



In The News-New York City



Mayor Adams Interviewed about Prostitution

During a recent interview hosted by Charles Latibeaudiere and Harvey Levin on Fox 5's "TMZ", in response to Levin's question New York City Mayor Eric Adams said that he opposed legalizing prostitution. Per the Mayor's Office transcript the Mayor said "It goes back to, you know, just really my entire life watching it, but particularly, I was a captain in the 6th Precinct, Lower Manhattan, and I would watch these young teenage boys on the corner selling their bodies."

"You know, oftentimes, when we think of prostitution, people think of women, but no, boys are selling their bodies, sex trafficking is real. When you look at the STD crises we face, age here was really ground zero here in this city. And when you look at how far we've come to stop the victimization of young boys and young women in prostitution, we can't go backwards."

"I know what Times Square looked like as a child, and I know what Pennsylvania Avenue looks like even now. And so, this is not something we should play with. There's a lot of ramifications for legalizing prostitution."

"Yeah, no, I just wanted to make sure I was clear. My position is not only for 14-year-old boys. It's men and women. A couple of things. When you look at prostitution and the ramifications, I don't know if you see some of the red-light districts in Amsterdam and some of the other countries that have these red-light districts."

"You still have the exploitations, the violence. You still have the sex trafficking. And you also create a culture that young people believe that, hey, this is a viable occupation. And no, I don't believe that. And I'm sure that those that believe that there's nothing wrong with it, I do."

"Not only that, just to be real honest about it, I'm a Christian. I'm a person of faith. And nowhere in my religious texts does it say prostitution should be an alternative. And also, I don't see it in the Quran. He calls himself a Muslim. I don't see that in the Quran. In fact, it is in contrast to the Islamic belief. Society should not create an environment where people believe an occupation is something that's harmful to them. But prostitution is harmful."

In The News-New York State

New York State Fair Butter Sculpture Revealed

For those who are regular readers of this newsletter, you will recognize our annual paean to the New



York State Fair and the dairy industry. According to the NYS Department of Agriculture, the dairy industry is the largest single segment of New York's agricultural industry. The state has nearly 2,800 dairy farms, is the fifth largest producer of milk, producing 16.1 billion pounds of milk annually, and is the largest producer of yogurt and cottage cheese. In 2024, the state's processors made more than 989 million pounds of yogurt and 330 million pounds of cream cheese, ranking New York number one in the United States in both products; 247 million pounds of creamed and low-fat cottage cheeses, 161 million pounds of mozzarella, and 105 million pounds of ricotta. But, at the Fair, butter gets the attention!

Nobody put the story together better than Charlie Miller (cmiller@syracuse.com) in his coverage for the Post Standard. Rather than repeat the story – I urge you to follow the link:

<https://www.syracuse.com/statefair/2025/08/dont-read-this-story-unless-you-want-to-see-the-2025-nys-fair-butter-sculpture-photos.html?gift=2f28c98b-454d-4d0d-afc5-ad6dc824b661>.

The New York State Fair butter sculpture has an annual theme. As reported by Mr. Miller, the annual sculpture has been created by Jim Victor and Marie Pelton since 2003. The themes for the past twenty years (including 2025) per Mr. Miller's report:

- 2006: Healthy Goals (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2007: Dairy Farming Today (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2008: Cow Jumping Over the Moon (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2009: Cow Power (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2010: Dairyville 2020 (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2011: Feeding Our Future (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2012: New York Goes for the Gold with Greek Yogurt (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2013: Getting Fresh with Local Dairy (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2014: The Great American Milk Drive (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2015: Thanks for the Milk, Moo York! (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2016: Milk Life Celebrates The Success of Team USA and the Athletes of New York State (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2017: Dairy Farmers' Tribute to New York State Troopers (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2018: Your Milk Comes From A Good Place (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2019: Milk. Love What's Real (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2020: Nourishing Our Future (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2021: Back to School, Sports and Play ... You're Gonna Need Milk for That (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2022: Refuel Her Greatness—Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Title IX (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2023: Dairy Every Day is a Healthy Way — Keeping Kids' Health on Track (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2024: Dairy: Good for you. Good for the planet. (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)
- 2025: Dairy for Good: Nourish. Grow. Thrive." (Jim Victor and Marie Pelton)



Governor Hochul at The Great New York State Fair

Governor Kathy Hochul kicked off The 2025 Great New York State Fair, highlighting a series of new enhancements to The Fair's agricultural facilities and exhibits that will help fairgoers connect with this important industry in New York. The Governor unveiled a new Sheep and Wool Center, and horse stables, along with plans for a brand new Milk Bar. Under Governor Hochul's direction, The New York State Fair continues to focus on its agricultural heritage and remains the most affordable state fair in the nation. This year's Fair will run from August 20 through Labor Day Monday, September 1, 2025. As reported by her press office, the Governor opened the Fair with a rousing address.

In the Governor's words: "So let's get started. Actually, we all want to go out and have some fun. This is already a fun place. How is the food, number one? Is that a good taste of New York? Yes, it is. You got really interesting critters walking around. A couple of things over here that need a haircut, I thought. Any barbers in the house? But this is really a special day for me. I look forward to this every single year. And we do make investments. We believe in supporting institutions like this that have been here for over 184 years. It's part of the New York story, and I've been coming here since I was a young girl, brought my family, we all showed up here. I'm a real county fair person, but also a State Fair aficionado".

"This is really important to me, to know that we're focusing on our agricultural community because I'll tell you this about our farmers, they're under siege right now. They are under siege. The Commissioner is hearing this. I gathered a roundtable of farmers in the State Capitol back in February and talked to them about what they're going through. They are so overwhelmed with the tariffs. They're losing the markets that they used to count on because people are boycotting American products because of the tariffs that are being imposed by President Trump all over the world".

"The cost of so much coming in from Canada has gone up dramatically. The aluminum and the steel for their buildings. Even the shavings, the wood shavings that go into the stalls comes from Canada because that's where a lot of our wood comes from. It's not just for housing. They're having a huge impact. One farmer told me — this was back in February before it all really hit — he was already having to pay \$10,000 more a month for those kinds of supplies and the fertilizer than he had before. How are they going to make it? And then we have hardworking people who are willing to do work that many people won't do, whether it's 6:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m., milking cows on a dairy farm or picking crops long hours into the season, doing everything you can to support your family. And then we have ICE raids all over the state swooping in and terrorizing people who've become part of that farmer's family".

"Everybody when you wake up in the morning, say a prayer for our farmers because they're getting hit so hard. Do everything you can to support them. Yes, eat their food, support them, visit them, tell them how much we appreciate them because they're going through some of the toughest years and then they have to deal with extreme weather and climate change and flooding and droughts".

"I come out of an agricultural family, my family with a long line of dairy farmers and crop farmers in Ireland, and I go visit them and they're still working the land. So I have a deep felt, innate appreciation for what they do".



Comptroller DiNapoli: State Must Focus on Programs to Aid Seniors

According to a recent press release from the Comptroller, New York’s population of people aged 60 and over is projected to reach approximately 5.5 million by 2030. Nearly 70% of adults over 65 are expected to need some form of long-term care during their lifetime. Federal funding that typically supports a range of benefits for older New Yorkers, including Medicaid funding, has been reduced, which is projected to increase demand for state-funded services.

Most older adults prefer to receive care at home rather than in institutional settings, when possible. As the number of older New Yorkers increases, so too does demand for local agencies and service providers. The services needed include in-home personal care, meal delivery, transportation, case management and support for family caregivers. In June, 2025, the state released a Master Plan for Aging Final Report (MPA) which assessed New York’s services for older adults and made recommendations to improve them. This report found that a primary issue in meeting the needs of older New Yorkers will be the availability and adequacy of the direct care workforce.

“New York has an obligation to support seniors who need and qualify for in-home, meal or other support services,” DiNapoli said. “These critical services provide necessary care and help people remain in their homes and communities, while preventing more expensive institutional care. The Legislature has stepped up with more funding for the Office for the Aging, but with thousands still on waitlists and some funding going unspent, we need greater transparency and stronger tracking to make sure the state’s investment is truly reaching those who need it.”

Per the Comptroller, State funding for New York State Office for the Aging (“NYSOFA”) programs increased over 88%, or \$114 million, in the New York state budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025–26 when compared to SFY 2018–19. This funding includes support for the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) and other core services provided by local aging agencies. The demand for NYSOFA services has exceeded the availability, meaning seniors who would otherwise qualify for services are unable to access them. In recognition of the demand, the state has increased funding to expand access to services like personal care and meals for older adults. Still per the Comptroller, thousands remain on waitlists, and some funds were not spent, raising questions about whether the state’s investment is delivering its intended results.



Attorney General James Office of Special Investigation Opens Investigation into Civilian Death in Manhattan

The New York Attorney General’s Office of Special Investigation (OSI) has opened an investigation into the death of illegal alien Lahione Soto, who died on August 17, 2025 following an encounter with an off-duty New York City Police Department (NYPD) officer in Manhattan. Under New York state law, OSI investigates every matter in which an officer of the law may have caused the death of a civilian.

Per the Attorney General, “At approximately 9:46 p.m. on August 17, an off-duty NYPD officer was on West 173rd Street in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan when he encountered Mr. Soto and another man. The off-duty officer discharged his service weapon, striking Mr. Soto. Mr. Soto was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Officers recovered a gun at the scene.”

The New York Post reported that Soto and an accomplice robbed four people at gunpoint before turning their sights on the off-duty NYPD police officer. Soto drew a firearm but the officer drew first and shot and Soto collapsed on the corner. Per the Post sources said Soto had snuck into the country and was picked up by border patrol in El Paso last year. He was released with an immigration hearing date after claiming he was afraid for his safety if he returned to the Dominican Republic.

Pursuant to New York State Executive Law Section 70-b, OSI assesses every incident reported to it where a police officer or a peace officer, including a corrections officer, may have caused the death of a person by an act or omission. Under the law, the officer may be on-duty or off-duty, and the decedent may be armed or unarmed. Also, the decedent may or may not be in custody or incarcerated. If OSI’s assessment indicates an officer may have caused the death, OSI proceeds to conduct a full investigation of the incident.



MTA Continues Role as Ghost Buster

You may have experienced multi-hour traffic delays in recent months as you try to drive across the TBTA Bridges in recent months. Chances are that you have encountered the law enforcement efforts to cut down on toll evasion. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) recently issued a press release highlighting the results of 100 traffic blockades since the launch of a multi-agency City and State-led task force dedicated to removing “ghost cars” — vehicles with forged or altered license plates — from New York roadways. The 100 joint enforcement operations, which began on March 11, 2024, have resulted in 5,343 vehicles towed for suspended registrations and fraudulent, obstructed or altered license plates. Unbillable tolls from ghost plates have dropped 20%.

So far in 2025, there have been 38 enforcement operations, which resulted in 1,893 towed vehicles with approximately \$11.5 million in unpaid tolls and fees, judgments and debts owed to all task force partners. MTA Police and Bridge and Tunnel officers alone have issued 16,000 summonses year-to-date. The number of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument (CPFI) or “ghost plates” confiscated this year is 48 and 126 throughout 100 joint enforcement operations. Since the launch of congestion relief in January 2025, the role of the task force has expanded to include operations targeting vehicles committing violations in and around the Congestion Relief Zone (CRZ). The 11 CRZ operations have resulted in 97 towed vehicles.

To put these numbers in context please note that in 2024, TBTA facilities accommodated **337.3 million** total toll-paying vehicles – approximately **935,000 vehicles per day** – generating approximately \$2.7 billion in toll revenue. The press release extolls the undeniable value of enforcing the law. It describes a handful of criminal arrests resulting from the effort. The MTA press release does not report the amount of tax revenue expended on the efforts of the sixteen involved law enforcement agencies.



Council Speaker Accuses NYPD Commissioner Tisch

Speaker Adrienne Adams, Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, and Council Member Carmen De La Rosa issued the following joint statement. “NYPD Commissioner Tisch’s final ruling to disregard the trial recommendation of her department’s own deputy commissioner and judge to fire Lieutenant Rivera for killing Allan Feliz betrays public trust, which is essential to advancing true public safety. By allowing Lieutenant Rivera to remain on the force, Mayor Adams and Commissioner Tisch are facilitating the continuation of corrupt practices. There is no eliminating corruption without addressing the repeated lack of accountability for police abuses that denies families of victims and all New Yorkers an NYPD that is accountable. Our hearts are with the Feliz family, and we stand with them as they consider their next steps in pursuit of accountability for Allan, who should still be alive today.”

Commissioner Tisch, who has the final word on all NYPD disciplinary matters, issued a nine-page decision that supported Rivera’s contention that he was justified in shooting because he believed his partner was in danger of being run over. Tisch said “I am convinced that [Rivera] shot Mr. Feliz because he believed that doing so was necessary to save Officer Barrett’s life.”

An extensive report issued after an investigation into the death of Allan Feliz, by Attorney General Letitia James’ Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit in 2020, stated: “Ultimately, of course, Sgt. Rivera was wrong about what had happened to PO Barrett and therefore he was wrong about the urgent need to stop the vehicle. However, whether he was right or wrong on those points is not the decisive question under the law. The decisive question is whether it was reasonable for Sgt. Rivera to have believed it to be true. We believe the answer to that question is that it was likely reasonable under the circumstances – or at the very least that it would be impossible to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that this belief was unreasonable. For this reason, the OAG has concluded that no criminal charges are warranted”. See full report at: https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/sipu_allan_feliz_report_final.links_.pdf

Briefs

DA Bragg announces indictments

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr. and Department of Investigation Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber announced the indictment of INGRID LEWIS-MARTIN for accepting more than \$75,000 in bribes, including \$50,000 in cash directed to her son’s account, in a wide-ranging series of bribery conspiracies between March 2022 and November 2024 while serving as Chief Advisor to the Mayor of the City of New York. The alleged conspiracies impacted several different city agencies.

“We allege that Ingrid Lewis-Martin engaged in classic bribery conspiracies that had a deep and wide-ranging impact on City government,” said **District Attorney Bragg**. “As alleged, Lewis-Martin consistently overrode the expertise of public servants so she could line her own pockets. While she allegedly received more than \$75,000 in bribes and an appearance on a TV show, every other New Yorker lost out. Hardworking City employees were undermined, businesses and developers who followed the law were pushed aside, and the

public was victimized by corruption at the highest levels of government. New Yorkers are fortunate to be served by thousands of hardworking City employees who embody the dignity of public service. I thank our prosecutors and investigators for their commitment to unraveling these alleged conspiracies, and the Department of Investigation for its outstanding partnership on this ongoing matter.”

Mark Levine will reinvest in Israel Bonds

Mark Levine, the leading candidate to become NYC Comptroller says he will reinvest millions of dollars of city pension funds into Israeli bonds — departing from the practice of current Comptroller Brad Lander who divested from Israeli bonds. New York City has invested in Israeli bonds since 1974 accumulating about 5% returns on average per year. In 2022, the pension funds of city government workers and retirees that had \$39.9 million of assets in Israeli bonds. As the bonds matured, Lander did not reinvest in them, in effect divesting the pension funds from Israeli bonds. “The decision to invest only in Israel bonds, when the funds held no other country’s bonds, and to invest assets intended for short-term cash management in longer-term bond instruments, was a political decision, not a fiduciary one,” Lander said in a July 13 letter. Lander’s predecessor, Scott Stringer was reported to be infuriated with Lander for claiming Stringer and other prior comptrollers invested in Israeli bonds for political, not sound financial, reasons.

Coming Up

New York State

****There are no scheduled meetings on the State Level at the time of this publication****

New York City

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