

WOODSIDE HERALD

SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

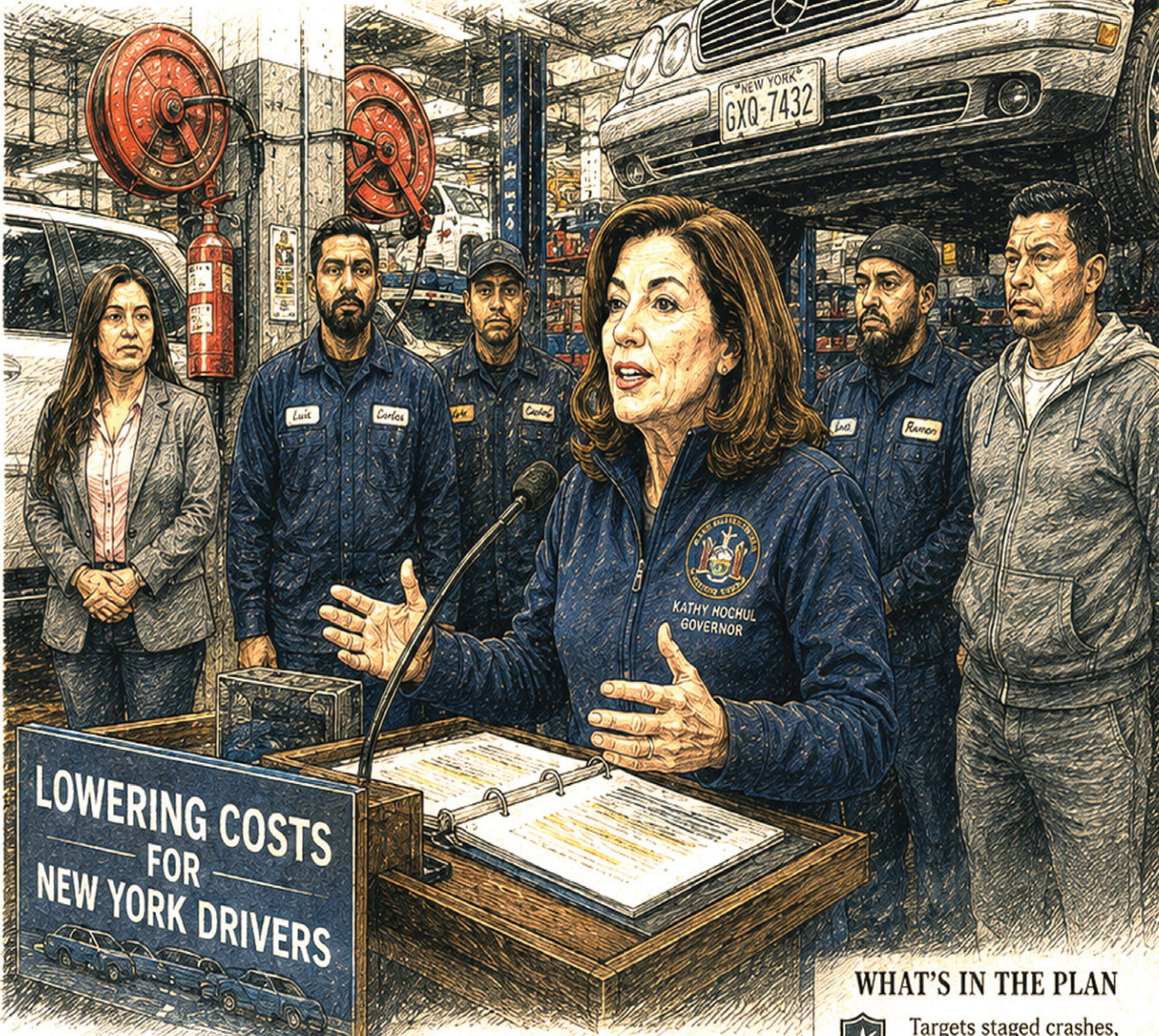
VOL. 93 NO. 23

WOODSIDE, L.I.C., N.Y. FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

FREE

HOCHUL PUSHES AUTO INSURANCE REFORMS

Governor says plan will fight fraud, lower costs for drivers and businesses



Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a series of auto insurance reforms as part of New York's FY27 enacted budget, saying the changes are intended to reduce fraud, curb excessive litigation and lower insurance costs for drivers across the state.

Hochul said the reforms target what she described as outdated laws, loopholes and fraudulent claims that contribute to some of the highest auto insurance rates in the nation. According to the governor's office, New Yorkers pay an average of more than \$4,000 annually for car insurance, roughly \$1,500 above the national average.

The budget package includes measures aimed at reducing staged crashes and insurance fraud, while also allowing prosecutors to pursue criminal penalties against individuals accused of organizing staged accidents.

"These hardfought reforms are a win for every New Yorker who depends on a car to go to work or drop their kids at school," Hochul said in a statement. "This is how we are delivering on the promise to tackle the affordability crisis head on." State officials pointed to Florida's 2023 tort reform package as an example of how litigation changes can reduce insurance costs. According to an analysis by Florida's Office of Insurance Regulation cited by Hochul's office, average auto insurance rates in that state declined by 5.6 percent following the reforms.

Supporters of the legislation say the measures will help consumers and businesses by lowering transportation and operating costs tied to high insurance premiums.

Critics, however, questioned whether the savings would ultimately reach drivers and warned that the changes could make it more difficult for crash victims to recover damages.

Opposition to the reforms has come from trial-lawyer organizations, street-safety advocates and some lawmakers who argue the proposal could weaken legal protections for injured people while benefiting insurers and large corporations.

The New York State Trial Lawyers Association criticized the plan, saying it could shift financial burdens away from insurance companies and onto injured individuals and public systems. Streets-blog, a transportation advocacy publication, argued the changes could reduce protections for victims of traffic violence.

Some critics also questioned whether insurers would pass savings on to consumers or retain a significant portion of the financial benefit.

The reforms were approved as part of the state budget agreement and are expected to take effect in phases.

SUPPORTERS SAY REFORMS WILL:

- Fight fraud and help bring down insurance costs
- Lower transportation and operating costs for businesses
- Put money back in the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers

CRITICS WARN REFORMS COULD:

- Weaken protections for crash victims and reduce compensation
- Savings may not reach drivers
- Benefit insurers and large corporations more than everyday New Yorkers

WHAT'S IN THE PLAN

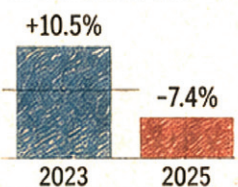
- ★ Targets staged crashes, insurance fraud and outdated laws
- ⚖ Limits excessive litigation and jackpot payouts
- ⚖ Allows criminal penalties for those who organize staged accidents
- 👥 Aims to lower costs for drivers, businesses and communities statewide

LOOKING AT FLORIDA'S EXPERIENCE

After tort reform, average auto insurance rates dropped 5.6%.

In 2025, largest carrier returned nearly \$1 billion in excess profits to 2.7 million policyholders.

CHANGE IN AVERAGE RATES AFTER TORT REFORM



The reforms are part of New York's FY27 enacted budget and will be phased in over time.

Attorneys – at – Law
MARC CRAWFORD LEAVITT
PAUL E. KERSON
TALI B. SEHATI
APRIL DEDELY MIRANDA, PARALEGAL

NEW OFFICES:
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Get more info at
sunnysidedrumcorps.com



WOODSIDE HERALD

718-729-3772
 email: ssabba@woodsideherald.com

writers
 wanted

VOLUNTEER POSITION

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WHEN SOMEONE YOU KNOW STRUGGLES WITH FEAR AND ANXIETY

by Stan Popovich

Do you know a friend or loved one who suffers from fear, anxiety, and depression and does not know what to do to help them? It can be frustrating to watch someone you know struggle with their mental health and not be able to do anything to relieve their suffering. With this in mind, here are seven ways to help the person cope in these kinds of situations.

1. **Learn as much as you can in managing anxiety and depression:** There are many books and information that will educate you on how to successfully overcome fear and anxiety. Share this information with the individual who is struggling with their fears. The key is to get your friend to understand how important it is to seek some guidance when it comes to their mental health.
2. **Be understanding and patient with the person struggling with their fears:** Maintaining depression and anxiety can be difficult for the individual so do not add more problems than what is already there. Do not get into arguments with your friend who may be having a difficult time with their anxieties. Make an effort to listen to the person rather than making judgements.
3. **Talk to the person instead of talking at them:** It is important not to lecture the individual who is having a hard time with anxiety and depression. Talk to the person about their issues without being rude. Most people will listen if you approach them in a proper manner. Remember to treat others the way you would want to be treated if you were the one who was struggling.
4. **Ask for some ideas:** Seek advice from a professional who can assist the person you know with their mental health issues. A counselor can give you some ideas on how to overcome anxiety, fear, and depression. Getting help from a therapist is the number one priority in getting the individual to do something about their problems.
5. **Find out why the person won't get assistance:** Address the issues on why he or she will not seek treatment. Many people who are struggling are fearful and frustrated. Try to find out the reasons why your friend won't get the help they need and then try to find the ways that will overcome their resistance to seeking some guidance.
6. **Remind the person of the consequences of not getting help:** Another way to convince the individual who is struggling with fear and depression is to tell them what may happen if they don't get some counseling. Anxiety and depression can make things worse and usually won't go away by themselves.
7. **You can't manage your mental health all by yourself:** A person's fears and anxieties can be difficult to manage and more than likely he or she will need some help. Many people think that they can overcome their mental health problems on their own. This is a mistake. The individual should admit they have a problem and then seek treatment to get their life back on track.



Free online therapy + mental health support

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QUINN MINUTE – SHORT HISTORY OF LONG FILM STRIPS

by Rix Quinn

Not long ago at a class reunion, several of us got to talking about “film strips.” If you attended elementary school during the 1950s through 1970s, you may remember these visual learning tools. Because there were so many of us, states quickly constructed schools to contain us. Educators developed scholarly “film strips” to help instructors explain complicated concepts.

Film strips were like slide shows. Each film strip had an audio record that came with it. The record was put on a record player, which sat next to the film projector (If you do not know what a record player is, please consult a history book). The teacher displayed the first picture of the film strip, and then started the audio. Usually, the audio narrator had an authoritative voice, so you were convinced he knew everything. The teacher moved from one picture to the next on the strip each time the record made a beeping sound. A kid in our class also made random beep sounds. This made the teacher race through the pictures on the film strip, leaving us several minutes of mind-numbing audio about hibernating snakes.

Did you personally ever see a film strip? Did anybody in your class die from boredom? My two favorite film strips were “From caterpillar to butterfly” and “Mr. Gorilla learns to drive” (Actually, I made that last one up, because I never saw a film strip about a gorilla driver, especially one who could pass the written exam).

testify against the transportation budget cuts

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
 City Council Chambers,
 City Hall Park, New York, NY 10007

talking points

While Mayor Mamdani's Executive Budget baselines funding for essential initiatives, the City must also restore the following:

Cuts and Funding Gaps from the Budget

- 44th Drive Corridor improvements delayed until 2029-2032 — \$30M
- 21st Street Intermodal Hub delayed until 2029-2032 — \$13M
- Improved Connections to Queens Waterfront Greenway delayed until 2029-2032 — \$10M
- Comprehensive Lighting Study in LIC IBZ — \$1.25M
- Public Toilet at Court Square — \$700K
- QBB Ramps Public Realm Improvements Study — \$250K

Additional Funding We're Fighting for

- DOT Daylighting Program — \$15M

how to testify

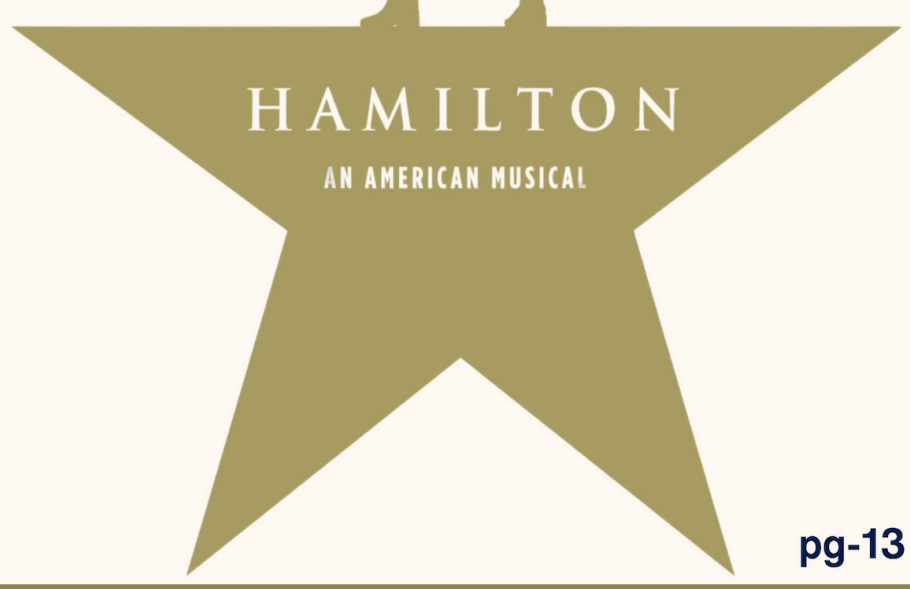
register to testify in person or over zoom,* or submit written testimony at council.nyc.gov/testify

*in person and Zoom testimony must be 2 minutes or less



free movie
 under the stars
 murray playground
 june 12 | 8:30 p.m.

free popcorn.
 first come,
 first serve.
 bring a blanket
 or a chair.



pg-13

free helmet giveaway



Saturday, June 13, 2026
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hunter's Point South Park
Center Boulevard & Borden Ave
Long Island City, NY 11101



Register Here:
bit.ly/CMWonHelmets2026



Helmets will only be given to those present while supplies last! Adults over 18 receiving a helmet must sign a waiver. A parent or legal guardian must be present to sign a waiver for children under age 18.



SKIP A STOP - A LAST MILE PROBLEM SOLVED

by Cyclo Pete

Greetings Woodside riders! With summer almost upon us, we've been rocked with a lot of disruptions to our near and dear 7 line. What began with a few weekend disruptions has ended with the switch of the directional closure at both 52nd and 69th streets, with the Manhattan bound service restored but the Flushing bound side shuttered until next year. This will mess with more than a few folk's rides home, so read on for tips on how to bring a bike into the mix!

Replace 52 St

Straphangers otherwise looking to get home via 52nd can get out at 46th and find a Citi Bike at either 46th and Queens Blvd, or walk over to 47th and Greenpoint to grab a bike. Take the bike down 47th and continue on to 39th Avenue and take a right on 52nd and park by Windmuller on 39th Drive or continue to Woodside and park on 54th Street and 39th Avenue. If you're getting out at 61st Woodside, there are three bike docks between 61st and 58th and you can additionally park on 54th and Woodside.

Replace 69 St

If you're looking to replace the trip to 69th, the grid gets very tricky around here because of the BQE. You can take a bike off a dock near 61st and Roosevelt and take some combination of 61st or 60th to 37th Avenue and take a right on 65th Street and a left on 38th Avenue to park on 69th Street, a short block from the station. But if you live south of the station, I'd highly recommend using the far calmer Woodside Avenue and parking at docks on 69th and Woodside or 43rd Avenue.

Service changes can be a drag! Both 52nd and 69th are walking distance from 46th and 74th stations respectively, which may explain the partial closure strategy. But if you're in a rush, don't get caught flat footed and use a two-wheeled option to bridge that gap. Check the app for bike availability while you're on the train to decide where to get off and go with the flow. These kinds of situations are what bike share is made for! So bring your helmet to work, and ride safe, Woodside!

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Surgery and Orthopedics."*



Dr. Richard Belli
Podiatrist



Hours

Thurs. 12-5
Tues. / Wed. / Sat. 10-3

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ON THE MOVE
51-23B Queens Blvd Woodside, NY 11377

woodsideonthemove.org

June Workshops



06/09

Tuesday

Housing Legal Consultation

10am - 4pm | 51-23B Queens Blvd.

Work in-person with a housing attorney. 45 minute consultation. Spanish available.



06/25

Thursday

Immigration Consultation

10am - 4pm | Virtual Call

Work virtually with an immigration attorney. 45 minute consultation. Spanish available.



Call to schedule appointment

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NEW YORK CITY
DOT

NYC Small Business Services | careers businesses neighborhoods

More Information @Woodsideonthemove

PUBLIC KICK-OFF

Now that OneLIC has passed, it's time to hold the City accountable!

Come meet the Task Force working to make sure all OneLIC commitments are delivered on time & as promised. Dinner will be provided!



CUNY School of Law
2 Court Square W
Long Island City

Wednesday, June 17
6:00 PM - 8:00 pm



ONELIC
Oversight Task Force



NEW YORK CITY
JULIE WON
COUNCIL MEMBER



108th Precinct Community Council Meeting



Join us on Tuesday, June 24th, 2026
7:00PM

at Sunnyside Community Center
43-31 39th St, Sunnyside, NY 11104

The Community Council meets once every month on the last Tuesday of each month. (Except in July, August, and December) All are welcome to attend the meetings. We provide community updates and crime stat reports.

For Additional information please contact us at: 108communitycouncil@gmail.com

Executive Board

President Kevin Romero
Vice President Tommy Mituzas
Sgt. Of Arms Richard O'Connor



108th Precinct

Deputy inspector:
Captain Hameed Armani
108 Community Affairs:
P.O. Francisco Maria
P.O. Shiva Sharma

To donate to the 108 Precinct Community Council, contact:
Kevin Romero at (917)-670-4463, or
P.O. Francisco Maria at (718)-784-5420



108th Precinct Community Council



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Sunnyside, NY

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Please email Articles, Photos, Letters and Opinions for Woodside Herald to

SSabba@woodsideherald.com

WOODSIDE HERALD
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62-07 Woodside Ave, 3rd Floor
Woodside, NY 11377

Blessed Virgin Mary St. Mary's Winfield

Thursdays, 9:30-11:45 a.m.
70-31 48th Ave, Woodside, NY 11377

Hour Children - Hour Pantry

Mondays & Thursdays, 2-4 p.m.
Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
36-49 11th St, Long Island City, NY 11106
(inside St. Rita's parking lot)

Iglesia Alianza Cristiana Misionera Ebenezer

Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
43-02 38th St, Long Island City, NY 11101

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement

After School Program
Monday through Friday, 3-3:30 p.m.
10-25 41st Ave, Long Island City, NY 11101

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement

Hot Meal Distribution
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays,
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
10-25 41st Ave, Long Island City, NY 11101

La Jornada

Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
39-04 61st St, Woodside, NY 11377

St. Raphael RC Church Food Pantry

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Saturdays, 1:30-3 p.m.
35-20 Greenpoint Ave, Long Island City, NY 11101

St. Teresa Church Saint Vincent DePaul Society

Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.
50-20 45th St, Woodside, NY 11377

The Urban Upbound Bread of Life Pantry

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Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Thursdays, 12-3 p.m.
38-49 12th St, Long Island City, NY 11101

• LEGAL NOTICE • LEGAL NOTICE • LEGAL NOTICE

File No.: **2024-2800/A**
CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE
OF NEW YORK
BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE
AND INDEPENDENT
To:
Michelle O'Malley,
Michael Cusick,
NYS Department Taxation &
Finance,
Attorney General of the State of
New York
The unknown distributees,
legatees, devisees, heirs at law and
assignees of Diane M. Colone,
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 Diane
M. Colone, deceased, who at the
time of death was a resident of 77-
40 74th Street, Glendale, NY
11385, in the County of Queens,
State of New York.
SEND GREETING:
Upon the petition of LOIS M.
ROSENBLATT, Public
Administrator of Queens County,
who maintains her office at 88-11
Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica,
Queens County, New York 11435,
as Administrator of the Estate of
Diane M. Colone, 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,
6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin
Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State
of New York, on the 23rd day of
July, 2026 at 9:30 o'clock in the
forenoon, why the Account of
Proceedings of the Public
Administrator of Queens County,
as **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
\$265,728.93 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 1.5% 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
each of you claiming to be a
distributee of the decedent should
not establish proof of your kinship;
and why the balance of said funds
should not be paid to said alleged
distributees upon proof of kinship,
or deposited with the
Commissioner of Finance of the
City of New York should said
alleged distributees default herein,
or fail to establish proof of kinship,
Dated, Attested and Sealed
20th day of May, 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
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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
5/22/26, 5/29/26, 6/4/26, 6/12/26

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FLAG DAY



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From 40th Street to 48th Street**

**Celebration at Veterans Memorial Plaza
Sabba Park on Queens Blvd. at 49th Street**

For more information and to have your group participate in the parade, please call (646) 730-1394
Or contact us at sunnysidekiwanis@gmail.com

CELEBRATING
55 years