

LEGAL NOTICES

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF QUEENS, SUMMONS, Docket No. E-25524-21. In the Matter of EMMANUEL ALEXIS VILLA and JEREMY DANIEL VILLA. Dependent children, under the age of 14 years, to the custody of SCO Family of Services, alleged to be permanently neglected and abandoned children, pursuant to Section 384-b of the Social Services Law. In the Name of the People of the State of New York TO: SANTIAGO DAVID VILLA A/K/A DAVID VILLA A/K/A DAVID SANTIAGO VILLA. Verified Petitions having been filed in the Court alleging that the above-named children in the care of SCO Family of Services, the petitioner, are permanently neglected and abandoned children as defined by Article 6, Part 1 of the Family Court Act and Section 384-b of the Social Services Law; YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear virtually before the Family Court at 151-20 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, New York, Part 1, on the 26th day of February, 2021 before the Hon. Connie Gonzalez at 9:30 in the forenoon of said day via the following MS Teams link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTRjY2QONmEtMmM5y00YzE4LTgwMDMtMWQlNTk4ZDhiNTE3%40thread.v2?0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%226996221-ac8-4a13-abce-9a1c8d68629a%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%227776a321-c69e-4ad1-b635-85518f6d28%22%7d or by phone at: 1-929-346-7209 conference ID: 629583790 to show cause why the Court should not enter an Order depriving you of all the rights of custody of EMMANUEL ALEXIS VILLA and JEREMY DANIEL VILLA, awarding the custody of said children to the petitioning authorized agency as permanently neglected and abandoned children as provided by law. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that if said children are adjudged to be permanently neglected and abandoned children, and, if custody is awarded to said authorized agency, said children may be adopted with the consent of said agency and without further notice to you and without your consent. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your failure to appear will result in the termination of all your parental rights to the children. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your failure to appear shall constitute a denial of interest in the children, which denial may result in the transfer or commitment of the children's care, custody, guardianship or adoption of the children, all without further notice to the parents of the children. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you are entitled to be represented by an attorney and, if you cannot afford to retain an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you by the Court free of charge to you. Dated: January 20, 2020. By Order of the Court, Robert Ratuski, Clerk, Family Court, Queens County.

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF BRONX, SUMMONS, Docket No. B-09654/20. In the Matter of NELSON MARIO LAGUERRA. A dependent child, under the age of 14 years, to the custody of SCO Family of Services, alleged to be a permanently neglected and abandoned child, pursuant to Section 384-b of the Social Services Law. In the Name of the People of the State of New York TO: NILSA MARIA LAGUERRA. A verified Petition having been filed in the Court alleging that the above-named child in the care of SCO Family of Services, the petitioner, is a permanently neglected and abandoned child, as defined by Article 6, Part 1 of the Family Court Act and Section 384-b of the Social Services Law; YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear virtually before the Family Court at 900 Sheridan Ave., Bronx, New York, Part 18, on the 15th day of March, 2021 before the Hon. David J. Kaplan at 3:00 in the afternoon of said day via the following MS Teams link: <https://notifyingcourts.gov/meet/ag3wnr> or by phone at: (929) 346-7209, code 591189333#, to show cause why the Court should not enter an Order depriving you of all the rights of custody of NELSON MARIO LAGUERRA, awarding the custody of said child to the petitioning authorized agency as a permanently neglected and abandoned child as provided by law. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that if said child is adjudged to be a permanently neglected and abandoned child, and if custody is awarded to said authorized agency, said child may be adopted with the consent of said agency and without further notice to you and without your consent. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your failure to appear will result in the termination of all your parental rights to the child. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your failure to appear shall constitute a denial of interest in the child, which denial may result in the transfer or commitment of the child's care, custody, guardianship or adoption of the child, all without further notice to the parents of the child. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you are entitled to be represented by an attorney and, if you cannot afford to retain an attorney, one will be appointed to represent you by the Court free of charge to you. Dated: March 13, 2020. By Order of the Court, Stephen G. Byrnes, Clerk, Family Court, Bronx County. 0120_150556 1/29/21

Notice of Qualification of CALIBRANT NY I, LLC. Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/20. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/01/20. Princ. office of LLC: 125 W. 55th St., NY, NY 10019. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: c/o CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 0121_140947 1/29/21-3/5/21



Courtesy of Richard Carranza, via Twitter

COMING UP SHORT: Concerns about the safety of in-person learning have contributed to Teacher shortages, including limiting the ability of some schools to offer in-person classes for all students five days a week, Department of Education officials testified during a Jan. 20 City Council hearing. The Council probed the educational losses suffered by students during the pandemic, which included over 71,000 students receiving a 'course in progress' grade that must be made up by the end of the month.

Teacher Staffing Challenges Persist

Continued from Page 1

4,000 substitute Teachers filling in for staff who have requested an accommodation to work from home or called out sick with coronavirus. During the fall, the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators estimated that it would take upwards of 10,000 Teachers to address the staffing shortages. When asked whether schools needed additional funding in order to hire more Teachers, First Deputy Chancellor Donald Conyers cited safety concerns among educators about in-person instruction as the reason why Teacher shortages persisted. "Having the funds available doesn't always equate to having a live body in front of students," he said. Although the COVID positivity rate in schools was 0.68 percent—far below the citywide level—many staff members have called for an end to in-person learning.

DOE Slow to Fill Title

There were staffing challenges affecting remote instruction as well, the United Federation of Teachers testified during the hearing. During the summer, the DOE established a new title, Virtual Content Specialists, to create and grade online coursework. But Mary Vaccaro, the UFT's Vice President for Education, said that the DOE has only just begun interviewing candidates for the positions. The UFT called for the DOE to do more to assist Teachers with improving remote instruction, particularly

for English-language learners and students with disabilities. "Too often, we're doing this work solo," Ms. Vaccaro said. "Educators are thirsty for help." The hearing focused on the impact on education the COVID-19 pandemic has had since last spring. More than 71,000 students received an "NX grade," or a course-in-progress designation, that will prevent them from moving up to the next grade level unless they pass the course by the end of this month. Among the students who received the mark last spring, 20,151 were students with Individual Education Plans, while 13,859 were English-language learners.

Students Set Back?

Despite the challenges of remote-learning, the number of students who received an NX grade was actually 26 percent lower than during the previous school year, DOE officials noted. Some students took advantage of virtual summer school to pass their courses, but the number was smaller than what the DOE had hoped for, Chief Academic Officer Linda Chen stated. But Mr. Treyyer feared that some of the students who could fail were set back by

technological gaps. Although the DOE has distributed 450,000 iPads, tablets and laptops, many students last spring struggled with remote-learning because they experienced delays receiving a learning device or did not have adequate internet service. "No child in New York City should receive a failing permanent grade for something they bear no responsibility for," he said. "The system failed them, government failed them. That's who gets a failing grade, not our children."

No Classes for 2,600

Department officials also testified that since remote-learning started, 2,600 students have not attended any classes either online or in-person. Mr. Treyyer applauded the DOE for establishing a 2021 Student Achievement Plan aimed at closing the education gaps experienced by students who fell behind because of the pandemic—but he slammed the fact that the initiative would not take effect until the beginning of the next school year. "What about this school year? Are we to sit around and wait until September 2021 to get the baseline?" he asked.

Bronx Bus-Crash Dust-Up

Continued from Page 1

He told reporters at a Jan. 16 press conference outside his Mount Vernon home that the bus "just took off" as it approached the ramp, according to the Daily News. "I made that turn a million times," Mr. Beccan said. "I already know you can't take that turn fast. It seems like they always want to blame somebody, and the operator is the first person to blame." Transport Workers Union Local 100 Vice President Richie Davis said he has heard from other Bus Operators about instances of unexpected accelerations of articulated buses, but his members were reluctant to go on the record with their supervisors. "It's not the first complaint we have had on this...but we need the transit agency and all the other agencies to do their investigations," he said.

Troubles in Toronto

Four years ago, the Toronto Transit Commission sidelined its entire fleet of Nova articulated buses due to issues of "unexpected acceleration," which the agency said would be corrected with a software fix, The Canadian Press reported. A spokesman for the MTA, Shams Tarek, said that over the past 30 years "we have had no reports of involuntary acceleration of any New Flyer bus," the manufacturer whose vehicle Mr. Beccan was driving. "The fact is that a federally mandated drug test was refused multiple times after this unfortunate, tragic incident, and our records show the bus was going at least four times the allowable safe speed on the turn," Mr. Tarek said in a statement.



RICHE DAVIS: May have been mechanical failure.

The agency said that Mr. Beccan submitted to an NYPD breathalyzer test but "refused three times to agree to a Federal Transit Administration-required post-incident drug test" at the hospital at 2:59 a.m. Jan. 15.

Stalled for an Hour?

The MTA claimed that a technician "attempted during the following 41 minutes to obtain a urine sample, which was repeatedly refused. These refusals were witnessed by a treating doctor who is independent of the MTA." "Don't say I refused to take a drug test," Mr. Beccan told The News. "I was very upset. To put out a statement to the public without accurate information, that's slander on them. That doesn't make no sense."

He offered reporters his paperwork from the St. Barnabas Hospital Emergency Center that indicated a blood sample was taken at 4 a.m.—an hour after the MTA sought to have him tested—and a urine specimen was received at 10:33 a.m.—nearly eight hours after the initial request was made.



A BIT TOO REMOTE, EH?: While the Metropolitan Transportation Authority contends that Chief Operating Officer Mario Peloquin (left) has continued to work effectively from his home in Canada in recent months, the Subway/Surface Supervisors Association said his absence has been notable and resented by workers who continue risking their health at transit facilities.

SSSA Raps 'Remote' COO

Continued from Page 5

Cuomo should really be involved with this—they work for him."

Mr. Foye responded in a statement, "Since the pandemic hit in March, Mario has spent the bulk of his time in New York and at the office, serving as a key player in our response, including leading the effort for our plans to prepare for and combat the second wave. To suggest anything otherwise is completely false."

MTA sources explained that Mr. Peloquin, who they said was currently in New York, was required to quarantine out of the country to comply with public-health standards in order to visit his family, which continues to live in Canada. They said that he continued to work a full schedule remotely. Mr. Carrube said that Mr. Peloquin's approach to his job differed significantly from that of Sarah Feinberg, the interim president of New York City Transit.

'She's More-Responsive'

"I have been dealing with Sarah for a while now, and I will tell you: she answers my calls, she answers my emails and she is on the job every day working," he said. Mr. Peloquin, who previously worked for the Canadian National Railway, was hired in November 2019 to replace Ronnie Hakim as the agency's COO amid a major reorganization designed to reduce headcount, cut costs and improve performance. The Wall Street Journal described his selection at the time as an "unusual pick" to run a system with the nation's busiest commuter railroads because of his "limited experience running mass-transit systems."

Prior to his selection, Mr. Peloquin was serving as CEO for Thales Transport & Security Inc., the contractor that upgraded the signals for agency's Number 7 subway line. According to the Journal,

"that project was completed in late 2018, more than a year late and over budget. After it was finished, riders suffered weeks of disruption caused by software glitches."

Not Here for Blizzard

The Daily News reported Mr. Peloquin was not in the city for December's blizzard that caused region-wide mass-transit problems. It also noted his absence from the Aug. 25 hearing convened by the State Senate and Assembly regarding the MTA's pandemic response.

The agency's campaign to "reinvent" itself, which included Mr. Peloquin's selection, has been greeted with skepticism by its unions.

They fumed upon learning in October that another top executive had been given a salary more than twice what he was paid in the private sector.

Anthony McCord started his \$325,000-a-year job as Chief Transformation Officer in December of 2019. According to the News, he made somewhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000 during the first nine months of 2019 working for Veolia, a French industrial-services company.

Dubious Results

He was brought in to implement the recommendations of AlixPartners, which was paid \$4 million to reorganize the 74,000-employee agency. In February, Mr. McCord presented a plan to deploy 120 consultants to reduce the MTA headcount by 2,700 under a mandate from Mr. Cuomo and the State Legislature. The plan was shelved as the agency dealt with the coronavirus. Ultimately, he reported that retirements alone reduced headcount by 3,000 and that his review of MTA contracts for consultants had produced \$155 million in savings over the next five years. "Talk about a waste of money," wrote Tony Utano, president of TWU Local 100.

College-Union Vaccine Push

Continued from Page 3

in-person across SUNY's 64 campuses this past semester, and classroom doors were set to reopen for the spring semester in February.

"Many of our professional members work in residence halls, registrar offices, libraries and many other operations open to the public at SUNY campuses," said UUP President Fred Kowal. "These crucial employees have not been included in the 1B classification—and that means they will not be eligible for vaccinations as we begin the spring semester. This is unacceptable, especially when the number of professionals is a far smaller pool than the hundreds of thousands of our K-12 colleagues being vaccinated as part of 1B."

(In just the first week, 17,000 members of the United Federation of Teachers received vaccinations.)

Syringe Brigades

Mr. Kowal has also called for SUNY, which operates three public hospitals, to deploy "Vaccination Brigades" made up of volunteer medical students and medical residents to speed up vaccination of the SUNY community. The rollout of vaccinations has been mired by delays all across the state. The city



FRED KOWAL: 'Crucial employees not included.'

canceled 23,000 appointments between Jan. 21 and Jan. 24 due to a shortage of vaccines.

Despite the bumpy launch, the promise of widespread vaccinations prompted CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodriguez to recently announce that CUNY intends to gradually return in-person classes for the Fall 2021 semester. But the PSC argued that ensuring that all staff have enough time to get access to the vaccine was necessary before campuses could reopen fully.

"All college employees—in every rank, title and union—who are working in person during the pandemic must be classified as 1B for priority access to the vaccine," Ms. Vasquez said.

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