

## **OCTOBER – 2022**

### **DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT**

**Manhattan District Attorney’s Office Reported:** DA Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., and New York City Police Department Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell today announced the indictment of JOSE RIVERA, 47, for manufacturing multiple ghost guns, including assault weapons, in his Lower East Side Manhattan apartment. In total, RIVERA purchased at least 55 ghost gun parts worth over \$7,000, including the “[Ghost Gunner 3](#),” a fully-automated machine that can be used to manufacture ghost guns with the touch of a button.

RIVERA is charged with a New York State Supreme Court indictment with six counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree; one count of An Attempt to Commit the Crime of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree; 12 counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree; five counts of Criminal Possession of a Firearm; five counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree; two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child; and one count of Unlawful Possession of Ammunition. [1]

On September 22, 2022, the NYPD and New York State Police executed a search warrant at RIVERA’s apartment on the Lower East Side and recovered six fully assembled ghost guns, three of which were loaded with high-capacity magazines. RIVERA made two of those guns into assault weapons, including an AR-15 style rifle. Approximately 200 rounds of ammunition and five major components were also recovered. Some of the firearms appeared to have been manufactured using the Ghost Gunner-3 machine from raw blocks of aluminum.

Two of the firearms were easily accessible to the two and three-year-old children living in the apartment, and were not locked or safely stored.

RIVERA had a prior felony conviction and was not allowed to possess any legal firearms.

The Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, in partnership with the NYPD and other law enforcement partners, established the Ghost Guns Initiative in 2020 to address the proliferation of ghost guns in New York City. To date, the Ghost Guns Initiative has prosecuted cases involving the seizure of over 79 ghost gun parts, 28 fully assembled ghost guns, 23 serialized firearms, 420 high-capacity magazines, 45 silencers, and other gear including scopes and rapid-fire modification devices.

**Seniors and Safety Wellness Fair – Friday, October 14th, 2022** (*See Flyer*)  
10am – 2pm | West 166th Street Between St. Nicholas and Audubon Avenue  
(Free Shredding Health Screening, Community Resources, Music, Snacks and More!)

**October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month** (*See Flyer*)

Manhattan D.A.'s office provides presentations on domestic violence at no cost to schools and organizations throughout Manhattan. The presentation, conducted by an Assistant District Attorney, can vary from 30 minutes to an hour and explains and answers questions regarding domestic violence cases and the criminal justice process. We also provide recommendations on steps to take if you, a family member, or a friend are a victim or survivor of domestic violence in NYC. If you are interested, please fill out the following form or contact Education Coordinator, Imani Doumbia directly at [doumbiai@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:doumbiai@dany.nyc.gov) or 917-808-6421.

**NYC Emergency Management Reported:** Cash is fast, cost effective, environmentally friendly, and flexible – with the capability to provide relief for the everchanging needs of a humanitarian relief operation. Cash does not require administrative and transportation costs to be incurred to manage and it can be used to purchase exactly what goods and services are needed. Donations of cash support the local economies during a time where economic recovery is critical to all community's return to normal. Also, an influx of in-kind goods diverts staff time and resources and managing them, sets communities back in economic recovery, and is often not useful to those impacted by the disaster.

NYC Emergency Management understand there is a lot of interest in providing support to both asylum seekers and Puerto Rico and appreciate everyone's generosity. OEM wants to make sure all are communicating the most helpful donations practices.

Those interested in supporting Hurricane Fiona relief can donate cash to a number of responding organizations; see following link  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fund/initiatives/nyc-stands-with-puerto-rico-and-the-caribbean.page>.

Those interested in supporting Humanitarian relief for asylum seekers can donate cash here to a number of responding organizations:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fund/initiatives/nyc-stands-with-asylum-seekers.page>

Those interested in supporting Hurricane Ian relief can donate cash here to the American Red Cross: [https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-ian-donations.html/?cid=fy23hurian&med=cpc&source=google&scode=RSG00000E017&gclid=EAiaIQobChMI-jorL3Y-gIVhcWGCh1eaw0gEAAYASAAEgLEOfD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-ian-donations.html/?cid=fy23hurian&med=cpc&source=google&scode=RSG00000E017&gclid=EAiaIQobChMI-jorL3Y-gIVhcWGCh1eaw0gEAAYASAAEgLEOfD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

**MTA Reported:** Governor Kathy Hochul announced the Metropolitan Transportation Authority New York City Transit has received a \$2 million award, through the Urban Area Security Initiative federal grant program, which will provide funding for the installation of cameras across the entire fleet of subway cars, enhancing security coverage, and, most importantly, increasing passenger confidence in mass transit safety. The Urban Area Security Initiative is a program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Grants. The funding will enable the purchase of 5,400 cameras to be installed on 2,700 New York City Transit subway cars, two per car. Additionally, the program will fund approximately 3,800 cameras expanding coverage in approximately 130 subway stations.

The funding will further strengthen NYC Transit's existing security network of more than 10,000 cameras across all 472 subway stations. The new funding covers the cost of camera installation on 6,355 cars, allowing the MTA to fully outfit every subway car with cameras -- supplementing an existing camera pilot program that includes 200 cameras in 100 subway cars. Additionally, funding from the Subway Action Plan totaling \$3.5 million will enable the purchase of 7,310 cameras on 3,655 cars, two per car. The total funding to complete the installations equals \$5.5 million. When installation begins an additional 200 train cars per month will have cameras installed until the entire subway car fleet is camera-equipped, which is anticipated to occur sometime in 2025. In addition, when new R211 subway cars are delivered starting in early 2023 they will already be camera-equipped.

It was stated that this is the latest measure Governor Hochul has taken to deter crime and enhance the safety of New York City Subways. In June, Governor Hochul signed [legislation](#) to protect roughly 11,000 more transit workers against

assault and harassment. The legislation extended criminal charges to individuals who assault station customer assistants, ticket or revenue collectors, maintenance workers, repairers, cleaners, and their supervisors, who were not protected under previous laws.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) recently announced an additional 300 buses across nine routes in Staten Island, the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn will have automated bus lane enforcement (ABLE) cameras by the end of the year to capture drivers violating busway and bus lane rules in real-time. The first ABLE cameras from this latest deployment will be rolled out today on the Q44 Select Bus Service (SBS) route. ABLE cameras are an essential tool to keep bus lanes clear of vehicles and buses on schedule for more consistent and reliable service.

Currently, there are 123 buses equipped with ABLE cameras on seven routes across Brooklyn and Manhattan. The latest installment of cameras will expand the bus enforcement technology to all boroughs and cover approximately 50% of bus lane miles across the city.

The MTA and New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) have agreed to expand camera enforcement to cover up to 85% of existing bus lanes by the end of 2023. To reach that goal, the MTA plans to add 600 new cameras by the end of 2023. NYCDOT's fixed cameras will work in concert with these bus cameras to reduce the number of illegal cars and other vehicles in bus lanes.

The remaining routes will be rolled out as follows: S79 SBS, Bx12 SBS, Bx41 SBS, Bx19, Q43, B62, B25, and B42. Locations were determined to maximize the length of bus lanes covered, balance distribution between boroughs, address some of the newer bus lanes, and incorporate input from the MTA and NYCDOT on known locations with issues.

Each bus lane corridor will have signage indicating the hours that the bus lanes are operable, and warning motorists that the lanes are camera-enforced, as the existing bus lane corridors have. NYCDOT will issue warnings to motorists for the first 60 days, in accordance with State law, to ensure drivers are informed about the program before any fines are levied. Drivers who violate these rules during enforcement periods are subject to a summons, with fines beginning at \$50 and

escalating, for repeat offenders, up to \$250.

ABLE camera systems capture license plate information, photos and videos, together with location and timestamp information. This information is then transmitted to NYCDOT for review and processing. The program is administered in partnership with NYCDOT and the New York City Department of Finance.

**NYC Health + Hospitals Reported:** The Annual in person series of free health insurance workshops to prepare New Yorkers for the upcoming open-enrollment periods.*(see dates below)* NYCHHC will be collaborating with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), MetroPlus Health, New York State of Health and our facilities, the workshops are open to everyone, ensuring community partners, faith-based organizations, caregivers, and community members understand health insurance options available to them as they prepare for the open-enrollment periods.

This is the ninth consecutive year NYC Health + Hospitals and CMS are partnering to bring free workshops to communities across New York City. The workshop will cover:

- Medicare basics and CMS updates
- Medicaid and the New York State of Health
- Preventive services
- Enrollment assistance and resources for the uninsured
- MetroPlus Health
- What's new for 2023 and beyond
- Continuing Education credits are available
- 

Registration is now open for these in-person workshops through the link below.

**MANHATTAN**

Monday, November 14, 2022, 8:30 A.M – 12:30 P.M.

NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan

1901 First Avenue

New York, NY 10029

[Click here to register](#)

**Department of Planning (DCP) Reported:** DCP recently announced that it will hold the first public information session on the Mayor’s City of Yes on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. These key zoning proposals seek to modernize and rationalize our zoning rules to help the City recover more quickly from the pandemic, to create a greener city, to support small business growth, and to incentivize the creation of housing, at all levels, in all New York City neighborhoods.

The “City of Yes” initiative includes three zoning text amendments that will update New York City’s zoning rules as part of Mayor Adams’ vision for a more inclusive and equitable city. The proposals include:

**Zoning for Zero Carbon (ZZC)** aims to modernize the zoning regulations in support of our climate goals. The changes would focus on supporting a renewable energy grid, making our buildings clean and efficient, support for electric vehicle charging and micro-mobility options, and reducing waste and stormwater.

**Zoning for Economic Opportunity (ZEO)** is focused on providing our small businesses with the flexibility needed to for them to change and grow, especially as the city recovers from COVID-19. The proposals would remove unnecessary and outdated limitations on small businesses and ensure that our storefronts are occupied, and our neighborhoods remain lively spaces.

**Zoning for Housing Opportunity (ZHO)** is a direct response to our City’s housing crisis. This inclusive, citywide approach to expanding and diversifying the housing supply, will ensure that every neighborhood does its part to help meet housing needs and provide equitable access to housing for all New Yorkers.

- To learn more about City of Yes, visit DCP’s website [here](#).
- To sign up or watch the info session via livestream, visit [NYC Engage](#) .
- Flyers describing the proposals are directly available [here](#).

**HRA Reported: Pay It Off** From October 17th to 31st, noncustodial parents can pay off their NYC DSS child support arrears twice as fast! OCSS will double the debt reduction when a payment of at least \$500 is made toward their DSS arrears during October (up to the amount they owe). For those with a current support order, the court ordered child support amount must be paid first. Then the Pay It

Off payment can reduce the debt by double. In addition, parents may be eligible for additional reductions up to \$15,000 over three years. Pay off your principle in full and all of the interest you owe to the DSS will also be eliminated.

*The Pay It Off program has been used by over 3,000 noncustodial parents to reduce \$16 million of debt owed to the NYC Department of Social Services (DSS). The average debt reduction per case is \$5,558. Don't miss this opportunity to lower or eliminate your DSS child support debt!*




Learn more at <http://nyc.gov/payitoff>. Watch a short video at <https://youtu.be/yx3MmM00WQ4>.

**New York City Civic Engagement Commission Reported: The People's Money! *Citywide Participatory Budgeting*** This year, NYC residents aged 11 and up will decide how to spend \$5 million of mayoral expense funding. Beginning with the Idea Generation phase, residents will get together to learn about how the city spends public funds, identify community needs and priorities, and brainstorm ideas for expense projects. To see examples of expense projects funded through a PB process last year, go [here](#). To hold these conversations across the city, the NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) is partnering with 82 community-based organizations in all 5 boroughs. You can find an updated list of the events that will be happening in your neighborhood and/or borough [here](#). If you can't make it to a virtual or in person event, you can also submit an idea online at [participate.nyc.gov](http://participate.nyc.gov) by creating an account and submitting a project idea for your borough [here](#).

Once the ideas have been submitted, CEC will move on to the next phase of PB, Project Vetting and Development. In this phase, NYC residents will be selected to represent their borough and will help to narrow down the submitted project ideas and determine which ones will end up on the ballot. All NYC residents are welcome to apply! It is critical to the process that CEC have members that are representative of our city. All you need is a commitment to a more equitable New York and the willingness to contribute and work with your committee. This is a great opportunity to gain or build upon your leadership skills and learn about local government. To apply, fill out [this form](#)!

**George Bruce Library Reported:** George Bruce Library is closed to facilitate important renovations to the infrastructure of the building. The branch will receive a new heating and cooling system, boiler, and fire alarm system, as well as other improvements to the building. The library is expected to reopen at the end of September 2022.

During our temporary closure, patrons are encouraged to use these nearby branches:

- [Harlem Library \(9 West 124<sup>th</sup> Street\)](#)  Fully accessible
- [Morningside Heights Library \(2900 Broadway\)](#)  Fully accessible
- [Harry Belafonte–115<sup>th</sup> Street Library \(203 West 115<sup>th</sup> Street\)](#)  Fully accessible

### **In the Spotlight at The New York Public Library**

#### **Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Month**

Join the Library in honoring the cultures and contributions of people with ancestors from countries in the Americas and Spain. From September 15 to October 15—and all year round—celebrate Latinx and Hispanic literature, experience, and storytelling with multilingual programs, resources, storytimes for kids, and more! Plus, explore recommended reading for all ages, featuring monolingual and bilingual titles.

#### **Get At-Home COVID-19 Tests**

The Library is providing at-home COVID-19 tests at all open locations, in partnership with New York Test & Trace Corps.

#### **Did You Know? Late Fines Are Gone for Good!**

Say goodbye to late fines and hello to the Library! We've eliminated all fines, past, and future, to ensure access and opportunity for all.

#### **Technology, Jobs, and Education**

From ESOL classes to small business help, the Library has a wide range of resources to help you learn new skills, explore our collections, and stay connected—all from home.

#### **Multilingual Resources at The New York Public Library**

The New York Public Library welcomes people from all backgrounds and celebrates the rich multicultural diversity that defines New York City. The Library is committed to helping recent immigrants and bilingual and multilingual communities navigate our array of free services and resources for all ages.

### **OTHER RESOURCES AND VIRTUAL SERVICES**



**Mayor's Office Reported: Inaugural Chefs Council Launched:** In partnership with Wellness in the Schools, the [Chefs Council](#) will develop scratch-cooked, plant-based, and culturally relevant recipes for the DOE's Office of Food and Nutrition Services (OFNS). Over 100 recipes will be tested in schools across all five boroughs during the 2022-2023 school year in partnership with the new OFNS Cook Ambassadors. After feedback from students and parents, the recipes will be introduced as a monthly seasonal menu and the chefs will then train school cooks on implementing the new recipes onsite in all public school locations.

### **Successful Rollout of Plant-Based Meals at Health+Hospitals**

**(H+H):** Culturally diverse, plant-based meals [are now](#) the primary dinner options for inpatients at H+H/Lincoln, Metropolitan, and Woodhull Hospitals. Each year, H+H serves about 3 million meals for lunch and dinner. About half of all inpatients are eligible for plant-based dishes, and 60 percent have chosen them since the plant-based default program was launched — contributing to approximately 864,000 plant-based meals per year being served. It also builds on the Meatless Mondays initiative — launched in 2019 — in collaboration with then-Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

**More than \$225 Million in Debt Relief for Medallion Owners:** Mayor Adams [announced](#) that more than 1,000 medallion owners have already achieved more than \$225 million in debt relief from the enhanced version of the Medallion Relief Program. The debt relief part of these deals is subject to the agreement reached by the city, TLC, Marblegate, and NYTWA to restructure outstanding loans of eligible taxi medallion owners to a maximum principal balance of \$170,000, after the application of a \$30,000 grant that will be used as a down payment on the restructured loans. Medallion owners are encouraged to sign up for free legal representation and financial counseling through [TLC's Owner/Driver Resource Center](#).

### **Did you Know:**

**Harlem Bazaar Season Finale** returns to 125th Street State Plaza in Harlem on Friday, October 21st from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.! This will be the LAST Harlem Bazaar of the 2022 Season. There will be 30 delicious food vendors and unique merchants to choose from. With plenty of other fun activities for the whole family, [Kids Breaking League](#) and [Groove With Me](#) will be showing the children the freshest dance moves. And [DJ KG3](#) will be playing music so come through to Harlem

Bazaar before the season is over! Click link further info.:

<https://www.maschospitalitygroup.com/harlebazaar>

**On Saturday October 15 or Sunday October 16th more than 200 FDNY firehouses will open their doors to the public** from 11:00am to 1:00pm or from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Firefighters will be educating the public about fire and life safety, conducting demonstrations, discussing careers within the department and offering tours of FDNY Engines, Ladder Trucks.

**The Nigerian Independence Day parade began 28 years ago, and is the largest observance outside of Nigeria itself! Nigeria also recently celebrated its 62nd year of independence.**

**Alternate Side of the Street Parking will be suspended on the following days, while parking meters remain in effect:**

- Monday, October 17, 2022 – Shemini Atzereth;
- Tuesday, October 18, 2022 – Simchas Torah;
- Monday, October 24, 2022 – Diwali;

**The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) will be collecting leaves in paper lawn & leaf bags or in unlined rigid containers.**

Leaves, grass, branches, and yard clippings can be placed for curbside collection of the following day:

- Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, and
- Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Respectfully Submitted by,

**Eutha Prince**

District Manager

Manhattan Community Board #9