

Spitzer, Weiner Search For More Homeland Security \$

As Governor Eliot Spitzer made his first visit to Washington to lobby for homeland security funds, Congressman Anthony Weiner called for mandated public disclosure of all anti-terror spending by cities and states.

Weiner (D-Queens/Brooklyn) also said he plans to introduce legislation requiring the federal government to reimburse New York City for the funds the municipal government is paying out to city workers on leave from their city jobs to fight in Iraq.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, 1,832 city workers have taken military leave and have been paid a cumulative total of \$57 million, Weiner said.

In Washington, Spitzer called on local congressmembers, making the argument that because of flawed formulas, "We are losing tens of millions of dollars that we should be spending on ensuring security."

Local lawmakers have been pointing out that fact to other states for some three or four years without much success.

The New York City Congressional delegation also basically agreed with Spitzer's complaint that pending terror funding bills continue to guarantee too much of the funding to every state, regardless of risk.

Weiner has been one of the most vocal lawmakers on this point and his public disclosure bill is designed to deal with "some of the most outrageous homeland security spending boondoggles from coast to coast".

In doing research for his public disclosure bill, Weiner found that Columbus, Ohio spent \$7,348 of anti-terror funds on 11 bulletproof vests for dogs in 2005.

That money should have been used to purchase bulletproof vests for New York City cops, who have a vital need for them," Weiner said.—**John Toscano**

Jackson Heights Gets Traffic Signal

State Senator George Onorato (D) has announced that the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) has agreed to install a new traffic signal at the intersection of 21st Avenue and 81st Street in Jackson Heights.

In a letter to the senator, DOT Queens Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy said that the work to install the new signal should be completed by June 30, 2007.

"This is good news for our community," Onorato said. "I am very pleased that the DOT recognized the need for additional traffic controls at this location, which should make the area safer for motorists and pedestrians alike."

Italian Classes Begin March 13

The Federation of Italian American Organizations of Queens Spring 2007 Italian Language Classes for adults are about to begin:

March 13, Tuesdays, intermediate, 6 to 7:30 p.m., and on March 14, Wednesdays, beginners also 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The 12-week course is \$90 plus workbook and will be held at FIAO, 29-21 21st Ave. in Astoria. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call 718-204-2444, fax 718-204-9145 or e-mail fiao@juno.com.

Boomer...

From page 14

ball League (NFL) history, who played with the Cincinnati Bengals (1984-1992, 1997), the New York Jets (1993-1995) and the Arizona Cardinals (1996). After his retirement, Esiason went into broadcasting. He was hired by the Westwood One radio network to become the analyst for radio broadcasts of Monday Night Football games and also currently serves as an in-studio analyst for The NFL Today on the CBS television network and hosts The Boomer Esiason Show on the Madison Square Garden Network.

In 1993, Esiason's two-year-old son, Gunnar, was diagnosed with CF. Esiason formed a charity to help fund CF research and raise awareness and later with John Sawyer, a co-founder of the Cincinnati Bengals franchise and the chairman of Sawyer Industries, formed a company to sell what came to be called Boomer's Products To Fight Cystic Fibrosis. Proceeds from sales go to CF research.

CF, a fatal genetic disease, affects many body organs, but most symptoms have to do with the lungs and digestion. CF causes a defect in one of a patient's chromosomes, leading to the production of abnormally thick mucus that primarily



Esiason with Rocco Sacramone, owner of Trattoria L'Incontro.

affects the lungs, leading to an increased incidence of lung infections, and the pancreas, leading to malabsorption of food and malnutrition. CF affects more than 30,000 Americans today; an additional 12 million Americans—approximately one in 23—unknowingly carry only one gene and are unaffected by the disease.

Borough-Wide Blotter

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104 Precinct

Bogus Check Bust

Police arrested a 26-year-old Ridgewood man on February 26, after he stole and forged two checks and deposited them in his own bank account.

Police said between January 25 and February 5, George Zelaya stole a check from the mailbox of a co-worker, erased the name on the check and inserted his own name, made the check out for \$4,000, and then deposited it into his own account. He then stole a blank check from an office at a construction site where he was working, made it payable to himself in the amount of \$3,500 and deposited the check in his account.

Bank officials spotted the theft and notified police, who arrested Zelaya on grand larceny, forgery and related charges.

Gun Rap

Police arrested a 22-year-old Maspeth man and two teen accomplices on February 24, after they assaulted a partygoer and fled the scene.

Authorities said Jonathan Capella bludgeoned a man with a loaded gun at about 3:30 a.m., at a house party on 69th Street and 49th Avenue. Police said Capella repeatedly beat the man in the head with the gun, and then fled with Marissa Ginenthal and Jonathan Calderon, both 17, in a silver Dodge Neon.

All three were charged with weapons possession, Capella was also charged with assault.

Mate-Hate

Police in Ridgewood arrested a local man last week, after he allegedly beat his girlfriend and threatened to kill her. The unidentified woman had recently ended her relationship with Goran Vesic and had moved out of his Woodbine Street home. Vesic attacked the victim when she returned to the residence to pick up some personal items.

The woman managed to lock herself in a room at Vesic's home, where she called 911 for assistance, police said.

Vesic was charged with assault, menacing and harassment at his arraignment in Kew Gardens Criminal Court.

109 Precinct

Flushing Man Attacked

A 21-year-old Flushing man remains hospitalized this week, recovering from a violent assault during a street robbery on February 28.

Police arrested Brian Upegui, 20, for allegedly attacking the victim at about 4 p.m., as the man walked along Parsons Boulevard near 71st Avenue. Upegui punched and kicked the victim, then snatched a chain from around the man's neck before fleeing the scene.

Upegui was arrested and charged with robbery and criminal possession of stolen property.

Bicyclist Killed

Police saw a bicyclist, swerving in and out of traffic along Roosevelt Avenue in Flushing, struck and killed by a vehicle on March 1. The unidentified victim, in his 30s, was traveling east near 126th Street when struck by a gray Mitsubishi. The driver, who remained at the scene and dialed 911 for assistance, was not charged in the incident.

111 Precinct

Dad Dies In Fresh Meadows Crash

A 48-year-old Queens man was killed on February 26, after the car he was driving col-

lided with another vehicle and ended up on the front lawn of a home on 73rd Avenue, at 181st Street, police said.

Police said Daniel Luey was in the vehicle with his wife and 12-year-old son shortly before noon, when his silver Toyota collided with a Lincoln driven by an 88-year-old man. The Toyota, driven by Luey, struck the Lincoln and then veered onto the front lawn of a home on 181st Street.

Luey's son, who tried to flag down help after the crash, was admitted with his mother to New York Hospital of Queens (NYHQ), where they were both listed in stable condition, the father was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival at the hospital. The driver of the Lincoln was not injured in the crash.

115 Precinct

Homeless Man Arrested In Rape

Cops arrested a 34-year-old homeless man on February 25, after he abducted a 15-year-old girl at knifepoint off a street in Jackson Heights. He repeatedly raped the girl during a two-hour ordeal on February 24.

Police said Edward Jiminez approached the teen from behind as she walked along 62nd Street, pointed a knife at her and said, "If you're quiet and come with me, I won't hurt you."

He led her to a nearby building, forced her to undress, ignored the girl's pleas for him to leave her alone, and sexually assaulted the victim for two hours. When he finally allowed her to leave, he told the teen he would track her down like an animal and kill her if she told anyone about the assault, the sources said.

Jiminez was arrested the following day on rape, weapons possession, assault, harassment, menacing and other charges.

114th... From page 26

license. He was charged with aggravated unlicensed operator, unlicensed operator and traffic device violation.

- A 22-year-old Hispanic male was observed driving a vehicle with illegal tinting and when stopped at 31st Avenue and 49th Street, was found to have a suspended license. He was charged with aggravated unlicensed operator, equipment violation and unlicensed operator.

Wednesday, February 28:

- An 18-year-old black male wanted on three active warrants was observed in possession of marijuana at 12th Street and 40th Avenue and charged with resisting arrest and unlawful possession of marijuana.

- A 39-year-old Asian male acting in a disorderly manner and refusing to leave the intersection of Newtown Road and 45th Street was charged with resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

- A 19-year-old Hispanic male was charged with criminal mischief, making graffiti and possession of a graffiti instrument after he was observed making graffiti at 42-17 Broadway.

- A 43-year-old white male was charged with assault, criminal possession of a weapon and harassment after he pushed a victim, who he also struck in the head with a metal object. The incident occurred at 33-67 11th St.