WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

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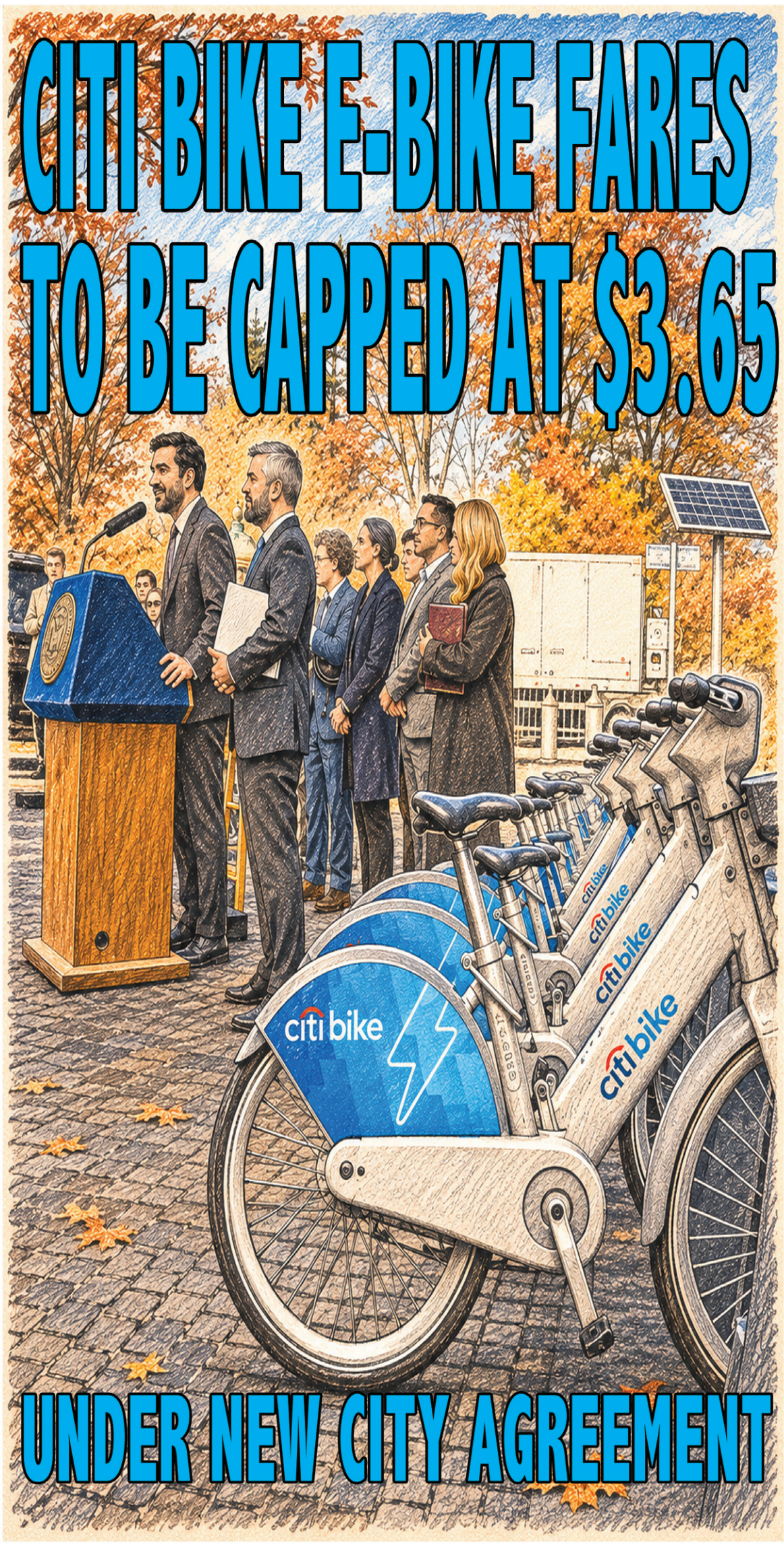

New York City officials have reached an agreement with Lyft to lower the cost of Citi Bike electric bicycle rides and freeze key membership prices through May 2029, making the popular bike-sharing system more affordable for riders across the five boroughs.

Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani announced the agreement alongside NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Mike Flynn and Lyft representatives. Beginning January 19, 2027, Citi Bike members, including participants in the Reduced Fare Bike Share program, will pay no more than $3.65 for an electric bike ride lasting up to 45 minutes. Shorter rides that currently cost less than that amount will retain their existing prices.

The new cap replaces the existing $5.40 maximum charge on rides of up to 45 minutes that enter or exit Manhattan, as well as the one-time allotment of 60 e-bike minutes previously provided to members. The change will reduce maximum fares by more than two-thirds, saving riders as much as $8.50 per trip and providing up to 31 minutes of riding at no additional cost. Annual membership fees, per-minute charges and overage fees will also remain frozen at current levels through May 26, 2029, when Lyft's existing contract with the city expires. The price freeze takes effect immediately, while the new e-bike fare cap begins in January.

“Getting around New York City shouldn’t come with a price tag that keeps climbing by the minute,” said Mayor Mamdani. “For too many working New Yorkers, even a bike ride across the borough can become another expense to worry about. We’re capping e-bike fares at $3.65, freezing prices through 2029 and making it easier for millions of New Yorkers to get where they need to go. Because a more affordable city is one where getting around it doesn’t break the bank.”

DOT Commissioner Mike Flynn said the agreement supports the administration's affordability efforts by making it less expensive for New Yorkers to travel around the city.

Citi Bike General Manager Patrick Knoth also welcomed the changes, noting that the lower fares will make the service more accessible while planned charging improvements should help ensure more fully charged bicycles are available when riders need them.

Those improvements will include the installation of electric charging equipment at more than 130 Citi Bike stations beginning in early 2027. Currently, crews travel between stations to replace depleted batteries with charged ones. The new equipment will allow more bicycles to recharge while docked, reducing the need for manual battery replacements and improving the system's efficiency.

The announcement follows a major Citi Bike expansion completed last month, adding more than 230 stations and 3,700 docking spaces across seven neighborhoods in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens. Together, the expansion and new pricing agreement are intended to make bike-sharing more accessible throughout the city.

City Council Speaker Julie Menin called Citi Bike an increasingly important part of New York's transportation network, particularly in areas not adequately served by existing public transportation. She welcomed the lower fares while noting that the Council plans to hold an oversight hearing to examine additional ways to improve the system.

Council Member Lincoln Restler, who introduced legislation two years ago seeking to cap Citi Bike fares at the cost of a subway or bus ride, also praised the agreement. Restler said the lower prices would allow more New Yorkers to take advantage of the service, which he described as a reliable and efficient transportation option. He noted that he has personally taken more than 5,000 Citi Bike rides.

Council Member Shaun Abreu, chair of the City Council's Transportation Committee, pointed to the system's growing popularity, noting that daily ridership sometimes exceeds 200,000 trips, comparable to the PATH train. He said the agreement would help riders keep more money in their pockets while encouraging greater use of the city's transportation network.

Transportation advocacy organizations also welcomed the announcement. Ben Furnas, executive director of Transportation Alternatives, said rising prices had made the system increasingly unaffordable for many New Yorkers and credited public support, including thousands of petition signatures, with helping advance the effort. Open Plans Co-Executive Director Sara Lind said affordable bike-sharing, combined with protected bike lanes and redesigned streets, could provide residents with a cleaner and more convenient alternative to driving.

Eric McClure, executive director of StreetsPAC, said his organization had advocated for years to reduce Citi Bike costs. He also noted that lowering the surcharge could discourage riders from rushing to avoid accumulating additional per-minute charges, potentially reducing the incentive to prioritize speed over safety.

The agreement represents a significant change to the pricing structure of one of the country's largest bike-sharing networks, with city officials hoping that lower costs, expanded service and improved charging infrastructure will encourage more New Yorkers to make Citi Bike part of their everyday transportation.

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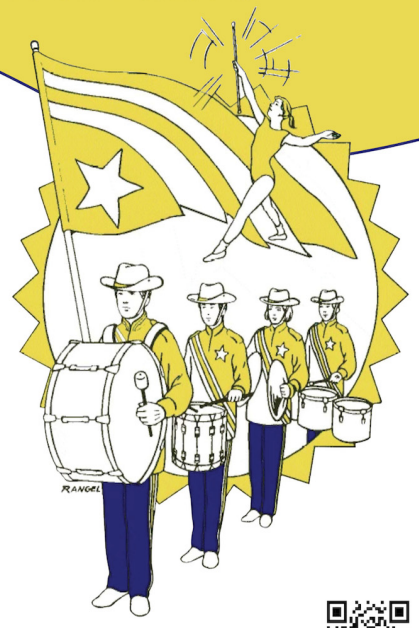

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Marlene Sabba ..... Publisher
Sherilyn Jo Sabba ..... Editor
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Dr. Sharon Cadiz, Cycle Pete, Rob MacKay, Stan Popovich, Rix Quinn, Peter Ross, Robert Flanagan
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dr. Sharon Cadiz, Joe Gurrado, Peter Ross

WHAT ARE PRACTICAL WAYS TO SUPPORT SOMEONE WITH DEPRESSION?

by Stan Popovich

When a loved one withdraws from friends or family, reach out with a friendly message, call, or low-pressure invitation to remind them they're not alone. If daily routines are disrupted, help with a small task, like preparing a meal or organizing a chore, to reduce overwhelm. When they express hopelessness or self-criticism, listen and validate without judgment, saying things like, "I hear you, and I'm here for you." During sudden irritability or mood swings, remain calm and patient to prevent stress from escalating. Encourage brief, enjoyable engagement if they lose interest in hobbies, such as listening to music, sketching, or stepping outside. Gently reassure them when feelings of guilt or shame arise. Finally, if they mention self-harm or hopelessness, calmly discuss immediate support options, including contacting a trusted friend, therapist, or crisis hotline.

What Do Depression Symptoms Look Like in Everyday Life?

Supporting a loved one becomes easier when you recognize real-life signs. Withdrawal may appear as missed gatherings or avoided calls, providing an opportunity to check in. Difficulty maintaining routines—skipping meals, showering, or chores—signals a need for small assistance. Expressions of hopelessness or harsh self-criticism, like saying "things will never get better," highlight the importance of listening without judgment. Mood swings over minor frustrations remind you to stay patient. Loss of interest in hobbies can be addressed by encouraging small, enjoyable steps. Repeated guilt or shame, such as unnecessary apologies, can be met with reassurance. Finally, any talk of self-harm or feeling life isn't worth living requires immediate support, including professional or crisis resources.

How Can You Support Someone With Depression?

1. Talk to them: Talk about what you've seen and why you're worried. Explain to them how you care about them and how they will feel better if they seek help.

2. Be willing to listen: When they want to talk, listen to what they have to say. Don't give advice or opinions and don't judge them when they do talk to you.

3. Encourage professional help: A health care provider or licensed mental health professional is a good place to start. You could see a licensed counselor or psychologist who could give you some advice on what you can do. Talking to your doctor is also very important.

4. Admire their courage: Seeking help for depression is a sign of strength, not weakness, as it demonstrates self-awareness and a commitment to well-being, and it's crucial to remember that depression is a treatable condition.

5. Provide positive reinforcement: People with depression may judge themselves harshly and find fault with everything they do. Remind them of their qualities and how much they mean to you and others.

6. Reduce stress in their daily life: Creating a routine may help a person with depression feel more in control. Offer to make a schedule for meals, medicine, physical activity, social support, and sleep, and help organize household and school chores or offer support for someone's career goals.

7. Connect them with resources: Many organizations offer support groups, counseling, and other services for mental health issues and treatment.

8. Urge the person to take self-care steps: This includes eating healthy meals, getting the right amount of sleep, and being physically active.



QUINN QUESTIONS – SHOULD EVERYONE CARRY A BUSINESS CARD?

by Rix Quinn

I just ordered new business cards, and I look refreshed. But maybe that's because I used my ten-year-old retouched photo instead of my current one. Even if you don't have a job, a card lets you display credentials. You never get a second chance to make a first engraved impression. Sadly, folks often rank us by what we call ourselves. I have alternately titled myself an analyst, strategist, and thought partner. I don't know what all those words mean, but I think I can define two out of three.

My friend Bob works only part time, and he takes lots of naps. But his business card claims he's a "futurist," so you'll consider him a forward thinker. Educational titles on cards impress me. If you've got more degrees than a thermometer, a calling card is the place to display them. Also, if you are certified in a field nobody understands, that is also splendid.

How do you make your card stand out? Get it printed on colored paper, make it a "fold-over" card, or put your photo on it. What's the most impressive job name? Personally, I always wanted the title of "manager" of whatever corporation I worked for. I don't really care what I manage…even if it's just handling out paper clips. It just means I'm in charge of something.

One of my friends started a business, and he selected a title sure to impress anybody. His business card reads "Galactic Space Commander."


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RIDE OFF THAT TURKEY!

by Cyclo Pete

Happy Thanksgiving, Woodsiders! At this time of year, cycling can seem like an afterthought. With the sun diving below the horizon ever earlier and the mercury dropping near the freezing mark, it certainly feels like time to eat while watching your favorite movie marathon. But the holiday is also rich in active sports traditions like Turkey Trots. So why not a Turkey Ride?

Ride with Purpose

This week I took a short ride for less than ten minutes, but it was one of my most important rides of the year. I used a Citi Bike's generous front rack to take a neatly packed parcel of clothing to donate to a local organization's winter clothing drive. Opportunities like this abound in western Queens, as do volunteer events. This year, I also did most of my holiday food shopping in and around Astoria and Sunnyside. If it's local, you can likely get there by bike!

Holiday Shopping Starts Now!

Another thing to think about is that as of printing it Black Friday! Let biking be your antidote to getting everything online. We have so many great gift stores, be they small independent businesses or even the larger chains. As long as you aren't buying a huge appliance, you can get to just about all the shopping in our area in about 20 minutes by bike. We've gone through holiday ride ideas in past years, as well as how to stay warm on short rides. Sometimes a short crisp ride is just what you need to start your shopping season off right.

Are you ready to ride off that turkey? If riding out to the beach is your thing, go for it! But keep in mind that short local rides are a great way to keep engaged during this otherwise challenging season for cyclists. So if the extended family is gone and you're looking for something to do this weekend, grab a bike and ride safe, Woodside!

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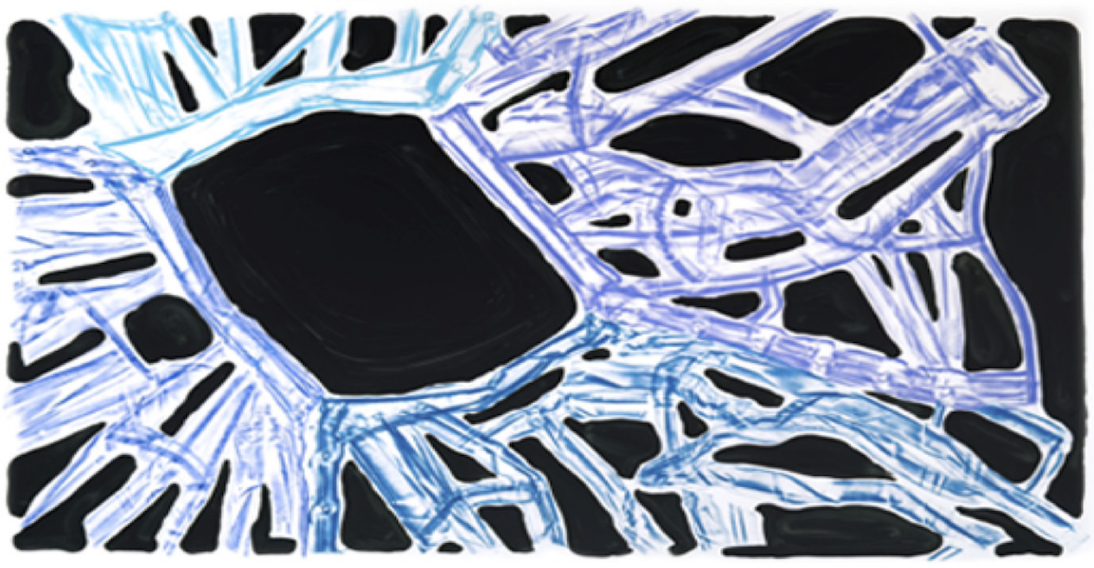
• LEGAL NOTICE • LEGAL NOTICE •

File No.: **2023-5404/**C
CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT
To:
Estate of Ines Beatriz Aguiree Ramirez de Cussianovich,
Ivan Carlos Cussianovich Val,
Karlos Augusto Cussianovich Aguirre,
Mirtha Aguirre,
Carlos Pedreros,
Attorney General of the State of New York
The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of Augusto Aguirre**,** deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained
Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Augusto Aguirre**,** deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 92-31 57th Avenue, Apt 2F, Elmhurst, NY 11373, in the County of Queens, State of New York.
SEND GREETING:
Upon the petition of JACQUELINE M. MAZZOLA, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Temporary Administrator of the Estate of Augusto Aguirre, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, Room 62, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 14th day of January, 2027 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as **Temporary** Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of $107,623.01 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 3.5% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the Last Will and Testament dated October 12, 2001, copy attached, should not be admitted to Probate; and why the Letters of Temporary Administration issued to the Public Administrator should not be revoked; and why Letters of Administration CTA should not be issued to the Public Administrator; and why the net residuary estate should not be paid pursuant to the Last Will and Testament as follows;
STATEMENT OF PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION
100% to the Fiduciary of the Estate of Ines Beatriz Aguirre Ramirez de Cussianovich and if none appointed within 90 days of the accounting Decree, to the NYC Commissioner of Finance FBO the Estate of Ines Beatriz Aguirre Ramirez de Cussianovich
Dated, Attested and Sealed
28th day of October, 2026
HON. CASSANDRA A. JOHNSON
Surrogate, Queens County
Janet Edwards Tucker
Chief Clerk
GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ.
(718) 459-9000
100 Jericho Quadrangle, suite 328
Jericho, New York 11753
NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPEAR; HOWEVER, IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN ATTORNEY APPEAR FOR YOU, AND YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MAY REQUEST A COPY OF THE FULL ACCOUNT FROM THE PETITIONER OR PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY
Accounting Citation
11/6/26, 11/13/26, 11/20/26, 11/27/26



A Collective Thread
Collaborative Drawings with Older Adults
Opening Reception: Friday, December 4th, from 3–7 pm
Queens Blvd. Extended Care, 61-11 Queens Blvd, Woodside, NY



Join artist Derick Melander and residents of Queens Boulevard Extended Care for a reception celebrating A Collective Thread, an exhibition of mixed media works emerging from a month-long collaborative residency.

We invite the community to visit the facility, connect with residents, and experience the artwork created through this collaboration.

NYFA New York Foundation for the Arts
FLUSHING TOWN HALL
This project is made possible (in part) with public funds from the Queens Arts Fund, a re-grant program supported by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by New York Foundation for the Arts.
This project is supported by funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, Statewide Community Regrants Program with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, and administered by Flushing Town Hall.



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PROBATE CITATION
File No. 2021-4007
SURROGATE'S COURT - QUEENS COUNTY
CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
By the Grace of God Free and Independent
TO: Attorney General of State of New York, Public Administrator of Queens County, Vasile Becheru, Maria Flip, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, and the heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of Polina Constantinescu, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence
A petition having been duly filed by Cristina Stoan who is domiciled at 111-35 75th Avenue, Apt. 63, Forest Hills, New York 11375
YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court,
Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, on the 14th day of January 2027 at 9:30 A.M. of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Polina Constantinescu lately domiciled at 52-40 39th Drive, Apt. 2F, Woodside, New York 11377
admitting to probate a Will dated December 1, 2020
a copy of which is attached, as well as a copy of an earlier will dated July 1, 2019, as
the Will of Polina Constantinescu, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that
['] Letters Testamentary issue to : Cristina Stoian
[ ] Letters of Trusteeship issue to :
[ ] Letters of Administration C.T.A. issue to :
(State any further relief requested)
[NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear, it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.]
Date NOV 12 2026
HON. Cassandra A. Johnson
Surrogate
JANET EDWARDS TUCKER
Chief Clerk
Yevgeny Levin, Esq.
Attorney for Petitioner
Levin Law Group, 2102 Avenue Z, Suite 205, Brooklyn, NY 11235
Address of Attorney
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