

## Borough-Wide Blotter

COMPILED BY LIZ GOFF

### 112th Precinct

#### Phony Cop Busted

A 51-year-old city employee was arrested on February 21 and charged with pretending to be a cop when threatening his Queens neighbor, authorities said.

Edwin Torres, an exterminator for the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, brandished a real gun and a phony police badge while menacing a neighbor in his Forest Hills Gardens neighborhood, police said.

Police sources said Torres went to his neighbor to settle a dispute and boasted, "I'm a detective."

Torres was charged with impersonating a police officer, menacing and weapons possession.

#### Hunt cellphone Thief

Cops in Forest Hills are seeking help from the public to identify and locate a teenager who snatched a cellphone from a computer store on Austin Street on February 2.

Police said the teen walked into the Game Shop store on 71st Avenue at about 7:15 p.m., where he eyed the merchandise, then grabbed the cellphone and fled on foot.

The teen was wearing a black jacket, black pants and a black hat at the time of the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Crimestoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS.

### 115th Precinct

#### Homeowner In 'Revenge' Theft

A Jackson Heights homeowner was arrested on February 21 and charged with stealing a cellphone from a day laborer he had hired for some construction work.

Police said during the construction work, the victim asked Carlos Cordova if he could make a call, and Cordova let the man use his cellphone.

Cordova later became irate when he realized the worker ran up charges on the phone and did not reimburse him for them, police said.

Cordova decided to snatch some justice, and on October 20, 2006, he broke into the victim's apartment on 69th Street where he stole the man's cellphone "for revenge", police said.

Cordova was arrested on February 21 and charged with burglary and robbery.

## Neighborhoods News

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#### Add Murder To Club Crackdown List

Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to change the city's nuisance abatement laws to allow cops to shut down clubs based on charges of murder or assault.

The current laws allow police to shutter a club or bar if one or more convictions for prostitution, drugs, selling alcohol to minors or gambling have been incurred. Bloomberg's proposed amendment would allow cops to shut down clubs based on the charges alone, without a conviction.

The proposal was presented to City

Councilmembers at a hearing on February 14. Club owners and their representatives testified, calling the move "unconstitutional". Attorneys for the clubs said such a change in the laws would put owners at risk of suffering financial losses for crimes that might not have happened on their premises.

### College Point

#### Port Authority Balks At LaGuardia Waste Transfer Station

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently approved a city proposal to build a 110-foot-tall marine waste transfer station near a runway at LaGuardia Airport, leaving Port Authority officials shaking their heads and asking, "Why?"

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates LaGuardia, has filed an appeal of the FAA ruling, charging the tower could be hazardous to air traffic. The station would be located in College Point, just off the end of LaGuardia's easternmost runway, more than a half-mile from the airport, authorities said.

"We want the FAA to take a closer look at the proposal," said Port Authority spokesperson Pasquale DiFulco.

An FAA review of the proposal determined that the tower would not present a hazard to aircraft, an agency spokesperson said.

A spokesperson for Congressman Gary Ackerman said the Queens lawmaker begs to differ. Ackerman voiced his opposition to the project in a letter to FAA Administrator Marion Blakey and has asked Governor Eliot Spitzer to intervene in the decision.

Ackerman said the FAA determined that

birds flying near the waste transfer station would pose a real threat to aircraft leaving and arriving at LaGuardia.

"The Congressman believes approval of the proposal is a public safety issue," the spokesperson said.

Approval by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is the next and final step required to allow construction of the tower, which is slated to begin in 2008.

## Seek Signers' Kin

It's official—the Flushing Remonstrance is coming home to Queens for a 350th anniversary celebration, marking the signing of the document that guaranteed religious freedom in the New World. The document has been in storage at the state capital in Albany for many years.

To mark the occasion, officials at the Bowne House Museum in Flushing are searching for descendants of the 30 courageous signers of the Remonstrance, who will be invited to a ceremony celebrating the document.

Museum executive director, Donna Cartelli, said the search is on to locate relatives to share "this very significant moment in American history".

The Bowne House Historical Society, along with the Queens Borough President's Office, is calling on descendants to come forward to join in the ceremony, slated for Dec. 27, 2007.

If you or someone you know is a descendant of one of the signers of the Flushing Remonstrance, contact Donna Cartelli at Bowne House, 37-01 Bowne St., Flushing, N.Y. 11354, or online at dcartelli@bownehouse.org.—Liz Goff

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