstein," Christie wrote in an email to allies. You can read it in full below.... [\[MORE\]](#)

Video: Stefon, Amy Poehler & Gov. Paterson Return To SNL To Say Goodbye To Seth Meyers

Stefon (Bill Hader), Amy Poehler, Andy Samberg, and Gov. Paterson (Fred Armisen) all returned for Meyer's last episode behind the desk at Studio 8H. Watch below.... [\[MORE\]](#)

FEATURED STORIES

[Dylan Farrow Writes Open Letter About Alleged Woody Allen Sex Abuse](#)

[Ask A Native New Yorker: Why Won't My Food Deliveryman Come Upstairs in Bed-Stuy?](#)

[NYC's First Professional Cuddler Will Spoon You For \\$60](#)



Staten Island Chuck Doesn't Bite De Blasio But Sees His Shadow For More Winter

De Blasio made it out alive.... [[MORE](#)]



The Super Bowl Isn't Just A "Mass-Marketed Eyesore"

I care about the Super Bowl. I know you might not. But I wish you would. And I think you might like it if you tried.... [[MORE](#)]



Today's The Last Day To See Mike Kelley At MoMA PS1

You might regret not seeing this show.... [[MORE](#)]



Cyclist Struck By Car Near Prospect Park

The victim was treated for cardiac arrest at the scene and was taken to Kings County Hospital.... [[MORE](#)]

[FORWARD](#)

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From: [Jimmy Vielkind - Capital New York](#)
To: [Hart, Patrick](#)
Subject: Albany Pro: Grisanti goes along with Moreland; Trump takes Buffalo; Medicaid math
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 5:33:44 AM

By Jimmy Vielkind with the Capital Albany bureau

WAKE-UP SCOOP: While a dozen of his Senate colleagues are fighting in court, Sen. Mark Grisanti has decided to comply with a subpoena from the Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption, he told Capital. The Buffalo Republican is the only member of that chamber known to comply with one of the commission's subpoenas, which were sent to 30 businesses that employ state lawmakers, recent court filings show. Nine have complied, including [former Assemblyman Tony Jordan's law firm](#). Grisanti, a coffee shop owned by Assemblyman Harry Bronson and the law firm that employs Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, court records indicate. **Read more:** <http://goo.gl/AtpAaE>

MEDICAID MATH — Some of the state's top health officials are descending on the Capitol today, to offer their thoughts on the health-related proposals in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's budget. But the big talk in New York health care now centers on something conspicuously absent in the state's budget plan — the application to the federal government for a \$10 billion Medicaid waiver, which has yet to be approved, even though it was submitted 18 months ago.

Among the many complicated factors in the negotiations over the waiver (including whether money can be used to save struggling Brooklyn hospitals) is the issue of an [ongoing federal review](#) of Medicaid payments for the developmentally disabled, which until recently totaled nearly \$2 million per patient annually, and were determined to be "excessive" in a probe by the HHS inspector general in 2012. Last year, state and federal officials reached an agreement to cut payments by \$1.1 billion going forward, but federal officials could still seek repayment of some funds paid out in prior years.

Even if the federal government doesn't seek repayment as part of the waiver, officials could still pursue a clawback of some funds, which could blunt the force of the \$10 billion the state hopes will cure some of its ills. — *Laura Nahmias*.
<http://goo.gl/2sKq1V>

SEATTLE BY A LANDSLIDE—Associated Press: The Seahawks won their first Super Bowl crown by punishing Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos 43-8. That masterful defense, the NFL's stingiest, never let the five-time MVP get going, disarming the highest-scoring offense in league history. <http://goo.gl/1NRC6C>

-- **Cuomo used \$2,000 in campaign funds** to pay for his ticket, an aide told the Associated Press. <http://goo.gl/Ar85FX>

-- **Crowds in Times Square booed** New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie during a "handing off" ceremony before the game. <http://goo.gl/3cgwt3>

GOOD MORNING — Welcome to Albany Pro, your morning source for the day's news and events. We're building this newsletter for you, so please send tips, news, feedback and corrections to Jimmy@CapitalNewYork.com. **Quick!** Albany Pro will be

available only to Capital Pro subscribers starting Feb. 11. Capital Pro service includes Pro newsletters, exclusive articles, breaking news reports and news alerts customized and curated by you, sent directly to your inbox. Email the very helpful Lauren Englander for more information at lenglander@capitalnewyork.com.

TODAY: Precipitation is passed, and the projected high is 32. Gov. Andrew Cuomo is in Albany with no announced public schedule. Today's legislative budget hearing deals with health. **See our full itinerary below, and send listings and events to jbakeman@capitalnewyork.com.**

ON THE AIR: Former president George H.W. Bush's speechwriter and University of Rochester professor Curt Smith will be on "Live From the State Capitol with Fred Dicker," as well as Politico reporter Maggie Haberman. Senator Tony Avella, AARP lobbyist Bill Ferris and Unshackle Upstate president Brian Sampson will be guests on "The Capitol Pressroom" with Susan Arbetter. Nassau County district attorney and congressional candidate Kathleen Rice, Assemblyman James Skoufis and Northeast Charter Schools Network president Bill Phillips will be guests on TWC's "Capital Tonight."

FORMER ALLY CLAIMS CHRISTIE KNEW—Capital's Dana Rubinstein: Governor Chris Christie knew about the George Washington Bridge lane closures as they were happening, an attorney for disgraced former Port Authority executive David Wildstein suggested in a vaguely worded letter sent to the authority on Friday. The letter says that "evidence exists ... tying Mr. Christie to having knowledge of the lane closures," and asserts that Wildstein "can prove the inaccuracy of some" statements the governor made about him. "Bottom line," [Christie's office said in reply](#). "David Wildstein will do and say anything to save David Wildstein." <http://goo.gl/2cd08V>

FEC FILINGS—Capital's Jessica Alaimo and Jimmy Vielkind: Required disclosure reports provided a check-in for many of the competitive congressional races around the Empire State. In the lower Hudson Valley, Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney [raised \\$381,000](#) for a possible rematch against Nan Hayworth, who [loaned herself \\$50,230](#). Further north, in the 19th District, Rep. Chris Gibson has less cash on hand than his Democratic challenger, Sean Eldridge, whose [contributors included Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt](#). in New York City, Rep. Charlie Rangel [raised \\$143,000](#) while his undeclared challenger Adriano Espaillat, a state senator, [raised \\$33,000](#). Rep. Michael Grimm raised \$327,000 but [still owes lawyers over \\$400,000](#). In the Adirondacks, Rep. Bill Owens' filing showed his [fund-raising was lagging](#) before he announced he wouldn't seek re-election.

-- Here's our district-by-district summary: <http://goo.gl/am9Tjc>

TRUMP'S TRIP TO BUFFALO — Buffalo News' Jill Terreri: Trump, 67, spoke for 30 minutes to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 600 people at Salvatore's Italian Gardens, saying positive things about the tea party and talking about his successful business ventures, his opposition to the SAFE Act and his position in favor of hydraulic fracturing. ... New York State Republican Chairman Ed Cox, who has previously shown strong support for Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, had a different message after Trump's speech. "I thought it was very well done," Cox said. "We now have two very good candidates." <http://goo.gl/FRaJyn>

-- [During an interview aboard Trump's 757](#), the mogul relayed his conditions

to Bob McCarthy: No primary against a potential Republican challenger like Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, but no preliminaries either. No wooing county chairmen. No building support for a state convention. No convention floor fight to gain enough votes to avoid a primary. It's either total party unity in the next few weeks behind a Trump candidacy, or it all belongs to Astorino to challenge an overwhelming favorite like Cuomo. ... If Astorino backs off, "I would absolutely do it." <http://goo.gl/usHdRO>

-- **A judge declined to dismiss** the core of Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's lawsuit about the former Trump University. <http://goo.gl/DJeV0l>

NO BRIDGE FOR PETE — UPI: Cuomo snubbed, at least for now, a bid to name a bridge being built across the Hudson River for folk singer Pete Seeger, his office said. "Right now we are focused solely on building a new bridge, not on calls for a new name," Brian Conybeare, Cuomo adviser on the project, told United Press International in a statement. <http://goo.gl/sj73ss>

BILL TRACKER: It's your daily guide to the flow of the New York State Legislature. Of the thousands of bills pending in the Assembly and Senate, Capital is flagging items significant interest or controversy, as well as some of the quirkiest measures. Every morning we'll offer an update featuring the day's active lists and any movement of our flagged legislation. <http://goo.gl/9XNygC>

A NOVEL ARGUMENT TO DELAY A TRIAL—Queens Sen. Malcolm Smith worried about the electoral calendar—NYP's Laurel Babcock and Rich Calder: Indicted state Sen. Malcolm Smith wants his upcoming federal fraud and bribery trial pushed back a few months until after the Democratic primary so that the Queens pol can seek re-election. "In the interest of a fair election, the primary should be before the trial so the voters have the chance to decide on the issues," Smith's lawyer Gerry Shargel told reporters Friday. <http://goo.gl/4UVkuS>

TIMES EDITORIAL CHALLENGES CUOMO ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE: "He should be ready to campaign against any lawmaker, Democrat or Republican, who resists these crucial reforms." <http://goo.gl/jkOfio>

PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN, 46 — Rochester D&C's Jeff Spevak: Philip Seymour Hoffman's life was a triumph-to-tragedy role that he might have pursued as an actor, had he not lived it himself. Suburban kid goes from local community theater to Oscar winner, and dies tragically at age 46. The Fairport native was found dead in his Manhattan apartment of an apparent drug overdose Sunday morning. By Sunday afternoon, people in film, theater and the Rochester area were remembering Hoffman as one of the premiere actors of his day. <http://goo.gl/d0PZ6V>

ADIRONDACKS LAND SWAP IN COURT—Capital's Scott Waldman: The land swap approved by voters statewide in November that would give a 200-acre protected parcel of Adirondacks land to a mining company in return for 1,500 acres for the park. But a group of environmentalists say state laws are still in place that prevent mining. <http://goo.gl/Kg0z08>

-- **State officials launched** a new site to promote Adirondack tourism, <http://visitadirondacks.com/>

SUCCEEDING RICE—Newsday's Robert Brodsky: Cuomo has the power to

appoint a successor to Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice, should she win a seat in Congress. Early money is on Jon Kaiman. <http://goo.gl/E2yRRE>

ANOTHER FRACKING SUIT—Capital's Scott Waldman: A group of Southern Tier landowners are threatening to sue the state if the Cuomo administration does not expedite a decision on hydraulic fracturing. The Joint Landowners Coalition of New York sent a letter to state environmental commissioner Joe Martens, dated Jan. 31, that announced their intention to file suit on Feb. 14, if the state has not announced a timeline to reach a decision on fracking. <http://goo.gl/16JOoP>

CAPITOL MOVES: [Michelle Cummings](#), a former State Senate staffer and deputy tax commissioner, announced she was leaving Patricia Lynch Associates on Friday. She was working as a junior associate. It's unclear if she has lined up a next step, but she is the fourth employee in the last several months to leave after what Lynch admitted was a "[crappy](#)" year that saw shrinking billings and two layoffs.

OOPS—Bill de Blasio drops Staten Island Chuck on Groundhog Day—Advance's Ryan Lavis: Mayor Bill de Blasio dropped Staten Island Chuck during his first Groundhog Day ceremony Sunday morning, moments before the furry meteorologist predicted six more weeks of winter. Chuck survived the fall unharmed, though the crowd of hundreds on hand for the annual event at the Staten Island Zoo still gasped when their favorite hometown groundhog took the long leap from de Blasio's arms. <http://goo.gl/cGXFB5>

LINKS:

New York City Schools officials diverted \$210 million in capital funding from charter schools to pre-kindergarten classrooms, Capital's Eliza Shapiro writes. <http://goo.gl/zvwXd4>

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino once replied to a question about Medicaid covering dentures by saying that "soup is good," Ken Lovett writes. <http://goo.gl/Vwy0gK>

Fred Dicker writes that de Blasio may not have enough Senate votes for his tax plan. <http://goo.gl/UZCRnV>

Phil Reisman writes that Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino would face an uphill climb if he runs for governor. <http://goo.gl/ol2liZ>

Steve Stallmer, a candidate for Assembly, bemoans the lack of special elections for open seats. <http://goo.gl/w6j5kj>

PEF and AFT leaders distanced themselves from a fellow union leader who called Cuomo a "monkey." <http://goo.gl/9UVbpb>

Casey Seiler looks at how Pete Seeger's death was reflected by Alan Chartock and Fred Dicker. <http://goo.gl/AXBEIC>

State officials recovered a record \$851 million in Medicaid fraud last year, Glenn Blain reports. <http://goo.gl/yIqtuH>

The inspector general is looking at an emergency preparedness school at the University at Albany, James Odatto reports, and its contracts with Homeland Security

director Jerome Hauer. <http://goo.gl/HvMnfK>

IDC aide Molly Marcy is the third generation of her family to work in politics, Jordan Carleo-Evangelist writes. <http://goo.gl/Bw0OwM>

Brooklyn Assemblyman Nick Perry introduced a bill prohibiting politicians from using campaign funds for legal bills. <http://goo.gl/d22nGs>

Very cold weather led to a drop in gambling revenues, Carl Campanile reports. <http://goo.gl/fU8kzi>

Rex Smith wishes political rhetoric were more civilized. <http://goo.gl/EtSrxb>

#UpstateAmerica: The Sagamore, on Lake George, has created a 20-foot "Glacier Bar" made from 18,000-pounds of ice. <http://goo.gl/wfCDkJ>

ITINERARY:

9:30 a.m. The State Legislature holds a budget hearing on health and Medicaid, Hamilton Hearing Room B, Legislative Office Building, Albany.

11 a.m. Senator Phil Boyle announces legislation that would protect sexual-assault victims in their treatment environments, LCA Room (130), Legislative Office Building, Albany.

2 p.m. The State Assembly is in session, Assembly Chamber, Capitol, Albany.

2 p.m. State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and AFL-CIO president Mario Cileto speak at United University Professions delegate assembly meeting, Hilton, 40 Lodge Street, Albany.

3 p.m. The State Senate is in session, Senate Chamber, Capitol, Albany.

6:30 p.m. American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten speaks at United University Professions delegate assembly meeting, Hilton, 40 Lodge Street, Albany.

7:30 p.m. DiNapoli delivers keynote address at New York State Association of Counties legislative conference, The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany.

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From: [7online](#)
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Subject: 7am Newsletter
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 7:02:00 AM

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EYEWITNESS NEWS EARLY MORNING UPDATE

Monday, February 3, 2014



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Zoom down to your street to get the latest weather conditions and see what's coming your way.

[AccuWeather: Winter Storm Warning](#)

The latest round of snow will leave behind a swath of six inches or more and will streak northeastward today, gathering momentum in the central Appalachians and moving into many suburbs located not too far to the north and west of Washington D.C., Baltimore and Philadelphia. Most of the Tri-State Area will get between 4 and 8 inches of slushy, wet snow.



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[New York City News](#)

[Slushy, wet snow falling across New York area](#)

[Philip Seymour Hoffman found dead in NYC apartment](#)

[Police make arrest in Queens bus stop hit and run](#)

[Woody Allen denies Dylan Farrow's molestation claim](#)

[Brooklyn robbery spree targets elderly women](#)

TODAY'S WEATHER OUTLOOK

36°F 25°F Cloudy and much colder with snow tapering off

[Hour-by-Hour](#) | [7 Day Forecast](#) | [Radar & Satellite](#)

TONIGHT ON ABC

8:00 PM The Bachelor
10:01 PM Castle
11:00 PM Eyewitness News at 11:00
11:35 PM Jimmy Kimmel Live

[Lottery Results](#)

[Your Daily Horoscope](#)

New Jersey News

[Slushy, wet snow falling across New York area](#)

[Record crowds use mass transit to the Super Bowl](#)

[Most seek more time in New Jersey traffic jam subpoenas](#)

[Traffic moving again on GWB after earlier accident](#)

[Chris Christie staffer resigns amid probe](#)



Long Island News

[Slushy, wet snow falling across New York area](#)

[LI man accused of trying hit cops with car](#)

[Search for suspects in frightening LI home invasion robbery](#)

[East Hampton withdraws from deer control plan](#)

[Police officer accused of targeting Hispanics](#)



No. Suburbs and Conn. News

[Firefighter breaks arm battling New Rochelle fire](#)

[Dutchess County hit and run kills 2 Bard College students](#)

[Lauren Spierer's parents want lawsuit sealed](#)

[Murdered Valley Cottage woman may have known killer](#)

[Coast Guard using ice-breakers to free up Hudson River](#)

U.S. & World News

[Obama defends himself in interview with Bill O'Reilly](#)

[Philip Seymour Hoffman found dead in NYC apartment](#)

[Seahawks runs away from Denver in Super Bowl](#)

[Man charged with threatening former Pres. George W. Bush](#)

[Staten Island Chuck jumps away from de Blasio](#)

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Entertainment

[Philip Seymour Hoffman found dead in NYC apartment](#)

[Philip Seymour Hoffman remembered](#)

[Famous deaths in 2014](#)

[Super Bowl commercials - Best and Worst](#)
[Bruno Mars delivers red hot Super Bowl halftime show](#)

Business & Consumer News

[Best Buys for February](#)
[Super Bowl commercials - Best and Worst](#)
[Record crowds use mass transit to the Super Bowl](#)
[Powerball jackpot surges to \\$215 million](#)
[United Airlines drops Cleveland as hub airport](#)

Sports

[Seahawks runs away from Denver in Super Bowl](#)
[Bruno Mars delivers red hot Super Bowl halftime show](#)
[Super Bowl commercials - Best and Worst](#)
[Super Bowl 48 game photos](#)
[Bruno Mars halftime show](#)

Lifestyle and Fun

[Push for Lunar New Year school holiday](#)
[Billy Joel's old Midtown apartment for sale](#)
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[American Kennel Club lists most popular dog breeds](#)

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From: [NBC 4 New York Headlines](#)
To: [Tsatsaronis, George](#)
Subject: Storm to Pummel Tri-State, 10 Inches of Snow Possible
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 7:02:22 AM

[VIEW IN WEB BROWSER](#)



Mon 02.03.2014



News Headlines

Storm to Pummel Tri-State, 10 Inches of Snow Possible



A winter storm is expected to pummel the tri-state Monday with up to 10 inches of heavy, wet snow th...

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Philip Seymour Hoffman Found Dead: NYPD



Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman was found dead Sunday inside his Manhattan apartment from...

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Relentless Winter Weather: Storm to Hit...



Forecasters warned that a series of storms will pound the Midwest, Northeast and even the South next...

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Transit Woes, Mild Temperatures Mark Super Bowl XLVIII



The first outdoor, cold-weather Super Bowl in the nation's most congested region confounded skeptics...

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Christie Staffer Resigns Amid GWB Probe



Seahawks Dominate Broncos 43-8 in Super Bowl Landslide



De Blasio Meets Feisty Staten Island Chuck



A member of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's administration who has been subpoenaed in an alleged po...

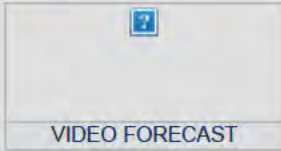
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Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks are having their way with the Denver Broncos. And, with hel...

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New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio had a run-in with a disgruntled New Yorker who couldn't wait to g...

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34°
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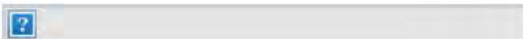
Heavy Snow
Wind: **NNE at 11 mph**
Humidity: **75%**
Precip: **100%**



Past Halftime Highlights



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From: [Great Performances Family](#)
To: [Dessy, Wendy](#)
Subject: Love is on the Stage & on our Plates
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:14:27 AM



February, 2014



February, good things come in small packages:

Ground Hog Day which, thanks to Bill Murray, has given us a timeless expression. **Super Bowl Sunday**, where we consume 1.25 billion chicken wings. **Valentine's Day** - a day of love&chocolate, followed by **President's Day** with its giant sales and school breaks anchor the mid-month stretch.

And did you know - it's **Canned Food Month**? And February 3rd is **The Day the Music Died Day**, in memory of Buddy Holly. It is **Black History Month** as well as **National Freedom Day** to honor the 13th Amendment, outlawing slavery, which was signed on 2/1/1865.

No winter doldrums here, enjoy the celebrations!

Love,



Le Paris Flea: City of Lights Loves Brooklyn [more](#)



GIRLS Hits the Red Carpet [more](#)



If Food is the Language of Love...Eat On [more](#)



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It's not Broadway...

But it's close. Come watch tomorrow's stars! (PS- they are all GP waiters!!) [more](#)



Busman's Holiday

How we threw ourselves a holiday party. [more](#)



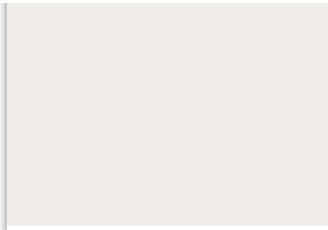
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From: [DNainfo Jackson Heights & Elmhurst Newsletter](#)
To: [Jones, Morgan](#)
Subject: Jackson Heights Dance School Helping Kids Take Step in Right Direction
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 11:37:29 AM



February 3, 2014

High 36 °F, Low 25 °F Snow

DNainfo.com NEWSLETTER

JACKSON HEIGHTS & ELMHURST

NEWS & FEATURES



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Jackson Heights Dance School Helping Kids Take Step in Right Direction

The Urzua Center of Performing Arts is holding an online fundraiser to support its...

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Albany's Empty Promises on Pre-K Show Need for de Blasio Tax, Advocates Say

Every governor since George Pataki has promised statewide universal pre-kindergarten.

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Schools Open as More Snow Hits the City

A snowstorm was expected to drop 8 inches on the city before wrapping up by nightfall.

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7-Year-Old Girl Hurt With Three Others in Hit-and-Run at Queens Bus Stop

Four people were struck by a hit-and-run driver while waiting for a bus in Queens...

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West Village Mourns Neighbor and 'Sweet Dad' Philip Seymour Hoffman

Neighbors and colleagues remembered Hoffman as a "neighborhood guy" and...

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One Dead and Another Injured After Shooting in Morrisania

Police responded to Friday night shooting at the Forest Houses in the Bronx

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Mayor Drops Staten Island Chuck, Groundhog Predicts More Winter

The furry meteorologist predicted six more weeks of winter after being dropped by...

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REPORTER

Katie Honan

Reporter/Producer

katie.honan@dnainfo.com



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Jeweler Conned by 'Spy' Posing as Robert De Niro's Pal, Lawsuit Says

Yehuda Sadok allegedly convinced the owner of a \$30 million jewelry business that he...



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Highbrow Chefs Reveal Their Favorite Lowbrow Snacks From Bodegas

New York's top chefs told DNAinfo the guilty pleasures they buy from bodegas.

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From: [DNainfo Forest Hills Rego Park & Jamaica Newsletter](#)
To: [Jones Morgan](#)
Subject: 7-Year-Old Girl Hurt With Three Others in Hit-and-Run at Queens Bus Stop
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:32:08 PM



February 3, 2014

High 36 °F, Low 25 °F Snow

DNainfo.com NEWSLETTER

FOREST HILLS, REGO PARK & JAMAICA

NEWS & FEATURES



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7-Year-Old Girl Hurt With Three Others in Hit-and-Run at Queens Bus Stop

Four people were struck by a hit-and-run driver while waiting for a bus in Queens...

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Killer Was Days From Release When He Escaped Psychiatric Facility, DA Says

Raymond Morillo was arrested in Memphis after escaping from a Queens Village psych...

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Jeweler Conned by 'Spy' Posing as Robert De Niro's Pal, Lawsuit Says

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REPORTER

Ewa Kern-Jedrychowska

Reporter/Producer

ewa.kern@dnainfo.com



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Get Out and Do This: Be Punny, Lose Your Hangover and Scream at The Beatles

The week's most exciting events are here for you in one handy guide.

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Developer Looks to Bring Big Box Retail to Northern Blvd. Complex

The project will include three floors of retail aimed at brand names and restaurants.

@ewakj



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From: [News From the New York Observer](#)
To: [Genao, Carmen](#)
Subject: Like Sheep to the Slaughter? Lessons From The Holocaust
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 1:30:09 PM



NEWS from The New York Observer

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TOP STORIES



Like Sheep to the Slaughter?

by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach 02/03 12:26pm

I spent the past few days visiting the most horrible places on earth. I have been running around in sub-zero temperatures to find the original sites of the Holocaust.

It began when I joined the Knesset in its historic trip to Auschwitz, which I visited for the second time, and continued in Warsaw where I [Read More](#)



E.T. Phone Home? \$8.3 M. Co-op at 830 Park Avenue Sells, Drew Barrymore Suspected to be the Buyer

by Chris Pomorski 02/03 12:26pm

In October, when a four-bedroom duplex in the tony **830 Park Avenue** went into contract, real estate gossips were all [atwitter](#), speculating as to whether it was actress **Drew Barrymore** and her husband **Will Kopelman** had made a deal for the co-op unit. Anonymous sources confirmed those speculations last month, and Barrymore fans everywhere breathed sighs of relief as still further [rumors](#) suggested that the actress had made it past the building's co-op board. (Even traditionally stuffy co-ops have become more [relaxed](#) in recent years, but we bet Ms. Barrymore would have fared

well even in stricter times. She always makes *such* a nice impression!) And now, if in fact all of the aforementioned rumors were true, Ms. Barrymore and Mr. Kopelman have closed on the apartment, most recently asking **\$8.3 million**, according to the Sotheby's website; **Roger Erickson** had the listing.

[Read More](#)

De Blasio Compares Groundhog Drop to Peyton Manning's Loss

by Colin Campbell 02/03 12:10pm

Bill de Blasio isn't trying to cover up his embarrassing furball fumble.

Reflecting on his first Groundhog Day as mayor, which featured Staten Island Chuck, the big city counterpart to Puxatony Phil, [squirming from his arms and nearly escaping](#), Mr. de Blasio today jokingly compared the experience to that of Denver Broncos [Read More](#)



Build a Monument to the Future on Roosevelt Island

by Richard Morgan 02/03 12:00pm

New York is at risk of becoming history's next Venice, Paris or Chicago—a beautiful city that serves as a reminder of glory days gone by. [Read More](#)



Patrick Stewart Watching the Super Bowl Was Better Than the Super Bowl

by Vinnie Mancuso 02/03 11:47am

This is the only part of the game we will remember. [Read More](#)

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From: [City & State](#)
To: [Firgens, Emily](#)
Subject: City & State First Read
Date: Friday, February 07, 2014 6:53:18 AM

FirstRead



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2014

WEATHER: Mostly sunny upstate and downstate; chance of snow in western New York. New York City, high 34; Albany, high 25; Buffalo, high 14.

NYC POWER 100: City & State presents its second annual list of the most powerful figures in New York City politics and government: <http://bit.ly/1gSDDrE>

WINNERS AND LOSERS: It's been a super week. It kicked off with the Super Bowl here in New York (sort of). On the same day, Staten Island Chuck took a super leap from the arms of the New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. The groundhog was unharmed and saw his shadow, so we are getting six more weeks of winter—just didn't expect those six weeks to get packed into one filled with a series of super snowstorms leaving the whole state with sore arms from shoveling (and not feeling so super). The white out may have made most feel like losers, but some people did end up winning big this week. Here are the winners and losers:

<http://bit.ly/1aCCzp1>

NEW THIS MORNING:

* New York City could see a drop in its more than \$1 billion in school facility aid from the state each year if it turns out that charging charter schools rent—one of Mayor Bill de Blasio's plans—turns a profit, The Wall Street Journal writes:

<http://on.wsj.com/1c9zbx1>

* A plan to impose a set of restrictions around the World Trade Center that area residents said would create a "fortress" environment were upheld by a judge, the Daily News writes: <http://nydn.us/1c9AdZD>

* Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced an election-year toll reduction on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge for Staten Island residents who use an E-ZPass, but it doesn't come without opposition, The New York Times reports: <http://nyti.ms/1g9nmtv>

* New York's Catholic bishops say they support the SAFE Act, but they are worried a stricter reporting standard for mental health professionals will cause people to avoid seeking help, the Times Union writes: <http://bit.ly/1g9rBW3>

* According to a transcript of a conversation between the former chief of staff and girlfriend of Assemblyman William Boyland Jr. and an undercover agent, the assemblyman wanted to be a Mafia don, the Daily News reports: <http://nydn.us/1fNe3RJ>

* Eighty-four percent of Long Island school districts would receive less state aid than they did six years ago if Cuomo's budget plan is approved, Newsday writes: <http://bit.ly/1lFrMzb>

* The State Senate's Independent Democratic Conference will unveil a \$750 million plan to build new middle-income housing across the state in an effort to revive the Mitchell-Lama program, the Journal reports: <http://on.wsj.com/1nZHMKQ>

* Westchester Medical Center has reached an agreement to accept a state health exchange plan offered by Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield after previously not accepting any of the plans offered through the state exchange, the Journal News reports: <http://lohud.us/1iwXU3o>

* A \$300,000 state grant through the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council will be used to fund tourism that markets the five-county western region of the state as a whole entity, the Buffalo News writes: <http://bit.ly/1f0Ho7q>

* Fewer than half of the available seats in the "I Love New York Hospitality Suite" at Ralph Wilson Stadium were filled last season during Buffalo Bills games, with the state's 16-seat suite going unused for the final two home games, the Buffalo News reports: <http://bit.ly/1f0Fy6k>

Dutchess County residents are facing the closure of St. Francis Hospital, a critical source of behavioral and mental health services in the Mid-Hudson region. Vassar Brothers Medical Center and Health Quest have the proven financial track record to save services at St. Francis, keep them local, lower costs, and at the same time, offer employment and a fair contract to its workforce of 1,800 employees. Learn more about Vassar Brother's plan by visiting: www.health-quest.org/keepcarelocal

EDITORIAL PAGES:

* Not only does running one primary in June and another in September waste taxpayer dollars, it could prevent military service members from having their votes counted, state Senate candidate Justin Wagner writes in the Journal News:

<http://lohud.us/114tzKn>

* The Post writes that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's fight against Central Park horse carriages took an unlawful twist when an NYPD officer deemed weather conditions to be too unsafe for the horses, though humans didn't seem affected:

<http://bit.ly/1bvEZRj>

* The Buffalo News writes that instead of starting over with the Common Core, critics should work to improve it where possible: <http://bit.ly/1duJqvU>

ACCA, in partnership with Pace University, presents "Cybercrime in the World Today 2014: Emerging Threats" on Thursday, February 13, 2014. This free event will include a networking breakfast followed by a panel of industry leaders. David Szuchman, Executive Assistant District Attorney Chief of the Investigation Division Manhattan District Attorney's Office, will updates from the District Attorney's office and introduce the panel of experts from **IBM, Citi, FBI and IFAC.** Please [click here](#) for more details and to RSVP.

WHO'S HIRING: To advertise your employment opportunities in City & State First Read, email jfreeman@cityandstateny.com or call 646-442-1662.

Communications Manager, Times Square Alliance

Salary: Commensurate with experience

The Times Square Alliance is seeking a smart, creative self-starter to join its Communications Department. The candidate must possess excellent writing and communications skills, experience in project management, digital strategy, content creation and media and public relations. The candidate will create, author, and

coordinate key components of our communication vehicles reporting to the Director of Communications.

Further Info: Click here for full job description. Please email cover letter and resume to hr@timesquarenyc.org, Attn: HR - COM – Manager.

Health Law and Policy Advocate, Empire Justice Center-Albany Office

Description- This is a dynamic opportunity to help lead and shape our health law and policy work at the state level. With an initial focus on policy, the successful candidate will work with our Health Team to develop and implement a powerful blend of policy, training, technical assistance, and impact litigation to advance the needs of our clients.

To view the full job description and apply, please visit:

<http://www.empirejustice.org/about-us/job-announcements/health-law-and-policy.html#.UuEuX7ROm70>

Director of Economic Development, Union Square Partnership (USP)

Description: The Union Square Partnership is seeking a senior-level project manager to implement initiatives that will enhance the streetscape and promote retail and commercial activity in one of the City's hottest 24/7 districts. The Director will develop metrics to track the neighborhood's overall progress and facilitate connections between businesses and a multitude of resources. Candidates with excellent communication skills and New York City government experience a plus.

Further info: Send resume/cover letter to jobs@unionsquarenyc.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Today, to Rep. **Michael Grimm** ... and to **Tom Morrissey**, communications director for state Sen. Ted O'Brien ... on Saturday, to Assemblyman **Jeffrion Aubry** ... to 1199 SEIU President **George Gresham** ... and to **Ross Moskowitz** of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP ... and on Sunday, to **Tracy Sayegh Gabriel**, former vice president of development for the New York City Economic Development Corporation ... to Gothamist reporter **Christopher Robbins** ... and to **Luther Smith**, vice president of corporate and government affairs at Bill Lynch Associates.

MOVING ON: **Rafael Pineiro** has been named first deputy NYPD commissioner ...

and **Gabrielle Fialkoff** has been appointed as a senior adviser to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and director of the Office Of Strategic Partnerships.

RACING & GAMING: *City & State's* Upcoming Feb. 10 Issue Spotlight

Promote your organization's gaming benefits and objectives to NY's public officials in this strategic government relations communications venue. *City & State* magazine's comprehensive special section will feature: Public Officials Q&A with **Christopher Kay, Steven Cymbrowitz** and **Joseph Addabbo**; Featured Editorial: **RFP: Who's In? Who's Out? | Current Siting Landscape | Gaming Scorecard: Key Players, Issues and Numbers**. The ad deadline is Feb. 7 at 2pm. For advertising information, please contact jkatocin@cityandstateny.com or call 212-284-9714.

TODAY'S SKED:

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is in New York City with no public schedule.

8:15 a.m. – Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Staten Island Borough President James Oddo participate in a panel discussion at the New York Law School Center for NYC Law breakfast, 185 West Broadway, Manhattan.

8:15 a.m. – NYPD Commissioner William Bratton speaks at a Milstein Criminal Justice Policy Forum breakfast hosted by the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City, Sea Level Café, basement of 6 E. 43rd St., Manhattan.

8:30 a.m. – Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance delivers opening remarks at a meeting on "Industry Safeguards and the Older Investor," SIFMA Conference Center, 120 Broadway, Manhattan.

9 a.m. – New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer speaks at the United Community Civic Association's 5th Annual Legislative Breakfast, New York LaGuardia Airport Marriot, 102-05 Ditmars Blvd., Queens.

9:40 a.m. – Stringer speaks at Queens County District Attorney Richard Brown's 23rd Annual Legislative Breakfast, 125-01 Queens Blvd., 3rd Floor Conference Room, Queens.

10 a.m. – New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio donates blood, 100 Gold St., Manhattan.

10 a.m. – Rep Charles Rangel, Assemblyman Keith Wright, state Sen. Bill Perkins, the Black Institute’s Bertha Lewis and others hold a rally in observance of the annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, City Hall steps, Manhattan.

10 a.m. – The SUNY Board of Trustees meets and holds an information session on the Long Island College Hospital proposals, The Global Center, 116 E. 55th St., Global Classroom, Manhattan.

10 a.m. – The Brian Lehrer Show features a borough president roundtable with Ruben Diaz Jr. of the Bronx, Gale Brewer of Manhattan and and Eric Adams of Brooklyn, WNYC.

10:06 a.m. – The Geraldo Rivera Show features Rep. Peter King, WABC.

10:10 a.m. – Stringer speaks at the Queens Interagency Council on Aging’s Legislative Meeting, Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Queens.

10:30 a.m. – State DMV Commissioner Barbara Fiala delivers a regional budget message, Ithaca City Hall, Common Council Chambers, 108 E. Green St., Ithaca.

11 a.m. – State Sen. Jeff Klein announces the details of a comprehensive gun violence prevention program and delivers \$300,000 in state funds for it, Jacobi Hospital, Building 8 Atrium, 1400 Pelham Parkway South, Bronx.

11 a.m. – The Capitol Pressroom features City & State’s Matthew Hamilton; John Campbell of Gannett, Brian Mann of North Country Public Radio and Scott Waldman of Capital New York; and Michael Rebell, professor of law and education practice at Teachers College, Columbia University.

11:45 a.m. – Stringer visits the Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults, Inc., Jackson Adult Center, 92-47 165th St., Queens.

12 p.m. – De Blasio makes an announcement, Blue Room, City Hall, Manhattan.

12:30 p.m. – Stringer visits the Robert Couche Senior Center, 137-57 Farmers Blvd., Queens.

2 p.m. – State Labor Commissioner Peter Rivera delivers a regional budget message, Freeport Memorial Library, 144 W. Merrick Road, Freeport.

2:30 p.m. – Brian Stratton, director of the state Canal Corporation, delivers a regional budget message, Livingston County Government Center, Room 205, 6 Court St., Geneseo.

2:30 p.m. – New York City Public Advocate Letitia James attends the 3rd Annual Interfaith Harmony Week Forum, United Nations Plaza, Manhattan.

4 p.m. – State Sen. Gustavo Rivera and the William Hodson Senior Center host A Black History Month Celebration, William Hodson Senior Center, 1320 Webster Ave., Bronx.

5:30 p.m. – De Blasio meets with members of Pussy Riot, Mayor’s Office, City Hall, Manhattan.

5:30 p.m. – Brewer attends SSEU Local 371’s Black Heritage Celebration, 125 Barclay St., Manhattan.

5:30 p.m. – James attends the New York Chinese Businessmen Gala Dinner, Zhejiang Chamber of Commerce of America, 136-17 39th Ave., Queens.

6 p.m. – Rangel holds a kickoff event for the First Congressional “House Student App Challenge” with high school and college students, tech professionals and community leaders, State Office Building, 163 W. 125th St., 2nd Floor Art Gallery, Manhattan.

6:30 p.m. – James attends the Medgar Evers College Gala, 1638 Bedford Ave., Dining Hall, Brooklyn.

7 p.m. and 10 p.m. – Inside City Hall features a conversation on preparing the city for rising sea levels with a panel of innovative designers and the Reporters Roundtable, including City & State City Hall Bureau Chief Nick Powell, Time Warner Cable News NY1.

8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. – Capital Tonight features state Sen. Cecilia Tkaczyk and the Reporters Roundtable, including City & State’s Matthew Hamilton, Time Warner Cable News.

SAVE THE DATE: *City & State* is pleased to announced our 4th annual **State of our City conference on February 27th at the Baruch School of Public Affairs.** *City & State* and our partners will convene government officials, business leaders, public policy experts and media to discuss: **Getting in, out, and around New York City; Health care for NYC’s Most Vulnerable Populations; Developing in the new New York City.** For more information and to inquire about speaking, attending and sponsor arrangements contact us [HERE](#).

KICKER: “How are you going to have kids in full-day prekindergarten, and then

have them come back to kindergartens that are half-day? It's just so unrealistic!" – Ginger Lieberman, president of the Plainview-Old Bethpage school board, on districts that could struggle to maintain full-day kindergarten if proposed statewide school funding is coupled with a tax cap, via Newsday.

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From: [Jamaica 311](#)
To: [Jones, Morgan](#)
Subject: Jamaica311 Events for the Two Week Period Beginning Friday, February 14th
Date: Friday, February 14, 2014 6:54:16 PM

Jamaica 311

Greetings from the folks at Jamaica311!

Below, is a list of special opportunities and events taking place in Jamaica for the two week period beginning Friday, 2/13/2014.

Upcoming Deadlines

[Love Your Block Grant Deadline – February 20th](#)

Love Your Block is a special partnership between Citizens Committee for New York City and NYC Service that provides a unique opportunity for city residents to transform and beautify their neighborhoods. Love Your Block grantees will receive: A grant of \$1,000;...

[Find out more »](#)

[Play Street Application Deadline – February 20th](#)

As the snow continues to fall and blanket NYC, groundhogs Staten Island Chuck and Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil have seen their shadows and predict six more weeks of winter. But never fear, sunny and fun-filled Play Street days will soon be...

[Find out more »](#)

[New York City Council Member Discretionary Funding – Expense & Capital – February 27th to April 9th](#)

The application for New York City Council Member Discretionary Funding for Fiscal Year 2015 is now available. Council Member discretionary funding is available to help community-based organizations and non-profits with the work they do. Expense funds support an organization's operating...

[Find out more »](#)

[Queens Borough Board Budget Hearing – February 14th](#)

The Queens Borough Board is comprised of the Borough President, the Queens City Council Members, and the Chairs of the Community Boards. The Queens Borough Board Budget Hearing is an opportunity for organizations to present their budget requests to the...

[Find out more »](#)

Upcoming Events

[CityRib Valentine Sweetheart of a Deal](#)

February 14 @ 6:00 pm - \$32 Per Couple

[CityRib Bar*Cue, 89-14 Parsons Boulevard Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

CityRib is pleased to present a Valentine Sweetheart of a Deal for couples! Come out and enjoy a glass of champagne, a garden salad, a surf & turf dinner, and

chocolate lava cake and ice cream for desert. Make your...

[Find out more »](#)

[Blaze Craze/Open Mic Series](#)

February 14 @ 7:30 pm - Free

*[Afrikan Poetry Theatre](#), 176-03 Jamaica Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ [Google Map](#)*

Calling all poets, rappers, singers, community people and businesses (small, big or self employed). The Information Brokers Network is pleased to present the next in the "Blaze Craze/Open Mic" series. Don't miss this tribute to the ancestors. Light refreshments will...

[Find out more »](#)

[The Clean Up Woman – Postponed](#)

February 14 @ 8:00 pm - \$10

*[Black Spectrum Theatre](#), Baisley Boulevard at 177th
Street (Roy Wilkins Park) 11434+ [Google Map](#)*

The Black Spectrum Theatre invites you them to join them for an exclusive movie preview of JD Lawrence's hit national stageplay "The Clean Up Woman".

[Find out more »](#)

[2 of Hearts](#)

February 14 @ 9:00 pm - \$25

*[Resorts World Casino](#), 110-00 Rockaway Boulevard
Jamaica, 11420+ [Google Map](#)*

2 of Hearts is where Latin meets Freestyle. Featuring Brenda K. Star, Tito Puentes Jr., Coro, and DJ Nicky G. Hosted by Vic Latino. Doors open at 8pm.

[Find out more »](#)

[Intermediate Microsoft Word](#)

February 15 @ 9:30 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Build on your knowledge of MS Word. In this intermediate workshop, you will learn how to format your Word document; insert tables and charts; format bibliographies; and insert headers and footers. Basic computer skills and knowledge of MS Word are...

[Find out more »](#)

[Coed, Adult, Mixed Level Line Dance](#)

February 15 @ 9:30 am - 10:30 am - \$10

[Cambria Heights Community Church, 116-02 220th Street+ Google Map](#)

Interested in a different kind of exercise, then think about joining Barbara Fraser for her coed, adult, mixed level line dancing. Loose fitting clothing, water and supportive shoes are highly suggested. No high heels or sandals. Medical clearance is advised. No...

[Find out more »](#)

[Forestdale STYA Youth Mentor](#)

February 15 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Free

Hollis Community Center, 203-09 Hollis Avenue Hollis, 11412+ Google Map

Forestdale, Inc. — an organization with a great history of supporting families in need and committed to empowering children in foster care and in the local community — is launching a new mentoring program in January 2014. This new program, called...

[Find out more »](#)

[Hands-on History: Tiny Valentine](#)

February 15 @ 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Free

King Manor Museum, Rufus King Park (153 Street at Jamaica Avenue)+ Google Map

Celebrate with your loved ones at King Manor! Create a miniature self-portrait inside a locket necklace and other 19th century-inspired Valentines to give to your sweetheart.

[Find out more »](#)

[Reading 4 Smiles Presents: A Black History Month Celebration & Fundraiser](#)

February 15 @ 1:00 pm - \$15

Afrikan Poetry Theatre, 176-03 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map

Join the Afrikan Poetry Theatre & Reading 4 Smiles as they celebrate Black History Month! Join them to learn about African-Americans who have made an impact throughout history. Students will showcase their work and will show that literacy can be...

[Find out more »](#)

[Intermediate Microsoft Excel](#)

February 15 @ 2:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Improve your productivity and boost your knowledge of Excel. Topics covered include a review of the basics, creating and manipulating tables and using formulas and functions. Basic computer skills and knowledge of Excel are required. You must preregister online at...

[Find out more »](#)

[The Resilience of the African-American Family Despite Systematic Racism](#)

February 15 @ 2:30 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Titus Haynes, PhD will discuss types, mores, folkways, customs and the resilience of the African-American family and examine some of the root causes of racism.

[Find out more »](#)

[Candle Lights & Verses Live: "Poets and Painters Valentines Edition"](#)

February 15 @ 7:00 pm - \$10

[The Harvest Room, 90-40 160th Street Jamaica,](#)

[11432+ Google Map](#)

This fantastic evening of poetry will also feature: a live painter; free chocolate covered strawberries; professional photography; a centered stage (360 effect); a live band; and a surprise monthly guest. Food provided by Southern Girls. Drink specials — wine, beer,...

[Find out more »](#)

[Amazing Grace: The Journey From the Auction Block to the White House](#)

February 15 @ 7:00 pm - \$20

[Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

Vissi Dance Theater and the Jamaica performing Arts Center are pleased to present “Amazing Grace: From the Auction to the White House” — a dance and theatrical event where audience participation is part of the performance. It is a journey...

[Find out more »](#)

[Caribbean Legends of Love](#)

February 15 @ 9:00 pm - \$25 to \$50

[Resorts World Casino, 110-00 Rockaway Boulevard Jamaica, 11420+ Google Map](#)

Lovindeer and Pluto Shervington headline “Caribbean Legends of Love” at Resorts World Casino. Music by Angels Caribbean Band. Doors open at 8pm.

[Find out more »](#)

[Beginners Microsoft Excel](#)

February 16 @ 2:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Improve your productivity with Microsoft Excel. Learn what a spreadsheet is and how to navigate one, and how to create workbooks, enter and edit data, and create charts and graphs. Preregistration is required online at jobmap.queenslibrary.org. Visit the Job Information...

[Find out more »](#)

[Amazing Grace: The Journey From the Auction Block to the White House](#)

February 16 @ 4:00 pm - \$20

[Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

Vissi Dance Theater and the Jamaica performing Arts Center are pleased to present “Amazing Grace: From the Auction to the White House” — a dance and theatrical event where audience participation is part of the performance. It is a journey...

[Find out more »](#)

[NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Call for Cultural Development Fund Panelists](#)

February 17 @ 5:00 pm - Free

Now through February 17th, the Department of Cultural Affairs is accepting nominations from individuals

interested in recommending or participating as panelists for the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) – the agency’s open, competitive, application-based process for awarding grants to eligible cultural...

[Find out more »](#)

[Create an Email Account](#)

February 18 @ 6:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Learn how to open your own email account. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are required. Preregistration is required by phone or in person at the Cyber Center Desk. For details, please call 718-990-0769.

[Find out more »](#)

[“The Butler: A Witness to History” by Wil Haygood](#)

February 19 @ 11:30 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Explore African-American history through this inquiry into the life of Eugene Allen, the butler whose true life story, as told in Wil Haygood’s biography, ignited a nation’s imagination and inspired a major motion picture: “Lee Daniels’ The Butler.” Pick up...

[Find out more »](#)

[Introduction to Email](#)

February 19 @ 6:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

In this introductory workshop, you will learn how to create and navigate an email account, log on, send and receive messages and attach documents. Preregister online at jobmap.queenslibrary.org, visit the Job Information Center or call 718-990-8625. While this is an...

[Find out more »](#)

[Queens Community Board 12 Monthly Meeting](#)

February 19 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Free

[Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center, 172-17 Linden Boulevard Jamaica, 11434](#)

Community boards play an important role in improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Community boards have a variety of responsibilities, including but not limited to: 1) dealing with land use and zoning issues. CBs have an important...

[Find out more »](#)

[Queens Borough Board Budget Hearing](#)

February 20 @ 9:30 am - 5:00 pm - Free

[Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, 11424+ Google Map](#)

The Queens Borough Board is comprised of the

Borough President, the Queens City Council Members, and the Chairs of the Community Boards. The Queens Borough Board Budget Hearing is an opportunity for organizations to present their budget requests to the...

[Find out more »](#)

[DIY Business Cards](#)

February 20 @ 10:00 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

A business card can be a great way to stay in a new contact's mind. In this workshop, participants will learn how to create business cards using Microsoft Publisher and will leave with 10 of their very own cards. Basic...

[Find out more »](#)

[Queens Satellite High School College and Career Mentoring Program](#)

February 20 @ 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm - Free

[Queens Satellite High School for Opportunity, 162-02 Hillside Avenue Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

Do you have a passion that you would like to share with young people? The College and Career Mentoring program seeks to provide students with skills and experiences designed to support their personal growth. Key to the Institute is the...

[Find out more »](#)

[Forestdale Middle School & High School Tutoring](#)

[Program](#)

February 20 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Free

[Hollis Community Center, 203-09 Hollis Avenue Hollis, 11412+ Google Map](#)

Forestdale, a family services nonprofit based in Forest Hills, is looking to recruit 10 qualified tutors to work with middle and high school students at our new center in Hollis, Queens (Hollis Ave near Francis Lewis Blvd). Tutors must be...

[Find out more »](#)

[Beginners Microsoft Word](#)

February 20 @ 6:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Make your documents stand out with Microsoft Word! In this class, you will learn how to create and save Word documents; format and edit text; copy, cut and paste items; and use the main functions and commands of Word. Basic...

[Find out more »](#)

[4 Little Girls: Dance-ology](#)

February 20 @ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - \$20

[Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

A Black History Month dance performance by the young dancers of the Edge School of the Arts depicting the

tragic story of the Birmingham Church Bombings.

[Find out more »](#)

[Southeast Queens Press Black History Month Breakfast Awards & Panel Discussion](#)

February 21 @ 8:30 am - 11:30 am – Call For Price

[Jamaica Performing Arts Center, 153-10 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

Join the Southeast Queens Press as they celebrate the past and work toward the future with a Black History Month breakfast award ceremony and panel discussion. RSVP with spersaud@queenstribune.com or (718) 357-7400 Ext 133 or 131.

[Find out more »](#)

[Beginners Microsoft Word](#)

February 21 @ 9:30 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Make your documents stand out with Microsoft Word! In this class, you will learn how to create and save Word documents; format and edit text; copy, cut and paste items; and use the main functions and commands of Word. Basic...

[Find out more »](#)

[Salary Negotiations](#)

February 21 @ 10:00 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Before you start negotiating with a prospective employer about salaries, you need to find out how much you and the job are worth. Learn how to negotiate in this workshop! Preregister online at jobmap.queenslibrary.org. Call 718-990-8625 for additional information.

[Find out more »](#)

[Open Lab](#)

February 21 @ 1:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Join us in the Cyber Center Training Room Mondays and Fridays, 1:00-5:00 PM, for Open Lab practice, when you can search for a job, edit your resume or practice your computer skills. Patrons will be limited to two hours of...

[Find out more »](#)

[JobMap Orientation](#)

February 21 @ 5:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Are you trying to find your way to a new job? Join us for JobMap registration and learn how you can receive customized recommendations for job search help and

computer training, register for job search workshops and computer training classes,...

[Find out more »](#)

[Tribute to Ms. Chantal Legros](#)

February 21 @ 6:30 pm - Free

[J.H.S. 8 Richard S. Grossley School, 108-35 167th Street Jamaica, 11433+ Google Map](#)

The Southern Queens Park Association invites one and all to attend a "Tribute to Ms. Chantal Legros," former CEO of SQPA who suddenly passed away a several weeks ago. Please RSVP ASAP to: thankerson@sqpa.org / 718-276-4630, ext. 100/138.

[Find out more »](#)

[Beginners Microsoft PowerPoint](#)

February 22 @ 9:30 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Create awesome presentations and slide shows with PowerPoint 2010. Topics include creating and editing slides, changing designs and colors, inserting pictures and illustrations, and presenting your slide show. Basic computer skills are required. You must preregister online at jobmap.queenslibrary.org. Call...

[Find out more »](#)

[Forestdale STYA Youth Mentor](#)

February 22 @ 10:00 am - 1:00 pm - Free

[Hollis Community Center, 203-09 Hollis Avenue Hollis, 11412+ Google Map](#)

Forestdale, Inc. — an organization with a great history of supporting families in need and committed to empowering children in foster care and in the local community — is launching a new mentoring program in January 2014. This new program, called...

[Find out more »](#)

[Intermediate Microsoft PowerPoint](#)

February 22 @ 2:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Take your PowerPoint presentations to the next level! Topics include creating transitions, using animation, and inserting charts and multimedia. Basic computer skills and knowledge of PowerPoint are required. You must preregister online at jobmap.queenslibrary.org. Call 718-990-8625 for additional information.

[Find out more »](#)

[Intermediate Microsoft Excel](#)

February 23 @ 2:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Improve your productivity and boost your knowledge of Excel. Topics covered include a review of the basics,

creating and manipulating tables and using formulas and functions. Basic computer skills and knowledge of Excel are required. You must preregister online at...

[Find out more »](#)

[Movies on Sundays: "Fast and Furious 6"](#)

February 23 @ 2:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

"Fast and Furious 6" follows professional criminals, led by Dominic Toretto (Diesel), who have retired following their successful heist in "Fast and Furious 5" (2011), but remain wanted fugitives.

[Find out more »](#)

[The Clean Up Woman](#)

February 23 @ 8:00 pm - \$10

[Black Spectrum Theatre, Baisley Boulevard at 177th Street \(Roy Wilkins Park\) 11434+ Google Map](#)

The Black Spectrum Theatre invites you them to join them for an exclusive movie preview of JD Lawrence's hit national stageplay "The Clean Up Woman". Rescheduled from February 14th.

[Find out more »](#)

[Introduction to Email](#)

February 24 @ 9:30 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick](#)

Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ [Google Map](#)

In this introductory workshop, you will learn how to create an email account, log on, navigate the account, send and receive messages and attach documents. Preregister online at jobmap.queenslibrary.org, visit the Job Information Center or call 718-990-8625. While this is...

[Find out more »](#)

[Knitting 101](#)

February 24 @ 4:30 pm - Free

Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ [Google Map](#)

Learn knitting basics and complete a finished project in this 6-part series.

[Find out more »](#)

[Mac Monday: iTunes and iPhoto](#)

February 24 @ 6:00 pm - Free

Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ [Google Map](#)

At our weekly Mac labs you can master the fundamentals of Apple computers and programs using our MacBook Pro laptops. Preregistration is required online at jobmap.queenslibrary.org. Call 718-990-8625 for additional information.

[Find out more »](#)

[Queens Community Board 13 Monthly Meeting](#)

February 24 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Free

[Bellerose Assembly of God, 240-15 Hillside Avenue
Bellerose, 11426+ Google Map](#)

Community boards play an important role in improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Community boards have a variety of responsibilities, including but not limited to: 1) dealing with land use and zoning issues. CBs have an important...

[Find out more »](#)

[Resumes and Cover Letters](#)

February 25 @ 1:30 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick
Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google
Map](#)

Are you ready to apply for jobs? Do your resume and cover letter stand out from the crowd? Make them the best that they can be! This workshop will cover different types of resumes; how to get started on one;...

[Find out more »](#)

[Small Business Workshop](#)

February 25 @ 1:30 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick
Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google
Map](#)

Learn how to turn a business idea into a business plan in

our workshop. Participants will learn how to create a demand for a product or service, set goals and objectives, budget and schedule, identify resources and networks, and get...

[Find out more »](#)

[Community Conversations w/ Isa Abdur-Rahman, Esq.](#)

February 25 @ 5:00 pm - Free

[Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar - Jamaica, 161-21 Jamaica Avenue Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

Be there when renaissance man extraordinaire Isa Abdur-Rahman hosts a series of community conversations designed to: (1) stimulate really progressive talk in the heart of Jamaica, Queens — talk that will help lift the individuals in our community in the...

[Find out more »](#)

[Job Search Strategies](#)

February 26 @ 10:00 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Learn how to start a job search, including how to safely find and apply for jobs on general and career-specific websites, create an account at a major job search website, post a resume online, email a resume and follow up...

[Find out more »](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

February 26 @ 1:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

It takes practice to perfect your interviewing skills. One-on-one mock interviews let you make mistakes before they count. You will learn how to prepare for your interview, successfully deal with difficult questions and follow up properly after the interview. Space...

[Find out more »](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

February 26 @ 2:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

It takes practice to perfect your interviewing skills. One-on-one mock interviews let you make mistakes before they count. You will learn how to prepare for your interview, successfully deal with difficult questions and follow up properly after the interview. Space...

[Find out more »](#)

[Movie Night Wednesday](#)

February 26 @ 6:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

We will screen the following movies in February: 2/5 – “A Raisin in the Sun” (1961); 2/12 – “The Color Purple” (1985); 2/19 – “Remember the Titans” (2000); 2/26 – “The Help” (2011)

[Find out more »](#)

[Beginners Microsoft Word](#)

February 26 @ 6:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Make your documents stand out with Microsoft Word! In this class, you will learn how to create and save Word documents; format and edit text; copy, cut and paste items; and use the main functions and commands of Word. Basic...

[Find out more »](#)

[Mid-Winter Taste for City Harvest](#)

February 26 @ 7:00 pm - \$100 to \$150

[Resorts World Casino, 110-00 Rockaway Boulevard Jamaica, 11420+ Google Map](#)

Don't miss this special tasting event featuring food, wine and cocktails from some of New York's hottest chefs and restaurants. Appearances by celebrity chef Todd English, Miss USA Erin Brady, and surprise guests. All proceeds will benefit City Harvest, the world's first food rescue...

[Find out more »](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

February 27 @ 10:00 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

It takes practice to perfect your interviewing skills. One-on-one mock interviews let you make mistakes before they count. You will learn how to prepare for your interview, successfully deal with difficult questions and follow up properly after the interview. Space...

[Find out more »](#)

[SNAP Outreach](#)

February 27 @ 11:00 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

This interactive workshop aims to increase awareness of and participation in SNAP and other food and benefits programs among the elderly.

[Find out more »](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

February 27 @ 11:00 am - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

It takes practice to perfect your interviewing skills. One-on-one mock interviews let you make mistakes before

they count. You will learn how to prepare for your interview, successfully deal with difficult questions and follow up properly after the interview. Space...

[Find out more »](#)

[Classic Movies at Noon](#)

February 27 @ 12:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Every Thursday at noon we screen a different classic movie. In February, we will show Oscar-nominated films featuring African-American actors: 2/6 – “The Defiant Ones” (1958); 2/13 – “Imitation of Life” (1959); 2/20 – “To Kill a Mockingbird” (1962); 2/27...

[Find out more »](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

February 27 @ 12:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

It takes practice to perfect your interviewing skills. One-on-one mock interviews let you make mistakes before they count. You will learn how to prepare for your interview, successfully deal with difficult questions and follow up properly after the interview. Space...

[Find out more »](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

February 27 @ 1:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

It takes practice to perfect your interviewing skills. One-on-one mock interviews let you make mistakes before they count. You will learn how to prepare for your interview, successfully deal with difficult questions and follow up properly after the interview. Space...

[Find out more »](#)

[Queens Satellite High School College and Career Mentoring Program](#)

February 27 @ 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm - Free

[Queens Satellite High School for Opportunity, 162-02 Hillside Avenue Jamaica, 11432+ Google Map](#)

Do you have a passion that you would like to share with young people? The College and Career Mentoring program seeks to provide students with skills and experiences designed to support their personal growth. Key to the Institute is the...

[Find out more »](#)

[Mock Interviews](#)

February 27 @ 2:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

It takes practice to perfect your interviewing skills. One-on-one mock interviews let you make mistakes before

they count. You will learn how to prepare for your interview, successfully deal with difficult questions and follow up properly after the interview. Space...

[Find out more »](#)

[Forestdale Middle School & High School Tutoring Program](#)

February 27 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Free

[Hollis Community Center, 203-09 Hollis Avenue Hollis, 11412+ Google Map](#)

Forestdale, a family services nonprofit based in Forest Hills, is looking to recruit 10 qualified tutors to work with middle and high school students at our new center in Hollis, Queens (Hollis Ave near Francis Lewis Blvd). Tutors must be...

[Find out more »](#)

[Glory](#)

February 27 @ 6:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Come to celebrate the African-American history month as we watch this award-winning film, which depicts a little-known act of courage by by an all-black regiment during the American Civil War. It features an Oscar-winning performance by Denzel Washington and co-stars...

[Find out more »](#)

[Intermediate Microsoft Word](#)

February 27 @ 6:00 pm - Free

[Queens Library - Central Branch, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard Jamaica, NY 11432 United States+ Google Map](#)

Build on your knowledge of MS Word. In this intermediate workshop, you will learn how to format your Word document; insert tables and charts; format bibliographies; and insert headers and footers. Basic computer skills and knowledge of MS Word are...

[Find out more »](#)

Enjoy! We'll see you out and about.

Visit Jamaica311.com to see an up-to-the-minute list of scheduled events, and to see events more than two weeks away.

To unsubscribe [click here](#), to edit your profile [click here](#).



From: [Scola, Lindsay](#)
To: "laline@siadvance.com"
Subject: RE: April 3/Staten Island
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014 2:53:45 PM

Ha! You don't know with this winter. I am still blaming Chuck the ground hog :).

We are VERY interested in this event. I should be able to give you a definitive soon.

Thank you,
Lindsay

Lindsay Scola
Director of Scheduling
Office of the Mayor
The City of New York
Office: 212.788.2962
Cell: 917.513.1690

-----Original Message-----

From: Laline, Brian [<mailto:laline@siadvance.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 1:51 PM
To: Scola, Lindsay
Subject: April 3/Staten Island

Lindsay...

I hate to bug you....I can't imagine how much you have going on...

But is there any news on the Mayor and First Lady attending the Staten Island Advance luncheon April 3? We have an incredibly rich tradition of speakers and would love Mrs. de Blasio be one. About 1000 attend.

And one big plus....it's on April 3. It probably won't snow. I stress "probably..."

Brian

Brian Laline
Editor
Staten Island Advance

From: [Laline, Brian](#)
To: [Scola, Lindsay](#)
Subject: RE: April 3/Staten Island
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:06:02 PM

I really hope you can do it, Lindsay. It's a great event, and I really want people to see the mayor and the first lady in this setting. It's a real community event.

Plus -- we're really fun to be with!

Let me tell ya -- I was the emcee when the groundhog bit Bloomberg. He might have made light of it later on, but he was none too happy that morning. He headed straight from the zoo to a hospital. I don't blame Bill for letting good ol' Chuck slip away.

Thanks for getting back to me....

B/

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Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 2:54 PM
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Brian

Brian Laline
Editor
Staten Island Advance

From: [Scola, Lindsay](#)
To: "[Laline, Brian](#)"
Subject: RE: April 3/Staten Island
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:08:52 PM

Of course! I like fun people to be with!

Thanks

Lindsay Scola
Director of Scheduling
Office of the Mayor
The City of New York
Office: 212.788.2962
Cell: 917.513.1690

-----Original Message-----

From: Laline, Brian [<mailto:laline@siadvance.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:05 PM
To: Scola, Lindsay
Subject: RE: April 3/Staten Island

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To: Laline, Brian
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Lindsay

Lindsay Scola
Director of Scheduling
Office of the Mayor
The City of New York
Office: 212.788.2962
Cell: 917.513.1690

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And one big plus....it's on April 3. It probably won't snow. I stress "probably..."

Brian

Brian Laline
Editor
Staten Island Advance

From: [Chelsea Now Online](#)
To: [PressCredentials](#)
Subject: Love Lasts at Identity House
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014 4:56:28 PM

[Chelsea Now logo](#)

Identity House: A Half-Century of Love

February 12, 2014

BY SAM SPOKONY |

After they first met within the halls of Chelsea's old French Hospital, 46 years went by before Lee Zevy and Lucy Ianniciello finally got married last October. And quite a lot happened during that time - much of which they spent making an indelible mark on New York City, by helping to found and sustain Identity House, its oldest continuously operating, all-volunteer LGBT organization....»

Cop of the Month

February 12, 2014

The night was far from silent, but at least it wasn't violent - thanks to Officer Eric Rivera's quick response and calm demeanor. On Christmas Eve, Rivera was called to 264 Tenth Ave., to investigate a 911 call about a loud family dispute. Already in the area for a previous complaint of violence, Rivera arrived at the location in under 30 seconds....»

Buhmann on Art

02-12-2014 10:52:13 AM

BY STEPHANIE BUHMANN |

([stephaniebuhmann.com](#))

THE AGE OF SMALL THINGS Curated by Chuck Webster, this exhibition includes 53 works culled from studios and

February 20, 2014 | Chelsea Now

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galleries, as well as private homes near and far. Conceived over the course of several months, the project started with a wish list - after which Webster gathered the works through traditional [...].»



Love Horoscopes

02-13-2014 11:41:17 AM

Aries Staten Island Chuck predicts six weeks of bad romance, should you fall for a suave player's tempting pick-up line. Resist! **Taurus** Be on the lookout for the wearer of a raspberry beret, walking in through the out door. It is your one true soulmate! **Gemini** A purely physical relationship is like Justin Bieber's monkey: [...].»

Letters, Week of Feb. 11, 2014

February 12, 2014

Bayview not so beloved

To The Editor:

Re "Bayview's Future Not Locked Down, but it Won't Go Condo" (news, Jan. 29): "Beloved institution?" Women's prison, tiny rooms for long dead seamen. From the photo, it may be historically significant - but it sure is grim-...»



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Community Media | 515 Canal Street | NEW YORK | NY | 10013



From: [Katz, Rebecca](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: inner circle tweets
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2014 11:19:28 AM
Attachments: [TWEETS.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

For discussion.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Parikh, Ishanee" <iparikh@cityhall.nyc.gov>
Date: March 16, 2014 at 10:56:16 AM EDT
To: "Katz, Rebecca" <RKKatz@cityhall.nyc.gov>
Subject: inner circle tweets

What do you think of these options?

didn't find any cmc ones that were good.

TWEETS

BDB

SNOW:

[@jacobkornbluh](#) Feb 13

RT [@akevingarnett](#): bill **de blasio** is making a generation of **school** children republican solely on the basis of his **snow** day policy

DeBlasio had to drop the **groundhog** no wonder we're getting so much **snow** [#thanksdeblasio](#)

First, **de Blasio** fumbles **snow** removal, and now he drops a **groundhog**. <http://bit.ly/Lp0gVO> Not a great start to your administration.

momo [@aileenboland](#) Jan 21

Fuck deblasio if he doesn't close schools tomorrow

Mayor **de Blasio** fumbles Staten Island Chuck - New York News

myfoxny.com/story/24612237 ... probably too **stupid** to even know what a ground hog is

#ProudOfDemi ❤️ [@niallxvato](#) Feb 13

OUR NEW MAYOR IN NEW YORK, BILL **DE BLASIO**, IS HORRIBLE HE IS NOT HELPING ONE BIT THROUGH THESE HORRIBLE SNOW STORMS WE'RE HAVING. HE **SUCKS**.

Christopher Keelty [@keeltyc](#) Jan 21

Man the weather **sucks** outside. Thanks a lot, Bill **de Blasio**.

phillip anderson [@phillipanderson](#) Nov 5

No, really, people in my twitter feed. I voted for **de Blasio**, but his Spanish **sucks** pretty hard.

[@Akoteyyy](#) Mar 13

Listening to Mayor **De Blasio** speak Spanish during this **press** conference is quite tragic

Pepamint83 @Pepamint83 Mar 14

Ok so @ABC was just on for an hour why couldnt @BilldeBlasio @deBlasioNYC speak during the news? He always interrupts #TheChew I hate it.

Stephanie Rosero @lovingthepink Mar 11

I agree! #giveusbloombergback! RT @moneystacksss: Ask anyone, I **hate HATE** Mayor **De Blasio**... He's so useless.

Kevin Jackson @Theblacksphere 11h

Socialist de Blasio has another rotten idea for the Big Apple!...

FORKGATE:

smh.com.au @smh Jan 10

New York mayor Bill **de Blasio**'s first scandal as mayor? Eating pizza with a knife and **fork**. Now trending as #forkgate ow.ly/stK5B

@joshgreenman Jan 10

He probably eats fried rice with a straw. RT @insidecityhall: @BilldeBlasio Eats Pizza with Knife and **Fork** bit.ly/1h0raPa

Howard Riefs @hriefs Jan 10

I've lost all respect for NYC Mayor @BilldeBlasio: Eating pizza with a **fork** & knife? nym.ag/1fjJ3Ls

#DEBLASIOSNEWYORK

Danielle Tcholakian @danielleiat Mar 9

Cab driver is smoking a cigarette and blasting @1010WINS #deblasiosnewyork

Stefan Becket @stefanjbecket Feb 13

Just fell neck-deep into a puddle. #deblasiosnewyork

Dorsey Shaw @dorseyshaw Feb 7

Just got pushed out of the way by a guy in a suit trying to pick a penny up off the ground in [#deblasiosnewyork](#)

Josh Greenman @joshgreenman Nov 15

[#deblasiosnewyork](#) RT @margafret: I was bitten by an adorable puppy this morning.

Michael McManus @michaelGmcm Mar 13

Woman on the subway is collecting coins off the ground and putting them in her sock. [#deblasiosnewyork](#)

Anna Silman @annaesilman Feb 25

[#deblasiosnewyork](#) RT @NYMag: A woman gave birth in the middle of the street yesterday. nym.ag/NuJXb7

CARMEN

@Metsochist4Life Mar 9

Actually, I think the apocalypse would be rad. "**BEAUTIFUL DAY**" said **Carmen** Farina

Chris Wragge @ChrisWragge Feb 13

NYC schools Chancellor **Carmen** Farina says quote "its is a **beautiful day** outside right now" Note to self: never vacation with **Carmen** Farina.

BRATTON

[@joshgreenman](#) Jan 2

I think **Bratton** leans especially into words that sound good with a Boston **accent**: "guardians," "sergeant," "card," and, of course, "park."

[@imbeccable](#) Jan 21

bill **bratton**'s boston **accent** feels v soothing to me rn

[@MichaelHwrdsaul](#) Jan 2

Bratton is talking about a "card" he received from his wife. He pronounced card w/ a wicked Boston **accent**.

[@GSorensen](#) Dec 5

I hope New York City is OK with being run by Bill de Blasio (a Red Sox fan) and Bill **Bratton** (a Boston native with an awful **accent**).

From: [Katz, Rebecca](#)
To: ["Karni, Annie"](#)
Subject: Fun stuff
Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 12:38:46 PM
Attachments: [Moe the Butcher bday letter.docx](#)

Thinking this should do it...

The Mayor has been invited to 27 events that involve Italy and accepted two so far – The St. Joseph’s Day Dinner on Staten Island on March 18 (where he made sure to stay after his remarks for pasta and cannolis) and on March 14, when he was visited by Mayor Michele Napolitano of Airola (The Mayor is also looking forward to hosting the Italian Ambassador soon).

The First Lady has received 16 requests for poetry events and recently headlined “Poem in Your Pocket” Day.

The Mayor has received 27 requests to attend birthday parties, including five birthdays for people turning 100 or older.

He has not able to attend Moe the Butcher’s birthday celebration, but did send a letter (attached).

Can’t miss events:

Keynote speaker for the first Citywide Principals meeting this year which included 1000 principals from across the city (Jan 29th)

Ground Hog Day in Staten Island

Events that honor Every Day New Yorkers:

NYDN’s Citizenship NOW! event

The Daily News’ Hometown Heroes Event in January that honored Bus and Subway workers for their Extraordinary Actions and Service. He honored Jihad Abed, 51, is a driver on the MTA’s BX-30 bus, he threw violent attackers off his bus and locked the doors before anyone could be hurt.

The Mayor is a fan of taking the subway when he can and recently spoke at the New York City Police Foundation’s Annual Gala that recognizes the NYPD’s effort to reduce crime and improve public safety.

Events that he gets to be out in his neighborhood:

Prospect Park Little League Opening Day (April 5th)

Cultural Events with great food:

Dominican Heritage Month celebration on Feb 27th

Surrogates (and sometimes we get asked for both of them):

The Mayor was not able to attend the Middle School Principals Association of the City of New York’s 60th Annual Conference, but Chancellor Farina was able to be there.

The Mayor was unable to attend the very important opening of the Manhattan Family Justice Center in March. Family Justice Centers are an initiative of the Mayor’s Fund, and Chirlane, as Chair of the

Fund, was there.

Chirlane was also able to attend Grow NYC's garden build day at Brooklyn Children's School/PS 372 when the Mayor was unable to be there.

Examples of Letters Sent:

"The Manischewitz 8th Annual Man-O-Manischewitz Cook-Off All Star Event"

"Asian American Postal Employees Association to attend Twenty-First Annual Lunar New Year's Dinner Dance"

"The Forest Hills Jewish Center Dinner Dance"

"Boys & Girls High School Debate Team Celebration" on March 13th

--

Rebecca Kirschner Katz

Office of the Mayor

(212) 788-3112

rkkatz@cityhall.nyc.gov

[@RebeccaKKatz](#)

From: [Assemblymember Joseph Lentol](#)
To: [Viguers Jonathan](#)
Subject: AM Lentol Newsletter - JULY
Date: Tuesday, July 08, 2014 1:24:25 PM



Follow me on social media:



THE LENTOL LOWDOWN

July marks the 3rd Edition of my monthly newsletter. I have received some great positive feedback from readers, but as I have previously mentioned this is a work in progress. Feel free to contact me at lentolj@assembly.state.ny.us or [718-383-7474](tel:718-383-7474) with your comments and suggestions.

NEWS

Save Swinging 60s Senior Center and Small World Day Care Center

I was joined by my colleagues from the local, state and federal level to urge Mayor de Blasio to save the Swinging 60s Senior Center and Small World Day Care Center. The center has been the backbone of our community for over 40 years, as countless seniors and children have called it home. It has also served as the neighborhood 'Town Hall' and we've been fighting hard to keep this center in the hands of those who need it most. We are prepared to do what it takes to keep it that way, even if the city must take it through eminent domain. I urge the Mayor to come visit the center to see first hand how important it is to North Brooklyn.



Cross-Regional Small Business Partnership Program to Keep Business in the State and Create More Jobs

I am happy to announce that a bill I sponsored creating a cross-regional small business partnership program passed both the Assembly and Senate, and is now awaiting Governor Cuomo's signature (A.08308). The bill expands the state's economic development law section that outlines the various forms of assistance provided to small businesses. The legislation directs Empire State Development Corporation, the state's economic development agency, to focus their resources and staff on promoting cross-regional partnerships. One of the ideas is to create a database platform for manufacturing facilities and producers to allow for easier collaboration and interaction. The legislation was sparked by small business owners who approached me because they couldn't find space in Brooklyn but they did not want to move their manufacturing out of state, as many others had already done. In the picture to the right is Kimmee Arndt, a proud Greenpoint business owner who will certainly benefit from fostering upstate/downstate business partnerships.



2014 Summer Nights Free Movies in East River State Park



Affordable Housing Application Closing Soon

1133 Manhattan Ave is currently accepting applications for 105 newly constructed affordable housing units. Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than July 16, 2014. No late applications will be considered.



Another Big Win for Animals!

I am happy to announce a bill I sponsored that will fund the spaying and neutering of rescued animals has passed the Assembly (A.01333A). The legislation, introduced since 2003, will add a check-box to taxpayer's income tax return allowing them to elect to contribute to the Rescued Animals Spay and Neuter Fund.

Free Summer Meals for Kids

Summer Meals Program is available at hundreds of public schools, community pool centers, New York City Housing Authority complexes, and other locations around the city. No registration, documentation, or ID is required to receive a free breakfast or lunch meal to all children 18 years old and under. Visit www.schoolfoodnyc.org for more information.

Free Technology Job Training Program and Placement for Young Adults

NPower's Technology Service Corps offers an innovative 22-week part time workforce development program designed to provide young adults with a springboard to a technology career. The program provides young adults intensive training in computer fundamentals, network administration, database administration, website development, as well as professional development skills. As part of our studies, students take part in a 7 week technology-based, paid internship with some of the premier corporations and non-profit organizations in the city. The entire program, including certifications is free. For more information, visit npower.org/technologyservicecorps or contact Helen Kogan at 347-415-8830 or Helen.Kogan@npower.org.

Barclays Center is Hiring

Barclays Center is currently recruiting candidates for positions in Security & Guest Services. Residents of Brooklyn, local Community Boards 2-3-6-8 & NYCHA will be first in line for consideration. Visit the site to apply: <http://bit.ly/11514zr>

#SelfieSeries

I will be featuring a monthly #SelfieSeries. If you see me on the street, stop me and lets take a #SELFIE - use the tag #TeamLentol. This month I must feature a picture from my favorite holiday - The Fourth of July.



EVENTS

July 8 - 7PM / Free Movies in the Park, Brave / East River State Park, [90 Kent Ave](#)

July 9 - 6PM / Kosciuszko Brige Construction Public Information Meeting / Warsaw - Polish National Home, [261 Driggs Ave](#)

July 9 - 6PM / SummerScreen, Back to the Future / McCarren Park, [North 12 St and Bedford Ave](#)

July 15 - 7PM / Free Movies in the Park, Casablanca / East River State Park, [90 Kent Ave](#)

July 16 - 6PM / Community Forum on Housing Preservation and Development Policy on "Rightsizing" / Brooklyn Borough Hall, [209 Joralemon St](#)

July 16 - 6PM / SummerScreen, Zoolander / McCarren Park, [North 12 St and Bedford Ave](#)

July 22 - 7PM / Free Movies in the Park, Ground Hog Day / East River State Park, [90 Kent Ave](#)

July 23 - 6PM / SummerScreen, Cry Baby / McCarren Park, [North 12 St and Bedford Ave](#)

July 29 - 7PM / Free Movies in the Park, Gravity / East River State Park, [90 Kent Ave](#)

July 30 - 6PM / SummerScreen, Heathers / McCarren Park, [North 12 St and Bedford Ave](#)

Know someone interested in joining the mailing list? Direct them here: <http://bit.ly/1f7d4y5>

You are subscribed because you signed up on my website or submitted your email to the Board of Elections.

If you would like to unsubscribe and stop receiving emails from this Assemblymember [click here](#).

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [Gonen, Yoav \(YGonen@nypost.com\)](mailto:YGonen@nypost.com)
Subject: from me
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:10:34 PM

We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.

ok?

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: 212-788-2958
C: 917-455-8420
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Yoav Gonen"](#)
Subject: RE: from me
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:19:53 PM

thx

From: Yoav Gonen [mailto:ygonen@nypost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 6:16 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: from me

I asked if there is anything else pertinent for you to address. Will let u know

Yoav Gonen
City Hall Bureau Chief
New York Post
Cell: 646-229-8322
[@yoavgonen](#)

On Sep 24, 2014, at 6:10 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.

ok?

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: 212-788-2958
C: 917-455-8420
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](#)

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["matthew.johnson@ny1news.com"](mailto:matthew.johnson@ny1news.com)
Subject: FW: INCOMING: NY1, Matthew Johnson, re: death of Staten Island Chuck.
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:33:31 AM

You can use this from me

We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.

Did you reach out to SI Zoo for comment

From: Mayor's Press Office
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:22 AM
To: @Incoming
Subject: INCOMING: NY1, Matthew Johnson, re: death of Staten Island Chuck.

From: Johnson, MatthewS [<mailto:matthew.johnson@ny1news.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:02 AM
To: Mayor's Press Office
Cc: Porette, Nicole
Subject: NY1 Inquiry

Good morning,
Any comment regarding the death of Staten Island Chuck?
Thanks so much,

Matthew Johnson
NY1 News
(212) 379-3456

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "[Lemire, Jonathan](#)"
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:47:28 AM

haha

maybe what are you doing?

TWO THINGS not for attribution

+he was not "dropped"

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

Staten Island Chuck, the groundhog held and dropped by Mayor de Blasio earlier this year, died shortly after the fall. [*Juliet Huddy: "Well first of all, he didn't drop him. The animal squirmed away. Let's be honest here."*] The NY Post says it was found dead in its enclosure on February 9th, seven days after the mayor dropped it. Sources tell the people that an autopsy found acute internal injuries consistent with a fall. The Post also says the groundhog was not Chuck, but Charlotte, a female stand-in. They did not want Chuck to take part after he previously bit Mayor Bloomberg. [*Juliet Huddy: "Mayor de Blasio is like 7'6 - I mean, he is a gigantic man. I think he can handle holding a little groundhog." Ben Simmoneau: "Evidently not."*]

+did you get SI Zoo stmt? it clear chuck/charlottes death not related, according to them

From: Lemire, Jonathan [mailto:JLemire@ap.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:37 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: #Groundhoghazi

So when do impeachment proceedings begin, you think?

(I am doing a little something – anything you want to add beyond the quote you gave the Post?)

Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press
NYC City Hall & Politics
JLemire@ap.org
Work: 212-385-7876
Cell: 917-769-6291
Twitter: @JonLemire

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msk dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "nrizzi@dnainfo.com"
Subject: FW: INCOMING: DNAinfo, Nicholas Rizzi re: Statement from Mayor re: SI Chuck
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:50:01 AM

We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.

Did you contact SI Zoo? they have a stmnt

From: Mayor's Press Office
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:39 AM
To: @Incoming
Subject: INCOMING: DNAinfo, Nicholas Rizzi re: Statement from Mayor re: SI Chuck

From: Nicholas Rizzi [<mailto:nrizzi@dnainfo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:36 AM
To: Mayor's Press Office
Subject: SI Chuck

Hi,

I'm just following up on the NY Post story from today about SI Chuck dying a week after groundhog's day, and was wondering if you could send me a statement from the mayor about it for a story.

Thanks a lot,

NICHOLAS RIZZI | REPORTER/PRODUCER | [DNAinfo.com New York](#)
MOBILE | 646.244.7432
TWITTER | @nickr15

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "[Lemire, Jonathan](#)"
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:56:27 AM

too much!
No, not notified
Learned this week from media inquiries
Did not know it wasn't chuck

ill let the last q go

From: Lemire, Jonathan [mailto:JLemire@ap.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:55 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi

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From: Walzak, Phil [mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:47 AM
To: Lemire, Jonathan
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi

haha

maybe what are you doing?

TWO THINGS not for attribution

+he was not "dropped"

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

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To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: #Groundhogazi

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(I am doing a little something – anything you want to add beyond the quote you gave the Post?)

Jonathan Lemire
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NYC City Hall & Politics
JLemire@ap.org
Work: 212-385-7876
Cell: 917-769-6291
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mks dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Flegenheimer, Matt"](#)
Subject: RE: groundhog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:24:53 AM

et tu?

here is our stmnt -

We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:23 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: groundhog

We're doing something short... You have your response handy?

Matt

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "kami.dimitrova@abc.com"
Subject: RE: test
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:36:29 AM

here is our stmnt –

“We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.”

From: Walzak, Phil
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:35 AM
To: 'kami.dimitrova@abc.com'
Subject: test

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: 212-788-2958
C: 917-455-8420
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](#)

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: desk@fox5ny.com
Subject: Attn: Elizabeth
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:45:11 AM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

Here is our statement:

“We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.” from me as press secretary

Attached is statement from SI Zoo on this – pls have a look, it says SI Chuck writhing and squirming away from mayor not related to his death a week later.

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

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pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
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From: Brian Morris [<mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

Groundhog

As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor's grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian, which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Gay, Mara"](#)
Subject: RE: Chuck
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:03:17 AM

our little secret, between you and me?

we were REALLY trying to kill Staten Island Chuck. But since the zoo duplicitously swapped out SI Chuck for body double SI Charlotte, our work remains incomplete.....

From: Gay, Mara [mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:29 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Chuck

How could you.

Mara Gay
Reporter
The Wall Street Journal
t. 212.416.2233
c. 347.559.3193
mara.gay@wsj.com

From: [Alyssa Mastromonaco](#)
To: [Wright, Jessica](#)
Subject: Re: GAWKER: Zoo Covers Up Bill de Blasio's Groundhog Murder
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:06:21 AM

it's UNREAL

On Sep 25, 2014, at 11:05 AM, Wright, Jessica <JWright@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

Haha!

From: Clips
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:56 AM
Subject: GAWKER: Zoo Covers Up Bill de Blasio's Groundhog Murder

Zoo Covers Up Bill de Blasio's Groundhog Murder

GAWKER - Allie Jones

<http://gawker.com/zoo-covers-up-bill-de-blasios-groundhog-murder-1639009477>

Like a giant trying to hold a human baby, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and his big, dumb hands dropped a helpless groundhog on February 2 (Groundhog's day). The poor hog died of internal injuries, and "then the coverup began," according to this New York Post exclusive.

It turns out that the groundhog, "Staten Island Chuck," was actually a "female impostor" named Charlotte. Charlotte died February 9 of "acute internal injuries," may she rest in peace. Here's the fall that killed her:

[video]

Why are we just hearing about this now? The Post reports:

Staten Island Zoo officials went to great lengths to hide the death from the public ... Instead of revealing the sad loss, the zoo—which gets nearly half of its \$3.5 million in annual funding from the city—told the staff to keep the mayor's office in the dark about the animal's fate.

They told only a few zoo supporters — but claimed that the groundhog had died of natural causes.

How far does this thing go, huh? Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-SI) seems to be in on it. "I was told he died of old age, that he went to that big farm in the sky," he said.

Sadly, if de Blasio remains in power, more groundhogs will likely die. "Zoo sources" told The Post, "The zoo plans to pull the same groundhog switcheroo next year by using the groundhog couple's young daughter—also named Charlotte—in the role of Chuck."

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [Fermino, Jennifer \(jfermino@nydailynews.com\)](mailto:jfermino@nydailynews.com)
Subject: FW: Staten Island Chuck died a week after being dropped by de Blasio on Groundhog Day
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:06:57 AM

nice treatment!
thank you

Staten Island Chuck died a week after being dropped by de Blasio on Groundhog Day
DAILY NEWS - Jennifer Fermino
<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio-groundhog-day-article-1.1952353>

Ooops.

A week after Mayor de Blasio dropped Staten Island Chuck on Groundhog Day, the critter was found dead of internal injuries.

In another revelation Thursday, it emerged that Chuck was actually Charlotte — female, not male.

The Staten Island Zoo keeps the animals on rotation because they only have a short lifespan — typically four to six years.

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Titone was one of the few people in New York who knew Chuck was actually a female.

"There are many, many groundhogs," he said.

Zoo officials don't tell the public because, "it's like telling a kid there's no tooth fairy or Santa Claus," he said.

The mayor's office said it wasn't aware of any problems with the animal.

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Fermino, Jennifer"](#)
Subject: RE: Staten Island Chuck died a week after being dropped by de Blasio on Groundhog Day
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:09:06 AM

no im serious

the only thing I care abt is people saying mayor killed groundhog

which is not true!

From: Fermino, Jennifer [mailto:jfermino@nydailynews.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: Staten Island Chuck died a week after being dropped by de Blasio on Groundhog Day

It is right? Or are you being sarcastic? We stuck to the facts.

From: Walzak, Phil [mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:07 AM
To: Fermino, Jennifer
Subject: FW: Staten Island Chuck died a week after being dropped by de Blasio on Groundhog Day

nice treatment!
thank you

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DAILY NEWS - Jennifer Fermino
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*****NJ)

From: [Wolfe, Emma](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [Walzak, Phil](#)
Subject: Staten Island chuck
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:09:12 AM

Hey Phil - Assemblyman Titone would like talking points on this as he's being asked by reporters - looping you both here

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rincon, Sonia](#)
To: [Mayor's Press Office](#)
Subject: From CBS2
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:10:32 AM

Good morning,

Can you send us any statement from the mayor on Staten Island Chuck (Charlotte)?

Thank you.

Sonia Rincon
Reporter
1010 WINS/CBS2 News
@SoniaRincon
917-838-4153

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [Wolfe, Emma](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Staten Island chuck
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:12:58 AM

Thanks

And thanks Assemblyman for your comments in the NYDN, very helpful.

I think its basically:

- +Groundhog squirmed away from mayor and fell to the ground
- +SI Zoo vets concluded immediately after that the groundhog was fine, and for the week after acted normally.
- +Zoo believes the death caused by unrelated events a week later, perhaps a fall in his habitat.
- +I don't think the Zoo "covered up" the death.

-----Original Message-----

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Lemire, Jonathan"](#)
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:15:38 AM

Can I say one thing?

Im glad we have a new suffix to describe political scandal

everything-gate was so tired and overused

something-ghazi is a nice replacement

From: Walzak, Phil
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:56 AM
To: 'Lemire, Jonathan'
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi

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Subject: #Groundhoghazi

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Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press
NYC City Hall & Politics
JLemire@ap.org
Work: 212-385-7876
Cell: 917-769-6291
Twitter: @JonLemire

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Lemire, Jonathan"](#)
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:18:38 AM

wait what?

he was alive a full week after!!!!

From: Lemire, Jonathan [<mailto:JLemire@ap.org>]
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Absolutely. I'm a big proponent of "-ghazi" and doing my best to spread it. Not to be shared, because my full version hasn't hit the wire yet, but here is my story's lede: "Her shadow was one of the last things she saw."

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Lemire, Jonathan"](#)
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:19:08 AM

just pls include SI Zoo and Ass Titone saying groundhog didn't die from mayor incident

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Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:21:03 AM

ok

between you and me that's all I care abt!

From: Lemire, Jonathan [<mailto:JLemire@ap.org>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:20 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi

It's in there, it's in there.

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Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi

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I'm just going to do a light, short story about the incident and the resulting hoopla on twitter, etc. So you guys weren't notified of the death? When did you find out? Did you know it wasn't Chuck? And will the mayor pay attending the funeral? (had to)

From: Walzak, Phil [<mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:47 AM
To: Lemire, Jonathan
Subject: RE: #Groundhoghazi

haha

maybe what are you doing?

TWO THINGS not for attribution

+he was not "dropped"

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

Staten Island Chuck, the groundhog held and dropped by Mayor de Blasio earlier this year, died shortly after the fall. [*Juliet Huddy: "Well first of all, he didn't drop him. The animal squirmed away. Let's be honest here."*] The NY Post says it was found dead in its enclosure on February 9th, seven days after the mayor dropped it. Sources tell the people that an autopsy found acute internal injuries consistent with a fall. The Post also says the groundhog was not Chuck, but Charlotte, a female stand-in. They did not want Chuck to take part after he previously bit Mayor Bloomberg. [*Juliet Huddy: "Mayor de Blasio is like 7'6 - I mean, he*

*is a gigantic man. I think he can handle holding a little groundhog.” Ben Simmoneau:
“Evidently not.”]*

+did you get SI Zoo stmt? it clear chuck/charlottes death not related, according to them

From: Lemire, Jonathan [<mailto:JLemire@ap.org>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 9:37 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: #Groundhoghazi

So when do impeachment proceedings begin, you think?

(I am doing a little something – anything you want to add beyond the quote you gave the Post?)

Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press
NYC City Hall & Politics
JLemire@ap.org
Work: 212-385-7876
Cell: 917-769-6291
Twitter: @JonLemire

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[IP_US_DISC]

mks dccc60c6d2c3a6438f0cf467d9a4938

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "jaila.kearney@thompsonreuters.com"
Subject: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:26:38 AM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

Here is our statement:

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss." from me as press secretary

Attached is statement from SI Zoo on this – pls have a look, it says SI Chuck writhing and squirming away from mayor not related to his death a week later.

Also this quote from SI Assemblyman Titone -

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio-groundhog-day-article-1.1952353>

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Titone was one of the few people in New York who knew Chuck was actually a female.

"There are many, many groundhogs," he said.

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

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Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
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O: 212-788-2958
C: 917-455-8420
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: Brian Morris [<mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

Groundhog

As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor's grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian, which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [Gloria Pazmino \(gpazmino@capitalnewyork.com\)](mailto:gpazmino@capitalnewyork.com)
Subject: FW: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:27:20 AM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "srincon@wins.com"
Subject: FW: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:28:43 AM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Gay, Mara"](#)
Subject: RE: Chuck
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:29:15 AM

SI Chuck better watch his back....

From: Gay, Mara [<mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: Chuck

Haha so out of control

From: Walzak, Phil [<mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:03 AM
To: Gay, Mara
Subject: RE: Chuck

our little secret, between you and me?

we were REALLY trying to kill Staten Island Chuck. But since the zoo duplicitously swapped out SI Chuck for body double SI Charlotte, our work remains incomplete.....

From: Gay, Mara [<mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:29 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Chuck

How could you.

Mara Gay
Reporter
The Wall Street Journal
t. 212.416.2233
c. 347.559.3193
mara.gay@wsj.com

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"; Norvell, Wiley](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:44:39 AM

Mr. Downes:

I encourage you to read a couple of news accts before committing pen to paper, esp on "dropped"

Kindly,
Phillip T Walzak

Groundhog Dies After Escaping NYC Mayor's Grip

By [JONATHAN LEMIRE](#)

NEW YORK (AP) — Her shadow was one of the last things she saw.

The groundhog that escaped Mayor Bill de Blasio's grasp during this year's Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony died a week after the fall.

But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte.

Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of Twitter jokes about a #Groundhoghazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said.

This was de Blasio's first time doing the annual ceremony. He wore heavy work gloves on the cold winter day, in part as a safety precaution after Chuck bit Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

A zoo spokesman said Thursday that the groundhog's handler "may not have been forceful enough" in placing the animal in de Blasio's hands, preventing the mayor from getting a firm grip. The groundhog quickly squirmed away from the mayor and plummeted to the ground.

"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the

incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

But on the morning of Feb. 9, the animal was found dead in its exhibit. A necropsy performed by the zoo veterinarian indicated that the animal died of internal injuries.

"We don't know how the animal suffered the injuries but we don't think it was from the fall," Morris said. "We believe it happened sometime the night before she was found dead."

Morris also revealed that the zoo has four groundhogs, all with the variations of the brand name "Chuck." On the morning of Feb. 2, zoo staff selects which of the groundhogs will participate in the ceremony and be dubbed Chuck.

"It's usually whichever groundhog is the least grouchy that day," Morris said. "This is a time of year when genetics tell them to be hibernating. They can be in a bad mood."

Morris confirmed that the zoo did not tell the mayor's office about the death.

"There was no reason to do it," he said. "It's not like we were trying to spare the mayor's feelings."

Groundhogs live about seven years, Morris said. He confirmed that the Chuck that bit Bloomberg has died.

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From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:38 AM
To: Walzak, Phil; Norvell, Wiley
Subject: on a small matter

on the groundhog. we'd like the mayor to commit to not wearing those stupid gloves next year, which are clearly the reason he dropped it, and from a great height.

you could say it's bloomberg's fault. 1) he got bitten, 2) someone decided: gloves, and 3) a groundhog lies dead.

but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"; Norvell, Wiley](#)
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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com
Subject: FW: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:51:56 AM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

not for attribution, but since we only learned of this incident this week, we can only go on what we have been told by people who are in a position to know.

***From SI Zoo

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To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:58:40 AM

oh please

how can a reasonable, rational viewer watch that and ignore the squirming and writhing of the animal as it is placed into the mayor's hands?

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:58 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

i've reviewed the photo and video evidence: he ***dropped*** the groundhog.

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 11:44 AM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
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From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:38 AM

To: Walzak, Phil; Norvell, Wiley

Subject: on a small matter

on the groundhog. we'd like the mayor to commit to not wearing those stupid gloves next year, which are clearly the reason he dropped it, and from a great height.

you could say it's bloomberg's fault. 1) he got bitten, 2) someone decided: gloves, and 3) a groundhog lies dead.

but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence

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To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:02:23 PM

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Kindly,
Phillip T Walzak

Groundhog Dies After Escaping NYC Mayor's Grip

By [JONATHAN LEMIRE](#)

NEW YORK (AP) — Her shadow was one of the last things she saw.

The groundhog that escaped Mayor Bill de Blasio's grasp during this year's Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony died a week after the fall.

But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte.

Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of Twitter jokes about a #Groundhogazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said.

This was de Blasio's first time doing the annual ceremony. He wore heavy work gloves on the cold winter day, in part as a safety precaution after Chuck bit Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

A zoo spokesman said Thursday that the groundhog's handler "may not have been forceful enough" in placing the animal in de Blasio's hands, preventing the mayor from getting a firm grip. The groundhog quickly squirmed away from the mayor and plummeted to the ground.

"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

But on the morning of Feb. 9, the animal was found dead in its exhibit. A necropsy performed by the zoo veterinarian indicated that the animal died of internal injuries.

"We don't know how the animal suffered the injuries but we don't think it was from the fall," Morris said. "We believe it happened sometime the night before she was found dead."

Morris also revealed that the zoo has four groundhogs, all with the variations of the brand name "Chuck." On the morning of Feb. 2, zoo staff selects which of the groundhogs will participate in the ceremony and be dubbed Chuck.

"It's usually whichever groundhog is the least grouchy that day," Morris said. "This is a time of year when genetics tell them to be hibernating. They can be in a bad mood."

Morris confirmed that the zoo did not tell the mayor's office about the death.

"There was no reason to do it," he said. "It's not like we were trying to spare the mayor's

feelings."

Groundhogs live about seven years, Morris said. He confirmed that the Chuck that bit Bloomberg has died.

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

Staten Island Chuck, the groundhog held and dropped by Mayor de Blasio earlier this year, died shortly after the fall. [*Juliet Huddy: "Well first of all, he didn't drop him. The animal squirmed away. Let's be honest here."*] The NY Post says it was found dead in its enclosure on February 9th, seven days after the mayor dropped it. Sources tell the people that an autopsy found acute internal injuries consistent with a fall. The Post also says the groundhog was not Chuck, but Charlotte, a female stand-in. They did not want Chuck to take part after he previously bit Mayor Bloomberg. [*Juliet Huddy: "Mayor de Blasio is like 7'6 - I mean, he is a gigantic man. I think he can handle holding a little groundhog." Ben Simmoneau: "Evidently not."*]

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but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Gay, Mara"](#)
Subject: RE: Chuck
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:16:38 PM

you see? all those stories about Bloomberg/BdB tension clearly got it wrong

From: Gay, Mara [<mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:03 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: Chuck

Glad to see you and Bloomy on the same page about some things

From: Walzak, Phil [<mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:29 AM
To: Gay, Mara
Subject: RE: Chuck

SI Chuck better watch his back....

From: Gay, Mara [<mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: Chuck

Haha so out of control

From: Walzak, Phil [<mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:03 AM
To: Gay, Mara
Subject: RE: Chuck

our little secret, between you and me?

we were REALLY trying to kill Staten Island Chuck. But since the zoo duplicitously swapped out SI Chuck for body double SI Charlotte, our work remains incomplete.....

From: Gay, Mara [<mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:29 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Chuck

How could you.

Mara Gay
Reporter
The Wall Street Journal
t. 212.416.2233

c. 347.559.3193

mara.gay@wsj.com

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [Sanders, Anna \(asanders@siadvance.com\)](mailto:asanders@siadvance.com)
Subject: FW: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:24:55 PM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

Here is our statement:

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss." from me as press secretary

Attached is statement from SI Zoo on this – pls have a look, it says SI Chuck writhing and squirming away from mayor not related to his death a week later.

Also this quote from SI Assemblyman Titone -

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Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
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O: 212-788-2958
C: 917-455-8420
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: Brian Morris [<mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

Groundhog

As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor's grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian, which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "Sanders, Anna"
Subject: RE: dead groundhog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:27:46 PM

as far as fault, defer to zoo

not for attribution – but since we only learned of this incident this week, we can only go on what we have been told by people who are in a position to know. we aren't experts in groundhog handling

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From: Sanders, Anna [mailto:asanders@siadvance.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:04 PM

To: Walzak, Phil

Subject: dead groundhog

Hey—

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Also...do you know if the mayor plans to attend next year's ceremony still?

Thanks,

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City Hall Reporter, Staten Island Advance

917-525-9025 (cell)

asanders@siadvance.com | @AnnaESanders

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To: [Ivan Pereira \(Ivan.Pereira@am-ny.com\)](mailto:Ivan.Pereira@am-ny.com)
Subject: FW: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:28:39 PM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Sanders, Anna"](#)
Subject: RE: dead groundhog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:31:15 PM

off rec – don't have anything on that at moment

From: Sanders, Anna [mailto:asanders@siadvance.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: dead groundhog

OK

But do you know of any plans to change the ceremony or the mayor's involvement in the ceremony?

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:37:18 PM

look at FOX 5!

anyway, what can we do for you on this?

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

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Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:39:46 PM

even that is too much

I wouldn't go there

potential changes have not been discussed

From: Sanders, Anna [<mailto:asanders@siadvance.com>]
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Since you don't have something on that, I'll report that the details of the next ceremony — including the mayor's attendance — are unclear. Is that accurate?

--

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Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:04 PM

To: Walzak, Phil

Subject: dead groundhog

Hey—

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Also...do you know if the mayor plans to attend next year's ceremony still?

Thanks,

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City Hall Reporter, Staten Island Advance

917-525-9025 (cell)

asanders@siadvance.com | @AnnaESanders

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com"](mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com)
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:41:25 PM

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From: Walzak, Phil
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To: matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com
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O: 212-788-2958
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Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Matt Flegenheimer"](#)
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:46:14 PM

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off record: whats a reasonable expectation here? this was 7 months ago, mayor and team just learned abt this and neither the mayor nor his staff are veterinarians

did you talk to Titone?

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To: ["Sanders, Anna"](#)
Subject: RE: dead groundhog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:47:20 PM

off rec that's for yall journalists to decide...but given potential terror plot and resignation of holder not sure its slow...

From: Sanders, Anna [<mailto:asanders@siadvance.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:43 PM
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To: Anna Sanders <asanders@siadvance.com>
Subject: RE: dead groundhog

off rec – don't have anything on that at moment

From: Sanders, Anna [<mailto:asanders@siadvance.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:29 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
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OK

But do you know of any plans to change the ceremony or the mayor's involvement in the ceremony?

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:47:57 PM

clarify "Accept responsibility"?

for the drop? for the death?

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

i don't know: accept responsibility? and commit to not wearing those gloves next time.

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:37 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
look at FOX 5!

anyway, what can we do for you on this?

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

Staten Island Chuck, the groundhog held and dropped by Mayor de Blasio earlier this year, died shortly after the fall. [*Juliet Huddy: "Well first of all, he didn't drop him. The animal squirmed away. Let's be honest here."*] The NY Post says it was found dead in its enclosure on February 9th, seven days after the mayor dropped it. Sources tell the people that an autopsy found acute internal injuries consistent with a fall. The Post also says the groundhog was not Chuck, but Charlotte, a female stand-in. They did not want Chuck to take part after he previously bit Mayor Bloomberg. [*Juliet Huddy: "Mayor de Blasio is like 7'6 - I mean, he is a gigantic man. I think he can handle holding a little groundhog." Ben Simmoneau: "Evidently not."*]

From: Walzak, Phil
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:02 PM
To: 'Downes, Lawrence'
Subject: RE: on a small matter

that's a flawed and specious analogy

babies aren't groundhogs - they move and act different.

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:01 PM
To: Walzak, Phil

Subject: Re: on a small matter

substitute "baby" for "groundhog." dad is holding a squirming baby, who falls to the ground. what dad would say: "wasn't me! i didn't drop the baby!"?

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 11:58 AM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

oh please

how can a reasonable, rational viewer watch that and ignore the squirming and writhing of the animal as it is placed into the mayor's hands?

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:58 AM

To: Walzak, Phil

Subject: Re: on a small matter

i've reviewed the photo and video evidence: he *dropped* the groundhog.

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 11:44 AM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

Mr. Downes:

I encourage you to read a couple of news accts before committing pen to paper, esp on "dropped"

Kindly,

Phillip T Walzak

Groundhog Dies After Escaping NYC Mayor's Grip

By [JONATHAN LEMIRE](#)

NEW YORK (AP) — Her shadow was one of the last things she saw.

The groundhog that escaped Mayor Bill de Blasio's grasp during this year's Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony died a week after the fall.

But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte.

Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of

Twitter jokes about a #Groundhogazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said.

This was de Blasio's first time doing the annual ceremony. He wore heavy work gloves on the cold winter day, in part as a safety precaution after Chuck bit Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

A zoo spokesman said Thursday that the groundhog's handler "may not have been forceful enough" in placing the animal in de Blasio's hands, preventing the mayor from getting a firm grip. The groundhog quickly squirmed away from the mayor and plummeted to the ground.

"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

But on the morning of Feb. 9, the animal was found dead in its exhibit. A necropsy performed by the zoo veterinarian indicated that the animal died of internal injuries.

"We don't know how the animal suffered the injuries but we don't think it was from the fall," Morris said. "We believe it happened sometime the night before she was found dead."

Morris also revealed that the zoo has four groundhogs, all with the variations of the brand name "Chuck." On the morning of Feb. 2, zoo staff selects which of the groundhogs will participate in the ceremony and be dubbed Chuck.

"It's usually whichever groundhog is the least grouchy that day," Morris said. "This is a time of year when genetics tell them to be hibernating. They can be in a bad mood."

Morris confirmed that the zoo did not tell the mayor's office about the death.

"There was no reason to do it," he said. "It's not like we were trying to spare the mayor's feelings."

Groundhogs live about seven years, Morris said. He confirmed that the Chuck that bit Bloomberg has died.

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Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:38 AM
To: Walzak, Phil; Norvell, Wiley
Subject: on a small matter

on the groundhog. we'd like the mayor to commit to not wearing those stupid gloves next year, which are clearly the reason he dropped it, and from a great height.

you could say it's bloomberg's fault. 1) he got bitten, 2) someone decided: gloves, and 3) a groundhog lies dead.

but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Sanders, Anna"](#)
Subject: RE: dead groundhog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:50:20 PM

MAYBE says more about yall....

From: Sanders, Anna [mailto:asanders@siadvance.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:48 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: dead groundhog

No one in room 9 was talking about the other stuff ha

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Anna Sanders
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To: Walzak, Phil
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To: ["Flegenheimer, Matt"](#)
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:55:25 PM

certainly a separate desk in the press ofc for incoming

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

I think there should clearly be a deputy mayor for rodent trauma

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thnx

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

(and yes, spoke to Titone)

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:50 PM, Flegenheimer, Matt <matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com> wrote:

I think there should clearly be a deputy mayor for rodent trauma

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[Mayors office refers inquires to the Staten Island Zoo](#) on these assessments and has no reason to dispute the findings

off record: whats a reasonable expectation here? this was 7 months ago, mayor and team just learned abt this and neither the mayor nor his staff are veterinarians

did you talk to Titone?

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Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Attributable?

Sent from my iPhone

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As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor's grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

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The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

***This quote from SI Assemblyman Titone -

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio-groundhog-day-article-1.1952353>

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary

Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio

O: [212-788-2958](tel:212-788-2958)

C: [917-455-8420](tel:917-455-8420)

pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov

twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: Brian Morris [<mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM

To: Walzak, Phil

Subject: Groundhog

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:56:12 PM

ill try to offer a pithy reply!

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[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

Staten Island Chuck, the groundhog held and dropped by Mayor de Blasio earlier this year, died shortly after the fall. [*Juliet Huddy: "Well first of all, he didn't drop him. The animal squirmed away. Let's be honest here."*] The NY Post says it was found dead in its enclosure on February 9th, seven days after the mayor dropped it. Sources tell the people that an autopsy found acute internal injuries consistent with a fall. The Post also says the groundhog was not Chuck, but Charlotte, a female stand-in. They did not want Chuck to take part after he previously bit Mayor Bloomberg. [*Juliet Huddy: "Mayor de Blasio is like 7'6 - I mean, he is a gigantic man. I think he can handle holding a little groundhog." Ben Simmoneau: "Evidently not."*]

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substitute "baby" for "groundhog." dad is holding a squirming baby, who falls to the ground. what dad would say: "wasn't me! i didn't drop the baby!"?

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 11:58 AM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
oh please

how can a reasonable, rational viewer watch that and ignore the squirming and writhing of the animal as it is placed into the mayor's hands?

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:58 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

i've reviewed the photo and video evidence: he *dropped* the groundhog.

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 11:44 AM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
Mr. Downes:

I encourage you to read a couple of news accts before committing pen to paper, esp on "dropped"

Kindly,
Phillip T Walzak

Groundhog Dies After Escaping NYC Mayor's Grip

By [JONATHAN LEMIRE](#)

NEW YORK (AP) — Her shadow was one of the last things she saw.

The groundhog that escaped Mayor Bill de Blasio's grasp during this year's Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony died a week after the fall.

But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte.

Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of Twitter jokes about a #Groundhogazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said.

This was de Blasio's first time doing the annual ceremony. He wore heavy work gloves on the cold winter day, in part as a safety precaution after Chuck bit Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

A zoo spokesman said Thursday that the groundhog's handler "may not have been forceful enough" in placing the animal in de Blasio's hands, preventing the mayor from getting a firm grip. The groundhog quickly squirmed away from the mayor and plummeted to the ground.

"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

But on the morning of Feb. 9, the animal was found dead in its exhibit. A necropsy performed by the zoo veterinarian indicated that the animal died of internal injuries.

"We don't know how the animal suffered the injuries but we don't think it was from the fall," Morris said. "We believe it happened sometime the night before she was found dead."

Morris also revealed that the zoo has four groundhogs, all with the variations of the brand name "Chuck." On the morning of Feb. 2, zoo staff selects which of the groundhogs will participate in the ceremony and be dubbed Chuck.

"It's usually whichever groundhog is the least grouchy that day," Morris said. "This is a time of year when genetics tell them to be hibernating. They can be in a bad mood."

Morris confirmed that the zoo did not tell the mayor's office about the death.

"There was no reason to do it," he said. "It's not like we were trying to spare the mayor's feelings."

Groundhogs live about seven years, Morris said. He confirmed that the Chuck that bit Bloomberg has died.

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From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:38 AM

To: Walzak, Phil; Norvell, Wiley

Subject: on a small matter

on the groundhog. we'd like the mayor to commit to not wearing those stupid gloves next year, which are clearly the reason he dropped it, and from a great height.

you could say it's bloomberg's fault. 1) he got bitten, 2) someone decided: gloves, and 3) a groundhog lies dead.

but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence

From: [Capital Pro](#)
To: [Malegiannakis, Michael](#)
Subject: De Blasio "unaware" of groundhog's death
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:09:05 PM

[De Blasio 'unaware' of groundhog's death](#)

By Gloria Pazmino

1:08 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

A spokesman for Mayor Bill de Blasio said the administration was "unaware" that a Staten Island groundhog had died shortly after the mayor's visit, prior to a [report](#) in the *New York Post* this morning.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss," said Phil Walzak, the mayor's press secretary, in a statement to Capital.

Staten Island Chuck, which was actually a stand-in named Charlotte, squirmed out of de Blasio's hands in February, during the annual Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony, and fell about six feet to the ground.

According to the *Post*, the animal died a week later, possibly from injuries related to the fall.

Staten Island Zoo officials defended the mayor after the *Post* report.

"The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined," a spokesperson for the zoo said in a statement. "Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day."

Walzak said zoo officials examined the groundhog immediately following the incident and the examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain.

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From: jay_dearborn@mckinsey.com
To: [Tarlow_Mindy](#)
Subject: Fw: De Blasio "unaware" of groundhog's death
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:22:55 PM

Clearly why you need Pro. Enjoy the read.

Jay Dearborn | Principal | McKinsey & Company
2929 Arch Street / Suite 1400, Philadelphia, PA 19104
Office: +1 215 594 4223 | Mobile: +1 917 658 5928 | eFax: +1 215 796 6223

----- Forwarded by Jay Dearborn/PHU/NorthAmerica/MCKINSEY on 09/25/2014 13:21 -----

From: Capital Pro <info@capitalnewyork.com>
To: jay_dearborn@mckinsey.com
Date: 09/25/2014 13:09
Subject: De Blasio 'unaware' of groundhog's death

[De Blasio 'unaware' of groundhog's death](#)

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+ ===== +

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Flegenheimer, Matt"](#)
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:45:09 PM

brilliant

thank you

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/26/nyregion/a-groundhog-day-whodunit-the-mystery-of-chucks-death.html?ref=nyregion>

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Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "[Michael Gartland](#)"
Subject: RE: got some groundhog Qs
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:51:37 PM

please Mike, Ground Hog-ghazi.

let me see if we have anything on these today.

From: Michael Gartland [mailto:mgartland@nypost.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:03 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: got some groundhog Qs

Are you on Groundhog-gate today?

I've got a few Qs:

Does BDB think it's a good idea to continue the groundhog day tradition given the most recent, and tragic, death of Charlotte and the vicious attack against Mayor Bloomberg a few years back? Wouldn't it be safer for human and groundhog alike to drop it?

Does BDB plan to participate in next year's festivities?

Should the zoo have been more forthcoming about the nature of the groundhog's death and its identity? What should they have done about releasing the true details of Charlotte's death and the identities of the animals?

--

Michael Gartland
NY Post
551-208-6570
mgartland@nypost.com
@michaelgartland

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "[Michael Gartland](#)"
Subject: RE: got some groundhog Qs
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:53:15 PM

roger
thanks

From: Michael Gartland [mailto:mgartland@nypost.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:53 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: got some groundhog Qs

Ah, that's right.

Thanks.

Nothing new on the other thing. Doubtful anything runs this week.

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "Yamilesi.villavicencio@nbcuni.com"
Subject: FW: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:58:23 PM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

**Here is our statement:

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss." from me as press secretary

***Attached is statement from SI Zoo on this – pls have a look, it says SI Chuck writhing and squirming away from mayor not related to his death a week later.

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:28:22 PM

your own news reporting seems far less certain re: fault

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:57 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

"I am so sorry. It was my fault. I will do better next time, and never wear those gloves again."

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how can a reasonable, rational viewer watch that and ignore the squirming and writhing of the animal as it is placed into the mayor's hands?

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:58 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

i've reviewed the photo and video evidence: he *dropped* the groundhog.

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 11:44 AM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
Mr. Downes:

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Kindly,
Phillip T Walzak

Groundhog Dies After Escaping NYC Mayor's Grip

By [JONATHAN LEMIRE](#)

NEW YORK (AP) — Her shadow was one of the last things she saw.

The groundhog that escaped Mayor Bill de Blasio's grasp during this year's Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony died a week after the fall.

But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte.

Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of Twitter jokes about a #Groundhoghazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said.

This was de Blasio's first time doing the annual ceremony. He wore heavy work gloves on the cold winter day, in part as a safety precaution after Chuck bit Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

A zoo spokesman said Thursday that the groundhog's handler "may not have been forceful enough" in placing the animal in de Blasio's hands, preventing the mayor from getting a firm grip. The groundhog quickly squirmed away from the mayor and plummeted to the ground.

"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

But on the morning of Feb. 9, the animal was found dead in its exhibit. A necropsy performed by the zoo veterinarian indicated that the animal died of internal injuries.

"We don't know how the animal suffered the injuries but we don't think it was from the fall,"

Morris said. "We believe it happened sometime the night before she was found dead."

Morris also revealed that the zoo has four groundhogs, all with the variations of the brand name "Chuck." On the morning of Feb. 2, zoo staff selects which of the groundhogs will participate in the ceremony and be dubbed Chuck.

"It's usually whichever groundhog is the least grouchy that day," Morris said. "This is a time of year when genetics tell them to be hibernating. They can be in a bad mood."

Morris confirmed that the zoo did not tell the mayor's office about the death.

"There was no reason to do it," he said. "It's not like we were trying to spare the mayor's feelings."

Groundhogs live about seven years, Morris said. He confirmed that the Chuck that bit Bloomberg has died.

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

Staten Island Chuck, the groundhog held and dropped by Mayor de Blasio earlier this year, died shortly after the fall. [*Juliet Huddy: "Well first of all, he didn't drop him. The animal squirmed away. Let's be honest here."*] The NY Post says it was found dead in its enclosure on February 9th, seven days after the mayor dropped it. Sources tell the people that an autopsy found acute internal injuries consistent with a fall. The Post also says the groundhog was not Chuck, but Charlotte, a female stand-in. They did not want Chuck to take part after he previously bit Mayor Bloomberg. [*Juliet Huddy: "Mayor de Blasio is like 7'6 - I mean, he is a gigantic man. I think he can handle holding a little groundhog." Ben Simmoneau: "Evidently not."*]

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:38 AM

To: Walzak, Phil; Norvell, Wiley

Subject: on a small matter

on the groundhog. we'd like the mayor to commit to not wearing those stupid gloves next year, which are clearly the reason he dropped it, and from a great height.

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but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:31:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

perhaps we need to address our handling approach

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:30 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

don't worry, i'm gonna blame da gloves. look at the video, and look at how they do it in punxsutawney. bare hands, under the armpits, easy grip, no bite, no problem.



On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 2:28 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
your own news reporting seems far less certain re: fault

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:57 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

"I am so sorry. It was my fault. I will do better next time, and never wear those gloves again."

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:56 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
ill try to offer a pithy reply!

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

this is tongue-in-cheek piece, you realize. figure i should make that clear.

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:47 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
clarify "Accept responsibility"?

for the drop? for the death?

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:47 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

i don't know: accept responsibility? and commit to not wearing those gloves next time.

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:37 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
look at FOX 5!

anyway, what can we do for you on this?

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

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From: Walzak, Phil
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:02 PM
To: 'Downes, Lawrence'
Subject: RE: on a small matter

that's a flawed and specious analogy

babies aren't groundhogs - they move and act different.

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:01 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

substitute "baby" for "groundhog." dad is holding a squirming baby, who falls to the ground. what dad would say: "wasn't me! i didn't drop the baby!"?

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"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said.

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"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

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but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence



From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Gay, Mara"](#)
Subject: RE: re Chuck, seriously -
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:39:43 PM

that is true, so yes

you can use the quote

From: Gay, Mara [mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:36 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: re Chuck, seriously -

Can I say that an aide to the mayor said there have been no talks about canceling the Groundhog Day event next year?

Also, it's OK for me to use this right?

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss,"

Thanks,

Mara

From: Walzak, Phil [mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:29 AM
To: Gay, Mara
Subject: RE: Chuck

SI Chuck better watch his back....

From: Gay, Mara [mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:25 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: Chuck

Haha so out of control

From: Walzak, Phil [mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:03 AM
To: Gay, Mara
Subject: RE: Chuck

our little secret, between you and me?

we were REALLY trying to kill Staten Island Chuck. But since the zoo duplicitously swapped out SI Chuck for body double SI Charlotte, our work remains incomplete.....

From: Gay, Mara [<mailto:Mara.Gay@wsj.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:29 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Chuck

How could you.

Mara Gay
Reporter
The Wall Street Journal
t. 212.416.2233
c. 347.559.3193
mara.gay@wsj.com

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [Fermino, Jennifer \(jfermino@nydailynews.com\)](mailto:jfermino@nydailynews.com)
Subject: he didnt drop the ground hog!
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:51:00 PM

<http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/mayors-groundhogs-shouldn-mix-staten-island-councilman-blog-entry-1.1952833?cid=bitly>

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: 212-788-2958
C: 917-455-8420
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](#)

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Fermino, Jennifer"](#)
Subject: RE: he didnt drop the ground hog!
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:55:50 PM

squirms, writhes...and FALLS

From: Fermino, Jennifer [mailto:jfermino@nydailynews.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:55 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: he didnt drop the ground hog!

To me looks like a drop - Animal sqirms out and he drops

<http://nypost.com/2014/02/02/de-blasio-drops-nycs-punxsutawney-phil/>

From: Walzak, Phil [mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov]
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***** (NJ)

From: [Capital Pro](#)
To: [McGinn, Isaac](#)
Subject: Capital Politics Digest: September 25, 2014
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:17:17 PM

[Capital Politics Digest: September 25, 2014](#)

By Capital staff

3:17 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

The following stories appeared today on Capital.

- [Capital New York state spending tracker: Sept. 25](#)
- [Genting's 'shock-and-awe' casino strategy](#)
- [The cost of Cuomo and Teachout's primary votes](#)
- [Common Core foe could become Senate education chair](#)
- [Report: Rockland most fiscally stressed community](#)
- [Power producers object to utility-owned, renewable power](#)
- [If Democrats take majority, Senate would take up fracking bills](#)
- [Stewart-Cousins set to stump for O'Brien](#)
- [Capital State Senate election tracker: September 25, 2014](#)
- [Judge rejects NYSUT challenge to property tax cap](#)
- [State releases Open Space protection plan](#)
- [De Blasio 'unaware' of groundhog's death](#)
- [Cahill releases full poll to Board of Elections](#)
- [DiNapoli faults NYPD for hate-crimes reporting, training](#)
- [De Blasio, Cuomo monitoring subway terror threat](#)
- [Power lines for Rochester electric project will be moved](#)
- [Cuomo says criticism of Christie is 'irresponsible'](#)
- [NYCLU: Criminal justice system 'rigged against poor folks'](#)

Capital New York state spending tracker: Sept. 25 **[\[back\]](#)**

By Will Brunelle | 5:08 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

Welcome to Capital's state spending tracker, a daily look at the biggest payments made by the state, and the most interesting new state contracts.

To allow the Comptroller's office to fully process all state actions, we analyze spending on a one-day lag.

Want the tracker delivered to you daily? Click on "spending tracker" under your Albany Pro settings, and you will have it in your inbox by 6 a.m. every weekday.

Questions or feedback? Email wbrunelle@capitalnewyork.com. ... [READ MORE](#)

Genting's 'shock-and-awe' casino strategy [\[back\]](#)

By Laura Nahmias | 5:15 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—Genting, the Malaysian gambling company vying to build casinos in the Hudson Valley, is taking no chances and sparing no expense in its attempt to win one of four available licenses from the state.

Genting's C.F.O. told the state casino board two weeks ago the company would pay \$450 million for a license, \$380 million more than the state requires for bidders in Orange County.

In a radio interview on "The Capitol Pressroom" on Wednesday morning, James Featherstonhaugh, president of the New York Gaming Association and an owner of Saratoga Raceway, said Genting is playing by the rules. ... [READ MORE](#)

The cost of Cuomo and Teachout's primary votes [\[back\]](#)

By Will Brunelle | 5:15 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—Zephyr Teachout spent \$3.82 for every vote she won in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, half as much as Governor Andrew Cuomo, according to filings with the state Board of Elections.

Teachout spent a total of \$695,575 against Cuomo, and received 34 percent of the vote in the Sept. 9 primary, far more than predicted.

A spokesman from Cuomo's campaign said that between the campaign committee and the Democratic State Committee, \$2.6 million was spent on Cuomo's run, coming out to \$7.89 for every vote he earned. ... [READ MORE](#)

Common Core foe could become Senate education chair [\[back\]](#)

By Jessica Bakeman | 5:38 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—State Senator George Latimer describes himself as the most outspoken New York Democrat against the Common Core standards.

He's also the ranking minority party member on the Senate education committee

and could replace Republican Senator John Flanagan as chair of the key panel should Democrats take control of the chamber in November.

That's not to say Latimer, a 60-year-old former marketing executive, is guaranteed the position. ... [READ MORE](#)

Report: Rockland most fiscally stressed community [\[back\]](#)

By Jimmy Vielkind | 5:38 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—Rockland County remains the most fiscally stressed community in New York and a long-delayed payment of gambling revenue has turned Niagara Falls' finances from bleak to sunny, according to a report by Comptroller Tom DiNapoli scheduled for release today.

The Democratic comptroller developed a systematized measure of fiscal stress for the state's municipalities after a wave of complaints prompted by a spike in required pension payments and the imposition of a property tax cap on top of the steady decline of upstate's urban tax bases.

Rockland County, just north of New York City, remains the most stressed community with a score of 86.7 percent, according to the report. The number is a product of the county's liquidity—its debt, cash reserves and tax base—as well as economic and environmental considerations including child poverty, state and federal assistance and unemployment. ... [READ MORE](#)

Power producers object to utility-owned, renewable power [\[back\]](#)

By David Giambusso | 5:45 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

A coalition of state power generators has weighed in with its strongest rebuke yet of the state's "Reforming Energy Vision" plan to dramatically increase the use of renewable energy sources throughout New York's power grid.

The Independent Power Producers of New York, a trade association of more than 100 state power generators, took exception to recent recommendations by the Public Service Commission that utilities own and operate "distributed energy resources," a policy term for clean energy sources.

"Staff's proposal to allow utilities to own D.E.R is flawed because there is no evidence that utility ownership is necessary to develop D.E.R. markets," lawyers for IPPNY wrote in comments filed with the P.S.C. this week. ... [READ MORE](#)

If Democrats take majority, Senate would take up fracking bills [\[back\]](#)

By Scott Waldman | 5:46 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—A number of bills to restrict fracking in New York State could make their way to the Senate floor if Democrats win control of the upper chamber in November.

The state has had a moratorium on fracking for six years. At the same time, Governor Andrew Cuomo has ordered the state health department to study the health risks of fracking but has not said when, or if, the study would be released. He also has shown no indication he will lift the moratorium—or decide whether to allow or ban fracking—any time soon.

In the Senate, where the breakaway Independent Democratic Conference and Republicans control the chamber, a number of anti-fracking bills have died in committee in recent years. But Democrats, particularly those in New York City whose constituents would not directly benefit from fracking-related jobs, have been waiting for years to get those bills to the floor. ... [READ MORE](#)

Stewart-Cousins set to stump for O'Brien [\[back\]](#)

By Josefa Velasquez | 5:46 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—Democratic conference leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins will be in Rochester on Thursday and Friday to campaign for State Senator Ted O'Brien, a top target for Republicans.

Stewart-Cousins will headline a fund-raiser for O'Brien on Thursday. On Friday she'll host a Women's Leadership breakfast with O'Brien's supporters, along with an event for faith leaders. She also plans to meet local constituents to tout O'Brien's accomplishments.

The appearance for O'Brien comes at a crucial time for Democrats, who have begun coordinating and mobilizing to re-take the Senate from Republican control. The party suffered a setback this week, when a candidate on Long Island withdrew from the race after a lawsuit alleged he had bilked clients of his law firm. (Stewart-Cousins canceled a fund-raiser for the candidate shortly before he withdrew.) ... [READ MORE](#)

Capital State Senate election tracker: September 25, 2014 [\[back\]](#)

By Brendan Cheney and Josefa Velasquez | 6:04 a.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

Welcome to Capital's State Senate election tracker. Below you'll find an interactive map with all 63 Senate districts and relevant information for each race, including the candidates, their campaign contribution totals as well as the outcome of the previous election and the party enrollment in the district. We've updated the campaign finance data where there was new data.

For a larger version of our map, [click here](#).

We have also made one big change to our categorizations. In the 8th district, we've changed it from a toss-up to likely Republican. The 8th district was previously occupied by Republican Chuck Fuschillo. ... [READ MORE](#)

Judge rejects NYSUT challenge to property tax cap [\[back\]](#)

By Jimmy Vielkind | 12:52 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—A trial court judge has rejected a challenge to the state's property tax cap brought by the state teachers' union.

Supreme Court Justice Patrick McGrath rejected every claim filed by the New York State United Teachers Union, which argued that the state property tax cap enacted in 2011 creates educational inequity, treats voters unfairly and impedes their rights to due process and expression.

Governor Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders adopted the law in 2011, hoping to stem the increase of property taxes in school districts and municipalities. Any increase higher than two percent must be approved by a 60-percent majority of either an elected board or the voters in general. ... [READ MORE](#)

State releases Open Space protection plan [\[back\]](#)

By Scott Waldman | 12:59 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—The state has released its draft Open Space Conservation Plan, which reveals a lack of dedicated funding to protect land and calls for that funding to "be restored and expanded" in the future.

The Open Space plan will be used to direct the state's future efforts to preserve open space and invest in farmland and watershed protection. The report lays out how the state intends to use its funds to protect outdoor recreation, address climate change and protect natural resources.

The state will utilize funds from the Environmental Protection Fund, which stands at \$157 million, down from \$250 million. The fund is used to protect Open Space and family farms, but also funds invasive-species eradication, solid waste management and water quality. ... [READ MORE](#)

De Blasio 'unaware' of groundhog's death [\[back\]](#)

By Gloria Pazmino | 1:08 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

A spokesman for Mayor Bill de Blasio said the administration was "unaware" that a Staten Island groundhog had died shortly after the mayor's visit, prior to a report in the New York Post this morning.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss," said Phil Walzak, the mayor's press secretary, in a statement to Capital.

Staten Island Chuck, which was actually a stand-in named Charlotte, squirmed out of de Blasio's hands in February, during the annual Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony, and fell about six feet to the ground. ... [READ MORE](#)

Cahill releases full poll to Board of Elections [\[back\]](#)

By Josefa Velasquez | 1:11 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—The campaign for Republican Attorney General candidate John Cahill has disclosed an internal poll with the state's Board of Elections, after being notified that releasing a few questions did not meet the board's requirements.

Cahill's campaign was required to file the internal poll with the B.O.E. after it sent a memo to donors citing the internal polling numbers, which was first reported by the Daily News.

Following the news of the internal poll, Cahill's campaign sent the B.O.E. a few select questions from the poll. The board's chief enforcement counsel, Risa Sugarman, subsequently notified Cahill's campaign in a letter that the questions submitted did not comply with the requirements, and asked that the poll be submitted in its entirety. ... [READ MORE](#)

DiNapoli faults NYPD for hate-crimes reporting, training [\[back\]](#)

By Azi Paybarah | 1:25 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

The New York Police Department underreported the number of hate crimes that took place in New York City, according to state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

In a press release announcing DiNapoli's finding, the comptroller's office said NYPD incident reports showed there were 371 hate crimes in New York City in 2010, but "because of misreporting by the NYPD" state records indicated there were only 350 hate crimes.

According to DiNapoli, "the NYPD had no formal central office analysis of, or corresponding action plan for, the bias-related crime data that was collected." ... [READ MORE](#)

De Blasio, Cuomo monitoring subway terror threat [\[back\]](#)

By Gloria Pazmino | 1:39 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

Following reports of a plot to attack subways in the United States and Paris, a spokesman for Mayor Bill de Blasio said his office and the police department are working with other law enforcement agencies to safeguard the city's security.

"The Mayor's office is aware of the reports and the City takes any threat seriously," said Phil Walzak, the mayor's press secretary, in a statement. "We are in close consultation with the NYPD and other law enforcement agencies."

The Associated Press reported Iraqi prime minister Haider al-Abadi told reporters at the United Nations on Thursday he had received information from Baghdad about captive Islamic State militants who told his intelligence agents of an alleged plot to attack subways in the United States and Paris. ... [READ MORE](#)

Power lines for Rochester electric project will be moved [\[back\]](#)

By Scott Waldman | 2:20 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a plan to run power lines across a federal conservation area rather than through the middle of a fourth-generation family farm near Rochester.

The power lines are one of two primary sticking points in a proposal by a Spanish utility giant to construct electric grid infrastructure in the middle of the Krenzer farm in the town of Chili. Regulators have said the \$250 million project by Rochester Gas & Electric, a subsidiary of Spain's Iberdrola, is essential to meet the growing power

demand of the Rochester area and head off looming shortages.

The Krenzer family has been fighting plans to build an 11-acre substation and access roads in the middle of their farm. Construction was to include transmission lines along the property. ... [READ MORE](#)

Cuomo says criticism of Christie is 'irresponsible' [\[back\]](#)

By Jimmy Vielkind | 2:32 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—Governor Andrew Cuomo said today it was “irresponsible” of his Republican opponent to criticize his recent appearances at security briefings with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, the head of the Republican Governors Association.

Speaking to reporters in the Hudson Valley on Wednesday, Westchester County executive Rob Astorino said “everything the governor does is through the prism of politics” and that he was “not so sure Governor Christie would want to be hanging out with Governor Cuomo.”

Astorino has faulted Christie for not doing anything to help his electoral efforts—which Christie dismissed as a “lost cause”—and suggested Cuomo and Christie have an agreement of mutual non-aggression. ... [READ MORE](#)

NYCLU: Criminal justice system 'rigged against poor folks' [\[back\]](#)

By Will Brunelle | 2:50 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

ALBANY—Calling on passersby to “take a spin on the Wheel of Justice,” the New York Civil Liberties Union held a press conference in front of the Capitol on Thursday to garner support for a lawsuit that argues the state is shirking its duty to provide adequate legal counsel for poor defendants.

The suit, filed in 2007 on behalf of 20 criminal defendants, alleges “the criminal justice system in New York State ... is rigged against poor folks,” NYCLU legislative director Robert Perry said. The lawsuit demonstrates New York’s failure “to assume its responsibility to fund, provide standards, [and] provide oversight” for a comprehensive public defense system, instead placing the responsibility on individual counties, he said.

In a mock game of Wheel of Fortune, press conference attendees were asked to spin the “Wheel of Justice,” with the panels labeled with “prizes” describing the plight of actual defendants who had used the state’s public defense systems. ... [READ MORE](#)

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From: [Capital Pro](#)
To: [Grybauskas, Natalie](#)
Subject: Whiteboard: Ignizio: Let the experts handle groundhogs
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:18:02 PM

Ignizio: Let the experts handle groundhogs

By Gloria Pazmino

3:17 p.m. | Sep. 25, 2014

City Councilman Vincent Ignizio of Staten Island suggested Thursday that the handling of groundhogs be left to the experts.

Ignizio's comments came after a *New York Post* [report](#) that Staten Island Chuck had died a week after squirming out of Mayor Bill de Blasio's hands and falling head first to the ground during a Groundhog Day ceremony at the Staten Island Zoo.

"The Groundhog Day ceremony at the Staten Island Zoo is an extremely popular national event, and the professionals there do a great job with an animal that—as we have all seen—can be very difficult to handle," Ignizio, a Republican, said. "But for that reason, I think the handling of the groundhog may be best left to professionals."

Phil Walzak, the mayor's press secretary, said earlier Thursday that the mayor's office was not aware of Chuck's death but were sorry for the loss.

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:28:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Here is what you might include

The mayor's office said that while there have been no discussions about canceling the Groundhog Day event, there may be a different approach to groundhog-handling employed next year...

does that help?

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:30 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

don't worry, i'm gonna blame da gloves. look at the video, and look at how they do it in punxsutawney. bare hands, under the armpits, easy grip, no bite, no problem.



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From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:57 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

"I am so sorry. It was my fault. I will do better next time, and never wear those gloves again."

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:56 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
ill try to offer a pithy reply!

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
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clarify "Accept responsibility"?

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look at FOX 5!

anyway, what can we do for you on this?

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

Staten Island Chuck, the groundhog held and dropped by Mayor de Blasio earlier this year, died shortly after the fall. [*Juliet Huddy: "Well first of all, he didn't drop him. The animal squirmed away. Let's be honest here."*] The NY Post says it was found dead in its enclosure on February 9th, seven days after the mayor dropped it. Sources tell the people that an autopsy found acute internal injuries consistent with a fall. The Post also says the groundhog was not Chuck, but Charlotte, a female stand-in. They did not want Chuck to take part after he previously bit Mayor Bloomberg. [*Juliet Huddy: "Mayor de Blasio is like 7'6 - I mean, he is a gigantic man. I think he can handle holding a little groundhog." Ben Simmoneau: "Evidently not."*]

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babies aren't groundhogs - they move and act different.

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Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:01 PM

To: Walzak, Phil

Subject: Re: on a small matter

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Mr. Downes:

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Kindly,

Phillip T Walzak

Groundhog Dies After Escaping NYC Mayor's Grip

By [JONATHAN LEMIRE](#)

NEW YORK (AP) — Her shadow was one of the last things she saw.

The groundhog that escaped Mayor Bill de Blasio's grasp during this year's Staten Island Zoo

Groundhog Day ceremony died a week after the fall.

But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte.

Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of Twitter jokes about a #Groundhogazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment.

"We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said.

This was de Blasio's first time doing the annual ceremony. He wore heavy work gloves on the cold winter day, in part as a safety precaution after Chuck bit Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

A zoo spokesman said Thursday that the groundhog's handler "may not have been forceful enough" in placing the animal in de Blasio's hands, preventing the mayor from getting a firm grip. The groundhog quickly squirmed away from the mayor and plummeted to the ground.

"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

But on the morning of Feb. 9, the animal was found dead in its exhibit. A necropsy performed by the zoo veterinarian indicated that the animal died of internal injuries.

"We don't know how the animal suffered the injuries but we don't think it was from the fall," Morris said. "We believe it happened sometime the night before she was found dead."

Morris also revealed that the zoo has four groundhogs, all with the variations of the brand name "Chuck." On the morning of Feb. 2, zoo staff selects which of the groundhogs will participate in the ceremony and be dubbed Chuck.

"It's usually whichever groundhog is the least grouchy that day," Morris said. "This is a time of year when genetics tell them to be hibernating. They can be in a bad mood."

Morris confirmed that the zoo did not tell the mayor's office about the death.

"There was no reason to do it," he said. "It's not like we were trying to spare the mayor's feelings."

Groundhogs live about seven years, Morris said. He confirmed that the Chuck that bit Bloomberg has died.

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

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you could say it's bloomberg's fault. 1) he got bitten, 2) someone decided: gloves, and 3) a groundhog lies dead.

but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence



From: [Laurence Paverd](#)
To: [Canfield, Elyn](#)
Cc: [Anthony Larrisey](#); [Travis Bloom](#)
Subject: Re: Introductions & Meetings - Industria-Creative
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:05:29 PM

Elyn,

"Finally, canoe??! We must discuss more."

How embarrassing, I now realize we didn't give you the full tour of our office. The canoe **IS** our bar. Not a far stretch to realize it is the bar, at times, that keeps us afloat.

Next time ... a more exclusive & select few for cocktails, so that you can get a more full view of our bar, The Canoe. Anthony (Principal, Creative Director, Sommelier & Resident Mixologist) adjusts our cocktail menu seasonally. I believe we're heading into Dark & Stormy months. Our condolences, I'm not sure how we missed the news about Staten Island Chuck.

Best
Laurence.

INDUSTRIA CREATIVE

a boutique experiential marketing agency

LAURENCE PAVERD

Managing Director

+1 917 660 6411 m

laurence@industria-creative.com

304 Hudson Street, No 507

New York, NY 10013

www.industria-creative.com

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 6:15:49 PM
Attachments: [Groundhog.docx](#)

***Here is our statement:

“We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss.” from me as press secretary

***Attached is statement from SI Zoo on this – pls have a look, it says SI Chuck writhing and squirming away from mayor not related to his death a week later.

Groundhog

As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor’s grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian, which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal’s death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

***Also this quote from SI Assemblyman Titone -

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio->

[groundhog-day-article-1.1952353](#)

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Mayor Blamed For Death Of Groundhog

[FOX 5 - Juliet Huddy - 5:12 am](#)

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Phillip Walzak

Press Secretary

Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio

O: 212-788-2958

C: 917-455-8420

pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov

twitter: [@ptwalzak](#)

From: Brian Morris [\[mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org\]](mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org)
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

Groundhog

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Downes, Lawrence"](#)
Subject: RE: on a small matter
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:58:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

fun piece

From: Downes, Lawrence [mailto:downes@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 3:29 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: on a small matter

sure, thanks!

i think we are on same page.

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By [JONATHAN LEMIRE](#)

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But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte.

Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of Twitter jokes about a #Groundhoghazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment.

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A zoo spokesman said Thursday that the groundhog's handler "may not have been forceful enough" in placing the animal in de Blasio's hands, preventing the mayor from getting a firm grip. The groundhog quickly squirmed away from the mayor and plummeted to the ground.

"It was a complete bungle," zoo spokesman Brian Morris said in an interview.

Morris said the animal was given a thorough medical examination in the hours after the incident, and the check-up "revealed no evidence of trauma or pain." The groundhog then participated in several events over the next week with no obvious ill effects from the fall.

But on the morning of Feb. 9, the animal was found dead in its exhibit. A necropsy performed by the zoo veterinarian indicated that the animal died of internal injuries.

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but deB has the solution in his (bare) hands.

i might do a blog post.

lawrence



From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Flegenheimer, Matt"](#)
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:59:59 PM

srsly, a good read

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/26/nyregion/a-groundhog-day-whodunit-the-mystery-of-chucks-death.html?ref=nyregion>

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:55 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
thnx

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

(and yes, spoke to Titone)

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:50 PM, Flegenheimer, Matt <matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com> wrote:

I think there should clearly be a deputy mayor for rodent trauma

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:46 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
[Mayors office refers inquires to the Staten Island Zoo](#) on these assessments and has no reason to dispute the findings

off record: whats a reasonable expectation here? this was 7 months ago, mayor and team just learned abt this and neither the mayor nor his staff are veterinarians

did you talk to Titone?

From: Matt Flegenheimer [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Attributable?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2014, at 12:41 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

id say we trust the zoo's assessment

From: Walzak, Phil
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:52 AM
To: matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com
Subject: FW: ground hog

not for attribution, but since we only learned of this incident this week, we can only go on what we have been told by people who are in a position to know.

***From SI Zoo

Groundhog

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During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian, which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

***This quote from SI Assemblyman Titone -
<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio-groundhog-day-article-1.1952353>

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: [212-788-2958](tel:212-788-2958)
C: [917-455-8420](tel:917-455-8420)
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: Brian Morris [<mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

From: [Azi Paybarah, Jimmy Vielkind, and Mike Allen](#)
To: [Norvell, Wiley](#)
Subject: Capital Playbook, presented by AT&T -- SAFE-SUBWAYS DAY -- JETER'S STORYBOOK NIGHT
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 6:17:57 AM

By Azi Paybarah in Manhattan and Jimmy Vielkind in Albany, with Mike Allen in Washington

SUBWAY SAFETY -- 'The New Normal' -- Capital's Dana Rubinstein, Sally Goldenberg and Azi Paybarah: To prove the subways are safe, Governor Andrew Cuomo and M.T.A chairman Tom Pendergrast rode from the World Trade Center to Penn Station. Cuomo: " I'm riding the subway system and so should every New Yorker. ... there is no specific credible information about any specific threat to the New York City subway system." Cuomo referred to this heightened state of alert as "the new normal."

-- **Mayor Bill De Blasio and police commissioner Bill Bratton rode** from the Brooklyn Bridge to Union Square. De Blasio said his administration is "in close contact, close coordination with the federal government" about possible threats. De Blasio has yet to obtain federal security clearance. A spokeswoman for Cuomo said he has top secret clearance from the federal government. <http://goo.gl/D6UeWz>

SECURITY -- Capital's Dana Rubinstein: "[Cuomo and de Blasio], however, were reluctant to discuss the biggest issue facing the city's subway system as of last night: the M.T.A.'s \$32 billion capital plan, which was released on Wednesday, includes all sorts of measures to harden the system against terrorism, and has a gaping 15.2 billion funding gap. 'I have no worry about the funding,' the governor said ... De Blasio said, 'There's been a close security cooperation between NYPD and M.T.A. and we will work together to determine what kind of resources are needed for the future. I haven't seen the specifics of that plan but it's the kind of thing we work on all the time.'" <http://goo.gl/oGAJWC>

--**"New York officials scramble to reassure city after security threat," by Reuters' Ellen Wulforst:** "New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio each had the same idea - take a subway ride to a busy transit hub to announce that everything was under control." <http://reut.rs/1u2LiI5>

TABS-- Post: "Jeter goes out a WINNER!" -- **New:** "2 PERFECT!" -- **Metro:** "De Blasio: "Subway is safe" -- **amNY:** "2 PERFECT!" -- **Village Voice:** "'I WAS CHOKED BY THE NYPD"

FRONT PAGES -- Times, 3-col below the fold: "Mayor's Fault or Not, Groundhog Had an Early Fall" -- **WSJ,** 1-col above the fold: "City Slow to Release Park Crime Statistics"

TALKER -- Times A1, "Mayor's Fault or Not, Fatal or Not, Groundhog Had an Early Fall," by NYT's Matt Flegenheimer: "A sudden death. A mayor in yellow suede gloves. A fall — or was it two? — that might have proved fatal. And a groundhog named Chuck, until it wasn't. On Thursday, Mayor Bill de Blasio stood accused of inadvertent rodenticide stemming from an episode in February, when, amid the pageantry of Groundhog Day shadow-viewing, he dropped the star of the early-morning event. According to an article in The New York Post, Charles G. Hogg,

known as Chuck to Staten Island Zoo visitors, died one week later of 'internal injuries' that were 'consistent with a fall.' Also, 'Chuck' was in fact a female, named Charlotte. The article alleged a cover-up by the zoo on both fronts. By midmorning, though, the mystery had deepened, as zoo officials and a local Democratic assemblyman presented an alternative timeline that seemed to absolve the mayor." <http://nyti.ms/1n72P1a>

-- **"Zoo in coverup after groundhog dropped by de Blasio dies," by New York Post's Tacopino, Campanile and O'Neill:** Mayor Bill de Blasio has groundhog blood on his hands!

A week after Hizzoner dropped Staten Island Chuck in front of a crowd of spectators on Feb. 2, the winter-weather prognosticator died of internal injuries — and then the coverup began, The Post has learned. ... Staten Island Zoo officials went to great lengths to hide the death from the public. ... Staten Island Zoo officials went to great lengths to hide the death from the public — and keep secret the fact that "Chuck" was actually "Charlotte," a female impostor, sources said Wednesday. <http://bit.ly/1mXkjgh>

**** A message from AT&T: Can smart phones improve traffic safety?** We think so. That's why AT&T teamed up with the NYC Department of Transportation, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering, General Assembly, Adafruit and Challenge Post to create the *Connected Intersections* traffic safety tech innovation challenge. And you can be a part of the solution by helping us choose the winning developer! Check out the competitors and their solutions and vote for the technology you think would best help keep NYC Streets safe: <http://intersections.challengepost.com/> **

SIENA POLL HAS CUOMO UP BY 29; CAHILL GAINS — Capital's Jimmy Vielkind: John Cahill is gaining ground in his bid to unseat Democratic Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, but the incumbent Democrat still leads by 16 points with 50 percent of voters saying they're ready to re-elect him, according to a new poll. The [Siena Research Institute](#) found that Cahill, a Pataki administration aide, has more momentum than his partners on the Republican's statewide ticket; in August, Siena showed Schneiderman with a 54-27 lead over Cahill. Governor Andrew Cuomo leads Westchester County executive Rob Astorino 56-27, with seven percent of the 809 likely voters surveyed saying they would support Howie Hawkins on the Green Party line. That result is [essentially unchanged from August](#). <http://bit.ly/1ojNBkp>

-- **Read Siena's cross-tabs:** <http://bit.ly/Yfarmj>

-- **The generally conservative Rasmussen Reports** finds that the governor's race is much tighter, with Cuomo at 49 and Astorino at 32. <http://bit.ly/1rgBv1g>

SPEED READ -- "Find a F--king Bike Lane and Get in It,' State Senator Yells at Cyclists," by DNAinfo's Nicholas Rizzi: "A state senator told her Facebook followers she drives through Staten Island yelling at cyclists to 'find a f--king bike lane.' 'I just scream at them out the window of my car,' State Sen. Diane Savino wrote about passing cyclists. ... Savino was commenting on a Facebook post about a pedestrian killed by a cyclist in Central Park last week. Eben Weiss, who writes the blog, Bike Snob NYC, drew attention to Savino's comments on Twitter and on his site on Thursday. 'A state senator bragging on Facebook about engaging in acts of road rage is inappropriate, alarming and representative of a disregard for public safety,' Weiss [said]." <http://dnainfo.com/1pvimSJ>

--**"The President and the Tow Truck Driver," by The Daily Beast's Michael Daly:** "The New York cops call him the tow truck driver to the presidents. ... [Clarence] Baugh is the longtime driver of the tow truck in the 'sweep team' that precedes all presidential motorcades through New York, ever ready to remove any and all obstructing vehicles. ... 'He has served every president since the first Bush, and he never met one,'" another police commander said. ... [Until now.] 'I said, "The Secret Service called me. I'm going to meet the president,'" Baugh would recall."
With a Pete Souza picture: <http://thebea.st/ZV52IP>

REMEMBERING JOHN SLATTERY -- Newsday's Verne Gay: "John Slattery, the veteran reporter for WCBS/2 and one of the best-known figures on local TV of the last quarter-century, died unexpectedly at his home in Westchester in the overnight hours Wednesday. ... Slattery, who was 63, reported on many of the biggest breaking news stories in New York over the span of his career, including the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. Indeed, during the early hours following the attacks on Sept. 11, Slattery's reports continued largely uninterrupted because Channel 2's transmitter was atop the Empire State Building ... Slattery, who won four local Emmy Awards, also covered the emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, the 1994 subway bombing that injured more than 40 people, and superstorm Sandy and its aftermath." <http://nwsdy.li/1xoYERC>

SIGN UP FOR CAPITAL TRIVIA NIGHT IN ALBANY: Join us for our first-ever Capital Pro Trivia Night in Albany! Come test your knowledge over drinks and appetizers with fellow Capital Pros on Tuesday, Sept. 30 as our Albany bureau chief Jimmy Vielkind tees up questions on all things policy, politics and media. Enter a team of four from your organization and win bragging rights in the next edition of Albany Pro as the savviest group in Albany. RSVP to Emily Holman at eholman@capitalnewyork.com for location details.

JEFF KLEIN'S POWER PLAY—Capital's Jimmy Vielkind: There are 25 seats Republicans should win without much of an issue and 21 Democrats can put in their corner. Seven races are considered competitive (things got easier this week when Democratic candidate [Dave Denenberg withdrew](#) amid allegations he defrauded his law clients) and there are three wild card senators: the [ever-flirting](#) Ruben Diaz Sr. of the Bronx, [I'll-go-with-whomever's-in-charge](#) Simcha Felder of Brooklyn and John Sampson, a Brooklyn Democrat who was expelled from his party's conference because he's facing [two federal indictments](#). (He's pleaded not guilty to all charges.) ... Since the most likely electoral outcome is somewhere in between, Klein can be plausibly courted by both sides. As Larry Levy, a political columnist and Hofstra University dean [told Newsday](#), "It makes a big mess even messier." And it means that on any issue where there's daylight between either Klein and the Democrats or Klein and the Republicans—which is basically every issue—Klein will be the king. If his bilateral relevance is assured, Klein can flip from side to side on any given issue, ensuring the dominance of his own moderate political brand. <http://bit.ly/1vkXLX4>

N.Y. YOGURT MAKES OLYMPICS—Syracuse Post-Standard's Mark Weiner: Chobani Greek yogurt will be the yogurt of the U.S. Olympic team until at least 2020. <http://bit.ly/1roJ4lp>

THE HOME TEAMS -- Capital's Howard Megdal: Mets 7, Nationals 4; Nationals 3, Mets 0: Dillon Gee got roughed up in the opener, but Curtis Granderson had three hits and three RBI in the afternoon win. Gio Gonzalez dominated the Mets in the nightcap, striking out 12.

--**Yankees 6, Orioles 5:** Incredible. Derek Jeter, in his final home game at Yankee Stadium, didn't seem like he'd even get an extra turn at bat. But David Robertson blew a 5-2 lead, Jeter stepped up with a man at second and one out, and Jeter lined a game-winning single to right field. An absolutely perfect ending to his career—perhaps only rivaled by the Ted Williams homer immortalized in John Updike's "Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu."

--**Giants 45, Redskins 14:** Those who buried the Giants, now 2-2, may have been premature. Eli Manning not only threw for four touchdowns, he ran for another.

COFFEE BREAK -- "Shadows Return to Ellis Island," by NYT's Melena Ryzik: "In the century-old photo, seven children gaze straight at the camera, looking hopeful or somber, or perhaps simply stunned at their surroundings. They have just landed on Ellis Island. ... Their experience might have been forgotten, the photo buried with countless others in an archive. Instead, this black-and-white portrait has been revived, blown up to life-size and pasted across a broken window in the former Ellis Island Immigrant Hospital in New York harbor. ... The image is part of a new installation, 'Unframed — Ellis Island,' by the French artist JR, which brings this landmark building, its patients and staff members, to grainy but wrenching life. It is the first time in 60 years that the Ellis Island hospital has been open to the public. Tickets [went] on sale Thursday for guided tours that begin on Oct. 1." <http://nyti.ms/1BeW1PY>

**** A message from AT&T:** Submissions for AT&T's *Connected Intersections* are in with an array of technological solutions that use smart phones, wearable devices and wireless communications networks to increase NYC's street smarts. Even if you didn't create an app you can still participate in the challenge by voting for the technology you think best connects people in traffic on crowded streets, helps improve traffic safety and keeps pedestrians alert and safe. Public voting is from September 14-30. Winners will be announced in October. **Learn more and vote here:** <http://intersections.challengepost.com/> **

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<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/playbook>

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From: [Elizabeth Forel](#)
To: [Viguers, Jonathan](#); [Carrion, Marco A.](#); [Santucci, Laura](#); [Wolfe, Emma](#); [Barrios-Paoli, Lilliam](#)
Subject: Next year - Nix the ground hog
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 6:44:01 AM

Please stop this silly, selfish and ridiculous tradition that has caused only embarrassment for both Mayor deBlasio and Mayor Bloomberg. Did you know that Staten Island Chuck got his own anti Bloomberg facebook page after he bit the former mayor's finger?

It is inhumane and cruel to wake a hibernating ground hog because it interferes with their natural cycle. He is roused to an unnatural waking state with TV cameras and lights in his face; lots of strange people. He is not a domesticated cat or dog. He is a wild animal whose boundaries should be respected.

Please think about it. People need to grow up and stop the cruelty.

deBlasio needs to be the first mayor next year to put an end to this. I think you will find many people would agree with that decision.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **wildwatch** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 8:32 PM
Subject: [giddy-up] Sad! A groundhog that leapt from the arms of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio at a Groundhog Day celebration died about a week after the fall, zoo officials say.
To: giddy-up-for-animals@googlegroups.com

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-29371711>

--

Elizabeth Forel / President
[Coalition to Ban Horse-Drawn Carriages](#)
[Horses Without Carriages International](#)
[No Walk in the Park](#) - Facebook
[BanHDCarriages](#) - Twitter

you can't defeat an idea whose time has come

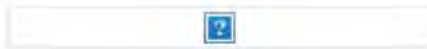
From: [DNAinfo Staten Island Newsletter](#)
To: [Brooks, Selvena](#)
Subject: "Find a F--king Bike Lane and Get in It," State Senator Yells at Cyclists
Date: Friday, September 26, 2014 9:04:47 AM



September 26, 2014
High 75° F | Low 60° F | Sunny

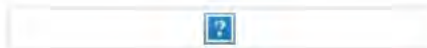
Staten Island

Top Stories



'Find a F--king Bike Lane and Get in It,' State Senator Yells at Cyclists

State Sen. Diane Savino's Facebook comments angered biking advocates Thursday.



Grand Jury to Start Hearing Evidence on Eric Garner's Death Monday

Garner died from an apparent chokehold while being arrested on Staten Island.



WATCH: Staten Island Chuck Impersonator Died After Being Dropped by Mayor

The groundhog died of internal injuries after the fall, the New York Post reported.





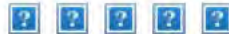
Ex-Con Fatally Shoots Man for Asking 'What Are You Looking At?'

Delano Hubert fatally shot Cesar Sanchez after he felt Sanchez disrespected him, police said.



6 Things for You to Do in New York City's Neighborhoods This Weekend

The weekend's most interesting events are here for you in one handy guide.



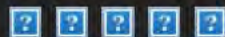
Armed Robbers Steal Cabbie's Cash, GPS and Cellphone Battery, Police Say

Two men robbed a cab driver on Staten Island, police said.



Senior De Blasio Aide Dates Convicted Killer Who Calls Police 'Pigs'


Rachel Noerdlinger, the first lady's chief of staff, lives with an ex-con who rips police on Facebook.



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DNAinfo.com 810 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10019 USA

From: [SILive.com Newsletters](#)
To: [Fall, Charles](#)
Subject: Your Morning News Updates for September 27, 2014
Date: Saturday, September 27, 2014 6:00:58 AM

If you cannot read this e-mail, please try the [Web Page version](#)

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Saturday, September 27, 2014


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Today's Headlines

With the **Staten Island Advance**

10 great things to do on Staten Island this weekend: From Stapleton 'Street Games' to a Freshkills 'Sneak'

 STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Got game? "Street Games" is your chance to prove it. The Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership (HTCP) — in partnership with the City Parks, Sen. Diane J. Savino, 120 Police Precinct and HealthPlus —...

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Shooting victim Cesar Sanchez remembered during candlelight vigil in Dongan Hills

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Even as a child, Cesar Sanchez put other people's happiness...

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Culture Lounge exhibit asks: What would you change about Staten Island?

Have your say in the comments section: what would you change? W...

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Tottenville man pleads guilty to robbery, sentenced to 9 years in prison

A Tottenville man pleaded guilty to robbery in the first

 **Blogs: Staten Island's Shores**
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Whether East, West, North, or South, get the latest from your shore, and talk to your

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Colbert Report rips 'suspicious death' of Staten Island Chuck

As part of Stephen Colbert's ongoing "thirst for justice," the late night comedi...

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'A lot of heavy hearts' at second-chance high school program where shooting victim Cesar Sanchez graduated in June

"He was always that person that saw this place as an opportunity to succeed to d...

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: [Michael Gartland \(mgartland@nypost.com\)](mailto:mgartland@nypost.com)
Subject: FW: NYP: De Blasio dodges questions on groundhog death
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:16:15 PM

c'mon, really?

De Blasio dodges questions on groundhog death

NY POST – Michael Gartland, Danika Fears – 1:07 pm

<http://nypost.com/2014/09/29/deblasio-dodges-questions-on-groundhog-death/>

Mayor Bill de Blasio still won't admit he's got groundhog blood on his hands.

Hizzoner on Monday dodged questions regarding his involvement in the death of Charlotte, who was playing the part of Staten Island Chuck on Feb. 2 when he dropped her, causing internal injuries.

Her death, and the Staten Island Zoo's attempt to cover it up, was first reported by The Post last week.

"I found out as all of you found out," de Blasio said Monday. "I had no idea previously."

De Blasio wouldn't say whether he has plans to participate in the Groundhog Day ceremony next year, instead punting questions to the zoo.

When asked a second time, de Blasio retreated from the podium, effectively ending the press conference.

The mayor did say he'd let the zoo decide whether to change the protocol regarding the handling of the furry forecasters.

###

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "Michael Gartland"
Subject: RE: FW: NYP: De Blasio dodges questions on groundhog death
Date: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:26:48 PM

no it is now....a short answer is not a retreat

Question: Are you concerned that anything you did contributed to the death of –

Mayor: I've spoken to it. Talk to the Staten Island Zoo. Thanks, guys.

From: Michael Gartland [mailto:mgartland@nypost.com]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 2:26 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: FW: NYP: De Blasio dodges questions on groundhog death

Is that not an accurate portrayal?

On Mon, Sep 29, 2014 at 2:16 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
c'mon, really?

De Blasio dodges questions on groundhog death

NY POST – Michael Gartland, Danika Fears – 1:07 pm

<http://nypost.com/2014/09/29/deblasio-dodges-questions-on-groundhog-death/>

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The mayor did say he'd let the zoo decide whether to change the protocol regarding the handling of the furry forecasters.

###

--

Michael Gartland
NY Post
551-208-6570
mgartland@nypost.com
@michaelgartland

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "Matt Flegenheimer"
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:22:56 PM

whats your sked like next few days

From: Matt Flegenheimer [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:13 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Thank you sir. We still have to grab lunch. You around tomorrow?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2014, at 7:59 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

srsly, a good read

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/26/nyregion/a-groundhog-day-whodunit-the-mystery-of-chucks-death.html?ref=nyregion>

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:55 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
thnx

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

(and yes, spoke to Titone)

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:50 PM, Flegenheimer, Matt <matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com> wrote:
I think there should clearly be a deputy mayor for rodent trauma

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:46 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
[Mayors office refers inquires to the Staten Island Zoo](#) on these assessments and has no reason to dispute the findings

off record: whats a reasonable expectation here? this was 7 months ago, mayor and team just learned abt this and neither the mayor nor his staff are veterinarians

did you talk to Titone?

From: Matt Flegenheimer [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Attributable?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2014, at 12:41 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

id say we trust the zoo's assessment

From: Walzak, Phil
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:52 AM
To: matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com
Subject: FW: ground hog

not for attribution, but since we only learned of this incident this week, we can only go on what we have been told by people who are in a position to know.

***From SI Zoo

Groundhog

As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor's grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian,

which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

***This quote from SI Assemblyman Titone -
<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio-groundhog-day-article-1.1952353>

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: [212-788-2958](tel:212-788-2958)
C: [917-455-8420](tel:917-455-8420)
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: Brian Morris [<mailto:bmorris@statenislandzoo.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: "Flegenheimer, Matt"
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:27:31 PM

cool
fri?

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:24 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Should be around tomorrow and Friday both

On Wed, Oct 1, 2014 at 4:22 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
whats your sked like next few days

From: Matt Flegenheimer [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:13 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Thank you sir. We still have to grab lunch. You around tomorrow?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2014, at 7:59 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

srsly, a good read

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/26/nyregion/a-groundhog-day-whodunit-the-mystery-of-chucks-death.html?ref=nyregion>

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:55 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
thnx

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

(and yes, spoke to Titone)

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:50 PM, Flegenheimer, Matt

<matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com> wrote:

I think there should clearly be a deputy mayor for rodent trauma

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:46 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

Mayors office refers inquires to the Staten Island Zoo on these assessments and has no reason to dispute the findings

off record: whats a reasonable expectation here? this was 7 months ago, mayor and team just learned abt this and neither the mayor nor his staff are veterinarians

did you talk to Titone?

From: Matt Flegenheimer [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:42 PM

To: Walzak, Phil

Subject: Re: ground hog

Attributable?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2014, at 12:41 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

id say we trust the zoo's assessment

From: Walzak, Phil

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:52 AM

To: matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com

Subject: FW: ground hog

not for attribution, but since we only learned of this incident this week, we can only go on what we have been told by people who are in a position to know.

***From SI Zoo

Groundhog

As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor's grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed

no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian, which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

***This quote from SI Assemblyman Titone - <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio-groundhog-day-article-1.1952353>

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: [212-788-2958](tel:212-788-2958)

C: [917-455-8420](tel:917-455-8420)
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: Brian Morris [\[mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org\]](mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org)
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

From: [Azi Paybarah - Capital New York](#)
To: [Grybauskas, Natalie](#)
Subject: City Hall Pro, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund: De Blasio woos DNC, Langone roasts mayor
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:45:28 AM

Written by Azi Paybarah, with Eliza Shapiro, Gloria Pazmino and Conor Skelding

WAKE-UP SCOOP -- DE BLASIO COURTS DNC -- Capital's Sally Goldenberg:

Mayor Bill de Blasio is intensifying his push for the city to host the 2016 Democratic National Convention. This morning, de Blasio will hold a breakfast meeting at the Upper East Side estate with about 70 members of the city's host committee, an administration source said. On Monday, the mayor, first lady Chirlane McCray and Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, discussed the city's proposal over lunch at Gracie Mansion.

-- **A video and a Ratner pitch:** According to the City Hall source, de Blasio will emphasize the novelty of hosting the convention in Brooklyn, rather than in Manhattan, where other presidential nominating conventions have been held. Developer Bruce Ratner is also expected to address the meeting, the source said. And they will debut a two-minute video that portrays New York as an accessible, pulsating, diverse city. **See the video:** <http://bit.ly/1xEdcwM>

DE BLASIO ROASTED AT AL SMITH DINNER -- Daily News' Erin Durkin: "I don't see the person in charge of the NYPD up here tonight - Al Sharpton," [Ken Langone] cracked in the most pointed zinger at the annual dinner, which draws a host of city luminaries including Mayor de Blasio and Gov. Cuomo who subject themselves to a ribbing to raise cash for Catholic Charities. Bratton, seated behind the Home Depot founder on the dais full of notables in white ties and tails, greeted the joke with a hearty laugh. ...

Langone also protested that his much-criticized remarks comparing rhetoric on income inequality to Nazi Germany was taken out of context. "I was just saying the world should be wary of German populists - but enough about Bill de Blasio," he cracked. De Blasio was roundly mocked for losing his grip on groundhog "Staten Island Chuck," a fumble that may have contributed to the animal's death a week later. <http://nydn.us/1mT55bO>

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SHAKEUP AT POLICE OVERSIGHT BODY -- HuffPo's Matt Sledge: Ahead of tonight's vote on a personnel matter, one mayoral appointee and one NYPD appointee have left the 13-member board. Mohammad Khalid was a Bloomberg appointee whose replacement de Blasio has not yet named; the NYPD has not announced who is replacing Jules Martin, who is the second NYPD appointee to quit the CCRB. Last month, CCRB veteran Tosano Simonetti departed. <http://goo.gl/by6h4w>

-- **Flashback: August 25, 2014:** Eight of the CCRB's 13 board members were serving with expired terms. <http://goo.gl/HuQ8Dg>

TWEET OF THE DAY: "NOT Bernie Kerik...but how about Ray Kelly to head Secret Service?" via - @MarkjGreen. <http://goo.gl/5PAhC4>

NEW ON TWITTER: [@OIGNYPD](https://twitter.com/OIGNYPD), the office of Inspector General for the NYPD

DEEP DIVE -- City & State takes a look at the de Blasio's first management report which "shows mixed results in meeting some of his early goals" Nick Powell: <http://bit.ly/1pGGPop>

THE COUNCIL --

MMV, PUERTO RICO AND TWITTER -- Observer's Jillian Jorgensen: Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito will travel to Puerto Rico today to speak at the Puerto Rican Public Relations Association Conference, where she'll discuss new media and

her own prominent presence on Twitter. "I'm going to try to encourage the use of social media to get a message across," Ms. Mark-Viverito told the Observer in a brief interview in her City Hall office.

-- **Speaker prefers Twitter over Facebook:** While the new- and social media-focused conference isn't entirely Twitter-centric, that's the one social media platform that the speaker personally prefers. "I know some of my colleagues use Facebook a lot. That's one that doesn't speak to me," she said. <http://bit.ly/1v7H5AX>

Flashback -- The Times profiled the speaker's use of the social platform: <http://nyti.ms/1nNeqD3>

SLOWING NYC DOWN -- Capital's Gloria Pazmino: Department of Transportation commissioner Polly Trottenberg said the agency fully supports a City Council proposal to reduce the citywide speed limit to 25 mph. If passed, the measure would be another step in Mayor Bill de Blasio's Vision Zero plan to eliminate all traffic-related deaths in the city. "By passing Intro 466, the Council can put finishing touches on one of the centerpieces of Vision Zero," Trottenberg said, noting that speeding is the leading cause of traffic fatalities and serious injuries. "[Speeding] actually kills more New Yorkers than drunk driving and drivers distracted by cellphones combined." <http://bit.ly/1rGGk1y>

HPD SUPPORTS INCREASED FINES, UNCLEAR ABOUT ENFORCEMENT -- Capital's Gloria Pazmino: One of the measures would allow the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to expand its Alternative Enforcement Program, which catalogues the city's worst buildings based on violations. Under the proposal, the number of buildings in the program would increase from 200 to 280.

-- **Big goal to meet:** Vito Mustaciuolo, H.P.D.'s deputy commissioner for enforcement and neighborhood services, said that while he supports the idea, the Council's goal of adding 80 buildings might be hard to meet: "We do not believe that this support is sufficient to address an additional 80 buildings per year," he said. "After reviewing our budget needs, H.P.D. supports an increase of 50 buildings per year at this time." <http://bit.ly/ZsMzgr>

Today at the Council:

-- **The committee on land use will meet** on at 11 a.m. at City Hall to hear the items from the planning and zoning subcommittees.

-- **The economic development committee will meet** at 1 p.m. at City Hall to conduct oversight of the effectiveness of the city's tax benefits to businesses.

FOLLOW Capital's Council Tracker to keep up with the latest bills being introduced, relevant legislation and important upcoming hearings. Via @BrendanCheney: <http://bit.ly/1t9LiBO>

SHORT READS:

-- **The police mistakenly shot and killed a man in Brooklyn.** The city's medical examiner performed an autopsy on victim Rafael Laureano yesterday. WSJ's Pervaiz Shallwani: <http://goo.gl/KJZlpC>

-- **Cyrus Vance Jr. announced an expanded Human Trafficking Response**

Unit on Wednesday, which will investigate and prosecute sex and labor trafficking cases, while also providing support through advocacy groups. Capital's Colby Hamilton: <http://bit.ly/1pqSIVM>

-- **A retired NYPD officer was busted by** federal authorities accused of bilking the government out of more than \$300,000 in Social Security disability benefits — while working the past decade for luxury watchmaker and retailer Tourneau. Post's Rich Calder: <http://bit.ly/1pGDJAY>

-- **Kristin Davis, the former madam and gubernatorial candidate who claimed to have provided Eliot Spitzer with call girls, was sentenced by a federal judge** to two years in prison after pleading guilty in March to selling oxycodone, Xanax, and other prescription drugs. Capital's Colby Hamilton: <http://bit.ly/1xD4cle>

-- **There "will be an appreciable reduction in capacity into Penn Station in peak periods"** at some point more than a year from now, Stephen Gardner, a vice president at Amtrak, told a handful of reporters Wednesday morning. "So, it's not probably 25[%]. Is it 20 or so? In that area? We'll have to see." Capital's Dana Rubinstein and Conor Skelding: <http://bit.ly/1BAtnPO>

EVENTS:

6 a.m. -- MSNBC's "Morning Joe": Times' Jeremy Peters; and former Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs.

8:30 a.m. -- Public Advocate Letitia James attends the Zoning Advisory Council Annual Breakfast. 101 Park Avenue in Manhattan.

9 a.m. -- Former Mayor David Dinkins, State Senator Liz Krueger; Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli; Assembly Members Deborah Glick and Richard Gottfried, with other community and government officials hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the naming of the Catherine M. Abate Health Center and Wellness Program; 150 Essex Street in Manhattan.

9 a.m. -- Comptroller Scott Stringer appears on "Buen Día New York" WADO 1280 AM.

9:15 a.m. -- State Senate Co-Majority Leader Jeff Klein, Assemblymen Karim Camara, Marcos Crespo and Robert Rodriguez and state Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. join thousands of parents, students and educators for #DontStealPossible rally, Lafayette Street and Worth Street in Manhattan.

9:30 a.m. -- Stringer attends Community Healthcare Network's Official Opening of Catherine M. Abate Health Center and Wellness Program. Community Healthcare Network, 150 Essex Street in Manhattan.

10 a.m. -- WNYC's "Brian Lehrer Show": David Petraeus, retired U.S. general; and Anthony Bourdain, chef; and "a look at the growing influence of Latino voters."

10:15 a.m. -- Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito receives flu vaccination with NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett and Health Committee Chair Corey Johnson. Harlem District Public Health Office 161 East 110th Street in Manhattan.

11 a.m. -- Gov. Andrew Cuomo makes an education announcement at a regularly scheduled meeting of the SUNY board, at the SUNY Global Center, 116 East 55th Street, in Manhattan.

11:35 a.m. -- WABC's "Geraldo Rivera Show": Rep. Michael Grimm, of Staten Island.

2 p.m. -- MSNBC's "The Reid Report": Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, of Brooklyn.

5 p.m. -- James attends the Laborpress 3rd Annual Heroes of Labor Awards Program

55 Water Street in Manhattan.

5:20 p.m. -- WABC's "The Ride Home with Pat Kiernan and Rita Cosby": State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

7 p.m. -- State Senator Martin Golden hosts town hall meeting for Sandy victims, P.S. 277, 2529 Gerritsen Avenue Brooklyn.

7 p.m. -- NY1's "Inside City Hall": City Comptroller Scott Stringer; education roundtable with Jeremiah Kittredge from Families for Excellent Schools

**** A message from New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund:** Please join the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and NYU/Wagner's Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems for Dig Deep for a Greener New York, a policy forum series beginning October 9. The first forum will examine the success of New York City's green infrastructure pilot projects and explore the potential and challenges for the future. Two expert panels will be moderated by Capital New York reporters David Giambusso and Dana Rubinstein. Admission is free, RSVP today: <http://www.nylcvef.org/go/infrastructure/> **

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You can unsubscribe [here](#).

From: [Mike Allen](#)
To: [Adams, Marti](#)
Subject: Lead of Playbook and City Hall Pro
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:08:28 AM

Thank you for working with us on the story, and flagging it. Look forward to spending time in person, and please let me know any time we may be helpful ...

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Lippman <DLippman@politico.com>
Date: October 2, 2014 at 12:04:23 PM GMT+2
To: Mike Allen <mallen@politico.com>
Subject: **Sally's story**

I can't find the link yet but it is the lead item in City Hall Pro below which they added as the lead item in Cap Playbook Google Doc.

From: Azi Paybarah - Capital New York <azi@capitalnewyork.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:45 AM
To: Daniel Lippman
Subject: City Hall Pro, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters
Education Fund: De Blasio woos DNC, Langone roasts mayor

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BRATTON'S 'STATE OF THE UNION' -- News' Rocco

Parascandola: At a day-long event in College Point, Queens today, the police commissioner will tell top police officials about his ongoing "reengineering" plan for the department. Deputy Commissioner for Public Information Stephen Davis told the paper that Bratton "wants to talk about his initiatives, about the reengineering process. It's kind of like a State of the Union." A police source said "The idea is to get everyone onboard with his plans" and "I'm sure some of it will be like a pep talk." <http://goo.gl/8NDUF5>

SHAKEUP AT POLICE OVERSIGHT BODY -- HuffPo's Matt Sledge:

Ahead of tonight's vote on a personnel matter, one mayoral appointee and one NYPD appointee have left the 13-member board. Mohammad Khalid was a Bloomberg appointee whose replacement de Blasio has not yet named; the NYPD has not announced who is replacing Jules Martin, who is the second NYPD appointee to quit the CCRB. Last month, CCRB veteran Tosano Simonetti departed. <http://goo.gl/by6h4w>

-- **Flashback: August 25, 2014:** Eight of the CCRB's 13 board members were serving with expired terms. <http://goo.gl/HuQ8Dg>

TWEET OF THE DAY: "NOT Bernie Kerik...but how about Ray Kelly to head Secret Service?" via - @MarkjGreen. <http://goo.gl/5PAhC4>

NEW ON TWITTER: [@OIGNYPD](http://twitter.com/OIGNYPD), the office of Inspector General for the NYPD

DEEP DIVE -- City & State takes a look at the de Blasio's first management report which "shows mixed results in meeting some of his early goals" Nick Powell: <http://bit.ly/1pGGPop>

THE COUNCIL --

MMV, PUERTO RICO AND TWITTER -- Observer's Jillian

Jorgensen: Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito will travel to Puerto Rico today to speak at the Puerto Rican Public Relations Association Conference, where she'll discuss new media and her own prominent presence on Twitter. "I'm going to try to encourage the use of social media to get a message across," Ms. Mark-Viverito told the Observer in a brief interview in her City Hall office.

-- **Speaker prefers Twitter over Facebook:** While the new- and social media-focused conference isn't entirely Twitter-centric, that's the one social media platform that the speaker personally prefers. "I know some of my colleagues use Facebook a lot. That's one that doesn't speak to me," she said. <http://bit.ly/1v7H5AX>

Flashback -- The Times profiled the speaker's use of the social platform:

<http://nyti.ms/1nNeqD3>

SLOWING NYC DOWN -- Capital's Gloria Pazmino: Department of Transportation commissioner Polly Trottenberg said the agency fully supports a City Council proposal to reduce the citywide speed limit to 25 mph. If passed, the measure would be another step in Mayor Bill de Blasio's Vision Zero plan to eliminate all traffic-related deaths in the city. "By passing Intro 466, the Council can put finishing touches on one of the centerpieces of Vision Zero," Trottenberg said, noting that speeding is the leading cause of traffic fatalities and serious injuries. "[Speeding] actually kills more New Yorkers than drunk driving and drivers distracted by cellphones combined." <http://bit.ly/1rGGk1y>

HPD SUPPORTS INCREASED FINES, UNCLEAR ABOUT ENFORCEMENT -- Capital's Gloria Pazmino: One of the measures would allow the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to expand its Alternative Enforcement Program, which catalogues the city's worst buildings based on violations. Under the proposal, the number of buildings in the program would increase from 200 to 280.

-- **Big goal to meet:** Vito Mustaciuolo, H.P.D.'s deputy commissioner for enforcement and neighborhood services, said that while he supports the idea, the Council's goal of adding 80 buildings might be hard to meet: "We do not believe that this support is sufficient to address an additional 80 buildings per year," he said. "After reviewing our budget needs, H.P.D. supports an increase of 50 buildings per year at this time." <http://bit.ly/ZsMzgr>

Today at the Council:

-- **The committee on land use will meet** on at 11 a.m. at City Hall to hear the items from the planning and zoning subcommittees.

-- **The economic development committee will meet** at 1 p.m. at City Hall to conduct oversight of the effectiveness of the city's tax benefits to businesses.

FOLLOW Capital's Council Tracker to keep up with the latest bills being introduced, relevant legislation and important upcoming hearings. Via @BrendanCheney: <http://bit.ly/1t9LiBO>

SHORT READS:

-- **The police mistakenly shot and killed a man in Brooklyn.** The city's medical examiner performed an autopsy on victim Rafael Laureano yesterday. WSJ's Pervaiz Shallwani: <http://goo.gl/KJZlpC>

-- **Cyrus Vance Jr. announced an expanded Human Trafficking Response Unit on Wednesday,** which will investigate and prosecute sex and labor trafficking cases, while also providing support through advocacy groups. Capital's Colby Hamilton: <http://bit.ly/1pqSIVM>

-- **A retired NYPD officer was busted by** federal authorities accused of bilking the government out of more than \$300,000 in Social Security

disability benefits — while working the past decade for luxury watchmaker and retailer Tourneau. Post's Rich Calder: <http://bit.ly/1pGDJAY>

-- **Kristin Davis, the former madam and gubernatorial candidate who claimed to have provided Eliot Spitzer with call girls, was sentenced by a federal judge** to two years in prison after pleading guilty in March to selling oxycodone, Xanax, and other prescription drugs. Capital's Colby Hamilton: <http://bit.ly/1xD4cle>

-- **There "will be an appreciable reduction in capacity into Penn Station** in peak periods" at some point more than a year from now, Stephen Gardner, a vice president at Amtrak, told a handful of reporters Wednesday morning. "So, it's not probably 25[%]. Is it 20 or so? In that area? We'll have to see." Capital's Dana Rubinstein and Conor Skelding: <http://bit.ly/1BAtnPQ>

EVENTS:

6 a.m. -- MSNBC's "Morning Joe": Times' Jeremy Peters; and former Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs.

8:30 a.m. -- Public Advocate Letitia James attends the Zoning Advisory Council Annual Breakfast. 101 Park Avenue in Manhattan.

9 a.m. -- Former Mayor David Dinkins, State Senator Liz Krueger; Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli; Assembly Members Deborah Glick and Richard Gottfried, with other community and government officials hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the naming of the Catherine M. Abate Health Center and Wellness Program; 150 Essex Street in Manhattan.

9 a.m. -- Comptroller Scott Stringer appears on "Buen Día New York" WADO 1280 AM.

9:15 a.m. -- State Senate Co-Majority Leader Jeff Klein, Assemblymen Karim Camara, Marcos Crespo and Robert Rodriguez and state Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. join thousands of parents, students and educators for #DontStealPossible rally, Lafayette Street and Worth Street in Manhattan.

9:30 a.m. -- Stringer attends Community Healthcare Network's Official Opening of Catherine M. Abate Health Center and Wellness Program. Community Healthcare Network, 150 Essex Street in Manhattan.

10 a.m. -- WNYC's "Brian Lehrer Show": David Petraeus, retired U.S. general; and Anthony Bourdain, chef; and "a look at the growing influence of Latino voters."

10:15 a.m. -- Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito receives flu vaccination with NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett and Health Committee Chair Corey Johnson. Harlem District Public Health Office 161 East 110th Street in Manhattan.

11 a.m. -- Gov. Andrew Cuomo makes an education announcement at a

regularly scheduled meeting of the SUNY board, at the SUNY Global Center, 116 East 55th Street, in Manhattan.

11:35 a.m. -- WABC's "Geraldo Rivera Show": Rep. Michael Grimm, of Staten Island.

2 p.m. -- MSNBC's "The Reid Report": Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, of Brooklyn.

5 p.m. -- James attends the Laborpress 3rd Annual Heroes of Labor Awards Program

55 Water Street in Manhattan.

5:20 p.m. -- WABC's "The Ride Home with Pat Kiernan and Rita Cosby": State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

7 p.m. -- State Senator Martin Golden hosts town hall meeting for Sandy victims, P.S. 277, 2529 Gerritsen Avenue Brooklyn.

7 p.m. -- NY1's "Inside City Hall": City Comptroller Scott Stringer; education roundtable with Jeremiah Kittredge from Families for Excellent Schools

**** A message from New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund:** Please join the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and NYU/Wagner's Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems for Dig Deep for a Greener New York, a policy forum series beginning October 9. The first forum will examine the success of New York City's green infrastructure pilot projects and explore the potential and challenges for the future. Two expert panels will be moderated by Capital New York reporters David Giambusso and Dana Rubinstein. Admission is free, RSVP today: <http://www.nylcvef.org/go/infrastructure/>
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From: [Mike Allen](#)
To: [Singer, Nicholas](#)
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by FairReform.com – 31 days to midterms – DYNASTY WATCH: why it may be harder for Hillary -- THE SHORT LIST to replace Holder -- SECRET SERVICE "in deep turmoil" -- SCOTT WALKER opens up a lead
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:39:50 AM

Good Thursday morning from Brussels, where we're meeting our new colleagues from Axel Springer, the German media conglomerate that is our partner for the forthcoming European edition of Politico. My thanks to Jake Sherman for being yesterday's Celebrity Guest Playbooker, and to Daniel Lippman (dlippman@politico.com; @dlippman) for holding down the fort. I'll be back tomorrow, in time for Game 1 of Nats vs. San Francisco Giants in the National League Division Series (3 p.m. at Nats Park; Fox). Nephew Anders, a big Giants guy, is already barraging me with taunting texts.

HILLARY'S HURDLES -- "The Clinton Brand: Centrist populism to celebrity," by John F. Harris and Maggie Haberman: "The Clinton Brand of 2014 is missing three key elements that vaulted Bill Clinton to power in 1992. First was new ideas. Second was an authentic populist connection. Third was the idea of generational change. Hillary Clinton's claims on the first two elements are faint, compared to his in the early '90s - a technocrat, her ideas since her failed health care reform effort have typically been smaller-bore and more programmatic than about sweeping change. ...

"[But t]he Clinton brand today stands for tested experience, as well as foreign policy expertise, in ways that are vastly more credible than anything Bill Clinton could boast when he ran ... And her potential to shatter the glass ceiling ... is a compelling measure of change ... Still, this week's anniversary [of Clinton's announcement for president 23 years ago tomorrow] - and the fevered scrutiny surrounding every step she takes toward another shot at the presidency - shows how, even as the Clintons endure as political forces, the signature ingredients of their appeal have changed notably over time." <http://politi.co/1pHSByP>

TOP TALKER -- "Speculation narrows on Eric Holder replacement," by Edward-Isaac Dove and Josh Gerstein: Attention has focused on "three names: former White House counsel Kathy Ruemmler, Labor Secretary Tom Perez and Solicitor General Donald Verrilli. ... Ruemmler is seen by officials as one who'd lead administration efforts to complete what President Barack Obama and Holder have long identified as top items of unfinished business, from sentencing reform to closing Guantánamo Bay. ... Choosing Perez would be a message the president is putting even more emphasis on the civil rights enforcement that both Obama and Holder have prioritized. ... Verrilli would deliver instant gravitas and steady leadership, offering a solid, if somewhat unexciting, hand at the helm at DOJ for Obama's final two years in office." <http://politi.co/1rxanLJ>

DRIVING THE DAY - Obama's Chicago economic speech at 1:15 p.m. Central time -- Josh Earnest's preview: "Following up on his strong address to the United Nations on the role American leadership plays in the world, [today] at the Kellogg School of Management in Chicago the President will make a similarly forceful case for American strength and leadership at home. Six years after the Great Recession, thanks to the hard work of the American people and the policies the President has pursued, our economy has come back further and faster than any

other nation on Earth.

"You'll hear the President talk about this progress, while acknowledging that too many Americans still don't feel enough of the benefits of our recovery in their everyday lives. To make sure these gains are felt more broadly, he'll lay out the commonsense steps our country should take to raise wages for hardworking Americans, continue to create jobs and grow our economy. The location of the President's speech is fitting - he will be speaking to an audience of Kellogg business school students who will have a hand in shaping America's economic future and leadership both at home and abroad."

WHAT THE WEST WING IS READING - "Corporate U.S. Healthiest in Decades Under Obama With Lower Debt," by Bloomberg's Thomas Black and Matt Robinson: "Companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index are the healthiest in decades, with the lowest net debt to earnings ratio in at least 24 years, \$3.59 trillion in cash and marketable securities, and record earnings per share. They are headed this year toward the fastest average monthly job creation since 1999, manufacturing is recovering and the U.S. has returned as an engine for global growth. The recovery, which stands in contrast to weak growth in Europe and Asia, has underpinned an almost threefold gain in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index since March 2009." <http://bloom.bg/1rOxwZ2>

TOP STORY -- "Pierson failed to provide fresh start for Secret Service that administration wanted," by WashPost's Carol D. Leonnig: "The resignation of Secret Service Director Julia Pierson and the launch of a top-to-bottom review of the agency Wednesday are an acknowledgment by President Obama of what he has long denied: that the force charged with protecting him is in deep turmoil and struggling to fulfill its sacred mission." <http://wapo.st/1uD8oGJ>

TOP-EDS -- "What It's Really Like in the Secret Service," by Dan Emmett in WSJ: "In terms of the actual physical experience, imagine something like this: Forgo sleep for 24 hours, skip lunch and dinner, stand outside of a house in the rain at 3 a.m. for several hours, take a cab to the airport and finally board a plane to a large city for a four-hour flight. Repeat this regimen for several days in a row. To make the simulation complete, you also need to fail to attend a child's birthday or graduation and miss the holidays or your wedding anniversary." <http://on.wsj.com/1zytCu>

ROGER SIMON -- "White House needs more shoes on the ground": "16 people have climbed over the White House fence in the past five years, including six this year. So do you think they might have started locking the front doors at the White House? Like most people in America lock their front doors at home? Naw. In fact, the White House did not install automatic door locks until very recently. ... Actually, I am surprised they didn't find [the intruder] behind the desk in the Oval Office, sipping a scotch, negotiating a treaty with Putin and trying to give himself a presidential pardon." <http://politi.co/1oBnPbv>

--See a great Matt Wuerker cartoon of Biden protecting the White House front door: <http://politi.co/1priZxA>

BACKSTORY - "Reporters' Hunch: The Fed Could Have Rescued Lehman Brothers," by Peter Eavis, who covers finance and banks for the N.Y. Times, on Times Insider: "Figures like Henry M. Paulson Jr. and Ben S. Bernanke have long had an emphatic explanation for why they let Lehman fail in September

2008. Their hands, they said, were legally tied, so they simply had no choice but to let Lehman slide into its messy bankruptcy. Letting Lehman die in the way it did was a pivotal decision, because the firm's collapse paralyzed the global financial system and weighed heavily on the world economy.

"But ... Jim [Stewart and I] ... felt there had to be more to the story, so we started asking questions of just about anyone who was involved with the Lehman weekend. ... [O]ne of our editors, Phyllis Messinger, knew we were on the same page and suggested we team up. It was the first time we'd worked together. ... Jim, a columnist at the Times, ... [gained] fame for his blockbuster, 'Den of Thieves,' that told the lurid tale of Michael Milken and Ivan Boesky. ...

"One day this summer, Jim ... learned from a source that officials at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York had done an analysis that suggested Lehman might have legally qualified for a rescue. In other words, it may not have been against the law to rescue Lehman, as the principal actors had asserted." <http://nyti.ms/1BASWKh> ... **See Tuesday's p. 1 story, "Lehman Revisited: The Bailout That Never Was"** <http://nyti.ms/1mTbUKH>

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTURE LOUNGE: Katie Jackson Roberts, one of the original Obama communications team in the departments and agencies, is leaving the administration to be public relations manager for GE Power & Water. After working on numerous campaigns, Katie joined team Obama at Veterans Affairs and most recently served at the Pentagon. She deployed to Afghanistan for 16 months as strategic communications adviser to Generals Rodriguez and Scaparrotti.

**** A message from FairReform.com:** Chamber Poll: 69% of voters want Congress and the President to work together to reform the tax code. Yet just a few days ago, the President and his Administration took unilateral action to selectively penalize businesses that have followed the law. Full poll results: <https://bitly.com/FairReformPoll>. **

OUT AND ABOUT - Capitol File magazine toasted its "Men of Fashion" fall issue (with Jeremy Renner on the cover) with a party in the spacious Longview Gallery near Mount Vernon Square. There was free-flowing food and drinks, a Maserati to take pictures in, and video games to try your hand at courtesy of the Entertainment Software Association. **SPOTTED:** Ben and Ashley Chang, Amy Dacey, Mark Seibel, Jonathan Capehart, Elizabeth Thorp, Amy Moeller, Pamela Sorenson, Edie Emery, Steve Clemons, Edie Emery, Matt Dornic, Nick Massella, Raul Fernandez, and Mike Gallagher. **The magazine:** <http://bit.ly/1nPsRpX>

STAT OF THE DAY -- "[CDC] Agency Leading Ebola Response Has Had Budget Cut Nearly \$600 Million Since 2010," by HuffPost's Sam Stein: "CDC officials and lawmakers who support the agency warn that years of austerity has hobbled both the CDC and the National Institutes of Health, both in terms of their ability to combat future outbreaks and their ability to prevent them from happening in the first place. ... [The budget numbers:] 2010: \$6.467 billion ... 2014: \$5.882 billion." <http://huff.to/1rwnZXv>

2016 -- "Chris Christie assails Obama over ISIS inaction" -- CBSNews.com: "[I]n an interview with 'CBS This Morning' co-anchor Gayle King ... [Christie said:] Well, [Obama] ... used the word 'they' [in describing ISIS intelligence shortfalls]. ... He said 'They underestimated it.' It should've been 'We underestimated it.' ... Now he's gotta proceed [with] 'How do we deal with this threat? And how do we deal

with it effectively? How do we bring a coalition of people around the world together?
" <http://cbsn.ws/1rwp4yw>

2014 -- "Court rebuffs Kansas GOP on Senate race," by Kyle Cheney:

"Kansas Democrats won't be forced to field a candidate in the state's pivotal Senate race, a state court ruled Wednesday, dealing a blow to Republicans hoping to protect Sen. Pat Roberts - and possibly their odds of winning the majority in November." <http://politi.co/10IWVPc>

--"Scott Walker opens [5-point] lead over Mary Burke in Wisconsin," by

James Hohmann: "Gov. Scott Walker ... is ahead of Democrat Mary Burke 50 percent to 45 percent among likely voters ... It is a reflection of a palpable feeling on the ground that the race has shifted in Walker's direction since the summer. ... Walker is now ahead among independents by 13 points, 53 percent to 40 percent." <http://politi.co/1vzt8y5>

--See Politico's polling center, which has great roundups of the latest polls: <http://politi.co/1tiqJp>

GRAPHS DU JOUR -- "7 Charts That Prove Obamacare Is Working," by The

New Republic's Jonathan Cohn: "1. More people have health insurance. ... 2. People who are getting health insurance are almost certainly better off. ... 3. 'Winners' probably outnumbered 'losers' in the new marketplaces. ... 4. Premiums in the marketplaces aren't rising quickly, and more insurers are jumping in to compete. ... 5. Employer premiums also aren't rising quickly. ... 6. Overall health care costs are rising at historically low rates. ... 7. The net effect on the budget has been to reduce the deficit." <http://bit.ly/1vvUnc6>

THE WAY TO WIN - "Google [executive chairman] Eric Schmidt has these 9 rules for emailing" - Time.com:

"1. Respond quickly. ... 2. When writing an email, every word matters, and useless prose doesn't. ... 3. Clean out your inbox constantly. ... 4. Handle email in LIFO order (Last In First Out). ... 5. Remember, you're a router. When you get a note with useful information, consider who else would find it useful. ... 6. When you use the bcc (blind copy) feature, ask yourself why. ... 7. Don't yell. ... 8. Make it easy to follow up on requests. ... 9. Help your future self search for stuff." <http://bit.ly/ZYf2KU> **From the new e-book "How Google Works" by Schmidt and Jonathan Rosenberg, \$14.99:**
<http://amzn.to/1rk9iqz>

HAPPENING TODAY - Reince Priebus 9 a.m. speech at GW - Per the RNC:

"On Thursday morning, RNC Chairman Reince Priebus will deliver remarks on the GOP's 'Principles for American Renewal,' outlining the core ideas driving the Republican Party and policy makers. This speech will highlight the principles that unite Republicans and what we support-not just what we oppose-in this election and for the future." <http://bit.ly/1rGPcV0>

- Jonathan Karl moderates a Council on Foreign Relations panel featuring David Petraeus, Robert Zoellick and Shannon O'Neil who were on an "Independent Task Force on North America [which] examine[d] both long-standing issues facing the region and more recent developments, urging policymakers to elevate and prioritize the North American relationship. The Task Force asserts that a new partnership to better integrate the North American economy, energy and the environment, security, and broader community can strengthen the position of the United States at home and its position in the world." **Livestreams at 12:30 p.m.:**

<http://on.cfr.org/1tjbcDn> See the report with a Richard Haass foreword that starts on page 7: <http://bit.ly/YQTFul>

PHOTO DU JOUR -- ?@HuffPostPhoto: "Climate change in one photo. 35,000 walrus come ashore [in Alaska] due to lack of ice!" <http://bit.ly/1vyTK1g>

LATE NIGHT BEST - Jon Stewart's hilarious take on the Secret Service: The Secret Service "believe[s] we have basically two options when someone shoots at the White House at night. You can get a flashlight and look around or only have a president during daylight hours. ... Here's how dysfunctional the Secret Service is at this point: Congress had to help them come up with solutions! ... A lock, an alarm system, or spiky [Spanish bayonet] plants. You never want to be in a position where you are charged with guarding the president of the United States and you could be replaced with a plant!" **Video:** <http://bit.ly/1CGUSTX>

AL SMITH DINNER -- "Mayor de Blasio, Gov. Cuomo among top pols roasted at Al Smith dinner," by N.Y. Daily News' Erin Durkin: "De Blasio was roundly mocked for losing his grip on groundhog 'Staten Island Chuck,' a fumble that may have contributed to the animal's death a week later. 'Having the mayor here tonight means one thing - the city's groundhogs are safe,' said emcee Alfred Smith IV, great grandson of the dinner's namesake former governor. ... Charlie Rose, the keynote speaker, ... singed Cuomo over his dismantling of the anti-corruption Moreland Commission. 'Preet Bharara was supposed to be here, but before the invite went out, Gov. Cuomo abolished the independent commission on invitations.'" <http://nydn.us/1rGPCe9>

ACROSS THE POND -- "Emerging city of skyscrapers divide Londoners," by AFP's Alfons Luna: "Skyscrapers are shooting up all over London, transforming a skyline once dominated by Big Ben and St Paul's Cathedral. Some Londoners are delighted at their city's 'Manhattanisation' but others warn it risks losing its soul. ... A new study has revealed that no fewer than 237 skyscrapers are being built or have permission to begin construction over the coming year across London. ... In the new towers of glass, high-living apartments can go for tens of millions of pounds." <http://yhoo.it/1qXmU4F>

LIST DU JOUR - Forbes' latest 400 richest Americans - see their astonishing wealth: <http://onforb.es/1sNFKTj>

GARRETT GRAFF BOOK OPTIONED FOR NBC TV Drama - Deadline's Nellie Andreeva: "Raven Rock, a drama series project based on [Politico Magazine senior writer] Garrett Graff's upcoming nonfiction book, has landed at NBC in a script deal with significant penalty. ... Writers Matthew Federman and Stephen Scaia will adapt Graff's book, Raven Rock: The Inside Story Of The U.S. Government's Secret Plan To Save Itself - While The Rest Of Us Die, which will be published by [Simon & Shuster] in 2015. The tome explores the history of our government's secret efforts to ensure survival if most of America or its leaders are killed in a nuclear attack on the U.S." <http://bit.ly/1pGDJAO>

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT - "Netflix Looking for 'Official Instagrammers' for Paid Travel Gig," by Yahoo Tech's Trevor Mogg: <http://yhoo.it/1rN4zgm>

WELCOME TO THE WORLD -- Geoff Freeman (CEO of American Gaming Association) emails: "Please join Tita and me in welcoming our newest addition,

Harper Ruth Freeman. Harper joined us at 1:38pm on Monday weighing in at 8lbs and 19 inches. She came into the world quiet and dignified, just as her mommy handled 14 hours of labor and a daddy racing back to Arlington from Las Vegas. Jack and Abby are truly thrilled to have a baby sister. (And the dogs are excited about someone new to drop food on to the floor.) We look forward to introducing her to all." **Picture:** <http://bit.ly/1ufaCuu>

-- **Stephen Cox (corporate counsel at Apache Corp.) emails:** "Happy Birthday to Hulda Elisabeth Cox! Named after her paternal great-grandmother, she arrived today, on Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at 8:55 am CT. She checked in at 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and 20 inches long. All of the Coxen are enjoying their newest family member. We look forward to introducing you to Hulda Elisabeth soon! -- Cristina, Stephen, and Esther." **Picture of Hulda with Cristina:** <http://bit.ly/1mTkoBk>

MEDIAWATCH -- "New York Times Plans Cutbacks in Newsroom Staff," by NYT's Ravi Somaiya: "The New York Times plans to eliminate about 100 newsroom jobs, as well as a smaller number of positions from its editorial and business operations, offering buyouts and resorting to layoffs if enough people do not leave voluntarily ... Arthur Sulzberger Jr., the newspaper's publisher, and Mark Thompson, its chief executive, said that in addition to the job cuts, NYT Opinion, a new mobile app dedicated to opinion content, was shutting down because it was not attracting enough subscribers. ... The buyouts and layoffs are likely to create anxiety in a newsroom that has had already had an unsettling year." <http://nyti.ms/1rwid8j>

Per Dylan Byers: In a note to staff, Dean Baquet said the cutbacks are "an opportunity to seriously reconsider some of what we do - from the number of sections we produce to the amount we spend on freelance content."

--**"D.C. mystery: Jeff Bezos' plan for The Washington Post," by Dylan Byers:** "One year after his acquisition ... [t]here has been no major digital innovation, no radical new product launch, no change to delivery or presentation, and no promise of any specific plans for the future. Moreover, while Bezos is very engaged in his Amazon empire - dreaming up plans like drone delivery - and his spaceflight startup, he seems to treat the Post more like an ornament, in need of minimal polishing. ... The disappointment at the Post, several sources there agreed, is best described as the feeling of being promised a flying car and receiving only a glow-in-the-dark keychain." <http://politi.co/1v7PJzp>

--**The problems with explainer journalism -- WashPost Monkey Cage blogger Henry Farrell:** "First, the explainers are sometimes going to get things wrong. ... Second, the explainer is going to have difficulty in admitting that he or she has gotten something wrong. If your authority and livelihood as a writer rests on your supposed ability to explain, you are not going to want to admit that you got things seriously wrong, even if you did." <http://wapo.st/YKwjqa>

--**McClatchy's young star Ali Watkins to HuffPost --** DC bureau chief Ryan Grim emails the staff: "We knew Ali would be a fantastic hire back when she was a college senior and worked on the McClatchy team that broke the news that the CIA was spying on the Senate Intelligence Committee over the panel's torture report. Ali is a 2014 graduate of Temple University ... She will be continue her focus on national security and the intelligence community, while covering general politics and Congress as well." (h/t FishbowlDC)

SPORTS BLINK - "Tiger Woods to open his first restaurant at Jupiter's

Harbourside Place," by Palm Beach Post's Kristen M. Clark: "The Jupiter Island resident plans to open his first restaurant [with 5,900 square feet]- 'The Woods Jupiter: Sports and Dining Club' - at Harbourside Place, the \$150 million entertainment complex opening this fall ... 'I envision a place where people can meet friends, watch sports on TV and enjoy a great meal,' Woods said."
<http://bit.ly/1yzLqgz>

-- **Second (and last) day of George W. Bush golf tourney** - "The Warrior Open is a competitive 36-hole golf tournament, including an 18-hole Pro-Am, which will take place on October 1-2, 2014 at Las Colinas Country Club near Dallas, TX. The event honors U.S. service members who serve and sacrifice to defend the United States of America and heralds the many effective organizations that give their time, talents and resources to support the men and women of our military and their families." <http://bit.ly/1vwA5yf>

BIRTHDAYS: Emmett Beliveau ... Doug Andres, House Rules Committee communications director, is 3-0 (hat tip: sister Betsy) ... Julie Burton ... David Wilhelm (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... John Donnelly, long time Scott Brown comms staffer, now Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Tom Graves (R-Ga.), celebrates 3-0 by looking forward to the Cubs' 2015 season (h/t James Owens) ... AP's Tom Krisher ... FairWinds Partners' Michelle Sara King ... Alex Fullman (h/t Jared Edy) ... BBC's Lynsea Garrison turns 3-0 (h/t Paul Blake) ... David Gura, Washington Correspondent for Marketplace, turns 3-0 (h/t Lee Lilley) ... movie critic Rex Reed is 76 ... Singer-songwriter Don McLean is 69 ... actor Avery Brooks is 66 ... Donna Karan is 66 ... Annie Leibovitz is 65 ... Sting is 63 ... Robbie Nevil is 56 ... former Redskins quarterback Mark Rypien is 52 ... Kelly Ripa ('Live with Kelly and Michael') is 44 ... actress Samantha Barks is 24 (h/ts AP)

DESSERT -- "D.C.'s top chefs actually in the kitchen?" by WashPost's Karen Heller: "Celebrity chefs, almost all of them men, tower over our food landscape, with restaurant empires that dot the continent and often the globe. ... In recent years, local titan José Andrés has been joined by Jose Garces (Rural Society), Wolfgang Puck (The Source) and Michael Schlow (Tico DC). And Daniel Boulud, with multiple Michelin stars for his Manhattan restaurants, opened DBGB Kitchen and Bar in Penn Quarter last month. With all these brand names in Washington, what reasonable expectation should diners have of enjoying a harissa spiced lamb chop seared by the big cheese himself? Short answer: very little." <http://wapo.st/1vyITph>

**** A message from FairReform.com:** It's not a red or blue issue. It's a red, white and blue issue: It's a fact: America's largest employers face tough global competition every day. It's also a fact that America's employers face the highest statutory tax rate of any major country in the world.

Because of this unfair disadvantage, businesses must do everything they can to stay competitive and keep their employees working- and use every tax benefit available to level the global playing field.

America needs comprehensive tax reform today - to protect American employers and American jobs. Find out what you can do to help at FairReform.com.

Learn more and make your voice heard at <http://FairReform.com>. **

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From: [Azi Paybarah, Jimmy Vielkind, and Mike Allen](#)
To: [Roberts, Kelly](#)
Subject: Capital Playbook, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund -- DE BLASIO meets about Brooklyn -- New York vs. London -- SHARPTON DAY
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:52:46 AM

By Azi Paybarah in Manhattan and Jimmy Vielkind in Albany, with Daniel Lippman in Washington

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HUFFINGTON TOUTS GILLIBRAND FOR PRESIDENT — Capital's Jeremy Barr: Arianna Huffington, the founder and president of The Huffington Post, showered praise on New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and suggested she'd make a great president someday, "Don't you want her to be president?" Huffington asked the crowd assembled for a Wednesday afternoon Advertising Week panel. "Isn't it time to have a president who sleeps 9 hours a night? They'll make better decisions." Gillibrand spoke last as part of a two-hour panel discussion about how women can improve their work-life balance, a theme she touched on in her new book, *Off The Sidelines*. <http://bit.ly/1vvHjT3>

REAL ESTATE -- "H.P.D. plans major changes to jump-start affordable housing development," by Capital's Ryan Hutchins: "New York City plans to significantly scale back regulatory requirements imposed on some affordable housing developers, all but eliminating a cumbersome design and architecture review that can take months to complete and add significant costs to buildings... While its staff will still conduct a short review, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development will largely rely on a system of self-certifications and random audits to ensure projects under its inclusionary housing program meet city standards, Vicki Been, the agency's commissioner, said at an event held by the Citizens Budget Commission." <http://bit.ly/1E2486F>

-- **"Landlord challenges SL Green's Grand Central claims," by Capital's Dana Rubinstein:** "Among the many things Grand Central Terminal landlord Andrew Penson doesn't like about SL Green's bid to build a skyscraper across the street is the amount the developer says it will be putting toward terminal improvements. On Wednesday, Penson sent a letter to Lola Finkelstein, who chairs a community board task force on the future of Midtown East, arguing the \$210 million SL Green told the city and the M.T.A. it would spend on infrastructure improvements—a promise that helped it secure the support of the de Blasio administration—is overstated. 'SL Green is misleading the public and is likely to spend only \$65 million to build transit improvements that they claim will cost \$210 million or more,' Penson wrote." <http://bit.ly/1pGMCdq> [PRO]

-- **"Manhattan Homebuyers Pay Up as Sales Top Listing Price," by**

Bloomberg's Oshrat Carmiel: "Manhattan apartment prices rose 4.2 percent in the third quarter, bolstered by buyers who increasingly agreed to pay what sellers were asking or more. The median sale price of condominiums and co-ops was \$908,242, up from \$872,000 a year earlier, according to a report today from appraiser Miller Samuel Inc. and brokerage Douglas Elliman Real Estate. The average price per square foot increased 12 percent to \$1,270, the third-highest in records dating to 1989, the firms said. Prices in Manhattan have climbed for four consecutive quarters, encouraging more owners to list properties after an inventory shortage last year." <http://bloom.bg/1ufkm85>

THE HOME TEAMS -- Capital's Howard Megdal: SI's Grant Wahl reports that there is no chance Thierry Henry returns to the Red Bulls next season. Moreover, Red Bull met with several interested parties, including Manchester City, about potentially selling the team and Red Bull Arena. Wahl reports the owners are still eager to sell. The Red Bulls issued a statement that at first glance sounds like a denial, but really isn't. <http://goo.gl/7Cx2IB>

-- @AP_Planner: Tonight "Derek Jeter guests on 'The Tonight Show' @FallonTonight @NBC"

-- Hal Steinbrenner, for his part, doesn't sound like he is selling the Yankees. <http://goo.gl/JMkXhA>

EAT BEAT – "How To Eat Di Fara & More Top Pizza For Just \$1," by Gothamist's Nell Casey: "The annual fundraising frenzy known as Slice Out Hunger returns next Wednesday to feed frugal pizza lovers with slices from some of the city's top pie joints. Now in its 6th year, the event not only offers up bargain basement slices to the hordes who descend on St. Anthony's Church, but also raises big bucks for Food Bank For New York City. ... On October 8th, pizzerias including Emily, Di Fara, Best Pizza, Heartwood, Forcella, Motorino, Ribalta and many, many more drop off loads of pies to the Sullivan Street church. Then at 6 p.m., the doors are flung open and line waiters are treated to \$1 slices from any of the pizzerias." **With a 1-min. video:** <http://bit.ly/1x1Sbcv>

BROADWAY BUZZ – "Dr. Zhivago Musical Is Next Tenant of Broadway Theatre," by Playbill's Adam Hetrick: "Zhivago, based on the 1958 Nobel Prize-winning novel by Russian author Boris Pasternak, will begin previews March 27, 2015, at the Broadway Theatre, producers announced [yesterday] ... The musical premiered at the La Jolla Playhouse in May 2006 and was later revised for an Australian production produced by John Frost in 2010. Tony Award winner Des McAnuff, who helmed the American and Australian productions, will also direct for Broadway. An official Broadway opening has been set for April 21. The 1,761-seat Broadway Theatre is currently home to Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, which will end its run Jan. 3." <http://bit.ly/1E3ecfz>

#UpstateAmerica: A Penn Yan winery has created New York Yankees Reserve Dry Riesling, the official wine of the Bronx Bombers. <http://on.rocne.ws/YU5UG5>

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Capital New York reporters David Giambusso and Dana Rubinstein. **Admission is free, RSVP today: <http://www.nylcvef.org/go/infrastructure/>** **

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<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/playbook>

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From: [Mike Allen](#)
To: [Adams, Marti](#)
Subject: Fwd: Capital Playbook, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund -- DE BLASIO meets about Brooklyn -- New York vs. London -- SHARPTON DAY
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:00:02 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Azi Paybarah, Jimmy Vielkind, and Mike Allen"
<capitalplaybook@capitalnewyork.com>
Date: October 2, 2014 at 12:52:27 PM GMT+2
To: mallen@politico.com
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<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/playbook>

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From: [Daniel Lippman](#)
To: [Adams, Marti](#)
Subject: Fw: Capital Playbook, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund -- DE BLASIO meets about Brooklyn -- New York vs. London -- SHARPTON DAY
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:07:42 AM

Hi Marti,

I work with Mike on Capital Playbook and he forwarded me your note yesterday to ensure we put Sally's item in Cap Playbook; we did! Feel free to send me things anytime!

MAYOR MOBILIZING FOR BROOKLYN 2016 -- Capital's Sally Goldenberg: Bill de Blasio will hold a breakfast meeting at Gracie Mansion this morning with about 70 members of the city's host committee, an administration source said. This follows a meeting Monday with Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, to discuss the city's proposal at Gracie.

-- **A video and a Ratner pitch:** According to an administration source, de Blasio will talk about how to sell the particular novelty of hosting the convention in Brooklyn, rather than in Manhattan. Developer Bruce Ratner is also expected to address the meeting, where the committee will also be shown a new, two-minute video marketing the proposed site. <http://capi.tl/1rGLef2>

From: Azi Paybarah, Jimmy Vielkind, and Mike Allen <capitalplaybook@capitalnewyork.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:52 AM
To: Daniel Lippman
Subject: Capital Playbook, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund -- DE BLASIO meets about Brooklyn -- New York vs. London -- SHARPTON DAY

By Azi Paybarah in Manhattan and Jimmy Vielkind in Albany, with Daniel Lippman in Washington

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THE TALK OF WALL STREET -- Financial Times, third page of second section, "New York and London vie for financial crown: Both centres face rising competition from Asian hubs

as they struggle to lead fields from IPOs to currency trading,” by Michael Pooler in London: “After dipping during the crisis, the total number of banking jobs in London broke through pre-crisis levels last year, hitting 147,100 ... That took total financial services jobs in the city ... to a record 367,300. ...

“[E]stimates from the New York State Department of Labor suggest the city has 502,400 finance and insurance jobs – 8 per cent lower than the sector’s employment peak in 2007. ... [T]he bonus pool for employees at New York securities firms last year was at its largest since 2008 – at \$26.7bn, up 15 per cent on 2012, against the ... \$22.9bn ... paid out across the UK’s insurance and finance sectors as a whole.” <http://on.ft.com/1sOjadh>

AL SMITH DINNER -- “Mayor de Blasio, Gov. Cuomo among top pols roasted at Al Smith dinner,” by Daily News’ Erin Durkin: “[A] host of city luminaries including Mayor de Blasio and Gov. Cuomo ... subject[ed] themselves to a ribbing to raise cash for Catholic Charities. ... De Blasio was roundly mocked for losing his grip on groundhog ‘Staten Island Chuck,’ a fumble that may have contributed to the animal’s death a week later. ‘Having the mayor here tonight means one thing - the city’s groundhogs are safe,’ said emcee Alfred Smith IV, great grandson of the dinner’s namesake former governor. ... Charlie Rose, the keynote speaker, ... singed Cuomo over his dismantling of the anti-corruption Moreland Commission. ‘Preet Bharara was supposed to be here, but before the invite went out, Gov. Cuomo abolished the independent commission on invitations,’ he said in a reference to the U.S. Attorney probing the Moreland matter.” <http://nydn.us/1rGPCe9>

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CUOMO’S COURT—Colby Hamilton for Capital: Governor Andrew Cuomo is quickly approaching the deadline this week on whether to reappoint Judge Victoria Graffeo to another 14-year term on the Court of Appeals. The decision differs from the previous two selections, when Cuomo was under pressure to keep the court’s racial and ethnic diversity intact.

The current selection leaves Cuomo with the choice of reappointing a popular sitting judge who was first tapped by a Republican governor, or to look to put his own stamp on the court by bringing in a new judge. The Graffeo selection, then, becomes the first true indicator of what the court means to Andrew Cuomo—and the answer could very well be not a lot.

“You talk to people about the governor and nobody seems to have much of an idea about

his intent in regards to the Court of Appeals,” said Vincent Bonventre, an Albany Law School professor who specializes in New York’s highest court. **Read more:** <http://bit.ly/ZtvFhP>

BACKSTORY – “Reporters’ Hunch: The Fed Could Have Rescued Lehman Brothers,” by Peter Eavis, who covers finance and banks for the N.Y. Times, on Times Insider: “Figures like Henry M. Paulson Jr. and Ben S. Bernanke have long had an emphatic explanation for why they let Lehman fail in September 2008. Their hands, they said, were legally tied, so they simply had no choice but to let Lehman slide into its messy bankruptcy. Letting Lehman die in the way it did was a pivotal decision, because the firm’s collapse paralyzed the global financial system and weighed heavily on the world economy.

“But ... Jim [Stewart and I] ... felt there had to be more to the story, so we started asking questions of just about anyone who was involved with the Lehman weekend. ... [O]ne of our editors, Phyllis Messinger, knew we were on the same page and suggested we team up. It was the first time we’d worked together. ... Jim, a columnist at the Times, ... [gained] fame for his blockbuster, ‘Den of Thieves,’ that told the lurid tale of Michael Milken and Ivan Boesky. ...

“One day this summer, Jim ... learned from a source that officials at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York had done an analysis that suggested Lehman might have legally qualified for a rescue. In other words, it may not have been against the law to rescue Lehman, as the principal actors had asserted.” <http://nyti.ms/1BASWKh> ... **See Tuesday’s p. 1 story,**

“Lehman Revisited: The Bailout That Never Was” <http://nyti.ms/1mTbUKH>

GNAWS IRON, BITES STEEL ... “Brooklyn Time Capsule Reveals 64-Year-Old Nickel,” by Gothamist’s Valerie Heinmets: “Unfortunately, the contents were a bit of a bust because of their poor condition. [Archivist Toya] Dubin explained that by freezing the newspapers and cleaning off some of the dirt, the journal and date of publication could most likely be identified (but many have already declared they’re from October of 1949). ... [A] nickel, however, was intact. When [MTA President Carmen] Bianco was asked if it made him nostalgic for the MTA’s former 5 cent ride, he laughed and responded, ‘Times have changed and that’s all I can say.’” <http://bit.ly/1ry2VzY>

SHARPTON AT 60 — Capital’s Azi Paybarah: The activist and MSNBC commentator raised more than \$1 million for the National Action Network at his birthday party, inside the Four Season’s Restaurant in midtown last night. There, he was feted by a who’s who of politicians. Gov. Andrew Cuomo told the crowd Sharpton “has grown immensely over the years. He is no longer New York’s Rev. Al Sharpton; he’s the nation’s Rev. Al Sharpton, and the nation is better for it.” ... Andrew Cuomo joked about Sharpton’s dramatic weight-loss, saying he is “literally half the man he used to be.”

Sharpton responded by telling the governor -- who is up for re-election this November -- by saying he was getting so old, he may forget how to perform the trick of “voting in a straight Democratic line.” Also at the event: Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand; state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman; State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Public Advocate Letitia James; and filmmaker Spike Lee.

<http://goo.gl/P9bC3F> **VIDEO:** 1-minute highlight reel: <http://youtu.be/00ePvGTjgP4>

SPEED READ -- “High Line Draws Millions, but de Blasio Isn’t One,” by NYT’s Michael M.

Grynbaum: “The High Line has been hailed as an emerald jewel of New York City, a worldwide model for urban reclamation, a magnet for civic philanthropy and an aesthetic marvel that has lured natives and tourists alike. With one glaring exception. Mayor Bill de Blasio has never been there. The mayor, who since taking office has found time to sail around Capri and rally political leaders in England, has yet to set foot in the elevated park, which opened in 2009 and sits a couple of miles north of his City Hall office.”

<http://nyti.ms/1tjl4wX>

-- “‘Manhattan Madam’ gets 2 years despite teary pleas,” by Post’s Rich Calder:

“Notorious ‘Manhattan Madam’ Kristin Davis moaned Wednesday about her ‘hell’ while locked up at Rikers Island — but her teary-eyed speech didn’t keep a federal judge from sentencing her to two years in prison for peddling prescription pills. ... The judge also ripped her for authoring a book about her experiences as the ‘Manhattan Madam’ and not taking advantage of having a good education or a loving family.” <http://bit.ly/1vzEeTX>

-- “Free MetroCard program has led to rampant abuse: report,” by Post’s Rebecca

Harshbarger: “The MTA has been randomly mailing out tens of thousands of free MetroCards to handicapped riders to save money on Access-a-Ride trips— but no oversight has led to rampant abuse, according to a new report by its Inspector General. The cash-strapped authority began sending out the Zero-Fare cards in March 2013 after the idea was proposed in a report by a Manhattan-based consultant company called McKinsey & Company as a way to save money.” <http://bit.ly/1rLiwuH>

-- “The great not-rivals of Central Brooklyn politics” by Azi, for the magazine:

<http://capi.tl/1u3mBeP>

APOLOGIES FOR INCORRECT LINK YESTERDAY -- “The Clouds Over New York City This Morning Were Terrifyingly Beautiful,” by BuzzFeed’s Sarah Karlan: 15 great photos of the sky on one page -- Here is the right one: <http://bzfd.it/1mNWG9I>

RETAIL CITY -- “NYC’s SoHo Serves as Testing Ground for Chobani, Samsung,” by

Bloomberg’s Lauren Coleman-Lochner: “Prince Street in New York’s SoHo, a neighborhood packed with tourists and shoppers, has become a test lab for retail ideas. Companies ranging from yogurt maker Chobani Inc. to smartphone giant Samsung Electronics Co. have opened up experimental stores on the street -- not so much to make money but to pick the minds of consumers and try out new products. (Yogurt with red pepper, anyone?) They also can track customers with heat maps and other high-tech monitoring. ... CHOBANI SOHO (150 Prince Street) ... SAMSUNG GALAXY STUDIO (130 Prince Street) ... BIRCHBOX (433 West Broadway, just south of Prince) ... WARBY PARKER (121 Greene Street, just north of Prince).”

<http://bloom.bg/1mTDZkX>

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From: [Adams, Marti](#)
To: "mallen@politico.com"
Subject: Re: Lead of Playbook and City Hall Pro
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 9:02:22 AM

Thank you

We should definitely catch up for coffee or drinks at some point soon!

From: Mike Allen [mailto:mallen@politico.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 06:08 AM
To: Adams, Marti
Subject: Lead of Playbook and City Hall Pro

Thank you for working with us on the story, and flagging it. Look forward to spending time in person, and please let me know any time we may be helpful ...

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Lippman <DLippman@politico.com>
Date: October 2, 2014 at 12:04:23 PM GMT+2
To: Mike Allen <mallen@politico.com>
Subject: **Sally's story**

I can't find the link yet but it is the lead item in City Hall Pro below which they added as the lead item in Cap Playbook Google Doc.

From: Azi Paybarah - Capital New York <azi@capitalnewyork.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:45 AM
To: Daniel Lippman
Subject: City Hall Pro, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters
Education Fund: De Blasio woos DNC, Langone roasts mayor

Written by Azi Paybarah, with Eliza Shapiro, Gloria Pazmino and Conor Skelding

WAKE-UP SCOOP -- DE BLASIO COURTS DNC -- Capital's Sally Goldenberg: Mayor Bill de Blasio is intensifying his push for the city to host the 2016 Democratic National Convention. This morning, de Blasio will hold a breakfast meeting at the Upper East Side estate with about 70 members of the city's host committee, an administration source said. On Monday, the mayor, first lady Chirlane McCray and Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, discussed the city's proposal over lunch at Gracie Mansion.

-- A video and a Ratner pitch: According to the City Hall source, de Blasio will emphasize the novelty of hosting the convention in Brooklyn,

rather than in Manhattan, where other presidential nominating conventions have been held. Developer Bruce Ratner is also expected to address the meeting, the source said. And they will debut a two-minute video that portrays New York as an accessible, pulsating, diverse city. **See the video:** <http://bit.ly/1xEdcwM>

DE BLASIO ROASTED AT AL SMITH DINNER -- Daily News' Erin Durkin: "I don't see the person in charge of the NYPD up here tonight - Al Sharpton," [Ken Langone] cracked in the most pointed zinger at the annual dinner, which draws a host of city luminaries including Mayor de Blasio and Gov. Cuomo who subject themselves to a ribbing to raise cash for Catholic Charities. Bratton, seated behind the Home Depot founder on the dais full of notables in white ties and tails, greeted the joke with a hearty laugh. ...

Langone also protested that his much-criticized remarks comparing rhetoric on income inequality to Nazi Germany was taken out of context. "I was just saying the world should be wary of German populists - but enough about Bill de Blasio," he cracked. De Blasio was roundly mocked for losing his grip on groundhog "Staten Island Chuck," a fumble that may have contributed to the animal's death a week later. <http://nydn.us/1mT55bO>

GOOD THURSDAY MORNING -- Got a tip? Feedback? News to share? Let us know. By email: Azi@CapitalNewYork.com, GPazmino@CapitalNewYork.com, Eliza@CapitalNewYork.com and CSkelding@CapitalNewYork.com or on Twitter: [@Azi](https://twitter.com/Azi), [@GloriaPazmino](https://twitter.com/GloriaPazmino), [@ElizaShapiro](https://twitter.com/ElizaShapiro) and [@ConorSkelding](https://twitter.com/ConorSkelding).

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TODAY: Mayor de Blasio will host a breakfast for members of the DNC 2016 NYC Host Committee in Manhattan. Later, the mayor will meet with Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu in Manhattan.

JUST TWO DUDES -- De Blasio and L.A. mayor Eric Garcetti exchanged banter over email before the Stanley Cup, when the Rangers lost to the Kings. "Hey--can't wait for the Stanley Cup. Really proud of NYC and LA," wrote Garcetti at 2:11 a.m. Monday morning. "Best to you guys as well," replied de Blasio. "NOW, all real friendship, aside we plan to kick your hockey asses!!" **Read the emails**, obtained by Capital's Conor Skelding through a FOIL request, here: <http://bit.ly/1mRQkpl>

DE BLASIO'S HOME FOR RENT -- Times' Michael M. Grynbaum:

"Mayor Bill de Blasio will rent out his Brooklyn townhouse while he and his family live at Gracie Mansion, aides to the mayor said on Wednesday night. The townhouse, a three-story, century-old home on 11th Street in Park Slope, will be listed on Thursday by a local real estate agent at \$4,975 a month. The home has a small backyard garden, three bedrooms and only one bathroom, as Mr. de Blasio frequently points out."

<http://nyti.ms/1nOO1Vg>

STRINGER VS. BDB, AGAIN -- Capital's Sally Goldenberg: "Bill de Blasio and Scott Stringer, two left-of-center Democrats who have been at odds over the course of the year, ratcheted up their ongoing feud on Wednesday as Stringer threatened to potentially sue City Hall over a recent executive order expanding the city's living-wage law. The warning came at the end of a press conference Stringer held to denounce the administration's progress in securing contracts with companies run by minorities and women. 'We're looking at every option,' the comptroller said, when asked if he is considering legal action against a move he called a "midnight bait and switch."

-- "His gripe, in a nutshell, is that he believes de Blasio stripped the comptroller's office of its power to investigate compliance with the executive order, which raises the mandated wage companies who receive \$1 million or more in city subsidies must pay their workers."

<http://bit.ly/1rN5BZN>

FARINA'S TRICKY TEST SCORE BALANCE -- Capital's Eliza

Shapiro: "Carmen Fariña is taking a new approach in balancing test scores with collaboration and communication, which was on display Wednesday during an unsurprising speech intended to lay out her vision for the city's schools. The new evaluation system makes good on Fariña and Mayor Bill de Blasio's promise to de-emphasize high-stakes tests while still highlighting the need for gains in student achievement. But Fariña's newly-articulated attitude that her "pillars" of collaboration and communication, sometimes criticized as overly vague, will rely on improved test scores across the city, mark a perspective adjustment worth noting." <http://bit.ly/1rN76qE>

THE MTA'S NEW SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS -- Gothamist's Ben

Yakas: "Letitia James announced today that the MTA is re-doubling its efforts to keep customers 'safe, and assist them in respect to the reporting of any incidences of improper sexual conduct.' And one of those measures will mean hundreds of new surveillance cameras inside the next batch subway cars. James has been urging the MTA to change their sexual harassment measures in the light of an increase in the number of reported incidents." <http://bit.ly/1E1GXJF>

WELFARE OVERHAUL -- Capital's Gloria Pazmino: The Department of Social Services announced an overhaul of work requirements for New Yorkers receiving welfare that will help clients develop employment skills and obtain better jobs. Commissioner Steven Banks offered details of the new program a hearing of the City Council's committees on general welfare and civil service and labor. The program will target three areas:

education, better case by case help, and eliminating hurdles that prevent clients from finding jobs. <http://bit.ly/1xD6Z4g>

THOMPSON ON THE 'LEGACY OF DISGRACE' -- Capital's Colby

Hamilton: "Ken Thompson spoke to the borough's chamber of commerce for the first time on Wednesday, describing a "legacy of disgrace" he inherited from his predecessor, and updating the business community on his efforts to reduce crime. Thompson said his office continues to review over 100 cases for potential wrongful convictions prosecuted at the height of the crack cocaine epidemic in the 1980s and 90s. "These cases are very old. It's hard to figure things out," Thompson said, noting that he's assigned 10 prosecutors to "get to the bottom of this mess." <http://bit.ly/1CGtFkh>

BRATTON'S 'STATE OF THE UNION' -- News' Rocco

Parascandola: At a day-long event in College Point, Queens today, the police commissioner will tell top police officials about his ongoing "reengineering" plan for the department. Deputy Commissioner for Public Information Stephen Davis told the paper that Bratton "wants to talk about his initiatives, about the reengineering process. It's kind of like a State of the Union." A police source said "The idea is to get everyone onboard with his plans" and "I'm sure some of it will be like a pep talk." <http://goo.gl/8NDUF5>

SHAKEUP AT POLICE OVERSIGHT BODY -- HuffPo's Matt Sledge:

Ahead of tonight's vote on a personnel matter, one mayoral appointee and one NYPD appointee have left the 13-member board. Mohammad Khalid was a Bloomberg appointee whose replacement de Blasio has not yet named; the NYPD has not announced who is replacing Jules Martin, who is the second NYPD appointee to quit the CCRB. Last month, CCRB veteran Tosano Simonetti departed. <http://goo.gl/by6h4w>

-- **Flashback: August 25, 2014:** Eight of the CCRB's 13 board members were serving with expired terms. <http://goo.gl/HuQ8Dg>

TWEET OF THE DAY: "NOT Bernie Kerik...but how about Ray Kelly to head Secret Service?" via - @MarkjGreen. <http://goo.gl/5PAhC4>

NEW ON TWITTER: [@OIGNYPD](https://twitter.com/OIGNYPD), the office of Inspector General for the NYPD

DEEP DIVE -- City & State takes a look at the de Blasio's first management report which "shows mixed results in meeting some of his early goals" Nick Powell: <http://bit.ly/1pGGPop>

THE COUNCIL --

MMV, PUERTO RICO AND TWITTER -- Observer's Jillian

Jorgensen: Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito will travel to Puerto Rico today to speak at the Puerto Rican Public Relations Association Conference, where she'll discuss new media and her own prominent presence on Twitter. "I'm going to try to encourage the use of social media to get a message across," Ms. Mark-Viverito told the Observer in a brief interview in her City Hall office.

-- **Speaker prefers Twitter over Facebook:** While the new- and social media-focused conference isn't entirely Twitter-centric, that's the one social media platform that the speaker personally prefers. "I know some of my colleagues use Facebook a lot. That's one that doesn't speak to me," she said. <http://bit.ly/1v7H5AX>

Flashback -- The Times profiled the speaker's use of the social platform: <http://nyti.ms/1nNeqD3>

SLOWING NYC DOWN -- Capital's Gloria Pazmino: Department of Transportation commissioner Polly Trottenberg said the agency fully supports a City Council proposal to reduce the citywide speed limit to 25 mph. If passed, the measure would be another step in Mayor Bill de Blasio's Vision Zero plan to eliminate all traffic-related deaths in the city. "By passing Intro 466, the Council can put finishing touches on one of the centerpieces of Vision Zero," Trottenberg said, noting that speeding is the leading cause of traffic fatalities and serious injuries. "[Speeding] actually kills more New Yorkers than drunk driving and drivers distracted by cellphones combined." <http://bit.ly/1rGGk1y>

HPD SUPPORTS INCREASED FINES, UNCLEAR ABOUT ENFORCEMENT

-- **Capital's Gloria Pazmino:** One of the measures would allow the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to expand its Alternative Enforcement Program, which catalogues the city's worst buildings based on violations. Under the proposal, the number of buildings in the program would increase from 200 to 280.

-- **Big goal to meet:** Vito Mustaciuolo, H.P.D.'s deputy commissioner for enforcement and neighborhood services, said that while he supports the idea, the Council's goal of adding 80 buildings might be hard to meet: "We do not believe that this support is sufficient to address an additional 80 buildings per year," he said. "After reviewing our budget needs, H.P.D. supports an increase of 50 buildings per year at this time." <http://bit.ly/ZsMzgr>

Today at the Council:

-- **The committee on land use will meet** on at 11 a.m. at City Hall to hear the items from the planning and zoning subcommittees.

-- **The economic development committee will meet** at 1 p.m. at City Hall to conduct oversight of the effectiveness of the city's tax benefits to businesses.

FOLLOW Capital's Council Tracker to keep up with the latest bills being introduced, relevant legislation and important upcoming hearings. Via @BrendanCheney: <http://bit.ly/1t9LiBO>

SHORT READS:

-- **The police mistakenly shot and killed a man in Brooklyn.** The city's medical examiner performed an autopsy on victim Rafael Laureano yesterday. WSJ's Pervaiz Shallwani: <http://goo.gl/KJZlpC>

-- **Cyrus Vance Jr. announced an expanded Human Trafficking Response Unit on Wednesday**, which will investigate and prosecute sex and labor trafficking cases, while also providing support through advocacy groups. Capital's Colby Hamilton: <http://bit.ly/1pqSIVM>

-- **A retired NYPD officer was busted by** federal authorities accused of bilking the government out of more than \$300,000 in Social Security disability benefits — while working the past decade for luxury watchmaker and retailer Tourneau. Post's Rich Calder: <http://bit.ly/1pGDJAY>

-- **Kristin Davis, the former madam and gubernatorial candidate who claimed to have provided Eliot Spitzer with call girls, was sentenced by a federal judge** to two years in prison after pleading guilty in March to selling oxycodone, Xanax, and other prescription drugs. Capital's Colby Hamilton: <http://bit.ly/1xD4cle>

-- **There "will be an appreciable reduction in capacity into Penn Station** in peak periods" at some point more than a year from now, Stephen Gardner, a vice president at Amtrak, told a handful of reporters Wednesday morning. "So, it's not probably 25[%]. Is it 20 or so? In that area? We'll have to see." Capital's Dana Rubinstein and Conor Skelding: <http://bit.ly/1BAtnPO>

EVENTS:

6 a.m. -- MSNBC's "Morning Joe": Times' Jeremy Peters; and former Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs.

8:30 a.m. -- Public Advocate Letitia James attends the Zoning Advisory Council Annual Breakfast. 101 Park Avenue in Manhattan.

9 a.m. -- Former Mayor David Dinkins, State Senator Liz Krueger; Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Lilliam Barrios-Paoli; Assembly Members Deborah Glick and Richard Gottfried, with other community and government officials hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the naming of the Catherine M. Abate Health Center and Wellness Program; 150 Essex Street in Manhattan.

9 a.m. -- Comptroller Scott Stringer appears on "Buen Día New York" WADO 1280 AM.

9:15 a.m. -- State Senate Co-Majority Leader Jeff Klein, Assemblymen Karim Camara, Marcos Crespo and Robert Rodriguez and state Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. join thousands of parents, students and educators for #DontStealPossible rally, Lafayette Street and Worth Street in Manhattan.

9:30 a.m. -- Stringer attends Community Healthcare Network's Official Opening of Catherine M. Abate Health Center and Wellness Program. Community Healthcare Network, 150 Essex Street in Manhattan.

10 a.m. -- WNYC's "Brian Lehrer Show": David Petraeus, retired U.S. general; and Anthony Bourdain, chef; and "a look at the growing

influence of Latino voters.”

10:15 a.m. -- Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito receives flu vaccination with NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett and Health Committee Chair Corey Johnson. Harlem District Public Health Office 161 East 110th Street in Manhattan.

11 a.m. -- Gov. Andrew Cuomo makes an education announcement at a regularly scheduled meeting of the SUNY board, at the SUNY Global Center, 116 East 55th Street, in Manhattan.

11:35 a.m. -- WABC’s “Geraldo Rivera Show”: Rep. Michael Grimm, of Staten Island.

2 p.m. -- MSNBC’s “The Reid Report”: Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, of Brooklyn.

5 p.m. -- James attends the Laborpress 3rd Annual Heroes of Labor Awards Program

55 Water Street in Manhattan.

5:20 p.m. -- WABC’s “The Ride Home with Pat Kiernan and Rita Cosby”: State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.

7 p.m. -- State Senator Martin Golden hosts town hall meeting for Sandy victims, P.S. 277, 2529 Gerritsen Avenue Brooklyn.

7 p.m. -- NY1’s “Inside City Hall”: City Comptroller Scott Stringer; education roundtable with Jeremiah Kittredge from Families for Excellent Schools

**** A message from New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund:** Please join the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and NYU/Wagner’s Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems for Dig Deep for a Greener New York, a policy forum series beginning October 9. The first forum will examine the success of New York City’s green infrastructure pilot projects and explore the potential and challenges for the future. Two expert panels will be moderated by Capital New York reporters David Giambusso and Dana Rubinstein. Admission is free, RSVP today: <http://www.nylcvef.org/go/infrastructure/>
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From: [Adams, Marti](#)
To: "[Daniel Lippman](#)"
Subject: RE: Capital Playbook, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund -- DE BLASIO meets about Brooklyn -- New York vs. London -- SHARPTON DAY
Date: Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:20:09 AM

Will do, thanks!

From: Daniel Lippman [mailto:DLippman@politico.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:08 AM
To: Adams, Marti
Subject: Fw: Capital Playbook, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund -- DE BLASIO meets about Brooklyn -- New York vs. London -- SHARPTON DAY

Hi Marti,

I work with Mike on Capital Playbook and he forwarded me your note yesterday to ensure we put Sally's item in Cap Playbook; we did! Feel free to send me things anytime!

MAYOR MOBILIZING FOR BROOKLYN 2016 -- Capital's Sally Goldenberg: Bill de Blasio will hold a breakfast meeting at Gracie Mansion this morning with about 70 members of the city's host committee, an administration source said. This follows a meeting Monday with Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, to discuss the city's proposal at Gracie.

-- **A video and a Ratner pitch:** According to an administration source, de Blasio will talk about how to sell the particular novelty of hosting the convention in Brooklyn, rather than in Manhattan. Developer Bruce Ratner is also expected to address the meeting, where the committee will also be shown a new, two-minute video marketing the proposed site. <http://capi.tl/1rGLef2>

From: Azi Paybarah, Jimmy Vielkind, and Mike Allen <capitalplaybook@capitalnewyork.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:52 AM
To: Daniel Lippman
Subject: Capital Playbook, presented by the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund -- DE BLASIO meets about Brooklyn -- New York vs. London -- SHARPTON DAY

By Azi Paybarah in Manhattan and Jimmy Vielkind in Albany, with Daniel Lippman in Washington

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<http://capi.tl/1rGLef2>

THE TALK OF WALL STREET -- Financial Times, third page of second section, “New York and London vie for financial crown: Both centres face rising competition from Asian hubs as they struggle to lead fields from IPOs to currency trading,” by Michael Pooler in London: “After dipping during the crisis, the total number of banking jobs in London broke through pre-crisis levels last year, hitting 147,100 ... That took total financial services jobs in the city ... to a record 367,300. ...

“[E]stimates from the New York State Department of Labor suggest the city has 502,400 finance and insurance jobs – 8 per cent lower than the sector’s employment peak in 2007. ... [T]he bonus pool for employees at New York securities firms last year was at its largest since 2008 – at \$26.7bn, up 15 per cent on 2012, against the ... \$22.9bn ... paid out across the UK’s insurance and finance sectors as a whole.” <http://on.ft.com/1sOjadh>

AL SMITH DINNER -- “Mayor de Blasio, Gov. Cuomo among top pols roasted at Al Smith dinner,” by Daily News’ Erin Durkin: “[A] host of city luminaries including Mayor de Blasio and Gov. Cuomo ... subject[ed] themselves to a ribbing to raise cash for Catholic Charities. ... De Blasio was roundly mocked for losing his grip on groundhog ‘Staten Island Chuck,’ a fumble that may have contributed to the animal’s death a week later. ‘Having the mayor here tonight means one thing - the city’s groundhogs are safe,’ said emcee Alfred Smith IV, great grandson of the dinner’s namesake former governor. ... Charlie Rose, the keynote speaker, ... singed Cuomo over his dismantling of the anti-corruption Moreland Commission. ‘Preet Bharara was supposed to be here, but before the invite went out, Gov. Cuomo abolished the independent commission on invitations,’ he said in a reference to the U.S. Attorney probing the Moreland matter.” <http://nydn.us/1rGPCe9>

FRONT PAGES: Times, 1-col below the fold: “Teacher Known As Cool Friend, Until His Arrest” -- **WSJ Greater NY,** 6-col above the fold: “Repairs Could Snarl Trains” -- **News:** “HEADS MUST ROLL” -- **Post:** “Pope Al” -- **amNY:** “MTA TELLS SUBWAY PERVERTS: WE’LL BE WATCHING YOU” -- **Metro:** “MTA PUTS BRAKES ON HARASSMENT”

****A message from New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund:** Twenty-seven billion gallons of sewage and polluted stormwater are discharged into NYC waterways every year. There are green infrastructure pilot projects underway to reduce this pollution, but are they making an impact? What are the challenges and opportunities to expand green infrastructure citywide? **Find out on October 9:** <http://www.nylcvf.org/go/infrastructure/>

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CUOMO’S COURT—Colby Hamilton for Capital: Governor Andrew Cuomo is quickly approaching the deadline this week on whether to reappoint Judge Victoria Graffeo to another 14-year term on the Court of Appeals. The decision differs from the previous two selections, when Cuomo was under pressure to keep the court’s racial and ethnic diversity intact.

The current selection leaves Cuomo with the choice of reappointing a popular sitting judge who was first tapped by a Republican governor, or to look to put his own stamp on the court by bringing in a new judge. The Graffeo selection, then, becomes the first true indicator of what the court means to Andrew Cuomo—and the answer could very well be not a lot.

“You talk to people about the governor and nobody seems to have much of an idea about his intent in regards to the Court of Appeals,” said Vincent Bonventre, an Albany Law School professor who specializes in New York’s highest court. **Read more:** <http://bit.ly/ZtvFhP>

BACKSTORY – “Reporters’ Hunch: The Fed Could Have Rescued Lehman Brothers,” by Peter Eavis, who covers finance and banks for the N.Y. Times, on Times Insider: “Figures like Henry M. Paulson Jr. and Ben S. Bernanke have long had an emphatic explanation for why they let Lehman fail in September 2008. Their hands, they said, were legally tied, so they simply had no choice but to let Lehman slide into its messy bankruptcy. Letting Lehman die in the way it did was a pivotal decision, because the firm’s collapse paralyzed the global financial system and weighed heavily on the world economy.

“But ... Jim [Stewart and I] ... felt there had to be more to the story, so we started asking questions of just about anyone who was involved with the Lehman weekend. ... [O]ne of our editors, Phyllis Messenger, knew we were on the same page and suggested we team up. It was the first time we’d worked together. ... Jim, a columnist at the Times, ... [gained] fame for his blockbuster, ‘Den of Thieves,’ that told the lurid tale of Michael Milken and Ivan Boesky. ...

“One day this summer, Jim ... learned from a source that officials at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York had done an analysis that suggested Lehman might have legally qualified for a rescue. In other words, it may not have been against the law to rescue Lehman, as the principal actors had asserted.” <http://nyti.ms/1BASWKh> ... **See Tuesday’s p. 1 story,**

“Lehman Revisited: The Bailout That Never Was” <http://nyti.ms/1mTbUKH>

GNAWS IRON, BITES STEEL ... “Brooklyn Time Capsule Reveals 64-Year-Old Nickel,” by Gothamist’s Valerie Heinmets: “Unfortunately, the contents were a bit of a bust because of their poor condition. [Archivist Toya] Dubin explained that by freezing the newspapers and cleaning off some of the dirt, the journal and date of publication could most likely be identified (but many have already declared they’re from October of 1949). ... [A] nickel, however, was intact. When [MTA President Carmen] Bianco was asked if it made him nostalgic for the MTA’s former 5 cent ride, he laughed and responded, ‘Times have changed and that’s all I can say.’” <http://bit.ly/1ry2VzY>

SHARPTON AT 60 — Capital’s Azi Paybarah: The activist and MSNBC commentator raised more than \$1 million for the National Action Network at his birthday party, inside the Four Season’s Restaurant in midtown last night. There, he was feted by a who’s who of politicians. Gov. Andrew Cuomo told the crowd Sharpton “has grown immensely over the years. He is no longer New York’s Rev. Al Sharpton; he’s the nation’s Rev. Al Sharpton, and the nation is better for it.” ... Andrew Cuomo joked about Sharpton’s dramatic weight-loss, saying he is “literally half the man he used to be.”

Sharpton responded by telling the governor -- who is up for re-election this November -- by saying he was getting so old, he may forget how to perform the trick of "voting in a straight Democratic line." Also at the event: Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand; state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman; State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Public Advocate Letitia James; and filmmaker Spike Lee.

<http://goo.gl/P9bC3F> VIDEO: 1-minute highlight reel: <http://youtu.be/00ePvGTjgP4>

SPEED READ -- "High Line Draws Millions, but de Blasio Isn't One," by NYT's Michael M.

Grynbaum: "The High Line has been hailed as an emerald jewel of New York City, a worldwide model for urban reclamation, a magnet for civic philanthropy and an aesthetic marvel that has lured natives and tourists alike. With one glaring exception. Mayor Bill de Blasio has never been there. The mayor, who since taking office has found time to sail around Capri and rally political leaders in England, has yet to set foot in the elevated park, which opened in 2009 and sits a couple of miles north of his City Hall office."

<http://nyti.ms/1tjl4wX>

-- **"Manhattan Madam' gets 2 years despite teary pleas," by Post's Rich Calder:**

"Notorious 'Manhattan Madam' Kristin Davis moaned Wednesday about her 'hell' while locked up at Rikers Island — but her teary-eyed speech didn't keep a federal judge from sentencing her to two years in prison for peddling prescription pills. ... The judge also ripped her for authoring a book about her experiences as the 'Manhattan Madam' and not taking advantage of having a good education or a loving family." <http://bit.ly/1vzEeTX>

-- **"Free MetroCard program has led to rampant abuse: report," by Post's Rebecca**

Harshbarger: "The MTA has been randomly mailing out tens of thousands of free MetroCards to handicapped riders to save money on Access-a-Ride trips— but no oversight has led to rampant abuse, according to a new report by its Inspector General. The cash-strapped authority began sending out the Zero-Fare cards in March 2013 after the idea was proposed in a report by a Manhattan-based consultant company called McKinsey & Company as a way to save money." <http://bit.ly/1rLiwuH>

-- **"The great not-rivals of Central Brooklyn politics" by Azi, for the magazine:**

<http://capi.tl/1u3mBeP>

APOLOGIES FOR INCORRECT LINK YESTERDAY -- "The Clouds Over New York City This Morning Were Terrifyingly Beautiful," by BuzzFeed's Sarah Karlan: 15 great photos of the sky on one page -- Here is the right one: <http://bzfd.it/1mNWG9I>

RETAIL CITY -- "NYC's SoHo Serves as Testing Ground for Chobani, Samsung," by

Bloomberg's Lauren Coleman-Lochner: "Prince Street in New York's SoHo, a neighborhood packed with tourists and shoppers, has become a test lab for retail ideas. Companies ranging from yogurt maker Chobani Inc. to smartphone giant Samsung Electronics Co. have opened up experimental stores on the street -- not so much to make money but to pick the minds of consumers and try out new products. (Yogurt with red pepper, anyone?) They also can track customers with heat maps and other high-tech monitoring. ... CHOBANI SOHO (150 Prince Street) ... SAMSUNG GALAXY STUDIO (130 Prince Street) ... BIRCHBOX (433 West Broadway, just south of Prince) ... WARBY PARKER (121 Greene Street, just north of Prince)."

<http://bloom.bg/1mTDzkX>

QUOTE OF DAY: "I think the people in the White House and City Hall deal with people that can influence people and I think that we've shown, for decades, that we can influence people."--Rev. Al Sharpton

HUFFINGTON TOUTS GILLIBRAND FOR PRESIDENT — Capital's Jeremy Barr: Arianna Huffington, the founder and president of The Huffington Post, showered praise on New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and suggested she'd make a great president someday, "Don't you want her to be president?" Huffington asked the crowd assembled for a Wednesday afternoon Advertising Week panel. "Isn't it time to have a president who sleeps 9 hours a night? They'll make better decisions." Gillibrand spoke last as part of a two-hour panel discussion about how women can improve their work-life balance, a theme she touched on in her new book, *Off The Sidelines*. <http://bit.ly/1vvHjT3>

REAL ESTATE -- "H.P.D. plans major changes to jump-start affordable housing development," by Capital's Ryan Hutchins: "New York City plans to significantly scale back regulatory requirements imposed on some affordable housing developers, all but eliminating a cumbersome design and architecture review that can take months to complete and add significant costs to buildings... While its staff will still conduct a short review, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development will largely rely on a system of self-certifications and random audits to ensure projects under its inclusionary housing program meet city standards, Vicki Been, the agency's commissioner, said at an event held by the Citizens Budget Commission." <http://bit.ly/1E2486F>

-- "Landlord challenges SL Green's Grand Central claims," by Capital's Dana Rubinstein: "Among the many things Grand Central Terminal landlord Andrew Penson doesn't like about SL Green's bid to build a skyscraper across the street is the amount the developer says it will be putting toward terminal improvements. On Wednesday, Penson sent a letter to Lola Finkelstein, who chairs a community board task force on the future of Midtown East, arguing the \$210 million SL Green told the city and the M.T.A. it would spend on infrastructure improvements—a promise that helped it secure the support of the de Blasio administration—is overstated. 'SL Green is misleading the public and is likely to spend only \$65 million to build transit improvements that they claim will cost \$210 million or more,' Penson wrote." <http://bit.ly/1pGMCdq> [PRO]

-- "Manhattan Homebuyers Pay Up as Sales Top Listing Price," by Bloomberg's Oshrat Carmiel: "Manhattan apartment prices rose 4.2 percent in the third quarter, bolstered by buyers who increasingly agreed to pay what sellers were asking or more. The median sale price of condominiums and co-ops was \$908,242, up from \$872,000 a year earlier, according to a report today from appraiser Miller Samuel Inc. and brokerage Douglas Elliman Real Estate. The average price per square foot increased 12 percent to \$1,270, the third-highest in records dating to 1989, the firms said. Prices in Manhattan have climbed for four consecutive quarters, encouraging more owners to list properties after an inventory shortage last year." <http://bloom.bg/1ufkm85>

THE HOME TEAMS -- Capital's Howard Megdal: SI's Grant Wahl reports that there is no

chance Thierry Henry returns to the Red Bulls next season. Moreover, Red Bull met with several interested parties, including Manchester City, about potentially selling the team and Red Bull Arena. Wahl reports the owners are still eager to sell. The Red Bulls issued a statement that at first glance sounds like a denial, but really isn't. <http://goo.gl/7Cx2IB>

-- @AP_Planner: Tonight "Derek Jeter guests on 'The Tonight Show' @FallonTonight @NBC"

-- Hal Steinbrenner, for his part, doesn't sound like he is selling the Yankees.

<http://goo.gl/JMkXhA>

EAT BEAT – "How To Eat Di Fara & More Top Pizza For Just \$1," by Gothamist's Nell

Casey: "The annual fundraising frenzy known as Slice Out Hunger returns next Wednesday to feed frugal pizza lovers with slices from some of the city's top pie joints. Now in its 6th year, the event not only offers up bargain basement slices to the hordes who descend on St. Anthony's Church, but also raises big bucks for Food Bank For New York City. ... On October 8th, pizzerias including Emily, Di Fara, Best Pizza, Heartwood, Forcella, Motorino, Ribalta and many, many more drop off loads of pies to the Sullivan Street church. Then at 6 p.m., the doors are flung open and line waiters are treated to \$1 slices from any of the pizzerias."

With a 1-min. video: <http://bit.ly/1x1Sbcv>

BROADWAY BUZZ – "Dr. Zhivago Musical Is Next Tenant of Broadway Theatre," by

Playbill's Adam Hetrick: "Zhivago, based on the 1958 Nobel Prize-winning novel by Russian author Boris Pasternak, will begin previews March 27, 2015, at the Broadway Theatre, producers announced [yesterday] ... The musical premiered at the La Jolla Playhouse in May 2006 and was later revised for an Australian production produced by John Frost in 2010. Tony Award winner Des McAnuff, who helmed the American and Australian productions, will also direct for Broadway. An official Broadway opening has been set for April 21. The 1,761-seat Broadway Theatre is currently home to Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, which will end its run Jan. 3." <http://bit.ly/1E3ecfz>

#UpstateAmerica: A Penn Yan winery has created New York Yankees Reserve Dry Riesling, the official wine of the Bronx Bombers. <http://on.rocne.ws/YU5UG5>

****A message from New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund:** Please join the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and NYU/Wagner's Institute for Civil Infrastructure Systems for Dig Deep for a Greener New York, a policy forum series beginning October 9. The first forum will examine the success of New York City's green infrastructure pilot projects and explore the potential and challenges for the future. Two expert panels will be moderated by Capital New York reporters David Giambusso and Dana Rubinstein. **Admission is free, RSVP today:** <http://www.nylcvef.org/go/infrastructure/> **

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<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/playbook>

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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Flegenheimer, Matt"](#)
Subject: RE: ground hog
Date: Friday, October 03, 2014 11:28:46 AM

im getting stuck in RN business at moment
can we push back?

apologies

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 11:27 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

still on?

On Wed, Oct 1, 2014 at 4:29 PM, Matt Flegenheimer <matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com> wrote:
Sure

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 1, 2014, at 4:27 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

cool
fri?

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 4:24 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Should be around tomorrow and Friday both

On Wed, Oct 1, 2014 at 4:22 PM, Walzak, Phil <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
whats your sked like next few days

From: Matt Flegenheimer [mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 8:13 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Thank you sir. We still have to grab lunch. You around tomorrow?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2014, at 7:59 PM, "Walzak, Phil" <PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

srsly, a good read

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [<mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/26/nyregion/a-groundhog-day-whodunit-the-mystery-of-chucks-death.html?ref=nyregion>

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:55 PM, Walzak, Phil
<PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
thnx

From: Flegenheimer, Matt [<mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:51 PM

To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

(and yes, spoke to Titone)

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:50 PM, Flegenheimer, Matt
<matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com> wrote:
I think there should clearly be a deputy mayor for rodent trauma

On Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 12:46 PM, Walzak, Phil
<PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:
Mayors office refers inquires to the Staten Island Zoo on these assessments and has no reason to dispute the findings

off record: whats a reasonable expectation here? this was 7 months ago, mayor and team just learned abt this and neither the mayor nor his staff are veterinarians

did you talk to Titone?

From: Matt Flegenheimer [<mailto:matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Re: ground hog

Attributable?

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2014, at 12:41 PM, "Walzak, Phil"
<PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

id say we trust the zoo's assessment

From: Walzak, Phil
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 11:52 AM
To: matt.flegenheimer@nytimes.com
Subject: FW: ground hog

not for attribution, but since we only learned of this incident this week, we can only go on what we have been told by people who are in a position to know.

***From SI Zoo

Groundhog

As a result of the groundhog unexpectedly climbing out of the Mayor's grasp, the animal was given a complete medical examination by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian immediately following the incident on February 2, 2014. The examination showed no evidence of trauma or pain, with the animal displaying normal behavior.

During the following week after Groundhog Day the animal participated in several events, showing no clinical abnormalities and a normal appetite during this time. One week after Groundhog Day, on February 9, the animal was found deceased in its exhibit from internal injuries that the animal most likely sustained sometime during the week after Groundhog Day, potentially overnight while in its exhibit.

A necropsy was performed by the Staten Island Zoo veterinarian, which revealed acute internal injuries.

The exact cause of the injuries could not be determined. Given the results of the necropsy, the incident appears to have been sudden. It appears unlikely that the animal's death is related to the events on Groundhog Day.

***This quote from SI Assemblyman Titone -
<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/staten-island-chuck-died-week-dropped-de-blasio-groundhog-day-article-1.1952353>

"She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened

up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday.

It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter.

"There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

He does not believe the mayor killed the animal.

"After she squirmed out of the mayor's hands, she underwent a full and thorough veterinary examination. She did not present any signs of distress and she still had a full appetite," he said.

Phillip Walzak
Press Secretary
Office of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
O: [212-788-2958](tel:212-788-2958)
C: [917-455-8420](tel:917-455-8420)
pwalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov
twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: Brian Morris [\[mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org\]](mailto:bmorris@statenilandzoo.org)
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: Groundhog

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Russo, Melissa \(NBCUniversal\)"](#)
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?
Date: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 6:45:27 PM

GROUND HOG????

cmon!

From: Russo, Melissa (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:Melissa.Russo@nbcuni.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 6:43 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?

Spoke with her and emailed her comments to our web team.

From: Walzak, Phil [<mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 6:40 PM
To: Russo, Melissa (NBCUniversal)
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?

I know, but GROUNDHOG?

also I understand Jacky Johnson is trying to reach you

From: Russo, Melissa (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:Melissa.Russo@nbcuni.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 6:39 PM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?

Just reported what I was told... Also mentioned Pre K Vision Zero...
And all your points that we discussed.

From: Walzak, Phil [<mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 6:01 PM
To: Russo, Melissa (NBCUniversal)
Subject: you still went w Groundhog?

and 20 mtgs w Sharpton? not right

this is really a pile on Melissa

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twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Russo, Melissa \(NBCUniversal\)"](#)
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?
Date: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 10:13:24 AM

oh youre gonna get it Russo!

From: Russo, Melissa (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:Melissa.Russo@nbcuni.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?

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From: Walzak, Phil [<mailto:PWalzak@cityhall.nyc.gov>]
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From: [Walzak, Phil](#)
To: ["Russo, Melissa \(NBCUniversal\)"](#)
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?
Date: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 11:24:24 AM

live from the SI Zoo – groundhog-ghazi!

From: Russo, Melissa (NBCUniversal) [<mailto:Melissa.Russo@nbcuni.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 10:16 AM
To: Walzak, Phil
Subject: RE: you still went w Groundhog?

Coming up at 11 ... marmot-cide and the shocking coverup... LOL

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twitter: [@ptwalzak](https://twitter.com/ptwalzak)

From: [Eric Alterman](#)
To: [McGinn, Isaac](#)
Subject: RE: SIDESHOWS
Date: Monday, November 10, 2014 11:50:52 AM

Yes def on ground hog especially in comparison to whatever was important at the same tim.

Thanks again

On Nov 10, 2014 11:37 AM, "McGinn, Isaac" <IMcGinn@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

Will do. What's the deadline?

Also fyi, if I could pull the numbers now, I would include the dead groundhog kerfuffle in the list of sideshows. That whole thing started about a day after we had coffee I think.

I

From: Eric Alterman [mailto:eric.alterman@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 11:25 AM
To: McGinn, Isaac
Subject: Re: SIDESHOWS

This is very useful/helpful for the "they focus on bullshit" argument.

See if you can find stories that cloud the issues on the above--or any clearly inequality related measure. (Muni cards, stop and frisk, living wage, minimum wage, pre-K. I think I'm covered on charter schools.)

On Mon, Nov 10, 2014 at 11:21 AM, McGinn, Isaac <IMcGinn@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

So let's start there. And I can fill in gaps or focus more on certain things.

I pulled these numbers mid-August. Can update and/or explain them if they're confusing:

SIDESHOW COVERAGE: HORSE CARRIAGES, SPEEDGATE

(A) DN runs with horse-carriages [Tuesday 04/08/14 -Wednesday 04/23/14]

The Daily News has written **119 stories about horse carriages since January 1, 2014. 53 of these stories were published during in April. All 53 of these stories about horse carriages were published in a 16-day stretch between April 8 and April 23.** There were zero stories about horse carriages before April 8 and zero after April 23.

The Daily News ran stories on the following dates in April: 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23. Total coverage peaked between the 18th and the 23rd. Daily News coverage peaked on April 18, 19, and 20 when they ran 6, 4, and 7 stories respectively. Daily News coverage petered out slowly after that with 2 and 4 articles in the subsequent two days.

According to a 'Lexis All News' search, there were **approximately 172 stories published in total during that same period (between April 8 and April 23) about horse carriages.**

Some of the events taking place during that time period (and approximate Daily News coverage) were:

Ground broken on Livonia Commons affordable housing complex (~2 stories)

Finkelpearl, Jacques Jiha, Feniosky Peña-Mora, Lopez appointed (~8 stories)

NYT Approval poll released

1st 100 Days (~15 stories)

First slow zones implemented on Atlantic Ave for Vision Zero (~6 stories)

"Fariña eases consequences of high-stakes tests" (~1 story)

Public school Pre-k application deadline (~1 story)

Municipal ID bill introduced in City Council (~3 stories)

Hurricane Sandy aid reforms/recovery overhaul (~3 stories)

Fourth of July fireworks move to East River (~1 story)

Mayor de Blasio takes questions in Google Hangout (~2 stories)

In terms of the major MBdB issues, the Daily News wrote about 9 stories on universal prekindergarten; 11 stories on housing; 0 stories on Long Island College Hospital; 4 stories about Hurricane Sandy recovery (1 on Build It Back); 0 stories on paid sick leave; 4 stories on municipal ID cards; and 7 stories on charter schools between April 8 and April 23.

[source: Lexis All News search results, Morning Press Clips]

*Additionally, the Daily News put **horses/horse-carriage coverage on their front page nine (9) times** during the month of April (on the 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 27 of April).

(B) Speedgate [Friday 02/21/14- Friday 02/28/14]

There were approximately **70 stories written about "Speedgate"** in the days after CBS-2's political reporter Marcia Kramer broke the story on the evening of February 20. Between the story breaking and Friday February 28, 70 stories addressed the incidents referred to as "Speedgate" and its 'aftermath.' Comparatively, there were 28 stories about Long Island College Hospital, 51 stories about universal pre-k, and 9 stories on homelessness news published.

[source: Morning Press Clips]

(C) Rough tally of horses stories v. other stories

Approximately **847 stories have been written about horse carriages since January 1, 2014**. Approximately **119 stories of those stories appeared in the Daily News**. The number of stories about major MBdB issues published in the same period (between January 1 and August 14) are approximately as follows:

Education – 1763 stories

Universal prekindergarten – 1534 stories

Charter schools – 1218 stories

Vision Zero – 540 stories

Affordable housing – 867 stories

Hurricane Sandy – 453 stories

Paid sick leave – 240 stories

Municipal IDs – 149 stories

Long Island College Hospital – 114 stories

Build It Back – 94 stories

[source: Lexis All News search results]

From: Eric Alterman [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 11:16 AM

To: McGinn, Isaac
Subject: Re: SIDESHOWS

she did not

On Mon, Nov 10, 2014 at 11:15 AM, McGinn, Isaac <IMcGinn@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

Clear. Did Rebecca ever share see any of the research I did re: horse-carriage and "Speedgate" coverage with you?

From: Eric Alterman [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 11:12 AM
To: McGinn, Isaac
Subject: Re: SIDESHOWS

Hi Isaac,

thanks for getting in touch.

What I need, in the next few days if possible, are examples of the media's penchant for triviality, personality, phony scandal, and conservative ideology messing up the truth of stories/issues dealing with the BdB inequality agenda, most particularly, having to do with:

education

housing

economic development

criminal justice.

Specific examples would be most welcome.

also any obsessive focusing on really stupid issues that nobody cares about except the press.

Am I being clear?

best

ERA

On Mon, Nov 10, 2014 at 11:05 AM, McGinn, Isaac <IMcGinn@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

Hey Eric,

Isaac McGinn here. Rebecca filled me in on the latest re: your project and told me I should connect with you directly to help you figure out how to best answer your last remaining Q's. Would love to discuss research, happy to assist with what's left, and available/standing by to talk any time.

Best,

IGM

Media Research Analyst

NYC Mayor's Office

imcginn@cityhall.nyc.gov

[917 519 5076](tel:9175195076)

--

Eric Alterman

[REDACTED]

CUNY Distinguished Professor of English and Journalism, Brooklyn College
"Liberal Media" Columnist, *The Nation*,
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From: [McGinn, Isaac](#)
To: [Eric Alterman](#)
Subject: MORE
Date: Monday, November 17, 2014 11:45:03 PM
Attachments: [111414-StopNFrisk.rtf](#)
[111314-Sideshows.rtf](#)
[111714-ChuckAllNews.rtf](#)

Updated Sideshows

Fully filled out the StopNFrisk doc. It now contains just about all public safety press coverage that ran in May, June, and July (on top of the searches I did, I added all the news from our internal roundups that Lexis didn't pick up) – gives a little more context to tab coverage.

Attached roundup of Groundhog coverage. The Post broke the story, next day it took up space in every paper we cover and then some, story died within a week. Sites like Mashable and Gawker which just rack up views on dumb videos and blurbs have almost exclusively run stories about de Blasio's gaffes (Pizza, groundhog, late to memorial, etc). Colbert and Daily covered gaffes. Bill gets a good share of national coverage but basically national press has ballooned around gaffes, eric garner/police stuff, and ebola. the main issues – education, vision zero, etc – definitely make it up there, but with more consistency and in fewer sources, more straightforward sources i.e. la times.

Wanted to find evidence of press arguing that muni id's incentivize illegal immigration (this particularly came up when the border crisis was a big thing on tv) –often press would insinuate a slippery slope to illegals voting– but it's not coming as easily as i hoped.

Haven't even touched min wage/living wage

Today was a fascinating news day in light of this research, what we've discussed, and just for being in politics (at least for me as the rookie of rookies). the news report by Dave Evans of ABC-7 from tonight spoke your distraction theory out loud--

First Lady Chirlane McCray's Top Aide Takes Leave Following Son's Arrest

[ABC 7 - Bill Ritter - 5:06 pm](#)

There is a big shake-up happening tonight at New York City Hall. Rachel Noerdlinger, the chief of staff to First Lady Chirlane McCray, says she'll take a leave of absence to care for her son who was arrested on Friday. 17-year-old Khari Noerdlinger was arrested for trespassing in Washington Heights. The arrest is the latest in a string of personal troubles for Ms. Noerdlinger, whose live-in boyfriend is a convicted killer and had his own recent run-ins with police. Noerdlinger is a long-time employee of Reverend Al Sharpton. The mayor, who had supported her, now claims Noerdlinger has been treated unfairly by the media. Mayor de Blasio: "This just – it's quite obvious. Why would so much attention be given to one person and her personal life? It's clearly a pretty systematic effort to undermine certain work that's being done." Noerdlinger did not indicate if or when she'll ever come back, but the mayor's office is already looking for her replacement.

[ABC 7 - Dave Evans - 6:04 pm](#)

Rachel Noerdlinger made the decision after her 17-year-old son was arrested over the weekend. The arrest caps a string of damaging disclosures about Noerdlinger's personal life. Today, however, the mayor blasted the media for reporting on her personal issues. The fear at City Hall is that some of the successes the mayor has achieved in the last 11 months could be overshadowed by the Noerdlinger controversy – including money secured from Albany for his signature pre-k

program and a crime rate that is down 8 percent compared with last year. All of that success could be overshadowed by extraneous issues – such as his late arrival to many events and the growing Noerdlinger controversy. Mayor de Blasio: “I think she’s a hard-working public servant who’s tried to do good throughout her life.” No one doubts Rachel Noerdlinger did a good job – it’s her personal life that became tabloid fodder. The arrest of her 17-year-old son Khari on Friday night was the final straw. Police arrested him in the lobby of an apartment building in Washington Heights for trespassing. Khari has had problems with police before, even calling them pigs in one tweet. In another he wrote, “I’m convinced all white people are the devil.” All of this is on top of Noerdlinger’s boyfriend being a convicted killer who’s had his own run-ins with police. But the mayor argued today that Noerdlinger’s personal family life should remain personal. Mayor: “This is – a lot of really nasty stuff was done here. It is clearly for a purpose. This just – it’s quite obvious. Why would so much attention be given to one person and her personal life?” Noerdlinger, who used to work for Al Sharpton, issued the following statement today: “I can handle criticism and scrutiny of me, even when it’s mean-spirited... But increasingly, my son has been subjected to attacks that have nothing to do with the public interest.” Mayor: “It’s repulsive, but it’s become quite common.” While the mayor objected today, his critics said Noerdlinger, her past, and her ties to Sharpton hurt police relations with City Hall. SBA President Ed Mullins: “I think it’s time for the mayor to stand up and become our mayor for all people and stop making excuses for the failures that are occurring within his administration.” Today, the mayor adamantly said he would not change his agenda to make the city more fair and police more accountable. He called the treatment of Noerdlinger sad. Mayor: “The public doesn’t want to talk about these scandals and gossip and everything else. They want to talk about what will make their lives better.” Surprisingly, Ed Mullins said today that he thought a woman should run against the mayor in 2017, arguing that a woman would be less aggressive than a man and better able to solve problems such as race and police reform issues. Needless to say, those comments are perplexing to a few of the insiders at City Hall.

Public Safety Press Clips – May through July 17, 2014

Lexis All News Search for
blasio w/35 ("stop and frisk" or "crime ris!" or shooting!) btwn 05/01 and 07/17 – 99 stories
Daily News – 15
New York Post – 13
blasio w/35 ("stop and frisk" or "crime ris!") and shooting! – 28 stories
Daily News – 4
New York Post – 7

Lexis All News Search for
blasio w/35 ("stop and frisk" or crime ris!) and shooting btwn 08/01 and 11/14* – 34 stories
Daily News – 3
New York Post – 4

*the time frame for this search (08/01—>11/14) is one month greater than for the search above (05/01—>07/17)

Shootings were UP compared to last year in May, June
Shootings were DOWN to record lows in August, September [—> “In August and September of this year, the fewest shootings since the city started compiling data in 1993 – fewest shootings in the month of August and fewest shootings in the month of September in over 20 years.” –MBdB, 11/02
<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/907-14/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability-commissioner-bratton>]

MAY 1

Save this knockout of an idea Mr. Mayor, boxing gym needs you
DAILY NEWS - Denis Hamill

Mayor de Blasio can score a sweet victory here. Because this is one of those frustrating stories where a great idea that could save hundreds of young lives just needs a little big-shot intervention. Patty Russo is an ex-NYPD narcotics detective who runs the Atlas/NYPD Cops and Kids Boxing Program. The outfit has given the city more Golden Gloves champions out of its two gyms on Staten Island and one in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, than any other in the city in recent years. Two years ago, responding to a desperate need in Brownsville, Brooklyn, where the Bloods and the Crips were shooting each other - and innocent citizens - in drug turf wars in the 18 local housing projects, Russo secured 10,000 square feet of free space on the second floor of an old warehouse at 326 Junius St. "A local minister named the Rev. (Randolph) Ferdinand gave us this space," Russo (below) says. "Joe Ponzi at the Brooklyn DA's office backed us and we raised \$25,000 to buy new rings and boxing equipment. Teddy Atlas' foundation paid the insurance." Perfect.

...These cop trainers and the kid boxers are the pylons of that vital bridge that de Blasio and Police Commissioner Bill Bratton want to build between our police and the minority community. The only previous contact the kids of Brownsville had with our police was through an abusive policy of stop and frisk. De Blasio must think of Patty Russo as the gatekeeper of that bridge.

The mayor can now move the arthritic hand of the bureaucracy either to find this program a new home in Brownsville or offer the new landlord of 326 Junius St. a tax incentive he can't refuse to let this boxing gym stay put. A truly progressive administration can't let this bridge between our cops and our kids collapse any more than he can let the Brooklyn Bridge fall down.

MAY 21

Editorial: Let cops be cops
DAILY NEWS – Editorial

New York City is just fine with about 35,000 cops, Commissioner Bill Bratton told a City Council intent on boosting the force by 1,000 officers at a cost of \$70 million a year. While making clear that he would rather invest in boosting police pay, Bratton said that the department has sufficient personnel to continue driving down crime and maintaining safety. Ultimately, the takeaway for the Council must be that it's not the number of cops that counts the most; it's how the department deploys them on the street. Right now, thanks in no small part to sentiment on the Council, the police are operating without the full benefit of the stop, question and sometimes frisk strategy. All too casually, Mayor de Blasio, the Council and civil rights advocates dismissed the tactic's critical role in the steady drop in crime over the past 12 years, and assert that curtailing the tactic will not lead to greater violence. Both assumptions will be tested over the long run. Still, at this moment, there may be a cautionary lesson to be gleaned in the 47th Precinct in the northern Bronx. Defying a citywide downward trend in murders and shootings, the 47th has experienced a sharp upward spike. The precinct racked up eight murders through May 11, compared with just one at the same time last year. The area also weathered 21 shootings, twice the 11 at this time last year. Why? While divining the causes for criminal activity is at best inexact - and blips will come and go - other numbers bear consideration. ...Judge Shira Scheindlin brought the practice to a virtual halt by finding the NYPD guilty of conducting widespread unconstitutional stops. Although a higher court discredited Scheindlin's ruling, de Blasio dropped an appeal and submitted the NYPD to court-appointed monitoring. Even so, the department must have the authority to conduct stops-and-frisks that pass constitutional muster, regardless of who screams about it. The commander of the 47th is reported to be developing a program that would dispatch all patrol cops to make contact with a family on every block in the precinct. This sounds like the return of Officer Friendly, the nice man or woman who gets to know everybody - except the criminals. And the Council wants 1,000 more of them. No way.

MAY 22

Will Mayor Betray The Projects?
NY POST - Bob McManus

'Guns are making a comeback, at least in Brooklyn and Bronx projects.' It was the question of the morning, and Police Commissioner Bill Bratton ducked it. He was in the friendliest of territory - a Midtown breakfast briefing sponsored by the uber-supportive Manhattan Institute - and so maybe he wasn't expecting to be put on the spot. He'd spent most of his hour recounting the challenges he faced during his first tour as commissioner, two decades ago, detailing the progress made since then and laying out in general terms his plans for the next several months and beyond. Of particular concern, Bratton said, are what he termed "upticks" in deadly

violence in and adjacent to housing projects in Brooklyn and The Bronx. Though crime is down 3 percent citywide compared to a year ago, NYPD stats show that shootings have jumped 7 percent and housing-project crime is up 3 percent. He blamed project-based gangs - "crews" is the term of art - for the increase in gunplay: One shooting will guarantee a retaliatory shooting, said the commissioner, and the key to controlling mayhem in public housing is a sustained, high-profile policing.

... Translation: What happens if de Blasio caves in to a bizarrely activist federal judge in ongoing litigation that specifically seeks to prevent aggressive policing in housing projects? After all, the mayor refused to fight the same judge's finding in a separate case - that the NYPD's now-abandoned "stop-and-frisk" policies were so overtly racist that the department needs the oversight of a federal monitor. Bratton paused, ever so briefly, and said: "I will work with what I have." Which is exactly what he should've said: Mayors set the parameters of police policy; police commissioners, at least in public, accept them. But it was not a comforting answer. For Mac Donald's question, and her concerns, are spot on. The judge, Shira Scheindlin, has Bratton's strategy to combat housing-project violence in the palm of her hand. If she says no, and de Blasio buys in, all is effectively over. Scheindlin's conduct in the stop-and-frisk case was so egregious that a higher federal court removed her from that matter - without, alas, overturning her finding. The effect was to sharply scale back the Giuliani- and Bloomberg-era practices that did a great deal to remove illegal guns from the streets. Now guns are making a comeback, at least in Brooklyn and Bronx projects. And it's hard not to see a connection - however tenuous it might seem at the moment. What about later? What about this summer, the heart of the inner-city shooting season? What about a year from now? That could be up to Scheindlin - and de Blasio.

MAY 27

Editorial: A Long, Hot Summer?

NY OBSERVER - Editorial

The 47th Precinct in the Bronx has recorded eight homicides so far this year. That's an increase of 700 percent compared with this time last year. The sound of gunfire in the vicinity of Gun Hill Road has become depressingly, and dangerously, familiar. The post-stop-and-frisk era may be upon us. Never let it be said that we weren't warned. The spike in homicides in a corner of the Bronx has promoted City Council members to demand action against gun violence. If only the council made the connection between aggressive policing and low body counts. The Bloomberg-Kelly era of stop-and-frisk kept guns off the street. It's that simple. Critics charged that stop-and-frisk did not, in fact, lead to a significant number of arrests for gun possession. But as former Mayor Michael Bloomberg used to point out, that's precisely the point. Thugs were less likely to carry around their favorite handgun if they thought there was a chance they'd be stopped and frisked. The results were obvious, except, perhaps, to cop-hating jurists and demagogues in elected office. Police Commissioner Bill Bratton has acknowledged that several sections of the city-not just the northeast Bronx-have seen increases in gun violence in recent months. To his credit, the commissioner has been on the ground in the 47th Precinct to observe for himself the mounting body count. The question, however, is whether Mr. Bratton and his boss, Mayor Bill de Blasio, will rethink their strategies in time to prevent further increases in gun violence. Mr. de Blasio has given little indication that he is concerned about the uptick in violence. He is opposed to the

council's proposal to hire 1,000 more police officers, even though there are 6,000 fewer police on the job compared with 2001. The commissioner, following the party line, also seems content with current head count. He contends that any gaps in manpower can be made up in overtime. Does that make you feel safer? As for the council, its concern for public safety is welcome if belated. Many members campaigned last year as opponents of the Bloomberg-Kelly years, painting the two men as borderline racists for their support of stop-and-frisk. Demagoguery won the day. The city's top elected officials have lived up to their promise to end stop-and frisk-and, more broadly, push back against aggressive policing in neighborhoods that once resembled war zones. Now the bodies are beginning to accumulate, and people in the 47th Precinct and elsewhere are asking for help in the battle against thugs with guns. And summer is just around the corner. Will help arrive in time?

JUNE 10

Oh, shoot, not again! NYC gun attacks soaring
NY POST - Jamie Schram , Larry Celona and Selim Algar

The number of shooting victims has skyrocketed across the city this year - up 43 percent in just the last month - while fewer guns are coming off the streets, NYPD statistics reveal. Police Commissioner Bill Bratton has repeatedly shifted the focus from shootings to a steep decline in homicides, and claims he is not worried about the gun violence. But sources told The Post that it will only get worse in the hotter summer months, and that the alarming trend is the result of a more "reactive" police force handicapped by the inability to use tactics like stop-and-frisk. "Cops aren't putting their hands on anyone," a source said. In the last month alone, 129 people were shot, according to the latest CompStat figures, or 43.3 percent more than for the same period last year. Since January, there has been an overall 13.2 percent increase in shooting victims, while 10.2 percent fewer guns have been recovered compared with 2013.

... "We see an increase in shootings at the moment," he said. "But I'm comfortable that we're aware of where they are happening, why they're happening, who is doing it." But police critics of Bratton and Mayor Bill de Blasio said the pair is more focused on making friends with stop-and-frisk foes than cracking down on crime. "It's all peace and love and joy with the new administration," a source said. "We're back in the Summer of Love in '69 with this administration. They want everyone to like them."

JUNE 11

Shooting From the Hip

NY POST - Editorial

Bill Bratton is right. Up to a point. "Crime goes up, it goes down," the police commissioner said about new numbers showing that while murders are down, the number of shootings and shooting victims are up. So far, the number of shooting victims has risen 13.2 percent over last year.

Bratton is right that numbers go up and numbers go down. But crime doesn't go down without a reason. We recall, for example, back in 2012, when shootings also went up. That led to an NYPD initiative called Operation Crew Cut, aimed at street gangs whom the cops saw as driving much of the shooting. By year's end, both the murders and shootings had fallen to record lows. We agree it's way too early to conclude from these latest numbers that the restrictions on the NYPD pushed by the mayor, imposed by a judge and endorsed by his police commissioner have been a

failure. Then again, if it's too early to declare failure, it surely was too early for Mayor de Blasio to declare victory as he did in March, when he crowed that low crime figures for his first two months in office had vindicated him against the "naysayers." Since the mayor made his boast, shootings and the number of shooting victims have gone up more than 30 percent. So yes, numbers fluctuate. Here's hoping new figures lead the mayor and his police commissioner to take steps to ensure an upward tick doesn't become a pattern.

JUNE 12

As crime spikes, Council begs for more cops
A dramatic uptick in shootings prompts concern
SI ADVANCE - Jillian Jorgensen

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=4d06e3fc02ada616e648ae9e8a8ed65a&docnum=36&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=31&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=9a1526b414336b81399f7d41703ab57b

As the number of shootings and shooting victims in the city is on the rise, the City Council is continuing to push Mayor Bill de Blasio to add funding for another 1,000 cops into the city budget. "I think the NYPD needs to redouble its efforts to ensure it has the proper headcount, and I think the administration should end its opposition to the Council's call to add 1,000 additional police officers," said City Council Minority Leader Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore), who first proposed adding extra cops into the budget. The additional police classes were included in the Council's response to the mayor's proposed budget - but the mayor and Commissioner Bill Bratton have opposed the measure. Through Sunday, there were 507 people shot in the city, the Daily News reported - an increase of 13 percent over last year. And in the last four weeks, the number of shooting victims spiked 43 percent compared to the same period last year, the News reported. The Advance reported in late April that the borough had seen a large spike in major crimes. "I think the rise in shootings is proof positive that proactive policing has taken a hit in this city," Ignizio, who voted against the Community Safe Act aimed at reforming stop-and-frisk last year, said. But even those who favored reforming stop and frisk have been concerned about the spike in crime, with the Black Latino and Asian Caucus calling for action to stop gun violence last month - though members argued that the Community Safe Act had nothing to do with the crime spike.

JUNE 13

NYPD's Approval Rating Drops in New Poll
WSJ - Pervaiz Shallwani

City voters have a 59% approval rating of the New York Police Department, a 9 percentage point decrease from three months ago, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released Thursday. The drop comes as security at public housing developments has become an issue of concern around the city, the poll found. The poll found that 57% of people approved of Police Commissioner William Bratton, which was nearly unchanged from March. But those who disapprove of Mr. Bratton's performance grew, from 13% to 19%. According to the poll, black voters approve of the NYPD's performance 54% to 35% and white voters 71% to 20%. Hispanic voters disapprove 55% to 41%. The poll was conducted between June 5 and 9, as the June 1 stabbing death of 6-year-old Prince Joshua Avitto at a Brooklyn public housing development gripped the city. Daniel St. Hubert has been indicted on a charge of murder and other crimes.

... Voters believe 48% to 42% that Mayor Bill de Blasio can reduce the controversial tactic known as stop, question and frisk while still keeping the city safe, according to the poll. A majority of Black, and Hispanic voters said crime and stop and frisks can drop simultaneously while a majority of white voters believe crime will go up as stops decreased. More than 80% of people who are stopped are black or Hispanic, according to data compiled by the NYPD.

NYPD's approval rating down in new Quinnipiac University poll

NY DAILY NEWS - Tina Moore

The NYPD's job approval ratings are down, but New Yorkers want them to pump up patrols of public housing hallways, a new poll shows. The department should keep stopping people and asking for ID, city voters say 59% to 30%, including 62% to 32% among black voters, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday. "We can't ignore the likely impact of the highly publicized murder of a child in a housing project elevator, but New Yorkers, black, white and Hispanic, say 2-1 that the police should resume patrols and ID checks in project hallways," said Quinnipiac University Poll Assistant Director Maurice Carroll. The survey also found that the public's job approval of the NYPD dropped from 68% in favor and 24% against in March to 59% in favor and 32% against today.

... They also believe 48% to 42% that Mayor Bill de Blasio can reduce stop-and-frisk and still make the city safer. Black voters, 63%-24%, and Hispanic voters, 59%-37% agree that the mayor can reduce stop-and-frisk and keep the city safe. But white voters say 55%-37% there will be more crime as a result.

[PRO] Poll: Support for more cops, patrols in public housing

CAPITAL NY - Azi Paybarah

Security and the city

CRAIN'S NY - Valentina Cordero

The Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks led commercial landlords to beef up security, and the growth in Class A buildings has only heightened demand. "Security has always been in everyone's mind, but it has been highlighted since 9/11," said Timothy Horner, managing director at Kroll's Business Intelligence and Investigations. The New York City Department of Finance puts the number of Manhattan Class A buildings, loosely defined as office towers with above-average rents, at 349. That represents about half the square footage of office buildings in the borough, numbers that are growing with the addition of buildings downtown and at Hudson Yards, and possibly in midtown east if Mayor Bill de Blasio approves new upzoning for the neighborhood.

Confessions of a building-pass hoarder

CRAIN'S NY - Allan Ripp

... In my most cynical moments, I imagine that Osama bin Laden was secretly in the security business and needed something big to drum up sales. Airports were already outfitted with scanners and guards, but office buildings—that was for the future. Today, there probably isn't a single major property in New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles or Houston that doesn't have an electronically fortified defense system and an army of badge issuers in ill-fitting blazers. Some, like the McGraw-Hill Building, have an X-ray machine and conveyor belt for your bags, just like LaGuardia. I wonder: Does Donald Trump, Bill de Blasio or Michael Bloomberg need a badge when they arrive? How would the cameras warp their famous faces, not to mention those

of Kelly Ripa, Alec Baldwin or Iris Apfel, the 90-something designer/partygoer in her giant owl-eyed glasses? I wish some enterprising landlord would hire Bill Cunningham or Annie Leibovitz to snap visitor passes for a day. I picture a giant collage of guest passes: The Arc of Homeland Defense on the Citizenry. Who would dare not put their best face forward? Or shove such a keepsake into their Patagonia jacket to disintegrate?

Poll: Confidence in NYPD job performance slips

NEWSDAY - Matthew Chayes

Voter approval of how the NYPD does its job has slipped in the past three months, though Police Commissioner William J. Bratton's job approval rating remains virtually unchanged over the same period, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday. By 59 percent to 32 percent, city voters approved the job the NYPD is doing, compared with 68 percent who approved and 24 percent who didn't during a survey in March by the same pollsters. Like his predecessor Ray Kelly, Bratton gets higher marks than his boss, Mayor Bill de Blasio, although the number of those who disapprove of Bratton rose slightly. By a margin of 57 percent to 19 percent, voters favored Bratton's job performance, compared with 57 who did and 13 who didn't in the March poll. But, the Quinnipiac on Wednesday said 51 percent of voters believe Mayor Bill de Blasio is performing well. The poll also found support, by 75 percent to 18 percent, of a City Council proposal to hire 1,000 more cops - a plan opposed by the mayor as unnecessary and unaffordable. There has been a 10.7 percent spike in shootings through Sunday, and shootings have been on the rise since March. Through June 8, there have been 434 shooting incidents, compared with 392 by the same time last year. There is also concern about crime in public housing, where an assailant fatally stabbed a child and critically wounded another June 1.

Opinion: The NYPD's Racially Skewed Pot Busts Continue Apace Under De Blasio

FORBES - Jacob Sullum

In 1977 the New York legislature decriminalized marijuana possession, making it a “violation” punishable by a \$100 fine for amounts up to 25 grams (nearly an ounce). Yet almost four decades later, according to data released this week, New York City cops are arresting 80 pot smokers a day. The charge in those cases is “public display” of marijuana, which remains a misdemeanor. Are 80 New Yorkers brazenly lighting up doobies in front of cops every day? More likely, as in the past, at least some of this marijuana comes into public view as a result of police intervention, such as a pat-down that discovers a bag or an empty-your-pockets instruction that reveals a joint. If so, as former Police Commissioner Ray Kelly acknowledged in 2011, those arrests are illegal. Either way, busting pot smokers does not seem like a very good use of police time, especially since the arrests overwhelmingly involve young black or Hispanic men who understandably resent bearing the brunt of an undeclared war on cannabis consumers that rarely targets whiter and wealthier New Yorkers.

...This sounds like the sort of situation that would trouble New York's new mayor, a progressive who worries about inequality and racially biased policing. Yet so far Bill de Blasio, who to his credit sharply curtailed stop-and-frisk encounters during his first few months in office, has allowed the New York Police Department's senseless marijuana arrest crusade to continue apace.

Amid Dramatic Spike In Shootings, Poll Shows New Yorkers Want More Cops

CBS - Staff

New data have shown shootings in the city are rising and gun seizures are falling – and a poll has

shown New Yorkers overwhelmingly want Mayor Bill de Blasio to hire more police officers. As CBS 2 Political Reporter Marcia Kramer reported, the crime spike has left police seriously concerned. “It’s concerning when a 15-year-old young boy could suggest to me that he’s a gang member, and he wouldn’t think twice about shooting and killing someone – even if that means he will serve 15 years in jail,” said NYPD Deputy Inspector Ruel Stephenson, commander of the 47th Precinct.

Poll Shows Voter Confidence in NYPD Waning NY 1 - Staff

A Quinnipiac University poll finds that voter confidence in the NYPD is waning. In March, the department's job approval stood at 68 percent. A poll released Thursday shows the rating down to 59 percent. Pollsters also found that city voters strongly support the hiring of one-thousand additional police officers as well as a higher police presence in public housing. The majority approve of the way Mayor Bill de Blasio is handling crime, but feelings are mixed when it comes to stop and frisk policies. Black and Hispanic voters believe ending stop and frisk policies won't drive up crime.

Opinion: NYPD Unreformed THE INDEPENDENT - Nick Malinowski

Much of the establishment left has praised and supported Mayor Bill de Blasio for promoting what he constantly describes as a progressive agenda. Recent breaks with the Bloomberg administration in paid sick leave, access to pre-school education, housing policy and a promise to increase the city’s minimum wage have garnered attention. In general, de Blasio’s commissioner appointments at city agencies — also applauded by liberals — reflect an apparently genuine interest in policy change. However, more than five months into his administration, the mayor has done little to make good on campaign promises to reform a New York Police Department that had come to be seen by many as running off the rails.

Reviled 'stop and frisk' ebbs. So does NYPD job approval. What gives?;
New York Police Department, under the city's new mayor, has largely halted its unpopular 'stop and frisk' tactic. Yet the NYPD job approval is dropping. An uptick in gun violence may be a reason.

Yahoo News – Harry Bruinius/Christian Science Montiro

Nearly six months into the tenure of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, crime has continued to fall on every significant measure - with one big exception. Since the liberal firebrand took office at the start of 2014, violent crimes are down about 13 percent compared with the same period last year, robberies almost 10 percent, and burglaries almost 5 percent. This comes, too, as the New York Police Department has reduced its controversial practice of "stop and frisk" by nearly 90 percent since Mayor de Blasio took office - one of his most important campaign pledges. But over the past month, a startling spike in shootings has been raising eyebrows in America's largest city, and the NYPD has found itself once again on the defensive. The sound of gunshots has been heard with troubling frequency since late March, with the number of shooting incidents jumping 35 percent over the past month, and the number of shooting victims up more than 40 percent. Overall, the number of shootings since de Blasio took office has jumped nearly 11 percent, up to 434 this year compared with 392 during the same period in 2013. At the same time, the number of guns seized off city streets has declined. The NYPD has confiscated about 1,290 guns so far

this year, 10 percent fewer than this time last year, when it seized 1,435 firearms. The spike in shootings, too, comes during a time when gun violence has dominated the news around the US, and while the city is still upset over the stabbings of a 6-year-old boy and 7-year-old girl in a Brooklyn housing project elevator - victims of an apparently mentally troubled man. The boy died, but on Wednesday the girl was able to return home. As a result, many New Yorkers have become a bit unsettled. In March, nearly 70 percent of city voters approved of the job the NYPD was doing, with 24 percent disapproving. But according to a Quinnipiac poll released Friday, about 6 of 10 city voters now approve of the NYPD's policing, with a third disapproving.

6/16

Editorial: NYPD Blues
NY POST - Editorial

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?cc=&pushme=1&tmpFBSEL=all&totaldocs=&taggedDocs=&togglValue=&numDocsChked=0&prefFBSEL=0&delformat=XCITE&fpDocs=&fpNodeId=&fpCiteReq=&expNewLead=0&fpSetup=0&brand=&dedupeOption=2&_m=ed38d6c169bc2695e6ae82c12430d601&docnum=5&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=ead8d3ea3fc67f17f64dac4a5acfa5a0&focBudTerms=blasio+w%2F35+%28%22stop+and+frisk%22+or+%22crime+ris%21%22+or+shooting%21%29&focBudSel=all

It wasn't supposed to turn out this way. Throughout last year's election season, New York's Finest were bashed by the Democratic candidates as a racist force at war with the community, even as the cops had driven violent crime in the city to -record lows. As recently as March, Mayor de Blasio spoke of the "rift between police and community" left by his predecessors. If the mayor was right, then all the changes at our police force - the new procedures imposed by federal Judge Shira Scheindlin, the downgrading of stop-and-frisk, the new police commissioner - should be making the community much happier with our men in blue. But the latest Quinnipiac poll tells a -different story. It reports that from March to today, the NYPD's job approval dropped nearly 10 points, from 68 percent then to 59 percent. Of course, this is just one poll's figures, and there may be many factors behind the drop, including all the publicity surrounding the bloody murder of a six-year-old Brooklyn boy in an elevator by a knife-wielding maniac. Still, all last year as the politicians running for office were portraying cops as the enemy, the public's job approval for the NYPD never dropped below 60 -percent. Again, we are skeptical of drawing broad conclusions from one month's figures. But we note that even with this drop, New Yorkers approve of our police at a level most politicians can only dream of. And contrary to the activist community, New Yorkers also support more police patrols of public housing. A reminder that the most important factor in the public-approval rating for the police is whether New Yorkers believe our men in blue are keeping us safe.

JUNE 17

No eyes on watchdog Blaz stalls on cop-oversight big
DAILY NEWS - Thomas Tracy

NO ONE'S watching over the city's NYPD watchdogs. Six months into his administration, Mayor de Blasio has yet to name the city's Civilian Complaint Review Board's new chairman, and critics are wondering if Hizzoner will ever fill the important post. "What's going on?" Chris Dunn, associate legal director for the New York Civil Liberties Union asked CCRB members

last week. "The mayor has spoken often and loudly about his interest in police oversight. You are the city's police oversight agency. It's June . . . there's no new chair." The CCRB's last chairman, Daniel Chu, who was appointed by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2011, submitted his resignation at the end of December. Since February, a three-member executive committee has been voting on decisions usually made by the chair, members said. The agency's monthly meetings have been run by Bishop Mitchell Taylor, a City Council appointee to the board. Dick Dadey, executive director of the Citizens Union, a city government watchdog group, said he was perplexed by de Blasio's failure to appoint a new CCRB chairman. He noted that when de Blasio was councilman, he pushed a bill giving the agency more teeth in investigating and prosecuting police misconduct back in 2009. During last year's mayoral election, de Blasio (below) was an outspoken critic of the NYPD's controversial stop-and-frisk tactics.

Shame on N.Y.'s mayor, police commissioner
WASHINGTON TIMES - David Lawrence

Every politician has his little flunky. New York Mayor City Bill de Blasio brought Police Commissioner Bill Bratton along with him in the city to end stop-and-frisk. Commissioner Bratton kisses up to Mr. de Blasio the way Vice President Joe Biden kisses up to President Obama. Shootings in New York City have gone up in the past month by 43 percent. Commissioner Bratton avoids the subject and says that homicides are down even if shootings aren't. Is he saying that the criminals are bad shots? Is he looking to avoid the subject of the increase in shootings? Is he kissing up to Mr. de Blasio so that he can defend his decision to end a useful program like stop-and-frisk and hang tight with his boss? Shame on Commissioner Bratton. He used to be a good cop; now he is now just obsequious. Shame on him and Mr. de Blasio for not allowing stop-and-frisk and other measures to protect the weak and the minorities of our city. Finally, shame on liberals for allowing their overly empathetic hearts to undercut the possibility of a safe society.

JUNE 18

[Opinion: Stops: A street-eye view — the word in high crime ‘hoods](#)

NY POST – Heather MacDonald

Is this year's 10 percent rise in shootings linked to the sharp drop in NYPD stop, question and frisks? It seemed worth asking whether residents of the city's high-crime areas even noticed the fall in stops, which are down 86 percent in the first quarter of 2014 vs. the same period last year. Several people saw no change in what they deemed an already low stop rate. . . . To be sure, there have been plenty of short-term crime spikes in the last two decades that the NYPD was eventually able to reverse. And if anyone deserves deference regarding crime-fighting tactics, it's Police Commissioner Bill Bratton, with his record of policing innovation and success. But if the department proves unable to get a handle on this latest shooting surge, Mayor de Blasio should heed the words of a young Jamaican welder in the North Bronx who had been stopped once before: "They were simply doing their job. Without them, matters would be so much worse."

JUNE 22

Junk justice costing the city fortune

DAILY NEWS - John Marzulli

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=4e2ee6a25773765530b5a829f30e7b21&docnum=26&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=21&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=17244f2a76f143b25aa202c80d49a1c1

IT'S ALREADY been a very expensive year. The \$40 million Central Park Five settlement would boost 2014 city payouts in police misconduct and civil rights suits past last year's total. And there's still six months to go. The legal tab, if the Central Park deal is approved, would hit \$101 million this year compared to \$96.3 million for all of 2013, according to figures provided to the Daily News from City Controller Scott Stringer's office. Taxpayers shelled out \$106.6 million in 2012 and \$106.8 million in 2011 to settle NYPD misconduct and civil rights cases, the controller's figures showed. "This should be a wakeup call to the de Blasio administration that they have to do something about police misconduct that's costing taxpayers an outrageous amount of money," said civil rights lawyer Sanford Rubenstein. The attorney negotiated a \$2.5 million settlement this year for the mother of unarmed National Guardsman Noel Polanco, gunned down by a detective during a car stop on the Grand Central Parkway in Queens. But plaintiffs' lawyers cautioned against reading too much into the ballooning settlement figures. Close to half of the payments came from the wrongful convictions in the 1989 Central Park rape case and a \$10 million settlement to some 1,200 class action plaintiffs claiming false arrests during the 2004 Republican National Convention. City Corporation Counsel Zachary Carter said the inflated numbers didn't signal a trend.

Bloody start to summer as a dozen people shot over 12 hours

NY POST - Natasha Velez

Summer got off to a bloody start with a dozen people shot in separate incidents across four boroughs in less than 12 hours. All 12 victims were in stable condition, including an East Harlem man who was shot in the arm. There were 120 shootings this year between June 9 and June 15 — up some 30 percent from 92 during the same period last year, when the controversial stop-and-frisk policies were in effect. “The numbers don’t lie. It’s just going to keep getting worse,” a police source said. “These guys are packing heat and no one is going to stop them. Not even the police.” In Queens, two men were grazed during an attempted robbery in Astoria. Four people were shot in Brooklyn — a man hit in the shoulder in Coney Island, two men in Bedford-Stuyvesant, and a fourth man in East New York.

JUNE 23

With \$40M Central Park Five deal, city's payouts in NYPD, civil rights suits are higher than last year

NY DAILY NEWS - John Marzulli

It's already been a very expensive year. The \$40 million Central Park Five settlement would boost 2014 city payouts in police misconduct and civil rights suits past last year's total. And there's still six months to go. The legal tab, if the Central Park deal is approved, would hit \$101 million this year, compared to \$96.3 million for all of 2013, according to figures provided to the Daily News from City Controller Scott Stringer's office. Taxpayers shelled out \$106.6 million in 2012 and \$106.8 million in 2011 to settle NYPD misconduct and civil rights cases, the controller's figures showed. “This should be a wakeup call to the de Blasio administration that they have to do something about police misconduct that’s costing taxpayers an outrageous

amount of money,” said civil rights lawyer Sanford Rubenstein.

Editorial: Wilding for profit

NY POST - Editorial

So now the Central Park Five are \$40 million richer. It’s all thanks to Mayor de Blasio’s decision to lavish taxpayer funds on a group of thugs who’ve been lionized in film and feted by the City Council as innocent victims of a racist conspiracy after their convictions for raping and beating a young jogger in 1989 were overturned. Justice at last? Hardly. The Post has always been skeptical of the belated claim by serial killer Matias Reyes claim that he alone raped jogger Trisha Meili. Under Mike Bloomberg, the city resisted intense political pressure to settle the five’s lawsuit — with good reason.

NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton's 'delicate balance'

AM NY / NEWSDAY - Anthony Destefano & Matthew Chayes

When he took over as NYPD commissioner in January, William Bratton would tell anyone who would listen about the words of his policing idol, 19th Century British statesman Sir Robert Peel, who said that the measure of a cop’s success was the “absence of crime and disorder.” By most measures, the city is safer now than it was even a year ago, let alone in 1994 when Bratton was Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s first police commissioner. Murders are at a pace to come in at fewer than 300 this year, compared with 335 recorded in 2013, the best results in the modern era. Now Bratton is trying to reassure the public and the City Council that recent high-profile crimes and an increase in shootings — notably in public housing areas — are not the start of a broader trend. ...“Each of us are responsible for keeping the city safe,” said Councilman Rory Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows), who’s on the council’s Committee on Public Safety. “If we are unable to keep the city safe, then we’re going to be held accountable.” The commissioner “is tasked with this sense of urgency around shootings, but to not deal with it heavy-handedly,” added Councilman Robert Cornegy (D-Bedford Stuyvesant.) “It’s a delicate balance.” Bratton has been mindful of that balance since Mayor Bill de Blasio hired him. The previous commissioner, Ray Kelly, presided over a steady reduction in crime for 12 years under Mayor Michael Bloomberg even as the NYPD’s ranks shrank by 6,000. But minority communities and civil liberties groups protested Kelly’s reliance on the controversial stop-and-frisk crime-fighting tool.

JUNE 26

[NYPD Studies Frisk-Decline Consequences](#)

WSJ – Pervaiz Shallwani

The New York Police Department is analyzing years of data to determine if the decline in the number of stop, question and frisks is having an impact on crime in the city, Commissioner William Bratton said Wednesday. The study comes as overall crime continues to decrease, but as the department grapples with an uptick this year in violence, particularly shootings, in certain neighborhoods. "We have a very comprehensive analysis under way right now," Mr. Bratton said after an unrelated event at police headquarters. "At this juncture, we really don't know. Once that study is completed over the next several weeks, we'll have a better idea of that."

...The stops are a controversial tactic that Mayor Bill de Blasio has promised to change.

Council OKs a whopping \$75B budget

DAILY NEWS - Erin Durkin, Jennifer Fermino

...But Staten Island Republican Steve Matteo expressed disappointment in the lack of new cops, which backers said were needed to combat surging shootings. "I still believe there is money in the budget for additional police officers. We will continue that fight," he said. "We feel great about this budget and our commitment to fiscal prudence," de Blasio said.

JUNE 30

Guns blaze in NYC 3 killed, 12 more shot in 1 bloody night

NY POST - Dana Sauchelli, Frank Rosario, Bruce Golding

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=fc762945ec28e88e3e8219c7e6ba5669&docnum=8&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=4d03252b0c6c23cc3746b7dc4c88366a

Blood drenched the city's streets Saturday night into Sunday during the deadliest spate of shootings since Mayor de Blasio took office. The surge in gunfire, over just less than 12 hours from Saturday night into Sunday morning, claimed the lives of three people and injured a dozen more. The rash of gun violence came after a week in which the NYPD admitted that shootings are up and the department is looking into whether that's because of the decline in the use of stop-and-frisk. Gun-toting thugs "are taking chances because they don't think stop-and-frisk is going on," fumed state Sen. Martin Golden (R-Brooklyn) on Sunday. "Thank God these guys are bad shots and thank God for our trauma rooms that keep these [victims] alive. If we don't do stop-and-frisk, there will be more shootings, and there will be more death." The mayhem, which hit all five boroughs, marked the third June weekend in which more than a dozen victims were shot, a trend that has city dwellers fearing a long, bloody summer. "This is the worst time of the year. Once it gets hot out, people lose their minds," Dika Robbins, 28, said Sunday afternoon at Manhattan's Harlem River Park, where four people were shot at around 1:50 a.m. De Blasio ignored questions about the spate of shootings after marching in Sunday's LGBT Pride Parade, where he walked down Fifth Avenue in a wide rainbow tie. Bratton noted to reporters at around noon that there had been a total of 23 shootings since June 23, compared with 37 between June 16 and 22. The weekend's dead included Jason Bragg, 33, who was found sprawled in the street in the St. Albans section of Queens at around 10:20 p.m. Saturday.

Jumaane Williams to Media: Don't Link Stop-and-Frisk to Shooting Spike

NY OBSERVER - Will Bredderman

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=fc762945ec28e88e3e8219c7e6ba5669&docnum=10&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=4d03252b0c6c23cc3746b7dc4c88366a

Jumaane Williams criticized reporters for trying to connect the Community Safety Act to the recent rash of gun violence. Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane Williams demanded today that reporters to stop trying to link a recent uptick in gun violence to anti-stop-and-frisk measures he successfully advocated for last year. At a press conference announcing the foundation of his National Network Against Gun Violence—a group made up of legislators from across the United States seeking to fight firearm-related crimes—Mr. Williams criticized the media for suggesting a connection between the passage of the police-regulating Community Safety Act and the outburst of bullets that left four people dead and 21 wounded citywide this past weekend. The pol pointed to statistics showing that gun crime ebbs and swells independent of police policy. "There is no

correlation between the amount of stops and the number of shootings," Mr. Williams argued. "I ask you to stop trying to connect those dots." Mr. Williams was among those who pushed hard to pass the 2013 legislation that installed an inspector general atop the NYPD and made it easier for citizens to sue cops. The councilman went on to argue that, even if stop-and-frisk was a successful approach to combating crime, it would still be a violation of basic civil rights and would put an unfair burden on communities of color.

JULY 1

[NYPD Rookies Hit Streets](#)

WSJ - Pervaiz Shallwani

First assignment: Target crime. More than 600 officers graduated into the New York Police Department on Monday and many will be placed in eight of the city's most troubled precincts, where shootings have been on the rise. The new recruits, who will report for duty later this week, are the first set to be trained under the watch of Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner William Bratton. The 607 officers are also part of the NYPD's annual strategy of flooding the city's streets, housing projects and transit system during the summer months, when crime typically increases, officials said. While overall crime across the city has continued to drop this year, some neighborhoods have been plagued by an increase in shootings, particularly in the past month. "There is still too much crime. We are counting on you to work with them, for them," Mr. Bratton said, referring to residents in high-crime neighborhoods, to the graduating class during the ceremony at Madison Square Garden.

[NYPD graduates diverse class of cops, who will work in city's roughest areas](#)

DAILY NEWS - Terence Cullen

The NYPD welcomed 607 new graduates to its ranks Monday as one of the most diverse classes in the agency's history graduated from the Police Academy. The class included 71 people who served in the military and 53 who each speak three foreign languages. In an address to the graduates, Mayor de Blasio, hailed the group's diversity. "Fifty-one percent of this class is African-American, Latino or Asian. Nearly 20% of this class is women," de Blasio said, as the crowded room filled with applause. "You hail from 47 different countries. . . . We have a Maltese speaker here in the class. We have a Tajik speaker here in the class. We have an Ewe speaker, which is a language spoken only in Ghana and Togo in West Africa. You name it, we got it at the NYPD. And you're adding to that richness," the mayor added. Many of the graduates are from civil service families who have several relatives on the job, like Kathleen McCarthy, recipient of the New York City Police Foundation Award for Exceptional Community Service.

[Councilman looks to form anti-gun violence group](#)

NY POST - Michael Renshaw

Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane Williams, a vocal critic of the NYPD's stop- and-frisk policy, announced plans Monday to form a new national coalition against gun violence — without providing any new ideas for stemming the spike in shootings this year. The new National Network to Combat Gun Violence has no formal leadership, no Web site and no Twitter account — but Williams said he hoped someday it could be the legislative version of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the well-funded organization founded by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Williams grew animated when asked if there was a connection between the increase in shootings

and the city's more restrictive stop-and-frisk policy implemented under his ally, Mayor de Blasio. "There is no connection between stops and shootings, but even if there was, I would still oppose it on constitutional grounds," said Williams, who repeatedly attacked the Bloomberg administration's police policies.

[Editorial: A battle of the Bills?](#)

NY POST - Editorial Board

We've not always been reassured by the way Police Commissioner Bill Bratton has tried to dance between his commitment to keeping New York safe and his mayor's ideological opposition to a tool even Bratton says is necessary: stop-and-frisk. But we were encouraged last week to see Bratton is at least asking the right question. That was when the commish said the NYPD was crunching the numbers to see if there is a connection between the rise in shootings and the drop in the police's use of stop-and-frisk. The study was provoked by numbers showing shootings up 10 percent over last year, even as murders are down. Bratton rightly warns about extrapolating too much from short-term statistics. Even so, there has been an alarming surge in shootings. As Bratton told 607 new NYPD graduates Monday: "There are too many young men in the city carrying guns, who have been drawn into the crews and into the gangs. And we need to prevent that from happening. We need to prevent them from going into a life of crime. We can be an essential part of that." Two days after announcing the cops were looking at the data, Bratton said he'd be "very surprised" if it showed any relation between "the decline of stop, question and frisk and this sharp, short-term increase in shootings."

[Opinion: The guns are blazing — no-frisk policy's bitter fruit](#)

NY POST - Bob McManus

The butcher's bill reads like it was mailed from Chicago: at least 27 people shot in New York City over the weekend, four of them fatally — with the carnage starting early Saturday and continuing through mid-day Monday across all five boroughs. So. Whatever happened to the "safest big city in America?" Well, that still holds — for now — but one thing is clear: It's past time to quit pretending that the de Blasio administration's permissive anti-gun policies are working. Because they aren't. And it doesn't take a police-science major to figure out why: Gun thugs are no longer afraid of the NYPD — and that's because the NYPD no longer pays meaningful attention to gun thugs. Police Commissioner Bill Bratton had his hands full yesterday, but going into the weekend he was pretty sanguine about the NYPD's record over the past six months. "If you look at this year's stats so far compared to over the last 10 years, we are actually doing pretty good," he said on June 10 — even as shootings in May were up more than 40 percent from a year ago.

[Jumaane Williams to Media: Don't Link Stop-and-Frisk to Shooting Spike](#)

NY OBSERVER – Will Bredderman

Brooklyn Councilman Jumaane Williams demanded today that reporters to stop trying to link a recent uptick in gun violence to anti-stop-and-frisk measures he successfully advocated for last year. At a press conference announcing the foundation of his National Network Against Gun Violence—a group made up of legislators from across the United States seeking to fight firearm-related crimes—Mr. Williams criticized the media for suggesting a connection between the passage of the police-regulating Community Safety Act and the outburst of bullets that left four people dead and 21 wounded citywide this past weekend. The pol pointed to statistics

showing that gun crime ebbs and swells independent of police policy.

... “New Yorkers deserve to live in a safe city. The rash of gun violence this weekend, leaving three dead and many others wounded, should serve as a wake up call to Mayor de Blasio and his administration,” Mr. Ulrich said. “These shootings contradict two decades of crime reduction in our city and make the strongest case for bringing back stop, question and frisk.”

[NYPD Chief Has Message for New Officers: Save the Children](#)

WNYC - Stephen Nessen

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton has a new goal for the latest class of NYPD graduates: Save the children. The commissioner, whose broken windows theory of policing helped reduce crime in New York in the 1990s and in Los Angeles, told the class of 610 cadets that he wanted them to help prevent children from joining cliques and crews. "There are too many young men in this city carrying guns that have been drawn into the crews and into the gangs and we need to prevent that from happening, we need to prevent them from going into a life of crime, and we can be an essential part of that," he said. Bratton told the graduates, that while crime is low in the city, he was inspired by an incident in the Bronx in which a 15-year-old fired on two officers.

... This class of cadets is made up of 51 percent minorities and is 20 percent women. The graduates come from 47 different countries. Mayor Bill de Blasio noted that 53 officers speak three or more languages, including Tajik, Maltese and Eve. He added that and 71 are veterans.

[NYPD's Graduates Diverse Class of Officers](#)

NY1 - Staff

The NYPD graduated a diverse class of rookie officers Monday. Minorities make up more than half of the more than 600 who graduated from the police academy and nearly 20 percent are women. The new officers are from 47 different countries. The mayor talked up the diversity during his graduation speech. "Each of you has a unique personal story, but what unites you is you ran the course and you won the race and you went through to the finish and now, that gives us the blessing of your service to this city," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. Meanwhile, Police Commissioner William Bratton says he expects the group to help the city be more secure. "It is the safest it has ever been. And with the addition of you—all 607 of you today—we will move forward through the summer and the fall, so that at the end of the year it will be even safer," Bratton said. Bratton says police department is committed to keeping young New Yorkers from pursuing a life of crime.

JULY 2

[Steve Buscemi talks stop-and-frisk proponent with de Blasio](#)

NY POST – Yoav Gonen

A retired Upper East Side doorman who laments the end of stop-and-frisk has a surprise cameo role in an otherwise gushing online interview between actor Steve Buscemi and Mayor de Blasio. While the rest of the segment features Hizzoner touting the accomplishments and goals of his young administration, Bill-backer Buscemi — to his credit — includes the retiree saying he’s grateful to former Mayor Mike Bloomberg for bringing crime levels down. The unidentified senior tells Buscemi the mayor should maintain the use of stop-and-frisk. The clip is part of Buscemi’s online AOL series, “Park Bench.”

[Column: Hizzy or isn't he for 'real'?](#)

NY POST – Michael Goodwin

Shhhhhh, hear that sound? It's the sound of rubber meeting the road. Six months after Bill de Blasio moved into City Hall, the jabbering about progressive values is giving way to the sobering reality of governing. The mayor's vision is being tested by facts. The most significant test is the rise in shootings. Dramatic declines in the use of stop, question and frisk by the NYPD - down about 90 percent over last year - almost certainly play a role, yet admitting any link would undermine candidate de Blasio's attacks on the police. So far, the mayor is letting top cop Bill Bratton do the talking, but that can't last. The ultimate responsibility is the mayor's, and we will know soon whether he cares more about public safety than ideological purity. A more personal test involves the first family's move to Gracie Mansion. Sources tell The Post the mayor's plan is to rent out his Park Slope home, and one broker estimates he could get \$6,500 a month for the three-bedroom, one-bath house. That's \$78,000 a year, and would be on top of the \$52,000 in rental income he reported for another house he owns. The combined value of the houses is over \$3 million, a princely sum for a warrior against income inequality. And remember, -de Blasio the mayor sought a rent freeze on private apartments, even as de Blasio the landlord saw his rental income grow 9 percent last year. Readers smell a hypocrite and one, Morley Goldberg, has a puckish suggestion: The mayor should let a homeless family live in his Park Slope house while he lives rent-free in Gracie Mansion.

[Opinion: The return of NYC's broken windows](#)

NY POST – John Podhoretz

What happened last weekend — the series of shootings that left four dead and 19 wounded in a frightening echo of Chicago's present and New York's past — could be a portent of worse times to come, or just an anomaly. We won't know for a while; the safer bet is on "anomaly." But there are other, arguably more troubling, signs over the past year of civic reversal in New York City. The weekend's shootings are major crimes. The good news is that, at least so far this year, major crimes remain a relative rarity in the city — they're down 2 percent from this time last year, which was the lowest rate on record. Compared to the year 1990, serious crime was down — this is not a misprint — 79 percent in 2013. The more troubling signs have to do with the kinds of issues that go under the rubric of "quality of life" and whether we're seeing early indications of a change in the city's general lawfulness.

...Policy changes have been under way since last summer. A court reined in the NYPD; Bill de Blasio ran for mayor describing the two-decade crime drop as "the stop-and-frisk era" he was going to "end."

[Brooklyn Shooting Hits Close to Bill de Blasio's Park Slope Home](#)

DAILY BEAST - Michael Daly

Oleksandr Gavronskyy does not attend church, but when the gunshots rang out Monday, he was wearing the gold crucifix his elderly mother gave him before he emigrated from Kiev to the safest big city in America. Two of his coworkers were shot before the deranged gunman took his own life, but Gavronskyy escaped unscathed. He afterward stood down the block from C&A Iron Works in South Brooklyn, his right hand clutching a welding mask, his left fingering the crucifix under a shirt doubly sweated by a long morning of honest labor and then a sudden run for his life. [...] The incident on Monday occurred a half-dozen blocks from Mayor Bill de Blasio's home and came after a weekend in which 23 people were shot, including the 10-year-old in

Coney Island. Four of the victims died, but murder is still down by more than 10 percent over last year. The worrisome statistic is that shootings are up by roughly the same percentage. The NYPD is studying whether there is a correlation between the increase in shootings and the sharp curtailment of the stop-and-frisk practices that de Blasio railed against during his successful campaign last year. What he should be railing against with equal passion now is illegal guns. His predecessor, Mike Bloomberg, did so at every opportunity. De Blasio did join Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which Bloomberg founded. And de Blasio has stopped the NYPD's practice of auctioning off spent shell casings from the practice range to ammunition manufacturers, the last batch having been bought by Georgia Arms. Georgia is one of several states whose lax gun laws result in a continuous flow of illegal guns into New York and other cities. The Daily Beast has noted that sex toys are banned in one Georgia town, but guns are just fine. Never mind that guns generally are a kind of sex toy. Most gun nuts have them less for self-protection than self-projection. They speak of the Second Amendment, but it is really an amendment of another kind that propels them. But New York's new mayor has spoken more passionately about banning carriage horses from Central Park as inhumane than he has about the unending gun violence. During the campaign, de Blasio spoke with great concern and compassion about young people of color who were stopped too often in the street by the police without probable cause. What about the ones who are shot down in the street?

JULY 3

[Bratton Putting Desk Officers on Streets to Fight New York's Summer Crime](#)

NY TIMES – J. David Goodman

As many as 400 veteran New York City officers assigned to desk jobs in the Police Department will return to the streets this summer as part of a broad push by Commissioner William J. Bratton to head off a seasonal spike in crime. The program, known in the department as "Summer All Out," will last 90 days and draw on uniformed officers and detectives in office assignments such as counterterrorism and personnel work. It was announced in a letter from Mr. Bratton to his top deputies dated Monday and obtained by The New York Times from a person who is skeptical of the strategy outlined in the document.

...The moves are likely to rekindle a debate that flared earlier this year over the size of the Police Department. The City Council favored adding 1,000 new officers, but Mayor Bill de Blasio said the money was not available. The eventual budget deal reached last month added 200 civilian administrative aide positions, with the understanding that it would allow officers now doing desk work to go back on patrol.

[Mayor "surprised" that cannibal-plot cop released](#)

WSJ – Associated Press

Mayor Bill de Blasio said he was "surprised" that a judge overturned the conviction of a New York Police Department officer accused of plotting to kill and eat young women. Judge Paul Gardephe ruled Monday that there was insufficient evidence to support a jury's guilty verdict in the kidnapping conspiracy conviction of Gilberto Valle. He agreed with defense arguments that Valle's lurid messages in fetish chat rooms about his wife and other women never actually endangered anyone. De Blasio said Wednesday that he found the situation "troubling."

[De Blasio rules out giving 'cannibal cop' his job back](#)

DAILY NEWS - Eric Durkin

“Cannibal cop” will never be a cop again, Mayor de Blasio said. “I don’t think he should ever get his job back,” de Blasio said Wednesday of the just-freed Gilberto Valle, who got out of jail this week after his conviction was overturned. Valle, a former NYPD officer, was convicted of plotting to kidnap, kill and eat young women and spent 21 months in jail. But a judge overturned his conviction, ruling that his plot was just a fantasy. De Blasio said his release came as a shock. “I think it’s a troubling situation,” he said. “I’m a little surprised by the court’s action. And we’re obviously going to look very carefully at that situation.”

[Mayor de Blasio has sour taste over judge tossing out conviction of 'Cannibal cop'](#)

DAILY NEWS – Erin Durkin, Erik Badia and Larry McShane

A federal judge’s ruling to free the cannibal cop gave Mayor de Blasio a touch of agita. “I’m a little surprised by the court’s action,” the mayor said Wednesday, a day after Gilberto Valle was cleared of plotting to kidnap, rape and devour his wife and other women. “And we’re obviously going to look very carefully at that situation.”

[De Blasio: Move away from stop and frisk did not lead to spike in shootings](#)

DAILY NEWS - Erin Durkin

The spike in shootings this year has nothing to do with the decreased use of stop and frisk, Mayor de Blasio said Wednesday. There have been 521 shootings in the first half of this year, a jump from 486 last year at the same time. De Blasio, asked about the spike on Wednesday, noted this year’s total is still the second lowest in city history. Clearly prepared for the question with a host of stats, he noted there were 663 shootings in the first half of 2012, 604 in 2011, and 674 in 2010. During the same time, the number of stops made by police fluctuated with no apparent relationship between that number and the shooting total, from a high of 367,000 in 2011 to a low of 27,252 this year. “I don’t think there is a correlation to the change in stop and frisk,” de Blasio said. He said he was “very proud” that murder and overall crime have both gone down this year. “But we do notice with concern the fact that shootings have been up slightly,” he said.

[Bratton memo outlines ‘summer violence-reduction plan’](#)

CAPITAL NY - Azi Paybarah

Police commissioner Bill Bratton has said he plans to temporarily reassign 400 officers to help reduce crime as the city heads into the long, hot days of summer. Bratton offered some details about that effort, which is he calling a “summer violence-reduction plan,” in a June 30 memo to top police officials, a copy of which was obtained by Capital. As part of the 90-day “Summer All Out” program, 400 police officers and detectives “will be temporarily assigned to patrol precincts and [Patrol Service Areas] to assist those commands in their crime suppression efforts,” Bratton wrote in the memo. The memo is labeled as a “personnel request” and asks deputy commissioners to identify officers and detectives who could be deployed from bureaus under their command [...] The city has seen a rash of violence over the last few weekends, which critics say are early signals that Mayor Bill de Blasio’s push to reduce some police tactics that were common under the previous administration are proving dangerous. Bratton has dismissed those critics and called the violence from the earlier weekends “unusual” and temporary. The mayor and police commissioner have nonetheless responded to city lawmakers and others who say the citywide drop in crime doesn’t reflect how some pockets of the city are still experience a disproportionate amount of crime.

[NYPD gives itself extra time for FOIL response](#)

CAPITAL NY – Conor Skelding

The NYPD's internal procedure for processing FOIL requests does not appear to comply with the state's Freedom of Information Law. The department's Patrol Guide, which prescribes the NYPD's procedure for handling record requests, was released under a FOIL request submitted by MuckRock. According to Procedure 211-217: "Certain document requests require an expeditious response, such as F.O.I.L. requests, which require a response from the F.O.I.L. Records Access Officer within ten days of initial receipt by the Police Department."

...In 2013, then-Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, who criticized then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg's lack of responsiveness to the law, released a report grading every city agency on FOIL compliance. The NYPD was one of only two agencies to receive an F grade. (The other was the New York City Housing Authority.) Since de Blasio became mayor, the NYPD has repeatedly denied requests for documents regarding the arrest of a significant supporter, Bishop Orlando Findlayter, and the mayor's inquiry into that arrest.

[Bill de Blasio Does Not Think The Cannibal Cop Should Get His Job Back](#)

NY OBSERVER - Jillian Jorgensen

To Mayor Bill de Blasio, the idea of the man dubbed the "cannibal cop" returning to the NYPD is a little hard to swallow. "No, I don't think he should ever get his job back, and I think it's a troubling situation," Mr. de Blasio said of former cop Gilberto Valle at an unrelated press conference Wednesday.

JULY 4

[Police union boss blasts NYPD plan to combat gun violence](#)

DAILY NEWS – Thomas Tracy

THE NYPD's plan to yank 400 cops from office jobs and put them on the streets during the summer is like putting a Band-Aid on the rise in shootings, the city's biggest police union said Thursday. Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Pat Lynch slammed the initiative dubbed "Summer All Out." Lynch said the NYPD simply doesn't have enough cops to keep the city safe. "(The program) is a last-ditch, Band-Aid response to the escalating gun violence and disorder in this city," Lynch said about Police Commissioner Bill Bratton's plan, which would see police officers and detectives currently working in administrative departments such as the NYPD's Legal Bureau and the License Division put on the streets for up to 90 days. "These (cops) will be temporarily assigned to patrol precincts and (housing units) to assist those commands in their crime-suppression efforts," Bratton's memo, dated Monday, ordered. Lynch predicted that productivity in departments where officers are being pulled will drop as a result. "Each of them are already doing important jobs," Lynch said about the cops who may soon be given their marching orders. "Now their jobs are not going to get done." "This is a police department that has to deal with a 6,000 shortfall (of personnel)," Lynch said. "City Hall has ignored the dramatically diminished staffing in the NYPD for well over a decade, and now this administration is left to fix the problem." In May, the City Council pleaded with Mayor de Blasio to hire 1,000 more cops to handle the uptick in shootings. De Blasio rejected the request. "I believe that we can get the job done with the resources and the personnel we have now," de Blasio said at the time. Bratton's memo was released on the same day the NYPD welcomed 607

rookies to its ranks. The order also comes after three people were killed and 19 were wounded during a weekend of gunsmoke and bloodshed across the city.

[Some 400 police veterans will fight crime on the streets of NYC](#)

EL DIARIO – Staff

About 400 senior officers who are working in offices of the Police Department of New York will be shipped back to the street, as part of a strategy to reduce the crime wave which has engulfed the city since began the summer. The proposal, called "Summer All Out", was introduced in a memo to the police chief, William J. Bratton, sent Monday to his subordinates. The document reads that veteran officers currently working as detectives or clerks, support for 90 days patrols various precincts of the city, especially those who work around public housing projects. This strategy brings to the table the discussion that was presented earlier this year between the City Council and Mayor, Bill de Blasio, when the latter said there was no budget to increase the number of officers having the Police Department. Last month, however, the recruitment of 200 civilians who assist in administrative tasks was adopted, and which will allow the return of veteran officers patrols.

[NYPD Launching ‘Summer All Out’ Program To Combat Spike In Shootings](#)

CBS - Staff

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton has reacted to a recent spike in shootings by announcing a 90-day “Summer All Out” program, 1010 WINS reported. The program calls for as many as 400 veteran officers assigned to desk jobs, including counterterror work, to return to the streets, the New York Times reported. Shootings in the city are up 8 percent in the first six months of the year. The announcement does not sit well with Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association.

...The New York City Council recently floated a measure to hire 1,000 more police officers. However the budget the council and the de Blasio administration agreed to did not include the additional officers. However, 200 officers were being shifted from desk jobs to deployments in public housing as part of the agreement. De Blasio has previously said he believes that the current New York Police Department headcount of 35,000 officers is adequate to keep crime low.

[NYPD Officer Indicted On Attempted Murder, Other Charges In Pelham Shooting](#)

CBS - Staff

A New York City policeman was indicted Thursday on charges of attempted murder, assault and drunken driving in the apparently random off-duty shooting of a man earlier this year. The Westchester County district attorney said Officer Brendan Cronin parked his car at an intersection in Pelham on April 29, just before midnight. He then approached a car that was stopped at a traffic light and allegedly fired about 14 shots, hitting the passenger six times. The victim said he didn’t know Cronin and police said they found no link between the two. Cronin, who lives in Yonkers, drove off after the shooting but was pulled over by Pelham police. They said Cronin continued to wave his gun out of his car’s window after being pulled over. Cronin refused to take a Breathalyzer test when he was arrested, and he was originally charged only with assault. But the district attorney’s office said Thursday that investigators determined he had been operating his vehicle “in an intoxicated condition.” A call to Cronin’s lawyer, Pierre Sussman, was not immediately returned.

...Cronin was off duty at the time of the alleged incident, but the victims’ attorney Randolph

McLaughlin said the city is responsible. “We’re putting the city on notice. We’re frankly saying to Mayor de Blasio, ‘You need to address this problem, you need to put an end to it,’” McLaughlin said Tuesday. “We think it’s time for the City of New York to take responsibility and step up to the plate and make sure that this is the last off-duty or on-duty police officer who abuses alcohol and abuses his weapon.” “This indictment must be the NYPD’s final wake up call to address the rampant problem of combined alcohol abuse and misuse of service weapons by off-duty officers,” Cohen said Thursday.

[Editorial: Stop and frisk good after all?](#)

QUEENS CHRONICLE - Editorial

Most parts of Queens have been fairly lucky this year when it comes to gun violence. While the city overall has seen an 11.2 percent rise in shootings so far this year compared to last, going by the latest available police statistics, and some areas have been subject to much worse, Queens has not. In the southern part of the borough, as defined by the Police Department, the number of shooting incidents has gone up only 3.8 percent, from 52 to 54, as of June 22.

...Under the Bloomberg administration, the number of stop and frisks rose for years, especially those targeting minorities. The percentage of blacks and Latinos who were stopped, about 88 percent, almost rose to the percentage of violent crime suspects who are black or Latino, about 95 percent. That sparked outrage among many, including then-mayoral candidate Bill de Blasio. Now that de Blasio is mayor, the city has enacted new restrictions on the police that former Mayor Bloomberg resisted, even putting officers at risk of lawsuits targeting them personally, if a person claims he or she was needlessly stopped. This has all been done with the unflinching support of a vast majority of the City Council and civil rights organizations.

JULY 5

Letters: The Guns of Summer: Blame Stop-Frisk Curbs?

NY POST - Robert Lobenstein, Brooklyn

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=9075e3a7d74736b201e3bfb2ab5f627a&docnum=25&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=21&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=aa12c70967789f5dd8ff6ea29986e394

The Issue: Whether an increase in gun violence in the city is due to new restrictions on stop-and-frisk. During the month of June, there has been a substantial increase in the number of shootings and deaths throughout the five boroughs - almost 20 victims over the last weekend ("The Guns Are Blazing," Bob McManus, PostOpinion, July 1). Our new socialist mayor, Bill de Blasio, and NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton limited the stop-and-frisk program in January. This emboldened criminals to flaunt the gun laws and carry weapons freely without fear of being stopped and arrested. This imperils every law-abiding citizen in the city. I wonder what the body count will be before the cry goes up from the communities affected, and they restore this program?

NY POST - Walter Murray, Florida

It's unfortunate that we are regressing back to the David Dinkins days of murder and mayhem. Bratton's take on the statistics is ludicrous. The long hot summer is upon New York City and innocents will fall in its wake. Stop-and-frisk worked, it saved thousands of innocent lives. When are these left-wing loons going to wake up? My sons and grandchildren reside in NYC, and I

pray for their safety along with all other innocent residents.

NY POST - Glenn Hopps, Babylon

Congratulations to de Blasio for ending the "ridiculous" stop-and-frisk policies and allowing people to kill each other in large numbers, just like in the good old days. The funeral parlor lobby should take out a full-page ad in The Post to show its gratitude for the increased business. The mayor must be so proud of himself.

NY POST - Joseph Cavaliere, Valley Stream

Councilman Jumaane Williams wants to have his cake and eat it, too, but in combating violent crime, it doesn't work. A pro-active police force curtails crime through stop-and-frisk, street observations, suspicions and hunches by street cops. I don't blame cops today, with every move they make being scrutinized and the potential for career-ending lawsuits. It just so happens that the constituents Williams represents live in some of the highest-crime areas for gun violence. Bratton can put as many officers on the streets as he likes, but if they don't use the tools of the trade that have been in police work for decades, nothing will get accomplished.

NY POST - Phil Serpico, Queens

The Post is cutting Bratton some slack over the rise in shootings because it only reflects the first six months of the new administration ("A Battle of the Bills?" Editorial, June 30). Perhaps that's fair from a statistical view, but in the interim, human lives will be lost. Bratton took a job and promised to do it with the major reduction of a critical tool: stop-and-frisk. The problem is that no amount of community presence is going to get that gun out of someone's waist band. Bratton is like a carpenter working without a ruler. While it seems that a year may be fair for statistical comparison, the current numbers can provide an ominous early warning. Shootings could continue to trend upward, and the number of guns seized before they are used may decline.

JULY 6

Editorial: Boot subway dancers

DAILY NEWS- Editorial

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=9075e3a7d74736b201e3bfb2ab5f627a&docnum=24&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=21&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=aa12c70967789f5dd8ff6ea29986e394

Subway riders aplenty have come to dread the words, "It's showtime," coming as they do before teenagers on a crowded subway begin acrobatic performances, their bodies spinning inches from fellow passengers as the dancers aim to cadge a few bucks. Soliciting funds on trains is illegal, precisely because riders are a captive audience. The law makes sense. Asking for spare change on a platform is fine because people can walk away. In a moving subway, they are trapped. Which is why Police Commissioner Bill Bratton is encouraging the kids to take their acts elsewhere, with 240 arrests this year, compared with 40 in the first half of last year. Remarkably, this has led to an outcry - and not only from reflexive critics of all policing.

...They suggest that Bratton and de Blasio - mayor with a bi-racial family and slayer of stop-and-frisk - must think "sending a few dozen more kids of color into the criminal justice system for having a little fun is worth it if it means protecting the sanctity of a showtime-free subway ride."

JULY 7

De Blasio family puts out more stuff on the sidewalk as preparations continue for Gracie Mansion move

DAILY NEWS - Ryan Sit

Mayor de Blasio is once again playing Santa to his Park Slope neighbors. The city's first family cleaned house on Sunday, littering its 11th St. sidewalk with giveaway books, storage bins, a picture frame, a stained dress and even a Kris Kringle hat. The books — including “Macbook for Dummies” and “Growing up King” by Dexter Scott King, and an old directory of Brooklyn arts organizations — went quickly. But one neighbor couldn’t believe that the red velvet Santa Claus was still available late in the day. “I’m surprised,” said Frank Samperi, 37, who grabbed it. “I think it’ll be a hit at the next holiday party.” It’s not the first time the de Blasio family — Mayor Bill, First Lady Chirlane McCray, and children Chiara and Dante — has done some spring cleaning in advance of the move to Gracie Mansion. Over the past few months, shelves, a Christmas tree holder and even food has shown up on the front stoop.

Man charged after ‘walloping cops with Barbie bike’

NY POST - Kirstan Conley, Kevin Sheehan, & Bruce Golding

It’s getting rougher out there for New York’s Finest. Four NYPD cops were walloped by a child’s Barbie bike that was tossed at them from a fifth-floor balcony in Brooklyn while they were busting a gunman early Sunday, officials said. The attack raised fears of a new wave of anti-cop violence — with a police-union president blaming the assault on Mayor de Blasio and his crackdown on stop-and-frisk. “The atmosphere is, ‘We’re going to do what we want,’ that ‘We’re going to get away with it,’ ” said Ed Mullins, president of the Sergeants Benevolent Association. “There’s a perception that the mayor is soft on crime. The perps’ perception is that the cops are backing down.” One officer suffered a gash to his head that required six staples and a stitch. Three others suffered a concussion, bruising to the head and a cut forearm, respectively.

Wrongly-imprisoned man pushes for ‘Central Park Five’-type settlement

NY POST - Josh Saul & Selim Algar

The lawyer for a man who spent 16 years behind bars for the murder of a Brooklyn rabbi before his conviction was thrown out has a message for Mayor de Blasio: He’ll have what the Central Park Five are having. Jabbar Collins’ lawyer, Joel Rudin, says his client, like each of the five men released in the quarter-century-old jogger rape case, should get \$1 million for each year he was in prison. Rudin complained that the city has been low-balling Collins with a fraction of what the Central Park Five were awarded. “The city is understandably concerned about establishing a million-dollar-per-year going rate for wrongful-imprisonment cases, but cases like Jabbar Collins and the Central Park Five come along once or twice in a generation,” Rudin told The Post.

JULY 8

[Opinion: No dancing on the D train](#)

DAILY NEWS - Harry Siegel

A funny thing happened on the way to New York City becoming some sort of police state:

Democracy worked. On their overdue way out, Mayor Mike Bloomberg and Commissioner Ray Kelly responded to mounting public anger and racial tension by finally letting the air out of the near-bursting stop-and-frisk balloon, with a 60% decline in their final year. Then Mayor de Blasio welcomed a new inspector general to watch over the department, and a new commissioner, Bill Bratton, who's vowed to let neighborhoods rubbed raw by over-aggressive policing heal, while keeping crime down. But instead of enjoying and protecting that success, pundits and activists vying to out-progressive one another have instead keyed in on Bratton's crackdown on subway car dancers (part of a broader pushback on subway car panhandling) as proof of the NYPD's boundless malice. These "hitters," as the acrobat crews refer to themselves, are the mostly black teenagers who come onto the train and call out "it's showtime" before delivering incredible moves in very tight spaces, their feet flying inches from riders' faces. Then, they ask straphangers for money before going to the next car and doing it all again.

[Mayor de Blasio prepping for 2017 elections](#)

DAILY NEWS – Jennifer Fermino

Mayor de Blasio is already planning for 2017. The newly-minted mayor, seven months into his four year term, has registered with the city's Campaign Finance Board for the 2017 election cycle, the first step towards launching his re-election campaign. In the paperwork, which was posted on the CFB website on Monday, de Blasio does not declare what office he's seeking. Instead, he set up an administrative account with the CFB which could hold any fundraising he gets ahead of the election. It's unclear if he's raised any funds. All filings so far for the 2017 election will be made public on July 15. Other pols who have filed with the CFB to run in 2017 include Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Councilman James Van Bramer, and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. Like de Blasio, none of those politicians have declared what office they are seeking. Public Advocate Letitia James and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz both opened accounts and declared their intentions to run for re-election.

[Opinion: NYPD Band-Aids](#)

NY POST - Thomas Reppetto

During its recent budget deliberations, the New York City Council sought to add 1,000 cops to the NYPD's present authorized complement of 35,000 officers. But Mayor de Blasio and Police Commissioner Bill Bratton opposed the measure, and it didn't pass. Then, as gunfire swept several precincts and some public-housing projects, the NYPD announced that it will assign as many as 1,200 more officers to high-crime areas. Nearly 600 of them will be rookies who've just finished six months of training at the Academy. Several hundred others will be officers previously working on inside assignments. The Catch-22 is that this exercise in musical chairs doesn't add one cop to the overall strength of the force, it only moves them around. The patrolmen's union has labeled the program "a Band-Aid on the 10 percent rise in shootings so far this year." A few weeks back, the NYPD said that people shouldn't worry about the rise in nonfatal shootings because overall murder is down.

[NYPD launching pilot project to detect gunfire](#)

CAPITAL NY - Sally Goldberg & Gloria Pazmino

The NYPD is moving closer to installing rooftop sensors throughout the city to detect gunfire in an effort to cut down on shootings, which have recently spiked in New York City. The department has announced a pilot project with a California company called ShotSpotter Inc. to

install the technology to determine the location of gunshots—something Mayor Bill de Blasio promised when he ran last year. A notice about the initiative was printed in Monday's edition of the City Record. It describes the program as a "two-year demonstration project covering up to 15 square miles of New York City." ShotSpotter, on whose board police commissioner Bill Bratton sat before taking the NYPD job in January, creates the detection devices that would be mounted on rooftops and other high locations throughout the city.

[NYPD "All Out" for Summer](#)

WNYC - Kathleen Horan

The New York Police Department is responding to an increase in shootings by deploying about 1,000 more officers this summer to reassure New Yorkers that crime is under control.

Commissioner Bill Bratton wanted to set the record straight: the city is still as safe as it has been in modern times. Bratton, flanked by fellow NYPD brass at a press conference Monday, said it's normal for shooting incidents to fluctuate from year to year. Responding to recent coverage about the nine percent increase so far this year, he dispelled reports that it meant that the crime was spiraling up. "That somehow or another the city is in crisis that somehow or another that this is starting to get out of control — not at all," said Bratton. To keep the peace and calm residents about 300 veteran officers are being reassigned from desk and other duties to patrol precincts and housing developments, located mostly in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Additional manpower will come from the newly graduated class of rookies and officer overtime. If the 90-day initiative known as "Summer All Out" doesn't work, Bratton said he is open to formally asking Mayor Bill de Blasio to hire more officers, something the police unions and the City Council support.

JULY 9

[More Officers at New York Public Housing Amid a Rise in Shootings](#)

NY TIMES – Joseph Goldstein

The Police Department is adding hundreds of officers to units that patrol New York City's projects to address an increase in shootings at public housing developments, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Tuesday. At a news conference at the Wagner Houses in East Harlem, Mr. de Blasio and other city and housing officials discussed a variety of programs intended to reduce crime at the city's most troubled public housing complexes: keeping community centers open later, expanding a teenage summer jobs program to add 850 slots for public housing residents and improving the doors and intercom systems at the entrances to keep out trespassers. The mayor also said the city would seek to increase lighting on the grounds of 15 housing projects, spending some \$1.5 million on 150 light towers. "It's all about helping to reclaim safety for the developments," Mr. de Blasio said, adding that many of the initiatives were intended to combat youth gangs.

[Greater New York Watch](#)

WSJ – Various

Mayor Bill de Blasio on Tuesday outlined a plan to beef up crime-reduction efforts at the 15 New York City Housing Authority developments that account for 20% of all violent crime in public housing. Police plan to deploy 700 additional officers, increasing the NYPD's housing bureau by roughly one third. The city is slated to mobilize 150 light towers to better illuminate public areas at these developments while the administration develops plans for permanent

security lighting. Efforts are under way to remove nearly 11 miles of scaffolding this year. And there will be expanded summer hours at more than 100 community centers targeting youth. The de Blasio administration estimated the total investment at roughly \$210 million.

[Mayor de Blasio, City Council commit \\$210 million to improve conditions in NYCHA developments](#)

DAILY NEWS – Jennifer Fermino and Greg Smith

A YEAR AGO, Mayor de Blasio spent a night at the Lincoln Houses in East Harlem and was deeply troubled by his brief experience in city public housing. On Tuesday, he announced a plan to make things right. His administration will devote \$210 million to make city Housing Authority developments safer - a reversal of the hands-off approach to public housing taken by his predecessor, former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "The word today is investments. We are making investments in our public housing, investments that should have been made long ago," de Blasio said, taking a clear shot at Bloomberg. More than half of the funding - \$122 million - had been previously earmarked when de Blasio announced the city would cover the bill NYCHA owes to the NYPD for policing in public housing through the 2015 fiscal year. But de Blasio took his commitment to NYCHA residents a step farther, pledging an additional \$88 million to help solve NYCHA's woes. Standing Tuesday with City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and new NYCHA Chairwoman Shola Olatoye at East Harlem's Wagner Houses - several blocks south of the Lincoln Houses - the mayor said the \$88 million includes \$50 million to upgrade security at NYCHA properties. Another \$21 million would go toward shifting police resources to public housing, and \$15.6 million would be spent on new social services programs.

..De Blasio reiterated Tuesday NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton's recent promise to assign 700 more cops to public housing to combat a recent spike in shootings. Some of those officers will be checking in on domestic violence and crime victims.

[Program targets safety at NYC public housing](#)

NY POST – Tara Palmeri

Mayor de Blasio announced a \$210 million program Tuesday to upgrade safety at the Housing Authority that includes a novel twist: cops assigned to conduct "wellness visits" with residents involved in accidents. Police have also been instructed to make more home visits to victims of domestic violence to ensure they're safe and help "facilitate access to services as needed." "We're not out there just to arrest people and issue summonses," said Carlos Gomez, chief of the NYPD's housing unit. "We're there to offer help [and] assistance, and we'll see how you're doing and if we could help you further."

[A Pledge to Fight NYCHA Crime](#)

WNYC – Kathleen Horan

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a \$210 million plan to fight crime at 15 of the city's most crime-ridden public housing developments across the city. He spoke Tuesday in a cramped, multi-purpose room in one of those developments, the Wagner Houses in East Harlem. De Blasio's security plan will deploy more police officers, make physical improvements like better lighting and more surveillance cameras, and extend the closing time of housing community centers from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

[NYC officials detail fight on public housing crime](#)

AM NY – Emily Ngo

City officials are investing \$210 million in NYPD patrols, exterior lighting and other measures to combat crime at public housing developments, targeting 15 complexes that have accounted for 20 percent of the New York City Housing Authority's violent crime, Mayor Bill de Blasio said yesterday. Light towers will be erected, sidewalk sheds removed because they can double as criminal hiding spots and community center hours extended to keep young residents engaged, the mayor said. The changes come on top of previous pledges to devote 700 more officers to public housing, install additional surveillance cameras, and fix and improve door locks. Though crime rates are lower citywide since de Blasio took office on Jan. 1, shootings in public housing developments are up by 31 percent. Among the 15 complexes getting new resources is the Boulevard Houses in Brooklyn's East New York neighborhood, where a boy was fatally stabbed last month. "This is not a short-term promise from the city, but a commitment for the long haul," City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said at the news conference at East Harlem's Wagner Houses that was attended by the mayor and about a dozen other elected officials. ... Asked whether his pullback on the Michael Bloomberg administration's stop-and-frisk policing tactic has led to higher crime, de Blasio said no. Stop-and-frisk is now used more "judiciously," with a higher arrest rate, he said.

[Light towers, NYPD patrols part of NYC plan to improve NYCHA safety](#)

METRO – Anna Sanders

The city is committing \$210 million to make neighborhoods safer for 400,000 New Yorkers who live in public housing. "We are making investments in our public housing – investments that should've been made long ago," Mayor Bill de Blasio said at the Wagner Houses in East Harlem on Tuesday. The funds will pay for increased NYPD patrols, security lighting, community programs and removal of sidewalk sheds where criminals can hide out, de Blasio said. ... "So much is going on here that's going to fundamentally improve safety in NYCHA," de Blasio said. The announcement was made nearly a year after de Blasio, then only a mayoral candidate, spent a night at the Lincoln Houses with his teenage daughter. A few days later, a woman was shot and killed minutes from the same housing project.

[Mayor announces \\$210.5 million NYCHA safety initiative; Stapleton Houses complex among those affected](#)

SI ADVANCE – John Annese

The North Shore's Stapleton Houses will be included in a \$210.5 million plan to reduce crime in the city's public housing complexes, according to the mayor's office. The New York City Housing Authority development was listed as one of 15 complexes across the city that "account for more than 20 percent of all violent crime in public housing," Mayor Bill de Blasio's office announced in a statement Tuesday afternoon unveiling the initiative. Shootings in public housing developments have risen by 31 percent this year, city officials said. According to the administration, more than half of that money, \$122 million in total, was already earmarked to pay off NYCHA's prior financial obligations. Another \$50 million will go to physical improvements like security lights, cameras, "layered access" to the buildings, and new doors, while \$1.5 million will go toward 150 light towers to illuminate the building's perimeters and the complexes' pathways.

[Allocated \\$ 210 million for security in public housing NYC](#)

EL DIARIO – Juan Matossian

New York City will provide \$ 210 million to improve safety and reduce crime in public housing complexes hardest hit by violence in recent times, as announced by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

The investment will go to increasing the number of police officers in the housing projects, installing more lighting towers, improve the physical conditions of the buildings and the expansion of education and employment to prevent young people falling into crime. "Public housing in New York has not received the attention it deserves," De Blasio said. "The cuts in funding, especially from the federal government, have been detrimental to its residents safer deserve to live." Since early 2014, the number of shootings in the complexes of the General Housing Authority (NYCHA) increased by 31%. The new security measures implemented especially in the 15 housing projects that have occurred in 20% of violent crimes recorded in NYCHA manages 334 buildings in total.

[Mayor outlines \\$210M safety plan for public housing](#)

CRAIN'S NY – Associated Press

Mayor Bill de Blasio is detailing a \$210 million plan to improve safety at public housing developments. Shootings have gone up 31% so far this year in New York City Housing Authority buildings. Meanwhile, overall crime has dropped slightly citywide. Mr. de Blasio said the improvements would begin at 15 troublesome housing developments. Those 15 projects make up 20% of the violent crime across 334 housing authority developments. The money was allocated in the budget agreement announced last month. Mr. de Blasio said Tuesday it will fund 200 additional police officers dedicated to safeguarding the facilities.

JULY 10

[Staten Island Carjacking Suspect Is Questioned in 2 Killings](#)

NY TIMES – J. David Goodman & Monique Madan

Detectives on Wednesday were questioning a Staten Island man who was arrested on charges of carjacking a Hummer and trying to ram it into police officers near the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, seeking to determine whether he had any connection with two killings in the borough over the weekend, a police official said. The police arrested the suspect, Tyrell Brown, 25, late on Tuesday night in a quiet, residential section of Staten Island, not far from the bridge, after patrol officers received a tip from a local resident who recognized him from images circulated by the authorities, the official said. Mr. Brown was carrying a wig but no weapon. Mayor Bill de Blasio, speaking on Wednesday afternoon after a swearing-in ceremony for new police recruits in Queens, commended the Police Department's efforts at "getting the people of Staten Island involved" in the capture of a suspect.

[3 Rikers Officials Charged in Brutal Beating of Inmate](#)

NY TIMES – Michael Schwartz

Two New York City correction officers and a captain were arrested Wednesday on charges that they handcuffed and beat an inmate unconscious with a baton at Rikers Island and then falsified documents to cover it up, the authorities said. The arrests were part of a monthslong inquiry by the city's Investigation Department into "a pattern of lawless conduct at Rikers that must be brought under control," Mark G. Peters, the department commissioner, said in a statement.

...Mr. Genao, now 27, suffered multiple contusions that officials said were consistent with the

imprint of a standard-issue baton used by the Correction Department. He had been incarcerated for a parole violation. After the beating, officers submitted reports that omitted the use of the baton and were “inconsistent with both the assault of the inmate and the injuries he sustained,” the Investigation Department said. The beating was part of a pattern of brutality, neglect and corruption among correction officers and supervisors that officials say is rampant at Rikers Island. Several recent deaths, including a homeless veteran who died in an overheated cell in February, have prompted fresh scrutiny of the city’s jails. Mayor Bill de Blasio has vowed reforms, particularly to treatment of inmates with mental illnesses, who have surged into Rikers in recent years and suffer abuse disproportionately.

[Opinion: The NYPD battle plan to stop the violence](#)

DAILY NEWS – Commissioner Bill Bratton

Twenty years ago, before my first day as police commissioner, I made a promise to New Yorkers: that we would take back this city from crime and fear — street by street, block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood. To that end, my team in the NYPD developed the CompStat system, still in use today, which combines technology with street smarts. Murders went from a high of 2,245 more than two decades ago to 333 last year. On Monday, I was asked, “Can you see a time when crime hits bottom?” My answer: We will never get to “zero crime” unless we live in a city with no people. But I am an optimist by nature. I believe we can drive crime down even further in the safest big city in the nation.

...How do Mayor de Blasio and I propose to stop the cycle of violence? By combining tried-and-true crimefighting techniques with a collaborative model of policing that hasn’t been attempted anywhere else in the world.

[Opinion: Citizen partners in crimefighting](#)

DAILY NEWS – Errol Louis

Mayor de Blasio’s announcement of a \$210 million attack on violence in New York’s most crime-prone public housing developments marks a welcome first step — but only a first step — toward containing a disturbing 31% increase in shootings. The new round of outdoor lighting, surveillance cameras, extended hours for recreation centers and other brick-and-mortar improvements he’s ordered up will surely improve things for residents while making life harder for criminals. But the day-to-day hard work of stemming the bloodshed remains a face-to-face business. The responsibility for bringing and keeping peace will fall, as it always does, to the cops on the beat and their indispensable allies: the community leaders whose bravery and tenacity often goes ignored in New York conversations about public safety.

[NYPD commissioner preparing crackdown on ‘abuse’ of drones](#)

NY POST - Erin Calabrese and Bruce Golding

NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton vowed a crackdown on illegal drone use Wednesday, saying city cops had repeatedly tangled with the remote-control flying machines before a police chopper got buzzed near the George Washington Bridge. “The mayor and I have some concerns about this type of abuse of that device, that we’ve experienced a half a dozen times over the last several months,” Bratton said after an NYPD swearing-in ceremony in Queens. “It will be treated very seriously by this administration.” Mayor de Blasio also said it “incumbent upon all of us to get a clear message out to drone owners about the standards here.” “The mayor’s office will certainly work with the NYPD to make very clear what constitutes unacceptable behavior, but I’d like to

disclose a common sense: no citizen should interfere with the work of the NYPD,” de Blasio said.

[Editorial: Brooklyn goes to pot](#)

NY POST – Editorial

It does no city any good when individuals sworn to uphold the law signal that they will do so selectively. Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson has done just that. This week, he announced his office would stop prosecuting most first-time offenders arrested with small quantities of pot — including those with a “very minimal criminal record.” Police Commissioner Bill Bratton promptly turned around and said cops would still be enforcing the law. Then Mayor de Blasio confused matters even further by declaring Thompson and Bratton were both right.

[Bratton: City will defend officers on marijuana arrests](#)

CAPITAL NY - Azi Paybarah

Police commissioner Bill Bratton told reporters on Wednesday that the city is prepared to defend any officers who might be sued for pursuing marijuana arrests in Brooklyn, after the borough's district attorney said his office would no longer prosecute some first-time offenders. “The city attorney has assured us that if the officers were operating within the scope of the law, which we would automatically assume they were, that they would be basically defended by the city,” Bratton said in Queens this afternoon. Referring to the new policy from Brooklyn district attorney Ken Thompson, Bratton said, “it really does not change the working circumstances of police officers who are in the field.” Mayor Bill de Blasio, an ally of Thompson who today called Bratton the “finest police commissioner in the world,” said he agreed with both of their positions. [...] “What I think District Attorney Thompson is trying to achieve is to try and make sure that our energies go to serious crime and to not focus on the most minor offenses,” de Blasio said.

[Pols Want Broader Push as 200 Cops Hit Public Housing Through Budget Deal](#)

NY OBSERVER - Jillian Jorgensen

All 200 of the extra police officers hitting the streets thanks to the city budget deal will be working to patrol city public housing — and not everyone is happy about it. Mayor Bill de Blasio said Tuesday that all of the 200 cops whose desk jobs will be replaced by civilians, as negotiated in the budget deal between his office and the City Council, will head to the NYPD Housing Bureau to fight an uptick in crime in public housing. But some were hoping for a broader push. “Clearly we have an increase in shootings throughout the entire city. I expected the NYPD response would be a 5-borough plan, not just a NYCHA initiative,” City Council Minority Leader Vincent Ignizio, who pushed hard in a failed bid for the city to add 1,000 new cops to its ranks in the budget, told the Observer. [...] But while a slew of elected officials praised the mayor for his plan — Mr. de Blasio’s office put out a press released filled with quotes from those supporting it — Mr. Ignizio and others shifted the focus back to increasing the department’s overall ranks beyond the Housing Bureau.

[As Mayor Drags Feet, NYPD Officers Get Free Pass On Stop-And-Frisk](#)

HUFFINGTON POST - Matt Sledge

The NYPD is giving its officers a free pass on stop-and-frisk misconduct allegations as a result of Mayor Bill de Blasio's inaction, an advocate charged Wednesday at a police oversight board

meeting.

...The board, which investigates civilian complaints about police misconduct and refers substantiated allegations to the NYPD for departmental trials, has lacked a mayor-appointed chair since January. Board members have complained repeatedly about the lack of a leader, but City Hall has said only that a new chair will be named soon. The "decline to prosecute," or "dupe," cases in May included four instances of board-substantiated misconduct involving searches, stops or frisks. De Blasio made curbing police misuse of stop-and-frisk searches a cornerstone of his campaign platform last year.

[Brooklyn DA Decriminalizes Marijuana Possession... For Some](#)

GOTHAMIST - Christopher Robbins

As promised, the Brooklyn DA's office has effectively decriminalized marijuana possession in the borough.

...NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton told Capital New York that Thompson's policy "will not result in any changes" on the part of his officers. According to the Times, those arrested for low-level marijuana possession will still be taken to the precinct and processed at central booking. The new policy does not affect violent offenders, gang members, those with open warrants, or those smoking marijuana in public, "particularly around children, such as a park, playground, bus, subway or school yard," the release states; all of these provisions were sought by the NYPD. Those under 18 will be referred to a "diversion program" for counseling. The de Blasio administration continues to arrest a large number of New Yorkers for marijuana possession, more than the Giuliani administration and so far slightly more than the final year of Bloomberg's tenure.

JULY 14

[After murders on Staten Island, shootings citywide, questions about stop-and-frisk's effectiveness persist](#)

SI ADVANCE - John Annese

With Staten Island reeling from an eight-day stretch this summer where four men were killed in shootings, one question continues to arise in political circles, among rank-and-file police, and in public discussion: Would "stop-and-frisk" have made a difference?

...Powell's mother, Annette, called out Mayor Bill de Blasio by name in an interview with the Advance last week, challenging the mayor to "Bring back stop-and-frisk." "We've been saying that for a long time, because Arlington was worse than it already was," Ms. Powell said. "This is coming from an interracial family," she said, noting her family is half Jamaican, half Italian. "We are all for stop-and-frisk because we have nothing to hide.... They shouldn't be afraid to be stopped if they're not carrying something that they shouldn't be carrying." Citywide, shooting incidents have increased by 9.3 percent, with 562 so far this year, compared to 514 year-to-date in 2013, according to NYPD data from last Wednesday. Homicides, meanwhile, have hit record lows citywide, with 153 so far this year compared to 169 year-to-date last year.

JULY 18

[Video: Colbert Asks De Blasio If He's Bringing Back The 'Bad Old Days'](#)

GOTHAMIST - Jen Chung

Last night, Mayor Bill de Blasio faced the Colbert Nation. Host Stephen Colbert said, "You're the city's 109th mayor, before that, you were the city's Public Advocate and before that, you were a City Councilman. What is your vision of this great city? You want to bring us back to the 80s—the bad old days, the squeegee men, rampant crime and leg warmers!" De Blasio said the "leg warmers weren't so bad," but said he had a "progressive, inclusive" vision—which Colbert translated as "socialist"—and pointed out that the vast income inequality in the country forces leaders to change their course. Colbert said, "Why do we have to change our course? Those of us that have the income do not wish you to change our course."

AUGUST 16

TACTIC JUST DISAPPEARS Searches down 99% in toughest 2 areas
DAILY NEWS - Rocco Parascandola, Jenna O'Donnell, Larry McShane
COPS IN two of the city's toughest precincts recorded 99% fewer stop-and-frisks during the first half of the year - part of a staggering decline in the polarizing police tactic from the same period just three years ago. Officers assigned to the 75th Precinct in East New York and the 73rd Precinct in Brownsville stopped just 126 people in the first half of 2014, compared to 10,540 stops between January and June of 2011. The nearly eye-popping decrease is no misprint - and it comes as shootings in those neighborhoods are on the rise. Shootings are up in East New York from 34 to 43 through Aug. 10, a spike of about 27% compared to last year. In Brownsville, shootings are up from 38 to 56, an increase of about 47% over the same time period. While Police Commissioner Bill Bratton has expressed his doubts, an NYPD Brooklyn North supervisor told the Daily News there was a definite link between the increase in shootings and the dramatic dive in the number of stops. "Guys know they're not going to get stopped, so they're packing (guns) more now," he said. The first half of 2013, under former Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, found cops involved in 157,876 recorded stop-and-frisk encounters citywide. In 2014, the NYPD under Bratton reported 27,527 stops in the first six months - about a 82% drop. Three years ago, the first half of the year figure was 362,150. Cutting back on stop-and-frisk, a hallmark of the Bloomberg administration, was one of Mayor de Blasio's major campaign promises last year. The sharply declining figures drew praise from the NYCLU, shrugs from many Brooklyn residents and cynicism from some in the NYPD.

AUGUST 19

Opinion: Bill de Blasio Turning NYPD Into 'Blue Flowerpots'
NY OBSERVER - Howard Safir
http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=2a11a75d0b18bda0e533332bb660df4e&docnum=28&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=21&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=4c625ed89b876598636b99139a0ee402
Howard Safir said that Bill de Blasio's anti-stop-and-frisk policies are rendering police powerless. Former Police Commissioner Howard Safir (Photo by Kris Connor/Getty Images). Giuliani-era Police Commissioner Howard Safir blamed the de Blasio administration and its attitude toward the controversial stop-and-frisk policy for this year's spike in shootings and the violent recent weekend-and argued that the mayor is rendering the NYPD powerless. "They're in

danger of becoming what in the '90s the tabloids called "blue flowerpots," Mr. Safir told listeners of the Geraldo Rivera show, blasting Mayor Bill de Blasio for backing the anti stop-and-frisk Community Safety Act as a mayoral candidate, and for yanking former Mayor Michael Bloomberg's appeal of a court decision limiting the practice. "The bill that he supported and the withdrawal of the appeal of stop-and-frisk, it's all a message to police officers, and you do it improperly, you are going to be personally liable," he said. Mr. Safir said that the curtailed use of the stop-and-frisk technique-which now requires cops to show cause-is encouraging criminals to pack heat and use it. "I think there's a direct relationship between the spike in violence and the diminishment of stop and frisk," Mr. Safir said. "When criminals believe they aren't going to get stopped, they are going to carry their guns." The former police and fire chief warned that the gun violence this weekend-that left two dead and 19 injured-will only get worse if the mayor does not change tactics fast. "21 shootings is only bad aim. It could have been 21 homicides," said Mr. Safir. "If the mayor has a policy of not aggressively pursuing law enforcement, you're going to see crime increase." Mr. Safir, however, had words of praise for current Police Commissioner Bill Bratton-who also preceded him as head of the NYPD under ex-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

AUGUST 26

Editorial: The War on Cops Lowering the Bar

NY POST - Editorial

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=a46feb1174bcf0ded1aa4190e633d2ef&docnum=18&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=11&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=3e765a3d68c06dc5b559e5cf2f716887

The Bronx County Bar Association must think bias against cops is a virtue in a judge. Otherwise, why would it single out federal Judge Shira Scheindlin for a special honor at its big fund-raising dinner next month? As The Post reported Monday, Scheindlin is to receive the group's President's Award at its Sept. 18 gala. Yet she's the judge who was booted from last year's seminal stop-and-frisk case for creating an "appearance" of bias, after ruling the NYPD program unconstitutional and the cops, in effect, racist. Comments Scheindlin made in court and in media interviews created an "appearance of impartiality," wrote a 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals panel. It said she failed to "avoid impropriety" and that "reassignment is advisable to preserve the appearance of justice." It's not clear her ruling would have stood had the city continued to appeal it. But soon after Mayor de Blasio took office, his administration dropped the appeal and reached a settlement in the case. That left a stain on the rank-and-file of the NYPD - not to mention a court-appointed monitor for the cops and other orders by Scheindlin. Now, eight months into the de Blasio mayoralty, stops by police are down 92 percent - and shootings are up 10 percent. The bar association says Scheindlin's stop-and-frisk ruling was among the reasons it chose to honor her. But some observers wonder if its criminal-defense lawyers pushed her based on their ties to her. Whatever the case, one thing's clear: If the lawyers cared about justice, law and order - and the appearance of impartiality - they would have found someone else to honor.

SEPTEMBER 29

Bill de Blasio: Rachel Noerdlinger, Lis Smith Controversies 'Very Different'

NY OBSERVER - Ross Barkan

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=9c3b323f14cb1ea732449164a651ef71&docnum=10

&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=81ce1130477502d3fdc49ed63382c65e

Mayor Bill de Blasio claimed today that the controversies that surrounded Rachel Noerdlinger and Lis Smith are "very different." Rachel Noerdlinger with Rev. Al Sharpton and Chirlane McCray. (Photo: NYC Mayor's Office) Days after Mayor Bill de Blasio said he has "full faith" in a City Hall staffer who is dating a convicted felon, the mayor claimed today that his decision to retain Rachel Noerdlinger did not contradict his past move to reportedly stop a press secretary from joining his administration after newspapers reported she was dating former Gov. Eliot Spitzer. "They're very different situations," Mr. de Blasio told the Observer at an unrelated press conference in the Bronx. "Lis [Smith] worked on my general election campaign. She did a great job. As you know, she's a prominent consultant and she chose to go back to consulting. This is a very different situation." DNAinfo reported last week that Ms. Noerdlinger, the chief of staff to Mr. de Blasio's wife, is in a long-term relationship with a man who pleaded guilty at 15 to manslaughter for shooting and killing a man over a down jacket. In 2005, Mr. Noerdlinger's boyfriend, Hassan McFarlan, pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking charges and was served time in Massachusetts state prison until being released in 2007. And on Facebook, Mr. McFarlan—a vocal opponent of stop-and-frisk—referred to police officers as "pigs." Leaving City Hall Friday, Mr. de Blasio defended Ms. Noerdlinger, once a top aide to Rev. Al Sharpton, telling reporters that "we don't care what someone's boyfriend says, we care what the public servant is about, as she is very dedicated to working to bring police and community together and that's what we care about." But he struck a very different tone last December, when a couple of newspapers reported that the mayor's campaign spokeswoman, Lis Smith, had entered into a relationship with Mr. Spitzer, who was embroiled in a prostitution scandal and resigned in 2008. Ms. Smith was reportedly in line to join Mr. de Blasio's administration—instead, she was told she would not have a job at City Hall. While Mr. de Blasio asserted today—as he has before—that Ms. Smith, a prominent Democratic consultant, elected to return to the national Democratic fold, the New York Times reported in January that Ms. Smith did not make that decision. Instead, she was forced to after the new mayor sought to avoid controversy. Ms. Smith now serves as a campaign press secretary for Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a possible presidential contender.

OCTOBER 1

Ray raps de Blasio on 'frisk'

NY POST - Shawn Cohen

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=9c3b323f14cb1ea732449164a651ef71&docnum=9&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=81ce1130477502d3fdc49ed63382c65e

Former Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, a champion of NYPD stop-and-frisk tactics that were found unconstitutional, on Tuesday blasted Mayor de Blasio's decision to drop the city's appeal of that ruling. "Every indication is [that] if the appeal were allowed to go forward, it would have been reversed, and it's a shame Mayor de Blasio did that, because I think people will suffer," Kelly said on WNYC-FM's "Brian Lehrer Show" Tuesday. Stop-and-frisks have since decreased, and Kelly, the top cop under Mayor Mike Bloomberg, suggested the city may now be seeing a negative effect on crime. "We see shootings up now," Kelly said. He cited a classic Post headline when David Dinkins was mayor as signaling a shift in public sentiment on crime in the early '90s. "There was a headline in the New York Post, a famous headline: 'Dave, do something,' "

Kelly recalled.

OCTOBER 7

Why Rachel Must Go The bleeding won't stop soon

NY POST - Bob McManus

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=9c3b323f14cb1ea732449164a651ef71&docnum=6&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=81ce1130477502d3fdc49ed63382c65e

There were three triple shoot-ings in New York City last week, the last at 4 a.m. Sunday in The Bronx, and not one made the top of the news anywhere. As opposed to the splash Al Sharpton's lawyer, Sanford Ruben-stein, made when he was accused of raping a ranking executive in Al Sharpton's "civil rights" organization. This, right after a former top Sharpton aide, Rachel Noerd-linger, severely embarrassed the de Blasio administration by getting caught lying on a key city employment form. See the common thread here? Al Sharpton, Mayor de Blasio's police-commissioner-without-portfolio, had a bad week. Thus, by extension, so did Hizzoner. So, how long before de Blasio comes to understand that hanging with Rev. Al generates unhappy outcomes? Like the still reverberating l'affaire Noerdlinger? It'll likely be a while yet. Ten months into his incumbency, the mayor still seems impervious to embarrassment. He doesn't get that when mayors speak, people listen. That words matter. That a statement made today might have to be defended tomorrow. Take Noerdlinger, now chief of staff to First Spouse Chirlane McCray. Having been Sharpton's principal aide and chief trouble-shooter, she seemed purpose-built for de Blasio and McCray. They've established a two-track mayoralty: He ex-officio, she as co-regent - vested with power, perks and a staff that requires a \$170,000-a-year chief. By conventional standards, Noerdlinger seems an odd choice for a sensitive job. She comes with a huge downside - among other things, a cohabitating boyfriend with a criminal record that includes manslaughter, drug-trafficking and (just last year) attempted vehicular assault on a New Jersey cop. But this is not a conventional administration. It clearly intends to make its progressive bones by publicly diminishing the NYPD - hardly virgin territory for Noerd-linger, the old Sharpton hand. No surprise, then, that when news of the lady's live-in broke, de Blasio was steadfast in her defense.

...After all, de Blasio became mayor largely by demonizing the department - still, however temporarily, the finest urban police force in the land, and certainly among the most effective. He did this by racializing the public-safety debate - capitalizing on a federal judge who had so prejudiced the so-called "stop and frisk" civil-rights trial that she was removed from the case by an appeals court. And, of course, de Blasio enlisted the usual suspects - among them Sharpton. The plan worked.

...Another: Tensions between City Hall and its police unions, while not quite at Dinkins administration levels, are headed rapidly in that direction. Then, in a flash, Noerdlinger last week was back in the news. First, it was revealed that she, like Sharpton, doesn't pay her taxes - and had acquired a hefty IRS lien of her own (though nothing on the magnitude of The Rev's seven-figure encumbrances). Then it was reported that she'd fibbed about her son's health to gain a waiver from a rule requiring ranking municipal officials to reside in the city. Moral misdemeanors, of course. But then came the bombshell: Noerdlinger had lied on her Department of Investigation background paperwork - failing to report her felonious live-in. That is flirting with perjury: The law takes those DOI forms that seriously - even if the de Blasio administration

itself does not.

OCTOBER 4

NYPD, NYC Mayor Have Uneasy Relationship

Associated Press - Jonathan Lemire

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's relationship with police, already strained by accusations he sided with frequent NYPD critic Al Sharpton over the chokehold death of an unarmed suspect, suffered another hit with revelations a top aide is living with a convicted killer who has often mocked officers as "pigs." Police unions say it's only the latest incident that shows the mayor's lack of support for the 34,000-officer force. And even some de Blasio allies acknowledge the mayor could do a better job of leading the department he is simultaneously trying to reform. "This is difficult terrain, particularly for a new mayor," said Eugene O'Donnell, a professor of police studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice who was on the mayor's transition team. "Morale has been low on the force and it's only getting worse."

...And the latest strain was the revelation that Rachel Noerdlinger, first lady Chirlane McCray's chief of staff and a highly visible face at City Hall, is dating Hassaun McFarlan, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in a 1993 shooting when he was 15 and later served time for drug trafficking. The news website DNAinfo reported that McFarlan's Facebook page, now taken down, had several posts referring to police as "pigs." The city's largest police union has called for Noerdlinger's dismissal over the matter. "It raises serious questions about her judgment and character and the quality of the counsel she provides to City Hall," said union head Pat Lynch. Although de Blasio defended Noerdlinger — "We don't care what someone's boyfriend says," he said — the controversy shows no signs of abating. It was revealed that Noerdlinger recently joined McCray for a high-level NYPD crime-fighting briefing while he city's Department of Investigations opened an investigation into whether Noerdlinger failed to disclose that she lived with McFarlan. It later closed the investigation without recommending any disciplinary action. But it's de Blasio's close ties to Sharpton — who is also Noerdlinger's former boss — that has fueled much of the unions' anger. Sharpton spent months denouncing the NYPD for the death of Eric Garner, a black man who died from a police chokehold in July while being arrested for selling loose cigarettes on the street. A grand jury this past week convened to consider possible charges against the white officers involved and the entire police department is being put through use of force retraining.

OCTOBER 29

Back on bloody road to terror

NY POST - Michael Goodwin

http://www.lexis.com/research/retrieve?_m=9c3b323f14cb1ea732449164a651ef71&docnum=3&_fmtstr=FULL&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLbVzB-zSkAz&_md5=81ce1130477502d3fdc49ed63382c65e

Mark the date: Oct. 23, 2014. It was the end of an era that began on Sept. 12, 2001. In the intervening 13 years, one month and 11 days, New York City did not suffer a successful terrorist attack. But that holiday from horror, hard-earned by local law enforcement and America's military, is over. It ended in blood when Muslim convert Zale Thompson pulled out a hatchet and attacked four cops in Queens. Two were injured, one of them seriously, with the hatchet

slashing the skull of rookie cop Kenneth Healey (pictured). Thompson's hatred for white people and cops is now being emphasized, but his Internet rants made his motives clear. He was a jihadist, radicalized by the butchers of the Islamic State, and he fulfilled their call to strike Americans at home, especially law-enforcement officers. He died a martyr to their sick cause. Cue the virgins. There is, of course, no comparison to the scale of terror on 9/11 and what happened last Thursday. Rather, the point is that a vital security barrier has been breached, yet City Hall and the NYPD seem determined to ignore the significance. So far, they are sticking to a politically correct view of the facts.

...Thompson's racism and anti-Christian views would have won broad condemnation if his victims weren't cops and he wasn't a Muslim. But there was no citywide "healing service" led by religious leaders, nor were there protest marches led by activists. The double standard could prove deadly. Already, Mayor de Blasio is gutting an NYPD program that searched for radical Muslims where they lived and prayed. The program was upheld as constitutional by the courts, but that wasn't good enough for de Blasio. He called it "spying," and promised a Muslim group during the 2013 campaign that he would disband the unit. "Not only are we going to be safe, but we're going to be safe in a manner that is, again, consistent with our values and our Constitution," he said. Those remarks are almost identical to the way he undercut the NYPD's stop-and-frisk program. First he demonized it as racial profiling, then ordered it dramatically reduced. Studies have shown that it has fallen by 90 percent in some high-crime precincts, and that shootings have increased in some of those same areas. The break with his predecessors is striking. Before de Blasio, previous mayors had pulled off two man-made miracles. Murder declined by more than 80 percent over 20 years, and the city, with dedication, federal help and some luck, had been free of terrorism since 9/11. The successes share a fundamental link: Law enforcement stopped being merely reactive and began to focus on prevention. That was the point of both stop-and-frisk and the Muslim surveillance program.

Attachment 111314-Sideshow.rtf (6474 Bytes) cannot be converted to PDF format.

Death of Groundhog Staten Island Chuck Press Clips – September 25 through September 30, 2014

SEPTEMBER 25

[Groundhog dropped by de Blasio died a week later](#)

NY POST - Joe Tacopino, Carl Campanile, Natalie O'Neill

Mayor de Blasio has groundhog blood on his hands! A week after Hizzoner dropped Staten Island Chuck in front of a crowd of spectators on Feb. 2, the winter-weather prognosticator died of internal injuries — and then the coverup began, The Post has learned. Staten Island Zoo officials went to great lengths to hide the death from the public and keep secret the fact that “Chuck” was actually “Charlotte,” a female imposter, sources said Wednesday. The stand-in was found dead in her enclosure at the Staten Island Zoo on Feb. 9 — and a necropsy determined she died from “acute internal injuries,” sources said. She had fallen nearly 6-feet when the mayor lost his grip during the Groundhog Day photo-op. Sources said her injuries were consistent with a fall. Instead of revealing the sad loss, the zoo — which gets nearly half of its \$3.5 million in annual funding from the city — told the staff to keep the mayor’s office in the dark about the animal’s fate. They told only a few zoo supporters — but claimed that the groundhog had died of natural causes.

SEPTEMBER 26

[Mayor’s Fault or Not, Fatal or Not, Groundhog Had an Early Fall](#)

NY TIMES – Matt Flegenheimer

A sudden death. A mayor in yellow suede gloves. A fall — or was it two? — that might have proved fatal. And a groundhog named Chuck, until it wasn’t. On Thursday, Mayor Bill de Blasio stood accused of inadvertent rodenticide stemming from an episode in February, when, amid the pageantry of Groundhog Day shadow-viewing, he dropped the star of the early-morning event. According to an article in The New York Post, Charles G. Hogg, known as Chuck to Staten Island Zoo visitors, died one week later of “internal injuries” that were “consistent with a fall.” Also, “Chuck” was in fact a female, named Charlotte. The article alleged a cover-up by the zoo on both fronts. By midmorning, though, the mystery had deepened, as zoo officials and a local Democratic assemblyman presented an alternative timeline that seemed to absolve the mayor. After wriggling from Mr. de Blasio’s grasp on Feb. 2, the zoo said, the groundhog received “a complete medical examination” that revealed no sign of trauma or pain. The animal participated in several events over the next week, displaying no unusual behavior or appetite issues.

[Did the Mayor Do It? A Groundhog Mystery](#)

WSJ – Mara Gay

Prediction: Staten Island Chuck's days of taking furry photo-ops in the arms of New York City's mayor might be over. Zoo officials said they are considering banning the practice of allowing the mayor to hold the rodent during the annual Staten Island Groundhog Day ceremony, after it was revealed that the most recent "Chuck" died days after being dropped by Mayor Bill de Blasio in February. "Moving forward, we might change the format a bit, only have a professional animal handler handle the groundhog rather than pass it around to the mayor," said Brian Morris, a spokesman for the Staten Island Zoo. "It's not their job." Mr. de Blasio was cradling the

groundhog, whose real name was Charlotte, in February when it squirmed and he lost his grip. That sent the rodent plummeting to the ground in front of dozens of shocked schoolchildren. A week later, the groundhog died of "internal injuries and bleeding," according to zoo officials. Mr. Morris said a necropsy showed signs of injuries "that would be consistent with a fall"—but that it could have happened after the groundhog's encounter with Mr. de Blasio. "We don't know how it fell. We don't suspect any foul play or anything like that," said Mr. Morris. He said the groundhog wasn't the same Staten Island Chuck that in 2009 bit then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg but instead was the granddaughter of that animal.

[Staten Island Chuck died a week after being dropped by de Blasio on Groundhog Day](#)

DAILY NEWS - Jennifer Fermino

Oops. A week after Mayor de Blasio dropped Staten Island Chuck on Groundhog Day, the critter was found dead of internal injuries. In another revelation Thursday, it emerged that Chuck was actually Charlotte — female, not male. The Staten Island Zoo keeps the animals on rotation because they only have a short lifespan — typically four to six years. "She was in her habitat for the evening. The zoo opened up and they found her dead," Staten Island Assemblyman Matthew Titone said Thursday. It's unclear if the nearly 6-foot-5 mayor's fumbling killed the popular critter, who in one of her last acts correctly predicted six more weeks of winter. "There were some internal injuries, but new ones," Titone said. "She could've been climbing in her habitat and fell in a really bad position."

[Editorial: Bill's groundhog days](#)

DAILY NEWS - Editorial

Just the facts ma'am: In February, participating in the silliness of relying on a large rodent to divine the coming of spring, Hizzoner dropped Staten Island Chuck, née Charlotte, from a tall height. A week later, the critter was found dead. This generated a clue-done-it, the suspect being not Colonel Mustard with a candlestick in the library but Mayor de Blasio with klutz move in the zoo. Deepening the mystery, the zoo says a medical exam showed Charlotte was okay after her mayoral encounter. So, for now, we will presume fumblefingers innocent of groundhomicide until he's proven guilty beyond a shadow of a doubt.

[Zoo mulls Groundhog Day ban on mayors](#)

NY POST – Erin Calabrese and Sophia Rosenbaum

Mayor Bill de Blasio may not get a chance to kill any more groundhogs. The Staten Island Zoo is considering ditching its Groundhog Day policy that includes the mayor holding the winter-weather prognosticator following a Post report Thursday that "Chuck" — who was actually Charlotte — died from injuries suffered when she was dropped by Hizzoner. Charlotte's death, which exploded on social media and sparked the hashtags #groundhoghazi and #groundhoggate, has zoo officials questioning "whether [the groundhog] should actually be physically transferred from one handler to another or if maybe [the groundhog] should just be displayed emerging or not emerging from his enclosure," according to spokesman Brian Morris. "It was an accident, a botch, a bumble, a fumble," Morris said. He denied that not informing the mayor's office or the public of a groundhog's death was problematic. "There are 1,500 animals here [that] routinely die for a variety of reasons. We do not notify the public about every single death that comes up, we just don't do it," Morris said.

[De Blasio 'unaware' of groundhog's death](#)

CAPITAL NY - Gloria Pazmino

A spokesman for Mayor Bill de Blasio said the administration was "unaware" that a Staten Island groundhog had died shortly after the mayor's visit, prior to a report in the New York Post this morning. "We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss," said Phil Walzak, the mayor's press secretary, in a statement to Capital. Staten Island Chuck, which was actually a stand-in named Charlotte, squirmed out of de Blasio's hands in February, during the annual Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony, and fell about six feet to the ground. According to the Post, the animal died a week later, possibly from injuries related to the fall.

[A Groundhog is Dead, but the Post Reveals Gender Switch Is 'Biggest Secret of All'](#)

NY OBSERVER - John Bonazzo

The New York Post's morning exclusive alleging that the groundhog dropped by Mayor Bill de Blasio on February 2 died just a week later is already being hailed as a possible GoundHog-Gate. But the biggest scandal, to the *Post* at least, is that the groundhog was a girl. First, the actual news item: According to the paper, Staten Island Chuck, who flew out of Mr. de Blasio's hands at his first Groundhog Day ceremony and fell nearly six feet, died of "internal injuries" stemming from the incident on February 9. The *Post* describes the Mayor as having "groundhog blood on his hands!" The Staten Island Zoo, which gets 50 percent of its funding from the city, covered up the incident, choosing not to inform the mayor's office of the groundhog's demise. The few zoo supporters they did break the news to were told the animal died of natural causes.

[Staten Island Chuck, New York's groundhog, died after being dropped by de Blasio and is really a female named Charlotte, report says](#)

AM NY - Staff

Do you believe Staten Island Chuck when he predicts whether there will be six more weeks of winter? Better question: would you trust a Chuck stand in named Charlotte to predict your miserable February and March weather? In a bombshell story in Thursday's New York Post, it's revealed that not only did the groundhog Mayor Bill de Blasio dropped (actually, it squirmed out of his hands) at last year's Groundhog Day die shortly after the incident, but the animal was NOT who everyone believed it to be. Staten Island Zoo officials, as the Post put it, "benched" Chuck because he had bitten former Mayor Michael Bloomberg the year before, (bad groundhog!) and instead called upon female groundhog Charlotte to determine the end of the polar vortex.

[Death of Staten Island Chuck after de Blasio's Groundhog Day fumble prompts jokes, serious calls for changes to ceremony](#)

SI ADVANCE - Anna Sanders

The fatal end to one Staten Island Chuck last February after a fumble by Mayor Bill de Blasio prompted both jokes and serious calls for changes to the Groundhog Day ceremony. Charlotte, the groundhog playing Chuck on Feb. 2, died a week after she crawled up de Blasio's arm and fell several feet during the annual event. The cause of death, first reported by the New York Post, was "acute internal injuries," according to the Staten Island Zoo. What led to those injuries couldn't be determined -- she could have fallen a second time -- but the zoo said it was "unlikely" the groundhog's death was related to her encounter with the mayor. "We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed, but are sorry to hear of the loss," de Blasio spokesman Phil

Walzak said.

[Unmasked: Staten Island Chuck dropped by Mayor de Blasio was a female named Charlotte](#)

SI ADVANCE - Maura Grunlund

The Staten Island Zoo revealed that Staten Island Chuck who died about a week after being fumbled by Mayor Bill de Blasio on Groundhog Day 2014 actually was a female named Charlotte. "The groundhog for the Feb 2, 2014 event was a female (Charlotte), although all groundhogs at this zoo are referred to as Chuck (kind of like Santa Claus)," said Brian Morris, a spokesman for the Zoo, in an email to the Advance. The Zoo's reveal was in response to media claims that the dead groundhog was really a female named Charlotte who had been secretly substituted for the real Staten Island Chuck, a/k/a Charles G. Hogg for Groundhog Day 2014. Some reports on Thursday maintained that a female imposter was used because the Zoo feared that the real Staten Island Chuck would bite de Blasio since the world-famous rodent had gnawed on former Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

[Opinion: Groundhog controversy puts another dent in Mayor de Blasio's Staten Island profile](#)

SI ADVANCE - Tom Wroblewski

Can things get any worse for Mayor Bill de Blasio on Staten Island? The latest is a report in the New York Post saying that a week after de Blasio famously dropped Staten Island Chuck during a Groundhog Day ceremony at the Staten Island Zoo, the groundhog died of acute internal injuries. Then the Zoo coverup began, the paper alleged, not only to hide the death of the groundhog, but to also conceal the fact that it was not actually Charles G. Hogg whom the mayor dropped, but a female stand-in groundhog named Charlotte.

[Did Mayor Bill de Blasio's fumble of Staten Island Chuck prove fatal?](#)

SI ADVANCE - Maura Grunlund

Did Mayor Bill de Blasio's fumble on Groundhog Day 2014 cause the death of Staten Island Chuck? In a New York Post spin worthy of a murder mystery, Charles G. Hogg died of internal injuries about a week after being unceremoniously dropped by the mayor at the Staten Island Zoo on Feb. 2 The Zoo then hid the cause of death for Charles G. Hogg, along with the fact that the furry prognosticator was in fact a female named Charlotte, the Post claims. What was the motive for the alleged cover-up: Clearly, it was financial since the Zoo receives nearly half of its \$3.5 million in annual funding from the city, the Post implies.

[Are you guilty De Blasio by whistler death of "Chuck"?](#)

EL DIARIO - Marlene Peralta

New York got up this morning with the sad news that "Chuck" the famous groundhog that predicts the length of winter passed away in February, a week after the big event known as Groundhog Day. The causes of death suggest that Mayor Bill de Blasio had something to do since the famous animal fell from his hands when posing for photo on the traditional annual ceremony. According to local media reported, the authorities of the Staten Island Zoo, home to iconic animals and which receives about \$ 3.4 million in City funds, not only tried to hide the cause of death of Whistler, but also discovered the day of the event, Feb. 2, Groundhog used an imposter and thus who actually died was not the real Chuck but his mate Charlotte. Zoo officials allegedly changed the original animal by Charlotte, fearing it bite Mayor Bill de Blasio, as he did with then Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009 Charlotte died on February 9 and did not even

know the Mayor news. A spokesman for the Mayor said he learned of the sad denouement for media reports.

[Staten Island Chuck Impersonator Died After Being Dropped by Mayor](#)

DNA INFO - Nicholas Rizzi

Staten Island's forecaster didn't foresee how grim a run-in with the mayor would be. A week after Mayor Bill de Blasio dropped Staten Island Chuck on Groundhog Day on Feb. 2, the furry spring predictor died of internal injuries, the New York Post reported. But, according to the paper, Staten Island Zoo officials took great care to keep the groundhog's death a secret — as well as the fact that the rodent was not really the Staten Island celebrity critter, but a stand-in named Charlotte. Sources told the paper that Charlotte was found dead on Feb. 9 in her cage. An autopsy found that she died from "acute internal injuries," which are consistent with a fall. When de Blasio tried to hold the groundhog during the ceremony, Charlotte squirmed in the mayor's hands and eventually fell to the floor.

[Groundhog dies after escaping de Blasio's grip](#)

CRAIN'S NY - Associated Press

Her shadow was one of the last things she saw. The groundhog that escaped Mayor Bill de Blasio's grasp during this year's Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony died a week after the fall. But the rodent, which had just predicted six more weeks of winter before tumbling several feet from the mayor's hands, was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a stand-in named Charlotte. Moreover, the zoo did not notify the mayor's office of the death, which was first reported by The New York Post. The story electrified social media on Thursday, prompting a flood of Twitter jokes about a #Groundhoghazi cover-up and Mr. De Blasio's possible impeachment. "We were unaware that Staten Island Chuck had passed but are sorry to hear of the loss," mayoral spokesman Phil Walzak said. This was Mr. De Blasio's first time doing the annual ceremony. He wore heavy work gloves on the cold winter day, in part as a safety precaution after Chuck bit Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

[Bill de Blasio groundhog dies after fall](#)

POLITICO - Kendall Breitman

The groundhog that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio accidentally dropped on Groundhog Day earlier this year died of internal injuries, a new report finds. According to a story in The New York Post on Thursday, the Staten Island Zoo found the groundhog, which squirmed through de Blasio's fingers and fell to the ground during a Feb. 2 photo opp, dead in its enclosure a week later. It died from "acute internal injuries," The Post said, with sources telling the paper the injuries were "consistent with a fall." The Post also claimed a coverup, noting that after the groundhog's death, the zoo told the public that the animal had died of natural causes. New York Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-Staten Island) said he was informed that the animal died of old age and "went to that big farm in the sky."

[Report: Staten Island's famous groundhog died after Bill de Blasio dropped it](#)

WASHINGTON POST - Abby Ohlheiser

#DeBlasio'sNewYork is full of elaborate groundhog cover-ups, according to what has to be among the top "so New York Post" stories in the long and amazing history of the New York Post being the New York Post. "Mayor de Blasio has groundhog blood on his hands!" the paper says,

after an investigation by three of its reporters found that a groundhog famously dropped by the mayor this past Groundhog Day died days later. The groundhog in question is the Staten Island Zoo's "Chuck," which is basically the Punxsutawney Phil of the Big Apple. Anyway, here's what happened at last year's Groundhog Day weather forecast: On Feb. 9, the paper's sources say, "Chuck" was found dead from "acute internal injuries" consistent with a fall like the one seen here.

[Groundhog dropped by New York Mayor de Blasio died a week later](#)

FOX NEWS - Staff

New York's Staten Island Zoo attempted to cover up news that the groundhog accidentally dropped by Mayor Bill de Blasio during the Groundhog Day celebration died from internal injuries a week after the fall, The New York Post reported. Sources told the paper that the groundhog was a female replacement named "Charlotte." She died from internal injuries a week after the fall, the source said. The paper reported Thursday that the zoo pulls in \$3.5 million a year from the city. The staff was reportedly told by the zoo to avoid telling the mayor's office. The zoo went with the story that the animal died from natural causes. One local assemblyman told the paper, "I was told he died of old age, that he went to the big farm in the sky."

[Zoo Covers Up Bill de Blasio's Groundhog Murder](#)

GAWKER - Allie Jones

Like a giant trying to hold a human baby, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and his big, dumb hands dropped a helpless groundhog on February 2 (Groundhog's day). The poor hog died of internal injuries, and "then the coverup began," according to this New York Post exclusive. It turns out that the groundhog, "Staten Island Chuck," was actually a "female impostor" named Charlotte. Charlotte died February 9 of "acute internal injuries," may she rest in peace. Why are we just hearing about this now?

[NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio May Have Caused Death of Famous Groundhog](#)

MASHABLE - Neha Prakash

It's the biggest political cover-up since Watergate: New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio may have been responsible for the death of a celebrity groundhog. De Blasio has "groundhog blood on his hands," according to the New York Post, which reported that "Staten Island Chuck" died of internal injuries one week after the mayor dropped it 6 feet onto the ground during Groundhog Day festivities in February. The furry local celebrity was found dead at the Staten Island Zoo on Feb. 9. A necropsy determined that the groundhog died from "acute internal injuries" consistent with the fall, according to the Post, citing anonymous sources. The zoo, which receives millions of funding from New York City, reportedly decided to hide the groundhog's fate from the public and the mayor's office.

[Groundhog Dropped by de Blasio Died of Injuries, Zoo Allegedly Covered it Up](#)

MEDIAITE - Evan McMurry

In what may be the New York Postiest scoop ever, the New York Post reported Thursday that Chuck, the groundhog dropped by NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, died a week after the incident of internal injuries, and that the zoo has been engaged in a "cover up" to conceal the fact from the public. The Post alleges that the zoo switched Staten Island Chuck, the marquee groundhog, for "Charlotte," fearing Chuck would bite the mayor; bad news for Charlotte, as the towering de

Blasio famously dropped her. Charlotte was found dead in her cage one week later with injuries consistent with a fall of six feet, according to a necropsy. The zoo then conspired with staffers to keep the information from the Mayor's office, which only found out about Charlotte's death from the tabloid.

SEPTEMBER 27

[Colbert and Twitter take on de Blasio over groundhog death](#)

NY POST - Danika Fears

It is a tail of too funny! #Groundhoggate became the talk of Twitter and late-night TV this week — with an avalanche of jokes skewering Mayor de Blasio for the death of Staten Island's furball forecaster. Stephen Colbert accused de Blasio of carrying out a "mob-style execution" when he dropped the groundhog on Feb. 2 — causing internal injuries that killed it a week later. "At the time that de Blasio dropped him, it seemed like an accident, but think about it," he mused in a segment on "The Colbert Report" Thursday night. "Staten Island was the only borough that de Blasio lost in the mayoral election. So clearly he responded the only way Staten Island understands: with a mob-style execution of their most beloved resident." It was a coldblooded groundhog hit job straight out of "WoodFellas," Colbert said.

[Colbert Report rips 'suspicious death' of Staten Island Chuck](#)

SI ADVANCE - Anna Sanders

Did Mayor Bill de Blasio carry out a "mob-style" hit on Staten Island Chuck after losing the borough in the mayoral election? As part of Stephen Colbert's ongoing "thirst for justice," the late-night comedian ripped de Blasio for the groundhog's "suspicious" and "untimely" death on Thursday's "The Colbert Report." Charlotte, playing Staten Island Chuck last Groundhog Day, died of internal injuries a week after she squirmed from de Blasio's hands and dropped several feet. "At the time that de Blasio dropped him it seemed like an accident, but think about it: Staten Island is the only borough that de Blasio lost in the mayoral election," Colbert said, citing an Advance report from last year's general election. "So clearly he responded the only way Staten Island understands -- with a mob-style execution of their most beloved resident."

[Could this be the next Staten Island 'Chuck'?](#)

SI ADVANCE - Anthony DePrimo

With all the controversy surrounding the untimely death of Staten Island Chuck, aka Charlotte, there are approximately 129 days left until Groundhog Day and our borough will need a furry prognosticator to either outline an extended Winter or usher in an early Spring. During a recent visit to the Staten Island Zoo's hospital and nursery, we caught a glimpse of a curious groundhog named Cassie peeking from behind her cage. We can't help but wonder if Cassie will be in the spotlight come February or another will assume the responsibility. Zoo officials have not determined whether Cassie, or the two other groundhogs in their collection, will take the stage on February 2nd.

...Charlotte, the groundhog playing Chuck on Feb. 2, died a week after she crawled up Mayor Bill de Blasio's arm and fell several feet during the annual event. The cause of death, first reported by the New York Post, was "acute internal injuries," according to the Staten Island Zoo.

[Groundhogs to Mayor: An Open Letter](#)

THE NEW YORKER - Colin Stokes

Dear Mayor de Blasio, We, the Groundhogs of New York City, demand that you, the Mayor of New York City, stop holding us up in the air on Groundhog Day. We shall not stand for it anymore. Ever since the courageous first rebellion of Charlton G. Hogg the Brave (known to you simply as Chuck), who bit Mayor Bloomberg's not-so-iron fist in 2009, a movement has been gaining steam to abolish the cruel tradition of Groundhog Day. We intend to continue this struggle, in solidarity with our fallen brothers and sisters. Mr. Mayor, it is the irony of all ironies that Groundhog Day, the only day on which anyone gives a damn about the groundhog, is also the worst day of the year to be a groundhog. For us, it is the opposite of Christmas Day. Our groundhog children stay up all night crying about what the mayor will do to the adult groundhogs. It does not even matter whether we have been naughty or nice groundhogs, which is where the metaphor breaks down. Still, we think it is a powerful image.

[Stephen Colbert is pretty sure he knows how Bill de Blasio's groundhog died](#)

WASHINGTON POST - Jaime Fuller

On Thursday, the New York Post reported that a groundhog dropped by New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) at a public event in February had died, likely of injuries sustained in the fall. And not only that, the groundhog wasn't even much-beloved Staten Island Chuck. It was Charlotte the Groundhog, who was filling in because zoo officials were afraid that Chuck would bite de Blasio — just like he bit Mike Bloomberg. On Thursday night, Stephen Colbert laid out a dizzyingly complex (sort of) conspiracy that could explain the death and the subsequent cover-up. It involves election results, the Mafia and elephants. To this point, nobody has asked de Blasio if he wishes he could relive the day Bill Murray-style to save Charlotte.

[Groundhog dies after escaping NYC Mayor: Zoo cover-up alleged in 'Chuck's' death](#)

EXAMINER - Roz Zurko

Kept under wraps since February, Staten Island Zoo's groundhog died a week after New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio dropped the creature on Groundhog Day this year. This accident was caught on camera, as the groundhog dropped to the ground out of de Blasio hands when it started squirming, according to "Fox and Friends" live on Friday morning Sept. 26. The groundhog had just predicted six more weeks of winter when the mayor's photo op with the creature went very wrong. The groundhog squirmed out of the mayor's hand and fell several feet to the ground. According to NOLA, the animal died a week after the fall due to internal injuries, but they can't say it was directly from that fall. The New York Post reports that the zoo went to great lengths to keep the death of the groundhog away from the public. They also report that "Sources say her injuries are consistent with a fall." The groundhog was said to have "died from natural causes" and told only a few zoo staff how the animal really died.

[Staten Island May Keep Mayors Away From Groundhogs After De Blasio Drop](#)

GOTHAMIST - Ben Yakas

Yesterday it was revealed that the Staten Island Zoo groundhog that Mayor Bill de Blasio dropped on Groundhog Day died from "internal injuries" a week later. GroundhogGate, as history will remember it, has become an international scandal, from the well-manicured lawns of Staten Island to page 37 of The Times UK. And now it seems no other mayors may get the chance to grope a groundhog after de Blasio's inadvertent murder spree. Thanks de Blasio! Staten Island Zoo officials are considering drastically changing the Groundhog Day tradition

because of what happened to poor little Staten Island Charlotte (one of four stand-ins for Chuck). "It's being discussed whether we should do some process with the next Chuck on February 2, whether he should actually be physically transferred from one handler to another," zoo spokesman Brian Morris told the Post. "Maybe he should just be displayed emerging or not emerging from his enclosure." Local pols certainly agree: "I think the handling of the groundhog may be best left to professionals," City Council Minority Leader Vincent Ignizio told AP.

[Winners & Losers 9/26/14](#)

CITY & STATE - Staff

This week the focus was on the environment, with the People's Climate March drawing hordes of environmentalists to Manhattan and the UN Climate Summit spurring discussions about greenhouse gases. But politicians who tried to get in on the act didn't make it onto our Winners list—not even Mayor Bill de Blasio, whose ambitious clean energy plan for city buildings was overshadowed by a scandal that landed him on our Losers list.

...Bill de Blasio - Mayor de Blasio's butterfingers proved to be fatal, with the news that famed groundhog Staten Island Chuck (née Charlotte) passed away one week after the mayor dropped her on Groundhog's Day. Making matters worse, the zoo tried to cover for the mayor by saying the animal died of "natural causes." Between dragging their feet on banning horse carriages and Groundhog-gate, poor animal relations could be a crippling blow to the de Blasio mayoralty.

SEPTEMBER 30

[Mayor de Blasio Dodges Questions About Groundhog's Death](#)

WSJ - Michael Howard Saul

Mayor Bill de Blasio ducked questions Monday about the ceremonial groundhog he dropped in February that later died. It was the first time Mr. de Blasio faced reporters since the news broke four days ago. When the questions eventually turned to Staten Island Chuck's untimely demise, the mayor became tight lipped. "I found out as all of you found out—I had no idea previously," Mr. de Blasio, speaking at an unrelated event in the Bronx, said when asked to describe his feelings when he learned that the groundhog met the Grim Reaper. "I would just refer questions to the Staten Island Zoo. They're the experts." When asked if he had any plans to hold a groundhog at the next Groundhog Day event at the zoo, Mr. de Blasio also demurred. "I'm going to let the Staten Island Zoo determine what's the right course of action. I'm certainly open to any changes. But we have to let them determine what makes sense," he said. The key question on many New Yorkers' minds is whether Mr. de Blasio, 53 years old, bears any culpability. At last February's ceremony—his first as mayor, Mr. de Blasio was cradling the groundhog, whose real name was Charlotte, when it squirmed. Mr. de Blasio lost his grip.

[NYC mayor ducks dead groundhog questions](#)

WSJ – Associated Press

Mayor Bill de Blasio is declining to discuss the groundhog that died a week after slipping from his grasp. The Staten Island Zoo confirmed last week that the rodent died seven days after this year's Groundhog Day ceremony. Staten Island Chuck fell several feet from de Blasio's hands. The zoo said there is no evidence the fall led to the animal's death. The zoo said Chuck was actually a stand-in named Charlotte. It also said it may change the proceedings next year so the mayor won't hold the groundhog. De Blasio on Monday deferred all questions about the

groundhog to the zoo, including one on how he felt upon learning of Charlotte's death. A zoo spokesman did not immediately return a request for comment about the mayor's feelings.

[Mayor de Blasio dodges questions on groundhog's death](#)

DAILY NEWS – Erin Durkin

Mayor de Blasio was unrepentant Monday over the death of the Staten Island groundhog that fell from his grasp, referring questions on his own feelings on the animal's passing to the Staten Island Zoo. "I would just refer questions to the Staten Island Zoo. They're the experts," de Blasio said when asked how he felt upon learning that "Staten Island Chuck" had died a week after he dropped it during a Groundhog Day ceremony. De Blasio said he "had no idea" until last week that Chuck - whose traditional role was actually played by a female groundhog named Charlotte - had passed away, but he offered no condolences on the death. "I think I've spoken to it. Talk to the Staten Island Zoo," the stone-faced mayor said when a reporter tried again to ask. He said he wouldn't mind if the zoo decided to bar mayors from touching the animal in future ceremonies, a change they have said they're considering. "I'm certainly open to any changes. But we have to let them determine what makes sense," he said.

[De Blasio dodges questions on groundhog death](#)

NY POST – Michael Gartland, Danika Fears

Mayor Bill de Blasio still won't admit he's got groundhog blood on his hands. Hizzoner on Monday dodged questions regarding his involvement in the death of Charlotte, who was playing the part of Staten Island Chuck on Feb. 2 when he dropped her, causing internal injuries. Her death, and the Staten Island Zoo's attempt to cover it up, was first reported by The Post last week. "I found out as all of you found out," de Blasio said Monday. "I had no idea previously." De Blasio wouldn't say whether he has plans to participate in the Groundhog Day ceremony next year, instead punting questions to the zoo. When asked a second time, de Blasio retreated from the podium, effectively ending the press conference. The mayor did say he'd let the zoo decide whether to change the protocol regarding the handling of the furry forecasters.

[Bill de Blasio Drops the Subject of Dropped Staten Island Groundhog](#)

NY OBSERVER – Jillian Jorgensen

Mayor Bill de Blasio dropped the topic of his possibly fatal fumble of Staten Island Chuck faster than...well, a groundhog. "I found out as all of you found out," Mr. de Blasio said at an unrelated press conference in the Bronx. "I had no idea previously, and I would just refer questions to the Staten Island Zoo. They're the experts." Mr. de Blasio's deferral to the zoo came even as the question was about his own personal feelings after he learned that the Staten Island Zoo groundhog died a week after he dropped the furry mascot in February. The death of the groundhog — who was actually a female named Charlotte, standing in as the iconic Charles G. Hogg a/k/a Chuck — was revealed in a triple-bylined New York Post story touted loudly as an "exclusive" and quoting "zoo sources." The groundhog died a week after Mr. de Blasio dropped it of injuries consistent with a fall, but zoo officials have since said they do not believe it was Mr. de Blasio's well-documented drop that caused the injuries. While the mayor didn't have much to say, the rodenticide reveal has led some — including Councilman Vincent Ignizio, the minority leader who represents part of Staten Island — to say mayors should no longer hold the squirmy creature at the annual Groundhog Day event

[De Blasio reluctant to answer questions about Staten Island Chuck's death](#)

SI ADVANCE – Anna Sanders

Mayor Bill de Blasio is reluctant to answer questions about Staten Island Chuck's untimely death last February. The stone-faced mayor wouldn't say how he felt when he heard the 10-month-old creature died a week after falling from his hands during the annual Groundhog Day ceremony. Instead, he referred questions to the Staten Island Zoo, where the event is held. "I found out as all of you found out," de Blasio said on Monday. "I had no idea previously. And I would just refer questions to the Staten Island Zoo." Zoo spokesman Brian Morris couldn't say how the mayor felt. "I have not been in touch with the mayor," Morris said. "But from what I read in the papers he was very sorry -- expressed his loss and all that." Charlotte, the young groundhog playing Chuck on Feb. 2, was found dead of internal injuries a week after she slipped from the mayor's grasp during the ceremony and fell several feet. The zoo said it was unlikely the fumble caused her death, noting there may have been another fall in her enclosure during the night.

[Mayor Bill De Blasio Ducks Dead Groundhog Questions](#)

CBS 2 - Associated Press

Mayor Bill de Blasio is declining to discuss the groundhog that died a week after slipping from his grasp. The Staten Island Zoo confirmed last week that the rodent died seven days after this year's Groundhog Day ceremony. Staten Island Chuck fell several feet from de Blasio's hands. The zoo said there is no evidence the fall led to the animal's death. The zoo said Chuck was actually a stand-in named Charlotte. It also said it may change the proceedings next year so the mayor won't hold the groundhog. De Blasio on Monday deferred all questions about the groundhog to the zoo, including one on how he felt upon learning of Charlotte's death. A zoo spokesman did not immediately return a request for comment about the mayor's feelings.

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