



Teenager Charged in Brooklyn Shooting that Left Woman Wounded

page-02



A Fresh Start to Learning

page-05



Faith Leaders Take a Stand

page-08



Community Support at Elhaam Academy

page-12

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: FBI Director Kash Patel speaks during a press conference
Image Source: Cheney Orr / Reuters / CNN

Missteps Fuel Backlash

Handling of Kirk case condemned.

Alexandar Sullivan

FBI Director Kash Patel is facing mounting criticism from both sides of the political spectrum following a series of missteps during the investigation into the September 11 murder of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. The arrest of suspect Tyler Robinson on Thursday evening came after a tense and chaotic 48 hours that left many questioning Patel's fitness to lead the nation's top law enforcement agency. At a Friday news conference in Utah, Patel praised the FBI's swift action, taking personal credit for releasing surveillance

HIGHLIGHT

● **FBI Director Kash Patel drew internal criticism after prematurely claiming a suspect had been arrested in Charlie Kirk's murder case.**

footage that led to the arrest. But the upbeat message clashed with internal frustrations. On Wednesday, Patel had falsely claimed a suspect was in custody, a post he walked back less than two hours later — drawing ire from Justice Department officials and law enforcement veterans who found the move reckless and premature.

Sources say Patel later lashed out in an expletive-filled virtual meeting with FBI agents, accusing them of withholding timely updates. Critics also cited operational delays, including the late release of suspect photos and the slow handoff of evidence to the ATF for analysis. The internal turmoil was compounded by recent purges of experienced FBI personnel, which some argue weakened the bureau's effectiveness. A loyalist from the Trump administration, Patel was a controversial appointment from the outset. Now, even allies like Christopher Rufo and Erick Erickson are

publicly questioning his leadership. "It's unacceptable," said a source close to Kirk's inner circle after Patel's initial social media blunder. Despite the backlash, Patel retains President Trump's support. "I am very proud of the FBI. Kash — and everyone else — they have done a great job," Trump told Fox News Digital on Saturday. Patel's spokesperson defended his actions as driven by passion and personal loss, calling the arrest a testament to "the pursuit of justice." Still, growing bipartisan concern suggests Patel's tenure may face continued scrutiny.

U.K. Protest Sparks Outcry

Starmer speaks out on unrest

Lily Anderson

Britain will never surrender its national symbols to far-right extremists, Prime Minister Keir Starmer declared, following one of the largest nationalist protests in recent memory. His comments come amid rising concerns over violence, racism, and incendiary rhetoric at the Sunday rally, which drew an estimated 110,000 to 150,000 attendees and featured speeches by controversial figures like Tommy Robinson and Elon Musk. Starmer denounced the appropriation of the St George's flag, affirming it represents a "diverse country" and not one of fear or division. "We will not stand for assaults on police officers doing their job or for people feeling intimidated on our streets because of their background or the colour of their skin," he said. The event quickly turned volatile. The Metropolitan Police confirmed that 26 officers were injured, and 24 arrests were

made for offences including assault and violent disorder. One individual is being sought for making threats against the prime minister. Musk, addressing the crowd, declared that "violence is coming" and called for the dissolution of Parliament. His remarks, along with those of other far-right figures, drew bipartisan condemnation. Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey urged all political leaders to denounce the violent language. Some Labour MPs voiced discomfort over Business Secretary Peter Kyle's earlier comments, which stopped short of outright condemnation. Others, like Stella Creasy, insisted the party must confront extremism head-on. Starmer's comments appear aimed at quelling growing concerns both within his party and among advocacy groups, as the UK grapples with rising political polarization and public safety threats tied to far-right agitation.

New York's young Muslim youth — the future of tomorrow — continue to remember 9/11 with reflection, prayers, and a commitment to peace.



Details Page - 6

The Short

Firefighters Plead for More Support Battling 9/11 Related Illnesses

page-02

The Muslim Community's Milestone in New York Politics

page-03

1500 Years of Legacy Honored

page-04

Standing Up to Hate in Jamaica, Queens

page-10

Tensions on NATO Border

Tensions on NATO Border

John Paul

NATO launched "Eastern Sentry" on Friday in response to a Russian drone incursion into Polish airspace earlier this week. The operation aims to strengthen defense across the alliance's eastern flank with rapid deployments from France, Germany, Denmark, and others. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte called the incursion



Photo: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte
Image Source: Simon Wohlfahrt/AFP/Getty Images/CNN
"dangerous and unacceptable," citing a rise in such events. The mission will involve

air and naval assets, including fighter jets and anti-aircraft systems, and is modeled on a previous Baltic operation. Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk rejected claims that the airspace breach was accidental, asserting the attack was intentional. Authorities reported up to 21 drones, with 16 located across the country, some entering from Belarus. General Alexus

Grynkewich emphasized that the response will be "agile" and "flexible," covering the entire eastern NATO frontier. The operation underscores NATO's stance that "what affects one ally affects us all."

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Firefighters Plead for More Support Battling 9/11 Related Illnesses

Staff Reporter

Twenty-four years after the September 11 terror attacks, the FDNY has lost more than 400 members to World Trade Center illnesses, surpassing the 343 firefighters killed on that day. Firefighters are describing the health situation as dire. 'After the building fell, we couldn't bring our rig up this far. So we walked in, pulled the water and came around from the side to get access,' retired FDNY Keith McElwain said. McElwain was filled with emotion as he remembered driving his fire truck from Brooklyn to lower Manhattan 24 years ago and seeing the



devastation. "That day I was breathing at that black hell hole air with no mask. It was just a horrible day. My eyes were cemented shut when I woke up the next morning," McElwain said.

He retired from the FDNY a short time later. But every year since then, he leads a march from Ladder 10 Engine 10 on Liberty Street, across the Brooklyn Bridge to his old firehouse.

Each flag represents a colleague lost from ladder 105. In all, 343 firefighters died in 9/11 and a staggering 409 have died since then from 9/11 related illnesses. "We still continue to lose about three members a month, and it's not slowing down. We have multiple members with long-term cancers, members in hospice, and it continues to take its toll," UFA President Andrew Ansbro said. Deaths are mounting while the World Trade Center health program faces staff shortages and funding issues. "It was never designed to match the escalating costs of health care. And so therefore,

without refunding, it is going to fall short by the time we reach 2028; they will deny any new enrollees and then shortly after that, they'll have to ration care," UFOA President Lt. James Brosi said. McElwain now lives in Florida with his wife, a long way from this hallowed ground and continues to think about those who continue to lose their lives, years after that horrific day and knows it could be him one day. "I think I'm lucky to be here right now. I didn't think I'd make it this long. I'm still kicking and honoring their memory," McElwain said.

Teenager Charged in Brooklyn Shooting that Left Woman Wounded



NYN DESK

A young man faces attempted murder charges for a Brooklyn shooting on Friday afternoon that left a woman wounded.

just before 4:10 p.m. on Sept. 12. Officers from the 67th Precinct, in responding to reports of the shooting, found the victim, a 52-year-old woman, shot in her right ankle. EMS rushed the woman to Kings County Hospital, where she was listed in stable condition. Police apprehended Millar at the scene, and a firearm was found in his possession, law enforcement sources said Saturday morning. The motive for the shooting remains unknown at this time. Following questioning, Millar was booked on charges including attempted murder, assault, criminal possession of a weapon, menacing and reckless endangerment.

Police sources said Saturday that Justin Millar, 19, of East 54th Street in Brooklyn, allegedly fired the shots on Utica Avenue near Church Avenue in East Flatbush

Citymeals on Wheels Helping Seniors in Need with Emergency Food Boxes

Staff Reporter

September is National Preparedness Month, and it falls right in the heart of hurricane season. For homebound, food-insecure seniors, flooding can mean more than inconvenience. It can mean complete isolation. Citymeals on Wheels is stepping up, trying to distribute life-saving meals across New York City in case of emergencies. The organization delivers around 2 million meals annually to more than 20,000 older New Yorkers across all five boroughs. More than half are over age 80. "The people really need the food" Inside a Bronx warehouse, the team at Citymeals on Wheels is racing against the calendar, packing emergency food kits, and hoping to get them out before



the next major storm hits. "The people really need the food," project manager Steven Gomez said. Gomez has helped oversee meal deliveries for two years. He says the emergency kits matter most, and it shows on the faces of the recipients. "It's very important to pre-supply our recipients because they don't have access to additional food," Citymeals on Wheels chief operating officer Rachel Sherrow said.

Citymeals on Wheels is delivering nearly 20,000 food kits by mid-October, all containing shelf-stable meals that are ready to eat and drink. With New York experiencing more extreme weather in recent years, officials are emphasizing the growing importance of these meals. The boxes carry more than just food - they carry a message. "Somebody is looking out for them.

Man Struck and killed in deadly hit and run in the Bronx



NYN DESK

A man was struck and killed in a deadly hit-and-run in the Bronx early Sunday morning, according to the NYPD. The deadly collision happened just after 2 a.m. near the Major Deegan Expressway and Moshulu Parkway. Upon arrival, officers found the 30-year-old man unconscious in the roadway with trauma to his head and body. First

responders transported the victim to Saint Barnabas Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. There are currently no arrests and no description of the vehicle that police are looking for. Officials say it is not clear yet what the victim was doing in the roadway at the time of the incident. Authorities are now trying to determine what led up to the fatal crash.

Man Punched by Unknown Attacker in Grand Concourse Died

Staff Reporter

A 26-year-old man who was punched in the face by an unknown attacker last month succumbed to his injuries eight days later, according to police. Authorities say Jahlil Johnson was found in front of 2169

Grand Concourse on Aug. 25. He was hospitalized and then pronounced dead on Sept 1. Police tell News 12 that they were not informed about the incident until a medical examiner deemed his cause of death a homicide. Johnson's attacker remains at large.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:20	12:51	04:22	07:04	08:21
05:22	12:51	04:21	07:03	08:19
05:23	12:50	04:20	07:01	08:17
05:24	12:50	04:18	06:59	08:15
05:25	12:50	04:17	06:58	08:13
05:26	12:49	04:16	06:56	08:12
05:27	12:49	04:15	06:54	08:10

OPINION

The Muslim Community's Milestone in New York Politics

– Imam Shamsi Ali

The Muslim community in New York, America, and even the world, can be proud. Zohran Mamdani's presence in the New York City mayoral race is a phenomenal historical milestone. Not only is he the first Muslim and immigrant to become a Democratic nominee for mayor, but winning the party's nomination is also remarkable. Many couldn't imagine how a young, new politician, and a Muslim, could defeat Andrew Cuomo, a popular former governor, by a significant margin. Almost every aspect of Zohran's campaign has become a historical record in New York City. In addition to his nomination, Zohran has built a powerful movement that has shaken New York's and even America's politics in a relatively short time. Within months, he attracted 50,000 volunteers who reached out to over 2 million New York City residents. This movement has become a historical record, with Zohran's victory

drawing the largest number of voters in New York City's primary election history. Another historic aspect is that Zohran is possibly the first New York City politician to openly oppose Israel's actions in Palestine and advocate for Palestinian independence. He's also the first to oppose referring to Israel as a Jewish state, thanks to his commitment to universal equality and justice. This stance is often considered taboo for other politicians due to the powerful Jewish lobby in America, particularly AIPAC. Challenges Ahead Despite his significant win in the primary election, Zohran continues to face challenges. Some Democratic Party leaders haven't given him their full support, citing concerns about his



— Imam Shamsi Ali :
Director of Jamaica
Muslim Center

experience and ambitious programs. However, Zohran's leadership and campaign management abilities have proven effective. His style, communication skills, and commitment to his values have garnered significant support from all New Yorkers, particularly young people and immigrants. In my view, some Democratic leaders' reluctance to support Mamdani stems from two main factors: his Muslim faith and his advocacy for Palestinian rights. Fortunately, New York City's open-minded and mature society prioritizes a candidate's agenda over their personal identity. Most New Yorkers see Mamdani not as who he is, but as what he can do to improve their daily lives.

A Call to Action In conclusion, I want to remind all Mamdani's supporters, especially my Muslim brothers and sisters, that our journey to victory is becoming increasingly clear. However, we're also aware that as victory draws near, the challenges ahead of us are mounting. Therefore, I urge us all to remain steadfast and strengthen our resolve to fight until our dream of a better New York City becomes a reality. Let's ensure Zohran Mamdani's victory doesn't stop on November 4th. It's our collective responsibility to support him far beyond that day. We don't just want him to win the mayoral election. We want to see him succeed in fulfilling his political promises to all New York City residents, making the city more affordable for all. With that, New York City will remember that it once had a Muslim mayor who was great, capable, and successful in leading the city towards a better future for all New Yorkers.

“

"Not only is he the first Muslim and immigrant to become a Democratic nominee for mayor, but winning the party's nomination is also remarkable."



Photo: Zohran Mamdani

Image Source: Britannica

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"Let's ensure Zohran Mamdani's victory doesn't stop on November 4th. It's our collective responsibility to support him far beyond that day."

Building Sustainable Futures Through Innovation and Infrastructure

– Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



Sustainable Development Goal 9 emphasizes the importance of building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. This goal is central to achieving long-term prosperity and

equity, as infrastructure and innovation are the foundations upon which societies and economies thrive. Without strong infrastructure and technological advancement, progress toward other goals such as poverty eradication, education, and health becomes difficult to sustain. In today's interconnected world, resilient infrastructure means more than just roads and bridges. It involves digital connectivity, access to clean energy, sustainable transport, and modern communication networks that bring opportunities to even the most marginalized communities. Industrialization, when



— Imam Muhammad
Shahidullah
Vice President, United
Nations Association
of the USA (UNA-
USA), Queens Chapter

pursued inclusively and sustainably, creates jobs, stimulates growth, and fosters equality. However, it must be aligned with environmental stewardship to ensure that progress does not come at the expense of future generations. Innovation is equally vital. From advancements in clean technologies to breakthroughs in healthcare and education, innovation drives progress and opens doors to solutions that address pressing global challenges. Nations must invest in research, empower young people, and create policies that support entrepreneurs, scientists, and innovators. Innovation should not

remain a privilege of wealthy nations but must be shared globally, ensuring that developing countries also benefit from transformative technologies. As Americans, we must commit to strengthening our infrastructure and championing inclusive growth. As Muslims, we are reminded that progress must always be balanced with justice, compassion, and care for the environment. The Quran teaches us not to cause corruption on the earth, and that principle must guide how we build and innovate. The global community must unite to prioritize investments in infrastructure and research that uplift humanity as a whole. By working together, supporting fair industrial policies, and advancing innovation, we can build a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient world.

FAITH AND UNITY

1500 Years of Legacy Honored

New York Muslims celebrate Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at City Hall



James Anderson

For the first time in history, New York City Hall opened its doors to a grand celebration of the 1500-year anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), marking a milestone moment for Muslims in the city and around the world. The event, organized

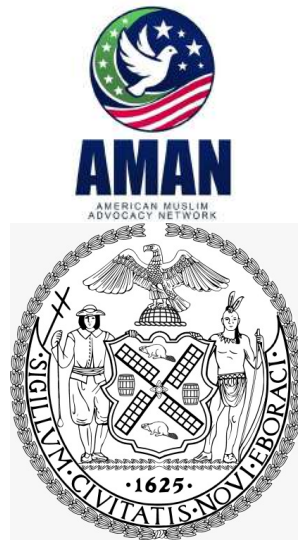
in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, drew more than 35 imams, scholars, and community leaders, as well as members of the wider public, who gathered in unity to honor the Prophet's message of peace, justice, and compassion. The evening began with recitations from the Holy Qur'an and devotional

poetry praising the Prophet (PBUH), setting a deeply spiritual tone. The hall echoed with chants of salawat as participants carried roses and placards inscribed with words of mercy and love. Scholars and imams delivered speeches reflecting on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH),

offering guidance that remains timeless and universally relevant. Mayor Eric Adams attended as chief guest, extending congratulations to Muslims worldwide and affirming his support for the city's diverse communities. His presence was seen by participants as a historic recognition of the contributions of Muslims

to New York's social, cultural, and civic life. Imam Sajjad Raza Madani, Chairman of the American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN), extended gratitude to the mayor and city leaders. "New York is truly the greatest city in the world because people from every corner of the globe live here in peace, love, and harmony. Muslims enjoy their full rights in this city, and that is the true beauty and strength of America," he said. Imam Madani dedicated the blessings of the gathering to his late parents and praised the collective effort of imams, scholars, and volunteers. Special acknowledgment was given to Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, Malik Nasir Awan, Allama Sahibzada Anwar-ul-Haq Alvi, Syed Hamza, Hasan Nasir Awan, and Sister Atiya

Shehnaz, whose efforts were instrumental in organizing the historic event. Ms. Shehnaz was recognized in particular for paving the way for the celebration to take place at City Hall. The program concluded with a moving rendition of Ya Nabi Salam Alaika, filling the hall with emotion and devotion. For many in attendance, the event was not only a celebration of faith but also a reminder of unity, service, and the shared values that bind New Yorkers together. As participants left City Hall, the sense of pride and gratitude was palpable. The 1500-year Mawlid-un-Nabi celebration was hailed as a landmark event that strengthened interfaith harmony while uplifting the Muslim community's contributions to America's largest city.



EDUCATION

A Fresh Start to Learning New School Year Begins at Elhaam Academy

Emily Parker

The first day of school always carries a special energy, and this year was no exception at Elhaam Academy, where students from Kindergarten through Grade 7 eagerly stepped into their classrooms to begin a new academic journey. With bright smiles, fresh supplies, and a sense of anticipation, the return to learning was met with enthusiasm from both students and staff. Teachers and administrators warmly welcomed families, setting the tone for what promises to be a productive and inspiring year. For many children, the excitement was palpable as they reunited with friends and met new classmates, while parents expressed optimism about the opportunities ahead. At the heart of Elhaam Academy's approach is a commitment to



blending academic rigor with holistic development. The school follows a STEAM-based curriculum that integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, designed to encourage problem-solving, creativity, and

innovation. Alongside these academic lessons, students also receive religious education, allowing them to grow not only in knowledge but also in values and character. The academy takes pride in its team of certified teachers, who are dedicated

to guiding students through every step of their learning journey. Their role extends beyond instruction—they mentor, inspire, and cultivate an environment where curiosity thrives. Classrooms buzzed with activity on the opening day, as teachers introduced students to

their schedules, shared expectations, and even began light activities to ease them into the school year. Students participated eagerly, reflecting the academy's focus on interactive and engaging learning experiences. Parents voiced their appreciation for the school's balanced approach, which ensures that children are not only academically prepared but also equipped with moral and spiritual foundations. By combining faith-based guidance with modern educational methods, Elhaam Academy

institution within the community. The opening of the school year represents more than just the start of classes—it reflects the academy's mission to build confident, knowledgeable, and compassionate young individuals ready to take on the challenges of the future. The energy on the first day underscored that sense of purpose, as teachers, students, and families all shared in the excitement. As one of the teachers remarked, the first day is always about possibilities. For Elhaam Academy, those possibilities lie in shaping young minds with the right balance of knowledge, creativity, and values, ensuring that every child has the tools to thrive. With such a strong and positive start, the new school year at Elhaam Academy is already filled with promise.



continues to strengthen its role as a trusted



REFLECTION

24 Years Later: Lessons of Unity

Elhaam Academy Hosts 9/11 Reflection with Law Enforcement



afternoon, speakers underscored the values of unity, peace, and understanding. They highlighted how Muslim Americans, like other communities, endured both grief and challenges in the aftermath of the attacks, yet remained committed to resilience and service. For many students, hearing these perspectives directly from law enforcement officers offered a meaningful connection to history while encouraging them to see their role in shaping the future.

joined together in prayer for the victims of 9/11, remembering lives lost while reaffirming a collective commitment to stand against hate in all its forms. Teachers noted that the session provided students with both a history lesson and a chance to reflect on the values of compassion and community responsibility. By creating space for Muslim American voices and fostering open dialogue, the program at Elhaam Academy reinforced that remembrance is not only about looking back, but also about working toward a more just and united society. The event concluded with a message of hope: that even in the face of tragedy, communities can come together, learn, and build bridges of mutual respect. As one participant noted, "The rain of that day 24 years ago left scars, but today we plant seeds of peace that will grow for generations."

SAVE
THE PEOPLE



The event was not limited to speeches. Students and faculty

William Henry

At Elhaam Academy, students, teachers, and community members gathered for a moving program titled "24 Years Since 9/11 – The Muslim American Perspective." The event provided a platform for reflection, remembrance, and dialogue as the community marked nearly a quarter-century

since the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001. Law enforcement leaders joined students in an open discussion about the impact of 9/11 on New York City and on Muslim American communities in particular. Captain Cedillo, Executive Officer of the 107th Precinct, spoke about the role of police in fostering trust and

ensuring the safety of all residents. Captain Ehtasham Khan, a Muslim officer, shared personal reflections on resilience and representation, offering encouragement to students about the importance of contributing positively to society. The program also featured Officer Jewel Mahburur

from the Community Outreach Division, who emphasized the importance of building bridges between police and youth. Officer Delcastillo, also with the Community Outreach team, echoed these sentiments, noting that respect and dialogue are crucial in strengthening neighborhood relationships. Throughout the




SAVE
THE PEOPLE

24 YEARS
SINCE 9/11

**THE MUSLIM
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REFLECTION

24 Years Later: Lessons of Unity



PEACE

Faith Leaders Take a Stand

NYC Gathering Addresses Hate Crimes Through Dialogue and Unity

Jessica Morgan

In an atmosphere of warmth, solidarity, and shared purpose, the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) convened its second Interfaith Council for Symbols and Words of Peace and Hate at the Village Temple Synagogue, located at 33 East 12th Street, New York. The evening brought together faith and community leaders committed to tackling hate crimes while building bridges of understanding across the city's diverse communities. The gathering drew representatives from Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, and other faith traditions, all seated together in an inclusive space designed for dialogue and reflection. The synagogue setting added a sacred resonance to the discussions, reminding participants of the importance of unity in confronting prejudice.



The meeting began with a shared meal, symbolizing the breaking of barriers and affirming a collective commitment to peace. Leaders spoke candidly about the challenges facing New Yorkers today — from antisemitism and Islamophobia to hate crimes targeting Indian and South

Asian communities. Participants emphasized that these issues extend

beyond statistics; they affect neighbors, families, and daily life. "This initiative is not just a series of meetings," one attendee reflected. "It's about truly understanding one another's faiths, challenging ignorance, and working together to end hate in all its forms."

Vijah (VJ) Ramjattan, Executive Director of the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, was especially recognized for his leadership and heartfelt contributions to the day's program. His stewardship of the initiative has guided the Interfaith Council toward actionable strategies

centered on education, community outreach, and cooperative engagement. The discussions highlighted how words and symbols can both heal and harm, and the council reaffirmed its mission to use them responsibly in advancing respect and empathy across communities. Leaders also expressed gratitude for the growing interfaith solidarity that has made the council a space of trust and hope. As the evening concluded, participants reiterated their shared commitment to stand together against all forms of hate. The event not only strengthened interfaith bonds but also offered a vision of a New York where dialogue, respect, and compassion triumph over division. For many, the Interfaith Council gathering was more than a meeting — it was a living example of what New York can be when its communities unite with purpose and love.



FAITH

Lessons from the Prophet's Life

Community Gathers for Seerah Night in Jamaica, NY



Ashley Reed

The halls of Elhaam Academy were filled with inspiration, faith, and community spirit on Friday evening as families gathered for Seerah Night, an event dedicated to reflecting on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Hosted by Elhaam Academy in association with ITVUSA, the program began at 6 PM, drawing children, parents, and community members for an evening of Qur'an recitation, storytelling, and interactive learning. The highlight of the night was the presence of Sheikh Waleed Elbatrawish,

a world-renowned reciter, whose powerful recitation left the audience deeply moved. His words of wisdom reminded the community members for an evening of the timeless lessons found in the Prophet's life. Alongside him, Qari Zahirul Islam delivered recitations that echoed with devotion and

reverence, creating a spiritual atmosphere that resonated with attendees of all ages. Children, in particular, were captivated by the recitations and the engaging reminders shared throughout the evening. To further involve the



youth, the event featured quiz and recitation contests, offering

prizes to participants. These activities not only encouraged students to strengthen their knowledge of the Seerah but also allowed them to actively participate in celebrating their faith. For many parents, seeing their children engaged and inspired in a setting that combined learning with community bonding was a rewarding experience. In addition to the educational and spiritual aspects, the evening fostered fellowship through free refreshments, where attendees enjoyed food and conversation. The casual interactions added to the sense of togetherness, strengthening bonds between families and community members. Reflecting on the significance of the night, one community member

expressed that events like Seerah Night are vital in nurturing a love for faith in younger generations and reinforcing unity among families. The event provided an opportunity to honor the Prophet's example while also creating joyful and lasting memories. By the end of the evening, attendees left Elhaam Academy with renewed inspiration and a deeper sense of connection to the values of compassion, service, and knowledge that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) embodied. Seerah Night was not just a program of recitation and reflection, but a reminder of how collective learning and remembrance can bring a community closer together.



YOUTH

Moving Forward Against Hate in Queens

Students engage with leaders on building safer, more inclusive communities



Noah Presley

In a city where diversity is both its strength and its greatest challenge, young New Yorkers gathered at Darul Uloom NY to take on an urgent issue: how to confront hate before it spreads. The program, "NYC Youth Moving Forward Against Hate," brought students face-to-face

with city leaders and advocates in an effort to educate and empower the next generation. The event was hosted by the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) in partnership with Save the People USA, Darul Uloom NY Institute of Islamic Studies, and NYC Youth. Together, the organizers created

an interactive platform where students could learn, question, and reflect on the role they play in shaping

safer, more inclusive communities. Leading the session was Vajah (VJ) Ramjattan, Executive Director of OPHC, who challenged students to think critically about what hate crimes are, why they occur, and how to respond. Using real-world examples and engaging visuals, he showed how bias and prejudice can escalate into harmful acts — and how education, respect, and vigilance are the best defenses. Ramjattan also asked students to consider the size and diversity of New York's population, emphasizing that people of all religions and backgrounds call the city

home, making unity both essential and possible. The discussion touched on antisemitism, Islamophobia, and discrimination against South Asian and immigrant communities, connecting the statistics to lived realities. Students were reminded that hate crimes are not abstract numbers but experiences that impact neighbors, classmates, and friends. Fatima Niass, Office Manager of Save the People USA, was present to represent the organization's dedication to empowering youth voices. The presence of Save the People USA, alongside OPHC and NYC Youth, reinforced the message that grassroots organizations and city agencies must work hand in hand to tackle hate at its roots. Students also learned about community project grants that support youth-led initiatives

to prevent hate and promote respect. These grants, worth up to \$10,000, encourage creative projects such as educational campaigns, workshops, and events that strengthen community bonds. As the program concluded, participants shared a lunch arranged for students and guests, extending the dialogue into a shared meal that embodied the spirit of fellowship and understanding. The event left students not only informed but inspired — a clear reminder that when young voices are amplified, they can drive powerful change. "NYC Youth Moving Forward Against Hate" demonstrated that even in a city as vast as New York, the fight against hate begins with individuals willing to listen, learn, and lead.



YOUTH

Moving Forward Against Hate in Queens



LEADERSHIP

Community Support at Elhaam Academy

Assemblyman David Weprin engages students and staff



Alex Mason

Students and staff at Elhaam Academy were honored this week by a visit from Assemblyman David Weprin and his chief of staff Imran Rahman, who spent time engaging with the school community

and reaffirming his commitment to supporting Muslim students and families in New York. The visit began with a warm welcome from Head of School Saffiyah Hoosein, who introduced the assemblyman to the academy's mission

of combining academic excellence with strong community and faith-based values. Their discussion touched on the opportunities and challenges faced by schools like Elhaam, with a focus on fostering growth and support for students.

During his visit, Mr. Weprin addressed the students, sharing his experiences and



speaking about issues that directly impact

Muslim families in New York. He highlighted his past and continued support for halal food in public schools and the recognition of Muslim holidays, underscoring the importance of representation and inclusivity in education. Mr. Weprin also mentioned that he would continue to stand by Elhaam Academy and offer support within his capacity as a community leader. His presence and words encouraged both students and staff, who appreciated the recognition of their work and mission. For the students, the opportunity to meet and interact with an elected official was both inspiring and educational. It offered them a window

into how community leadership and advocacy can directly impact their lives. Staff and parents welcomed the assemblyman's visit, noting that such gestures help build stronger ties between schools and local government. The visit concluded with appreciation for the time and commitment shown by Assemblyman Weprin and Imran Rahman, leaving a lasting impression on the school community. For Elhaam Academy, the day highlighted the importance of partnership between educators and public officials in working toward the shared goal of supporting children and families.



LATINOS

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ENVIRONMENT

Partnerships for Safer Communities

Faith and city leaders collaborate on climate preparedness

Samuel Kane

Faith leaders, city officials, and community organizations came together on Wednesday for the Climate Preparedness and Community Resources for Houses of Worship forum, a landmark gathering aimed at equipping houses of worship with the tools and partnerships needed to respond to natural disasters and emergencies. Originally scheduled at the Far Rockaway Amphitheater, the event was quickly relocated indoors to St. Camillus Church Auditorium due to weather conditions — a fitting reminder of the importance of climate resilience. Despite the shift, the turnout was strong, with attendees representing diverse faith traditions and community institutions from across the



Rockaway Peninsula. The forum was hosted by the NYC Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, led by Pastor Gilford T. Monroe, in collaboration with NYC Emergency Management, NYC Accelerator, the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, the Department

of Environmental Protection, and New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS). Among those present was NYC Mayor Eric Adams, who joined faith leaders and officials in emphasizing the urgent need for preparedness in the face of growing climate challenges. His presence underscored the city's commitment to supporting communities

and safeguarding places of worship across New York.



In his role as moderator, Pastor

Monroe highlighted the unique role of faith communities in times of crisis, underscoring how houses of worship often serve as critical hubs of support during emergencies. Attendees also heard from the NYC Emergency Management Commissioner, who discussed the city's ongoing initiatives to improve disaster readiness across neighborhoods vulnerable to flooding, storms, and other emergencies. A major portion of the program featured a presentation from NYDIS's Director of Faith Sector Resilience, who outlined programs designed to safeguard religious institutions and the communities they serve. Resources included HOWalert, a rapid notification system for houses of worship, and Climate Resilience

Audits and Grants, aimed at preparing congregations for both immediate threats and long-term environmental challenges. The collaborative atmosphere of the forum underscored the shared responsibility of civic and faith leaders in preparing communities for emergencies. By uniting government agencies, nonprofits, and houses of worship, the event provided both practical resources and renewed momentum to strengthen resilience citywide. As attendees departed, the consensus was clear: preparation matters. For houses of worship in Far Rockaway and beyond, the forum offered not just strategies but also a reminder of the power of unity in facing the uncertainties of the future.



FOOD

Grand Opening of 375 Chicken

Community gathers in Jackson Heights to welcome new eatery



Daniel Matthew

Queens residents were treated to both food and festivity this week as 375 Chicken celebrated the grand opening of its newest location at 34-60 Junction Blvd, situated on the border of Corona and Jackson Heights. Known for its creative

takes on fried chicken, the restaurant welcomed community leaders, supporters, and local residents for a lively launch. Guests had the chance to sample menu favorites such as Sweet-Chili Chick n' Pop, Honey Garlic Chick n' Pop, Sweet-Chili Chick n' Waffle,

Mac n' Pop, Loaded Ludlow Fries, Classic Slider, Chick n' Wrap, and Chick n' Snack, each offering a flavorful twist on comfort food staples. The dishes, which blend bold flavors with street-food style presentation, quickly became the highlight of the celebration.

The opening was not just about food—it was also about community. NYC Council Member Shekar Krishnan, who represents District 25, Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and Woodside, attended the event, praising the new restaurant as a

positive addition to the neighborhood's diverse dining scene. His presence underscored the importance of supporting local small businesses, which continue to serve as anchors for economic vitality and community connection. Also in attendance was Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, alongside

participation reflected broad support from both civic and faith leaders, reinforcing the sense of unity and pride surrounding the new establishment. The launch drew a diverse crowd, with attendees noting how the restaurant adds to the cultural and culinary richness that Jackson Heights and Corona are known for. Beyond serving food, 375 Chicken aims to serve as a gathering place for friends, families, and neighbors looking for a casual spot with memorable flavors. As the afternoon drew to a close, guests left not only with full plates but also with a sense that the new restaurant would become a fixture in the local community. With its inventive menu and welcoming atmosphere, the 375 Chicken Junction Blvd location opened its doors with strong momentum and high hopes for the future.




community figures Syed Adnan Bukhari, Saeed Hassan, Irfan Burney, and Akbar Kazmi. Their



FOOD

Grand Opening of 375 Chicken





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INSPIRATION

NYC Small Businesses Hit Record High

Mayor Adams' investments fuel historic growth and resilience

Issac Andrew

Small businesses, long hailed as the lifeblood of New York City's neighborhoods, have reached an unprecedented milestone under the leadership of Mayor Eric Adams. Today, the city is home to more than 183,000 small businesses, a record high and an increase of over 62,000 new ventures since 2022. From corner bodegas to family-owned restaurants and salons, small businesses form the backbone of everyday life. Their resurgence in recent years reflects not only resilience after the pandemic but also targeted support and historic investments by the city. "Jobs are up, crime is down ... small businesses," Mayor Adams has emphasized in multiple forums, underscoring the dual priorities of safety and economic opportunity as foundations of recovery. Since 2022, the city has committed more than \$265 million in grants and loans, helping entrepreneurs



recover, expand, and launch new ventures. One of the centerpiece efforts, the NYC Future Fund, began with \$10 million to specifically uplift BIPOC and women entrepreneurs. Additional tools such as co-investment funds, sector-specific accelerators, and free legal and accounting clinics have also reduced barriers, particularly benefiting immigrant entrepreneurs navigating language challenges and permit requirements in the Bronx, Queens, and Upper Manhattan. The impact of these initiatives is visible on the ground: bustling storefronts returning

to long-vacant spaces, more restaurants opening their doors, and stronger commercial corridors across all five boroughs. Small businesses now employ over 3.1 million New Yorkers, nearly half of the city's private workforce. One standout example of this growth is seen through reforms at the Department of Transportation (DOT), under Commissioner Ydani Rodríguez, which raised the share of contracts awarded to Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) from just 11% in 2021 to 34% in 2024. That increase reflects broader procurement

reforms that unlocked opportunities for entrepreneurs historically excluded from the city's contracting process. Across all agencies, total M/WBE contracting reached \$6.4 billion in FY2024 — the highest figure in city history. Mayor Adams has not relied on policy alone. He has personally visited dozens of small businesses, listening directly to owners' challenges and incorporating their feedback into city policy. These conversations have shaped programs to ensure they meet real-world needs, such as affordable credit and advisory services

delivered in multiple languages. Community voices attest to the difference. "Before, you were on your own. Now, they come into the community with workshops in Spanish and step-by-step support for permits," one shopkeeper in Washington Heights explained at a recent forum. Stories like this highlight how expanding access to credit, mentorship, and city contracts translates into tangible support for local entrepreneurs. While some critics have pushed for policies unrelated to the immediate needs of working-class

neighborhoods, Mayor Adams has kept his focus on bolstering the businesses that drive local jobs and stability. The administration has positioned small businesses not only as economic drivers but as vital anchors of community identity and resilience. Looking forward, city officials recognize that the challenge is not just maintaining growth but ensuring it is inclusive and sustainable. Expanding revolving funds to provide continuous capital, shortening permitting times, and scaling mentorship programs to help more small businesses access public procurement are among the next steps. The vision, Mayor Adams has said, is not only about recovery but transformation. With stronger, more inclusive, and more sustainable businesses across the city, the administration aims to ensure that small businesses — the heartbeat of New York's neighborhoods — continue to thrive for generations to come.

Remembering Wali-e-Kamil Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Enayetur Rahman Baig (RA)



Professor Dr. Muhammad Abdur Rashid

The southern region of Bangladesh is home to countless madrasas, mosques, and khanqahs dedicated to the noble mission of spreading Qur'an and Hadith. Among those who left an indelible mark in this sacred work was none other than Alhaj Hazrat Maulana Shah Muhammad Enayetur Rahman Baig Al Qaderi (RA). Born in 1939 in the blessed month of Shaban, corresponding

to 1st Baishakh 1346 Bangla year, his life became a shining example of devotion, service, and scholarship. He hailed from the noble family of Hazrat Maulana Iskander Baig Al Qaderi (RA), a man of great spiritual strength and deep wisdom. Growing up in a religious household, young Enayetur Rahman's heart was inclined toward spirituality and knowledge from an early age. His first steps in education began at the historic Al-Madina Islamia Mahmudia Madrasa of Barishal's Amaniganj, where his thirst for learning flourished. Though he acquired advanced knowledge in Qur'an, Hadith, and various branches of Islamic sciences, his yearning for deeper spiritual realization remained unfulfilled. This yearning carried him to Chittagong's renowned Darul Uloom Mainul Islam, Hathazari

— known as the "Deoband of Bengal." Here, he studied under great scholars, ultimately completing Dawra-e-Hadith in 1960, impressing teachers and peers alike with his brilliance. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed as Ustad at Char Kauwa Qawmia Madrasa in Barishal, serving with dedication while nurturing students with both knowledge and character. But Hazrat Enayetur Rahman (RA) was destined for greater heights. Taking spiritual guidance from his father, Hazrat Iskander Baig Al Qaderi (RA), he immersed himself in tasawwuf (spiritual training), quickly achieving spiritual perfection. His marriage in 1963 to the daughter of the great Qutb of his time, Hazrat Maulana Shah Abu Zafar Muhammad Saleh (RA), opened new horizons for him, as he inherited both scholarly and spiritual

legacies. His reputation as a man of knowledge, humility, and piety spread rapidly across the country. Appointed to various teaching and leadership positions, including at Barishal Mahmudia Madrasa, he also served as imam and khatib of Barishal Jame Abdullah Masjid from 1970 until his passing. Beyond teaching, he authored valuable works such as Qurbani Kya Aur Kyun, Eid Mubarak, Ramzanul Mubarak, Shabe Qadr, Muharram, and Shabe Baraat, among others — writings that continue to inspire seekers of faith. Hazrat Enayetur Rahman (RA) was not only an educator but a traveler in the path of Allah. He performed Hajj four times (1971, 1975, 1978, and 1987) and visited sacred lands including Makkah, Madinah, Iraq, and Pakistan, seeking spiritual enrichment. His extended stay at the blessed shrine of

Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jilani (RA) in Baghdad in 1975, where he received khilafat from Hazrat Yusuf Gilani (RA), marked a defining chapter of his spiritual journey. On 13 December 1988, Hazrat Enayetur Rahman (RA) returned to his Lord at the age of 49. His funeral in Dhaka and later in Barishal drew unprecedented crowds — thousands of scholars, pirs, political leaders, and common people from across the country. Roads overflowed as Muslims and non-Muslims alike stood to pay their final respects, placing flowers and offering prayers. Such scenes testified to the love and reverence he had earned across all sections of society. Today, his legacy lives on through the many mosques, madrasas, and khanqahs he established, and through the disciples, scholars, and devotees he nurtured. His manners,

humility, and speech bore a magnetic quality — leaving a lasting impression on anyone who met him, regardless of faith or background. It is no surprise that a major road in Barishal city was named "Maulana Enayetur Rahman Road" in his honor. As we mark the 37th anniversary of his passing, his family, followers, and admirers continue to honor his memory through prayers and gatherings. At Barishal Jame Abdullah Masjid, his descendants led special Milad Mahfil and dua in his name, joined by community leaders and citizens alike. Hazrat Maulana Enayetur Rahman Baig (RA) was, and remains, a beacon of light — a scholar, a saint, and a servant of faith whose life embodied the timeless values of Islam: humility, service, and devotion to God and humanity.

CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating the Birth of the Prophet in Hicksville

Jamil Chaudhury family hosts private Milad gathering



Carlos Stewart

Families from across Long Island came together on Saturday

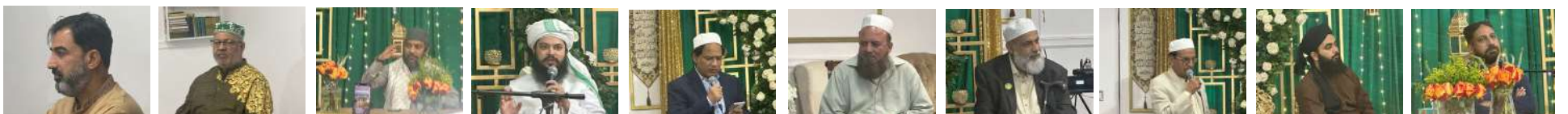
evening for a heartfelt celebration of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, honoring the blessed birth of Prophet Muhammad

(PBUH). The private gathering, hosted by Jamil Chaudhury and family, was held at Masjid Faizan-e-

Aisha, 10 Heitz Place, Hicksville, and drew community members of all ages for an evening of remembrance, prayer, and unity. The program opened at 6:30 PM with recitation from the Holy Qur'an, setting a reverent tone for the evening. This was followed by soulful renditions of naats—poetry in praise of the Prophet (PBUH)—that echoed through the mosque, inspiring reflection and devotion among those gathered. Attendees joined in collective prayers, honoring the legacy of mercy, justice, and compassion that defines the Prophet's life. The evening was also marked by personal moments of gratitude and community bonding.

Families sat together sharing reflections on the values of kindness, service, and humility that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) embodied. The Chaudhury family, who organized the gathering, emphasized the importance of passing these teachings on to the younger generation, reminding all of the Prophet's timeless message of peace and unity. Though the event was a private gathering, its atmosphere carried a spirit of inclusivity and shared faith. Those present expressed how meaningful it was to come together not only in celebration but also in remembrance of the Prophet's example, which remains a guiding light in the lives of Muslims around the

world. As the program concluded with a final dua (supplication), the sense of fellowship in the room was unmistakable. Many attendees described the evening as uplifting and spiritually rejuvenating, providing a moment to step away from daily challenges and focus on collective worship and reflection. The celebration of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi at Masjid Faizan-e-Aisha in Hicksville was more than just a commemoration—it was a renewal of faith and community bonds. Those in attendance left with hearts filled with gratitude and a renewed commitment to embodying the Prophet's message of compassion and service in their daily lives.



Halal Guide Food Festival Draws Thousands to Nassau Coliseum

A celebration of halal cuisine, culture, and community in New York

Jeremy Phillip

At the Nassau Coliseum in 2025, the Halal Guide Food Festival brought together thousands of people for a vibrant day of halal cuisine, cultural performances, and community spirit. With free admission and an inclusive, family-friendly atmosphere, the festival stood out as one of the year's most dynamic Muslim lifestyle gatherings in New York. The event featured an impressive lineup of food vendors offering everything from traditional South Asian dishes and Middle Eastern delicacies to fusion bites like fried

Oreos, bubble tea, and halal pizza. Vendors such as Shah's Halal Food, Karachi Kabab Boiz, Bun Kabab Wala, and Coffee Malem attracted long lines of attendees eager to sample their offerings. Alongside the food stalls, rows of bazaar vendors displayed modest clothing, abayas, jewelry, cosmetics, and halal lifestyle products, making the festival a one-stop experience for food lovers and shoppers alike. The schedule was packed with entertainment and cultural engagement. Popular YouTuber and entertainer Adam



Saleh drew excitement during his meet-and-greet session, while nasheed artists Ammar Charaf and Umer Zaman energized the audience with soulful performances. The festival also included a qawwali performance by Asif Ali Khan Santoo, which closed the evening on a high note.

In between, groups such as the Al Baydar Group and local reciters added to the spiritual and cultural resonance of the event. In keeping with the community's needs, the festival organizers ensured prayer spaces were available, with Dhuhr, Asr, and Maghrib prayers observed

collectively. A moving adhan recitation by Maulana Abdullah Popal and prayer led by Qari Nazrul Islam highlighted the event's balance of faith and festivity. Sponsors and partners played a central role in making the event possible. Businesses such as Bello Farms,

Rashad & Associates, and Halal Investments supported the festival, while Droplets of Mercy served as the official charity partner, highlighting the event's focus on both community and compassion. Attendees described the festival as more than just a food fair—it was a showcase of Muslim identity, unity, and halal living in America. With its blend of delicious eats, lively performances, cultural pride, and faith-centered inclusivity, the Halal Guide Food Festival reaffirmed itself as a cornerstone celebration for the halal community and beyond.



Mashriqi Law, Guidance Residential, Amina





Elhaam Academy Launches Free Meal Program

State-sponsored initiative brings joy to students



Amkel Nourush

Laughter and chatter filled the cafeteria as

students at Elhaam Academy sat down to enjoy their first servings from the new

state-sponsored free breakfast and lunch program. The initiative, which launched this

week, is already a hit among children, who eagerly gathered to share warm, nourishing meals with classmates. The program ensures that every student receives the fuel needed for a full day of learning, helping them stay energized and focused.



Teachers and staff noted the positive atmosphere, as mealtimes became moments of joy, community, and

renewed motivation. Alongside nutrition, Elhaam Academy stands out for its holistic approach to education. The school not only emphasizes strong academics but also integrates STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) into its curriculum. This commitment prepares students for the challenges of tomorrow while fostering creativity and innovation. By pairing academic excellence with student care and well-being, Elhaam Academy continues to demonstrate that when the body and mind are nourished, the possibilities for learning are endless.

'The Hitman' Passes

Ricky Hatton remembered at 46.

Adrian Smith

Ricky Hatton, the former world boxing champion known as "The Hitman," has died at age 46, according to UK media reports. Greater Manchester Police confirmed a man was found dead early Sunday in Hyde, Tameside, with no suspicious circumstances. Hatton held world titles in the light-welterweight and welterweight divisions, famously facing Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao before retiring in 2012 with a 45-3 record. He had recently spoken about returning to the ring in December. Tributes flooded in from across sports. Amir Khan called him a "mentor" and "warrior," while Tyson Fury wrote: "There will only ever be one Ricky Hatton." Hatton is survived by his three children and granddaughter.



Emmys Spotlight Prestige

Apple TV+, HBO lead nominations race

Nassr Al Shams

The 77th Primetime Emmy Awards lit up Los Angeles on Sunday night, with comedian Nate Bargatze hosting for the first time at the Peacock Theater. The night was marked by strong showings from streaming giants, particularly Apple TV+ and HBO. Apple's workplace drama "Severance" led with 27 nominations, while its breakout comedy "The Studio", co-created by Seth Rogen, secured 23. With multiple early wins, "The Studio" is expected to make history in comedy categories, while "Severance" could give Apple its first Best

Drama Series win. Noah Wyle returned to Emmy contention with HBO's "The Pitt", potentially earning long-overdue recognition. In acting, Jean Smart and Kathy Bates could break age records in their respective categories. Netflix's "Adolescence" and HBO's "The Penguin" are frontrunners in the limited series category, with young Owen Cooper possibly becoming one of the youngest Emmy winners ever. Meanwhile, Stephen Colbert's recently canceled Late Show could receive a parting honor, reflecting viewer sentiment and industry respect.



Photos: An Emmy statue appears on the stage for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards red carpet rollout on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, in Los Angeles. Image Source: Associated Press / JournalGazette.net

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