

## NEW YORK NEWS

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— Elly Nayerowitz, Monsey Chaveirim coordinator

## A Congressman Visits



Congressman Jerold Nadler (seated) visiting with representatives of the Belz community at the Boro Family Services of Brooklyn last Thursday. At the meeting Mr. Nadler praised the newly passed Health Reform bill and also assured those gathered concerning the Obama administration's relations with Israel. Among those attending were Rabbi Moshe Gold, Rabbi David Orlander, Rabbi Berl Hecht, Rabbi Aron Langsam, Rabbi Pinchas Lerner, Rabbi Shia Ostrericher, Rabbi Peasch Lemberger, Rabbi Shia Langsam and Rabbi Aron Grossman.

## N.J. Teen Charged After Remark On Store Microphone

EDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) – Police in northern New Jersey say a 14-year-old girl grabbed a supermarket microphone and announced, “All blacks leave the store.”

The case is similar to what happened on two occasions at a Gloucester County Wal-Mart.

In the latest incident, Edgewater police say they were called after the girl made the announcement over the Whole Foods Market's public-address system at the courtesy desk on Saturday afternoon.

The girl, whose name was not released because of her age, is charged with bias intimidation and harassment.

In the Wal-Mart incidents, a 16-year-old Atlantic County boy faces the same charges after police said he ordered all blacks to leave the Washington Township store on March 14.

## The New Zman Begins



Bachurim from Yeshivah of Philadelphia returning to yeshivah after *bein hazmanim*. A bus left from Coney Island and Avenue M to the yeshivah.

## Malice, No Injuries, in Monsey Hate Spree

By HAMODIA STAFF

MONSEY – Three Spring Valley teens charged with hate crimes for intimidating Jewish people with a baseball bat and sticks and yelling threats during a rowdy spree on Motzoei Shabbos were sent to Rockland County jail on \$10,000 bail following their arrests that night.

A fourth teen, age 15, was charged as a juvenile delinquent. He was released to his parents and must appear in family court later this month, according to a Ramapo police press release.

No injuries or property damage was reported, but the lash-out registered high on the viciousness scale.

“They were really, really bad. They were throwing things at people and threatening to kill people,” said Elly Nayerowitz, a coordinator for the Monsey chapter of the Chaveirim organization.

Nayerowitz said Chaveirim received calls on Motzoei Shabbos from a number of shaken residents

who endured the boisterous group's abuse on residential streets in Spring Valley and Monsey. Chaveirim volunteers went to the scene and kept tabs on two of the suspects until they were arrested, the police statement says. Police caught up with the other two suspects.

Nayerowitz, who witnessed some of the youths' vile fit, said that their defiance didn't subside when officers confronted them.

“They were very disrespectful to the police,” he told *Hamodia* yesterday.

Police arrived at Neil Street, in a residential neighborhood, at about 10:40 p.m. Based on numerous witness reports, two boys — 16 and 18 — and a girl, 17, were arrested on charges of aggravated harassment as a hate crime felony and disorderly conduct. The 16-year-old boy was also charged with possession of a weapon for allegedly using a baseball bat to make threats.

The trouble took place over the course of about a half hour, Nayerowitz said.

## NYC Water Rate Likely to Shoot Up 12.9 Percent

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single-household usage of 80,000 gallons per year.

But many *heimishe* households, with large and extended families living together, can anticipate being submerged in even higher fees.

Under the plan, customers who pay by automatic bank account deductions would get a 1-percent discount. In addition, the fee for service termination would double, to \$1,000.

Water rates in the city have been gushing upward in recent years, with residents getting soaked in double-digit increases for four years running. In that time span, the cost of water has surged 63 percent in the city. Last year's mark-up was also 12.9 percent.

The proposal is in the public review stage. Hearings in each borough, to be attended by DEP Commissioner Caswell Holloway, are scheduled May 4-13. The board will vote on final rates at the end of May.

Although “water rate increases are difficult during tough economic times,” they're unavoidable, DEP Press Director Farrell Sklerov told *Hamodia* yesterday. He pointed to major water system infrastructure projects that the city can't shirk or postpone due to federal mandates.

The suggested increase is 1.4 percent lower than the 14.3-percent projection the DEP made last year. A member of city Comptroller John Liu's staff told *Hamodia* that the scale-down was made possible through the comptroller's office refinancing a bond with the water authority.

In addition, DEP data concludes that the average single-family water bill per year in New York is still \$50 less than that of 30 major U.S. cities.

Like previous comptroller William Thompson, Mr. Liu has been highly critical of the steep water rate hikes, mainly because water fees paid by residents are put into the city's general fund, instead of a dedicated account. Mr. Liu feels this method does not guarantee that the funds are used strictly for the water system costs for which they were collected.

Furthermore, as the concept goes, fees collected by the Water Board, an independent agency, beyond what's needed to pay the city for water-related debt service end up getting kept by the city as excess rent and rerouted. The surplus funds, critics say, should be applied to the water system.

“This rate proposal does not address the critical issue of the rental payment made from ratepayer money to the city general fund, which means that once again New Yorkers are subject to this back-door tax disguised as a water rate increase,” Liu spokesperson Michael Loughran wrote in an email to *Hamodia* yesterday.

Inquiries left with City Councilman James Gennaro (D-Queens), chairman of the environmental protection committee, and Councilman Brad Lander (D-Brooklyn), a member of that committee, went unanswered yesterday.

The proposed increase is primarily fueled by two factors, the DEP says in its proposal — one of

largest construction programs in the region with a tab of \$14 billion, and soaring debt costs.

The construction projects are expected to generate 5,000 jobs in each of the next four years. The largest projects include a third water tunnel to transport water into the city, a wastewater treatment plant in Westchester, a filtration plant in the Bronx, and a Catskills disinfection plant.

The water tunnel, at a cost of \$5 billion, will augment the capacity of the tunnels built in 1917 and 1936. Completion is slated for 2014.

The \$5 billion wastewater treatment facility is the last in the state to get secondary treatment — to be completed by 2014.

The \$2.8-billion filtration plant will supply 30 percent of city's drinking water, or 290 million gallons per day. Completion is scheduled for next year.

The ultraviolet disinfection plant, to be finished in 2012 at a cost of \$1.6 billion, will reduce microorganisms.

Debt service is rising from \$837 million in 2010 to \$1.2 billion projected for next year. This expense has increased 65 percent since 2006.

The water authority also plans on \$5.7 billion in new capital commitments over the next four years.

While the DEP maintains that the rate increase will fuel the city's commitment to high standards in water quality, many homeowners say they feel beseiged by rising taxes and fees. One Boro Park homeowner who understandably did not want to be named disclosed his plan for eluding higher water bills.

“It's not going to affect me. It's going to affect the people around me, because I'm going to take less showers,” he said.

## “Crop the Choppers”



Shimon Gifter

Business leaders, residents and lawmakers are nearing a compromise to limit the number of noisy helicopters that crowd the skies over New York Harbor, according to a WPIX report. Residents of some waterfront neighborhoods in New York have been complaining furiously about the relocation of all tourist helicopter flights in the city to a single location on Manhattan's southern tip.