

Cuomo Signs Law for Potential Impeachment

Governor Cuomo signed a bill last Friday that could potentially fund his own impeachment proceedings in the state legislature. The law would allow lawmakers to utilize a \$156.9 million fund to conduct interviews and investigations and hold hearings which are necessary to inform decisions that would possibly lead to impeachment.

Earlier this year, the State Assembly launched an impeachment investigation of Governor Cuomo to review allegations of misconduct and the

misrepresentation of nursing home deaths during the pandemic. Cuomo maintains that he is innocent.

Should it happen, an impeachment proceeding would begin in the State Assembly followed by a trial in the State Senate. During that time, Cuomo would be required to step down from his position.

Prominent Democrats have called upon Cuomo to resign due to the allegations, but he refuses.

CUNY Professors Condemn Israel

The faculty union of City University of New York voted 84 to 34 to condemn “the massacre” of Palestinians in the recent battles between Israel and Hamas. It also indicated it would consider joining the BDS movement.

According to their statement, the union “cannot be silent about the continued subjection of Palestinians to the state-supported displacement, occupation, and use of lethal force by Israel.”

The resolution was pushed by the union’s anti-racism committee, international committee, and academic freedom committee. It does not mention the thousands of rockets which Hamas launched into residential areas of Israel during the conflict.

Brooklyn College history professor K.C. Johnson objected to the proposal, saying, “It’s puzzling as to why a union would feel compelled not to only involve itself in a foreign policy question, but only involve itself on this foreign

policy question.”

Jeff Wiesenfeld, who served as a CUNY governing board trustee in the past, told the *New York Post*, “I resolve to condemn the racist, anti-Semitic and academically useless [union] of CUNY, which serves only to poison the minds of future leaders inside and outside the classroom.”

Long Island Congressman Lee Zeldin responded to the report by tweeting, “The City University of New York educators who just passed this insane pro-BDS resolution accusing Israel of a massacre of Palestinians shouldn’t have any ability at all to brainwash students, especially in a publicly funded university.”

But union president James Davis defended the resolution, saying, “We are opposed to all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, and we condemn the displacement, occupation, and violence perpetrated by the Israeli state against Palestinians.”

Cuomo Announces Completion of Ramps at Kew Gardens Interchange

The Kew Gardens Interchange is a complex intersection of highways in Queens which include the Grand Central Parkway, the Van Wyck Expressway, the Jackie Robinson Parkway, and Union Turnpike. The NYS Department of Transportation is currently making several operational improvements at the interchange to improve traffic flow and enhance safety.

This week, Governor Cuomo announced two new exit ramps at the interchange were completed that will serve to reduce congestion in the area. A new eastbound ramp at Grand Central Parkway and a new southbound ramp on the Van Wyck Expressway were constructed as part of the DOT’s ongoing \$365-million-dollar Interchange Phase 4 project.

“These new ramps,” said Cuomo, “along

with other improvements we are making as part of the Kew Gardens Interchange project, will enhance safety and ease travel through one of the most complex and heavily traveled corridors in New York City, keeping people and goods on the move for many years to come.”

According to State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., “These new exit ramps at the Kew Gardens Interchange will help significantly alleviate traffic congestion at this very important thoroughfare. This project will allow motorists — both local and tourists — to navigate through our borough easier and with better access to John F. Kennedy International Airport and other destinations in Queens.”

The Kew Gardens Interchange serves over 200,000 vehicles daily.

Close To 17,000 New Yorkers Vote on First Day of Early Elections

According to the Board of Elections, a total of 16,867 New Yorkers from across the five boroughs came to the polls on the first day of early voting in the city’s primary at one of 104 early voting polling sites.

Among the early voters were several mayoral candidates. Kathryn Garcia voted in Park Slope, and Andrew Yang’s wife, Evelyn, voted at John

Jay College.

In NYC, voters are assigned by address to a specific voting site if they choose to vote early. Early voting ballots are counted and tabulated and included in the election night totals.

Early voting will be available to voters through June 20. Primary day is on June 22.

Macy’s Fourth of July Fireworks Is Coming Back

The iconic Macy’s Fourth of July Fireworks display will be back this year, after being canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

“They are bringing back the full-scale fireworks show as we have loved it for decades and decades for all of us to enjoy,” said Mayor de Blasio. “This is really great, a tremendous sign of the rebirth of New York City.”

According to de Blasio, this year’s fireworks display will be bigger and better than ever. And Will Coss, producer of the fireworks show, predicts that this year’s display will be “jaw dropping.”

The 25-minute fireworks show will begin at 9:25 p.m. on the Fourth of July. Macy’s plans to launch more than 65,000 pyrotechnic shells from five barges in the East River.

Public viewing locations of the fireworks display will be set up and managed by the NYPD. Viewing will be available for verified, fully vaccinated spectators on elevated portions of the FDR Drive in Manhattan with entry points at East 23rd, East 34th, and East 42nd Streets

Public viewing for non-vaccinated spectators will be available at other locations.

AGRA D’PIRKA SIYUM IN WILLIAMSBURG



On Thursday, *Rosh Chodesh Tammuz*, Agra D’Pirka of Williamsburg celebrated a *siyum* on *Maseches Yevamos*. The *shiur*, led by Rav Chaim Eliezer Gross, is given daily in the Satmar *beis medrash* at 13 Hooper Street in Williamsburg.



The proceedings began with Rav Gross ending the *masechta* with the words of *Chazal* who teach that *talmidei chachomim marbim shalom b’olam*. After completing the *hadran*, he explained the connection between *shalom* and this particular *masechta*. The *gematria* of *Yevamos* is equal to that of *shelom bonoyich*. Just as *Yevamos* is a difficult *limud*, so is *shalom* difficult to achieve.

Rav Gross pointed out that this past year was a difficult one to learn a complex *masechta* such as *Yevamos*, since much of the learning was done remotely. He expressed his *hakoras hatov* to

Hashem for enabling the *chaburah* to achieve this milestone, and thanked R’ Ezra Klein, founder of Agra D’Pirka, for his role in *harbotzas haTorah*.

R’ Reuven, a *shiur* member, cited the *Gemara* which states that *Abaye* would make a *yom tov* for anyone who completed a *masechta*. He explained that the *simcha* is generated by the persistence and perseverance which results in the *siyum*, traits that are reflective of Agra D’Pirka members.

The final speaker was R’ Ezra Klein, who thanked Rav Gross for his dedication as *maggid shiur*. He discussed the breadth of the Agra D’Pirka network, which includes its latest branch addition in Boca Raton, Florida. He thanked R’ Moshe Aharon Hoffman, who coordinates the Williamsburg *shiur*, and all the attendees who make it possible.

Agra D’Pirka is expanding once again, negotiating the formation of a new branch in Detroit, Michigan. The Williamsburg branch, in its seventh year, will now begin *Kesubos*, and are looking forward to having all *shiurim* in person at the Satmar *beis medrash*.

For more information about Agra D’Pirka, call 212-661-9400 and ask for Chaim Fuhrer or Rachamim Cooperman, or visit www.agradpirka.org.

BJX MAKES FIVE BAR MITZVAHS IN ONE SHABBOS

“Just one *Shabbos* and we’ll all be free.”

The statement that *Moshiach* will arrive if all Jews kept just one *Shabbos* is based on a *Yerushalmi* in *Taanis*, popularized by Mordechai Ben David. This past *Shabbos*, yet another group of Jews from secular backgrounds kept the entire *Shabbos*. If you stepped into BJX on Friday night, you would’ve seen young Brooklynites who had never *davened* before, swaying, clapping, dancing, and standing together with their *frum* brothers.

A long summer afternoon is quite a hurdle for those not accustomed to keeping *Shabbos* — it did not conclude until 9:15 p.m.! To keep everyone entertained and away from their devices and technology all day, the BJX staff planned an enthralling program, and it was amazing to witness the students still going strong



as the day was waning.

According to Mr. Katz, a community member who participated on *Shabbos* morning, the most memorable experience was seeing the young men surrounding Rav Yitzchok Fingerer as the *sefer Torah* was returned to the *aron kodesh* before *Mussaf*, singing, “*Hashiveinu Hashem eilecha v’noshuvah*.”

“I’ve said those words my entire life,” Mr. Katz related. “But seeing the pure, holy look on the faces of these young men as they looked at the Torah made the words become alive — *Re-*

(Continued on Page 104)