



Assemblyman CHARLES D. FALL
Assistant Majority Leader

Staten Island | Manhattan | Brooklyn



The Stark Reality of Youth Violence

Crime & Safety

‘Just a sweet kid’: Mentor recalls boy, 13, fatally stabbed on Staten Island bus

Updated Oct 09, 2023; Posted Oct 09, 2023



Syles Ular was stabbed to death on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023.

News

‘A beautiful person’: Staten Island teen, 17, killed in Stapleton, remembered

Updated Oct 11, 8:52 PM; Posted Oct 11, 7:49 PM



The death of a 17-year-old girl who suffered a fatal gunshot wound to the head in Stapleton now is being investigated as a homicide, according to police. The girl has been identified by multiple sources as Destiny Vega of Stapleton. A relative of the victim said the teen went by the nickname NaNa. (Family photo)

Heartbroken by the senseless loss of our youth in Staten Island. Syles Ular, only 13, and Destiny Vega, just 17, represent the promise of our future, tragically cut short. This underscores an urgent need for a united front against youth violence in Staten Island.

It is our collective responsibility, as a community and as a society, to delve beneath the surface and tackle the root causes of youth violence. We must understand that behind every act of violence is a complex web of factors, many of which have solutions within our grasp. These may include socio-economic disparities, lack of access to quality education, limited recreational and vocational opportunities, exposure to domestic violence, substance abuse, and the devastating effects of untreated mental health issues.

I am committed to working collaboratively—with educators, community leaders, parents, law enforcement, and all stakeholders—to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to combat youth violence. Together, we

can shift our focus from reactive measures to proactive solutions, ensuring our young people have every opportunity to succeed, thrive, and contribute positively to our community.

In Pursuit of Peace: Steps Forward in the Israel-Palestine Conflict



The recent events in Israel have deeply shaken us all. The innocent lives lost is a heartbreaking reminder of the toll that hatred and violence take on our communities and the world at large. No cause justifies targeting innocent civilians; it only exacerbates pain and division. We must come together, condemn all forms of hatred and violence, and work towards a future where peace and understanding prevail. My thoughts are with all the affected families in my district and across the world as we hope for a swift resolution to this crisis.

As the first Muslim elected to the New York State Assembly, I've carried with me the weight of representation, but more importantly, the duty to serve as a bridge-builder and unifier. Since the day I assumed office, my unwavering mission has been to bring people together, especially in moments of sorrow and in the face of divisive, harmful discourse. As a father of two precious daughters, I have an even more profound duty – to ensure that they grow up in a world where humanity isn't overshadowed by prejudice, where compassion isn't conditional, and where love isn't limited by borders.

My words, no matter how heartfelt, can't stop the recurring cycles of violence that have left countless innocent lives shattered. The brutal attacks on innocent civilians are a heartbreaking tragedy that I deeply condemn, and like many New Yorkers and individuals across the globe, I share in the sorrow of the monumental loss of life.

In the face of such overwhelming pain, I am reminded of a simple yet profound truth: our shared humanity transcends borders, religions, and political allegiances. Grief, pain, and loss know no nationality; they are universal feelings that bind us in our shared human experience. While many may empathize with the heightened emotions that birth such reactions, we must always prioritize peace and unity over retaliation and division.

Bringing US Citizens back home



Announcement:

Beginning [this Friday, Oct 13](#), the U.S. Government will facilitate charter flights to help U.S. citizens and their families in Israel who've faced challenges securing commercial transportation.

More info: [https://state.gov/u-s-government-to-assist-u-s-citizens-in-departing-israel/...](https://state.gov/u-s-government-to-assist-u-s-citizens-in-departing-israel/)

Request form here: <https://cacms.state.gov/s/crisis-intake>

Guns Off Our Streets

CASH FOR GUNS

- NO QUESTIONS ASKED ■ NO CURRENT OR RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT
- 3 GUN TOTAL LIMIT PER PARTICIPANT ■ 2 GHOST GUN LIMIT PER PARTICIPANT

\$200 BANK CARD FOR HANDGUNS & ASSAULT RIFLES
\$25 BANK CARD FOR RIFLES, SHOTGUNS, & AIRGUNS

Payment Subject to Inspection by NYPD Specialist.

WHEN:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023 10AM - 4PM

DROP-OFF SITE:
MT. SINAI UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH
15 PIKE STREET
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

SPONSORED BY: NYPD, RICHMOND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, & ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES D. FALL

NEW YORK CITY
 GUN BUY BACK PROGRAM

Join my office, NYPD and the Staten Island District Attorney's Office [this Saturday Oct 14th](#) from 10AM - 4PM

Residents are welcome to safely drop off their guns and receive a prepaid cash card, no questions asked!

Let's all work together for a safer Staten Island.

CPSC Warns Consumers of Suffocation Danger Associated with Children's Balloons



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns parents and caregivers of young children about the suffocation hazard presented by uninflated toy balloons and pieces of broken balloons.

Of all children's products, balloons are the leading cause of suffocation death, according to CPSC injury data. Accidents involving balloons tend to occur in two ways. Some children have sucked uninflated balloons into their mouths, often while attempting to inflate them. This can occur when a child who is blowing up the balloon inhales or takes a breath to prepare for the

next blow, and draws the balloon back into the mouth and throat. Some deaths may have resulted when children swallowed uninflated balloons they were sucking or chewing on. The CPSC knows of one case in which a child was chewing on an uninflated balloon when she fell from a swing. The child hit the ground and, in a reflex action, inhaled sharply. She suffocated on the balloon.

Read full safety alert here: <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/5087.pdf>

Financial Literacy



Financial Education Forum to Empower Future Homebuyers

Join us for an informative and engaging event aimed at empowering future homebuyers with the knowledge and skills needed to make smart financial decisions. Whether you're a first-time buyer or looking to upgrade your current home, this forum is designed to provide you with valuable insights and practical tips to navigate the complex world of real estate and mortgages.

Experts from the NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development along with the Staten Island Board of REALTORS will provide prospective homebuyers with a clearer path to homeownership. Acquire the tools, knowledge and understanding to confidently navigate major financial life decisions. Become familiar with the core financial competencies to grow and make better choices, now and in the future.

Topics covered include: Budgeting, Debt Management, Credit Solutions and Repair, Identity Theft Protection, Savings, Home Loan Programs, Homeowner's Insurance, Financial Goals.

RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/financial-education-forum-to-empower-future-homebuyers-tickets-735589978427?aff=oddtcreator>

New Laws Taking Effect

Effective Date	Chapter	Summary
10/16/23	Ch. 59 of 2021 Part BBB A.3009-C S.2509-C	Enacts provisions of the New York State Professional Policing Act of 2021, requiring the Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Council to create a mandatory certification process for agencies employing certain police officers.
10/25/23	Ch. 506 of 2021 A.1921 S.1519	Requires optometrists to meet certain standards, including the completion of a course, to prescribe oral medications.
10/30/23	Ch. 57 of 2023 Part Y, Subpart A A.3007-C S.4007-C	Clarifies affidavits for medical debt actions.
10/30/23	Ch. 57 of 2023 Part KK A.3007-C S.4007-C	Establishes the Independent Developmental Disability Ombudsman Program.
10/30/23	Ch. 58 of 2023 Part CCC A.3008-C S.4008-C	Requires the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to publish budget and financial plans on its website.

October 11, 2023
Albany, NY

Governor Hochul, Attorney General James, Senator Gounardes, and Assemblymember Rozic Take Action to Protect Children Online

Governor Kathy Hochul, New York Attorney General Letitia James, State Senator Andrew Gounardes, and Assemblymember Nily Rozic [today](#) announced new legislation to regulate unhealthy social media usage by prohibiting minors from accessing addictive feeds without parental consent. Recent research has shown devastating mental health effects associated with children and young adults' excessive social media use, including increased rates of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and self-harm. Children also face unique risks when their data is collected online. The two bills, both sponsored by State Senator Gounardes and Assemblymember Rozic, will protect children by prohibiting online platforms from collecting and sharing their personal data without consent and limiting addictive features of social media platforms that are known to harm their mental health and development.

Multiple studies have shown that social media can cause a wide range of negative mental health effects for children and young adults. Addictive feeds, which are designed to harness personal data to serve users content to keep

them on the platform for as long as possible, have increased the addictive nature of social media platforms and heightened the risk to young users' wellbeing. Ninety-seven percent of teenagers report being online daily, and research has found that frequent social media use among adolescents can be associated with long-term developmental harms. Multiple studies have found a link between excessive social media use, poor sleep quality, and poor mental health among young people. Other research has shown that adolescents who spend more than three hours per day on social media face double the risk of experiencing poor mental health outcomes, including symptoms of depression and anxiety. Additionally, research has found that for young girls, the association between poor mental health and social media use is stronger than the associations between poor mental health and binge drinking, sexual assault, obesity, or hard drug use.

Children also face various risks to their privacy online. While other states and countries have enacted laws to limit the personal data that online platforms can collect from minors, no such restrictions currently exist in New York. This current deficiency leaves children vulnerable to having their location and other personal data tracked, shared, and sold online.

The two pieces of legislation introduced [today](#) will add critical protections for children and young adults online by restricting the collection of minors' personal data and changing how young users are served content online to reduce the harms of addictive features that keep children on social media longer.

Full press release here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-attorney-general-james-senator-gounardes-and-assemblymember-rozic-take-action>

Local Events: Battery Park City



GO FISH! BATTERY PARK CITY'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE IN THE HUDSON ESTUARY

Join us for one of BPCA's most popular events highlighting the importance of stewardship and conservation of our local ecosystems. The day features catch-and-release fishing with experienced anglers. In celebration of [City of Forest Day](#), take part in a tree-themed art project and nature walk. Plus a live performance by Grammy nominated [Divinity Roxx](#).

10:30AM-1PM: CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING

10:30AM: ART PROJECT

11AM: FAMILY PERFORMANCE

12:15PM: NATURE WALK

RSVP here: <https://bpca.ny.gov/event/go-fish-battery-park-citys-celebration-of-life-in-the-hudson-estuary-4/>

Local Events: Governors Island



The Friends of Governors Island Gala

Honoring Con Edison & Shantell Martin

Join us for a night of great food, great company, and unmatched views of Governors Island from Manhatta. The Friends of Governors Island Gala is a classy affair that honors some of the Island's greatest contributors, showcases its unique vendors, and celebrates its dedicated supporters. All funds raised from the Gala will go directly back to Governors Island and the Friends' continued effort to steward the Island's green spaces, enhance the visitor experience, provide educational opportunities, host free public programs, and build a community dedicated to the Island's bright future. ted audiences at some of the most iconic venues and events, including the Super Bowl, Sydney Opera House, Joyce Theater, and the 2020 Presidential Inauguration. They have received critical acclaim from publications such as the New York Times and Vogue Magazine for their captivating performances and stunning visual artistry. Through their work, Indigenous Enterprise is dedicated to preserving and promoting indigenous culture in a positive and inspiring way.

Local Events: Brooklyn



Community Workshop and Conversation

An opportunity to explore the emotional stress of climate change-- particularly how watching places we care about change--through traumatic events like floods or slow creeping forces like climate gentrification. How can we then build community, connections to nature and to each other, and have the will and the self-care to manage these changes?

Join Thaddeus Pawlowski of [Columbia Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes](#) and Community facilitator & therapist Jennie Kogan. Community warmup and centering from somatic teacher Natasha Corbie.

Held at the beautiful [Waterfront Museum](#), housed aboard the 1914 Lehigh Valley Barge #79, the museum provides an unparalleled place for educational and cultural programs aboard an historic vessel while advocating for and expanding public waterfront access in the NY metropolitan area.

Learn More Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-workshop-and-conversation-being-with-the-many-changes-tickets-726975341817?aff=erelexpmlt>

Events & Opportunities: Staten Island

NYC Department of Health & Community Development | **Beacon** CENTERS OF NEW YORK CITY | **UAU** UNITED ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

BEACON PS 18 PRESENTS Community HEALTH FAIR

Face Painting & More

Saturday, October 14th 12PM-4PM
PS 18 SCHOOL YARD
IF THERE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER, FAIR WILL BE MOVED INDOORS

Cholesterol
Blood pressure
Diabetes
Women's health
Behavioral health
Dental health
Weight loss

Get Free Screenings & Information

Come to our Community Health Fair and find out information regarding your health state.

For more information: CONTACT JAMITA HASKELL JHASKELL@UNITEDACTIVITIES.ORG

CENTER CARE PHARMACY | **Seamen's Society** for children and families

RAM | **CASC** | **MetroPlus** | **BADASS BOOTCAMP**

ROC-A-NATURAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION PRESENTS

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: F-A-M-I-L-Y DAY
AT TAPPEN PARK ON SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7 AND 14
11AM TO 5PM

To get involved or become a vendor contact Dorcas Meyers 917-406-7736 or rocainatural@foundationsnyc.com

FEATURING AFRICAN DRUMMING CIRCLE, MUSIC BY DJ GENERAL TACTICS, OPEN MIC, ZUMBA WITH LAINE OF BODY SCULPT NYC, NUTRITION AND FOOD PREP WORKSHOP, CHESS WORKSHOP & TOURNAMENT, MARTIAL ARTS DEMO, FINANCIAL YOUTH LITERACY WORKSHOP, GAMES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES (SCAVENGER HUNT, POTATO SACK RACE, DOUBLE DUTCH), FACE PAINTING, RESOURCES, VENDORS AND MORE.

EVENT

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Therapeutic Art and Drumming

Scan Code Here! | FREE Haircuts & Hair-braiding | Grocery Bag Giveaway | New Clothing

Day of DIGNITY

Items to Distribute: Free haircuts, New Clothing, Book bags & School Supplies, Hygiene & Self-Care Essentials, Grocery Bags & Hot Food, Children's Activities, Resources & More! While Supplies Last!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
1:00PM - 5:00PM
JCC Beacon IS 49
101 Warren Street, SI NY

Face Paint | Sensory Kids | Children's Activities by Knickerball NYC

@baitujamaat | Call or Text: 347.289.7991 | baitujamaat.com

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Yours In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Charles D. Fall
Assistant Majority Leader

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