



Algonquin holds watch party for alum, Olympian Dropkin

LOCAL, 3A

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | TELEGRAM.COM

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Grand jury declines to indict 6 Dems

Lawmakers urged military to reject illegal orders

James Powel and Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

A grand jury rejected an attempt by the Justice Department to indict six Democratic lawmakers who appeared in a video telling service members they have the right not to obey orders they believe are illegal.

Prosecutors sought to charge the lawmakers with violating a federal law barring interference with the loyalty, morale or discipline of the U.S. armed forces, Reuters reported on Feb. 10, citing a source familiar with the matter. The indictment was pursued by the office of U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro.

Participants in the video, which was published in November and titled "Don't Give Up the Ship," included Sens. Elise Slotkin of Michigan and Mark Kelly of Arizona, as well as Reps. Jason Crow of Colorado, Maggie Goodlander of New Hampshire, and Chris Deluzio and Chrissy Houlahan, both of Pennsylvania. All six are veterans of the U.S. military.

In a Feb. 10 statement, Slotkin said

the Justice Department's attempt to indict her was in response to her "organizing a 90-second video that simply quoted the law."

The controversial video had echoed concerns by Democrats over the legality of President Donald Trump's deployment of the National Guard to U.S. cities and the military's fatal strikes on boats

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On day one of her trial on charges of assault and battery on a police officer and interference with police on Feb. 10, former District 5 City Councilor Etel Haxhiaj, center, watches video footage with her attorney, Elizabeth K. Halloran.

ALLAN JUNG/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Haxhiaj's trial begins with officer testimony

Ex-councilor faces assault charges

Toni Caushi
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – Witnesses and Worcester police officers present at the immigration action scene on Eureka Street last year took the stand in Worcester District Court for the start of the trial of former District 5 City Councilor Etel Haxhiaj.

The trial began Tuesday, Feb. 10, after a seven-member jury was selected.

Body camera footage including that of Worcester police officer Shauna McGuirk, whom Haxhiaj has been accused of shoving on Eureka Street, was part of the evidence brought in front of jurors by Assistant District Attorney Steven Gagne of the Northwest District Attorney's office.

Gagne has been brought in to the case as a special prosecutor with no ties to any of the parties involved. Haxhiaj is facing charges of assault and battery on a police officer and interference with police.

"[Haxhiaj] is not on trial today for speaking up, for yelling, for being upset

or for protesting," Gagne said to the jurors in his opening statement. "She's on trial today because she put her hands on a Worcester police officer."

Standing next to her defense lawyer, Elizabeth K. Halloran, Haxhiaj was visibly emotional at times, often wiping tears from her eyes as the scene from Eureka Street was often revisited with footage that was played on a screen for the jury.

While the visuals were not shown to a packed gallery that was mostly filled with Haxhiaj's supporters, the audio could be heard, with screaming from the scene on Eureka Street May 8 often filling the courtroom.

In her opening statement, Halloran cast doubt on the question of whether Haxhiaj's contact with McGuirk was intentional.

"We're here to decide whether in the middle of this completely chaotic, hysterical and aggressive scene she committed an intentional assault and battery on officer McGuirk; whether she intentionally put her hands on and touched officer McGuirk, and whether she consciously and deliberately intended for that action to occur," Halloran said to the jurors.

"I will suggest to you that the commonwealth will not be able to establish that ... beyond a reasonable doubt," she

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Elizabeth K. Halloran
Lawyer for Etel Haxhiaj casting doubt on battery of Worcester police officer Shauna McGuirk on May 8, 2025

continued.

May 8 around 11 a.m., the situation on Eureka Street escalated to high tension when a crowd gathered around federal agents who were attempting to detain Rosane Ferreira de Oliveira, a 40-year-old woman originally from Brazil.

With Haxhiaj among them, people in the crowd refused to let the woman go with the agents, prompting the agents and some in the crowd to call the city police.

Video from the scene spread across social media, including footage of Worcester police officers arresting Ferreira de Oliveira's teenage daughter and

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Trooper charged is former pro boxer

Rodriguez was trainer during recruit's death

Brad Petrishen
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

One of the four state troopers facing manslaughter charges in the 2024 boxing-related death of Enrique Delgado-Garcia appears to have been a high-profile Worcester boxer prior to joining the force, publicly available information shows.

Edwin Rodriguez joined the state police in 2021 after years as a serious pro boxing contender, according to a social media post at the time from Premier Boxing Champions, a promoter on whose televised cards Rodriguez fought. Records from the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards &

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City Council questions snow plan

Concerns raised after response to recent storm

Afton Pratt
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER – More than two weeks after a snowstorm buried the city in 22 inches of snow, plowing operations are still fresh on City Council's mind.

As Department of Public Works Commissioner John K. Westerling answered questions about snowplow operations at the meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, councilors continued to voice concerns over the city's response.

District 1 Councilor Tony J. Economou made a motion to receive information about the DPW's needs as well as a report on the snow-clearing process with the goal of fewer issues in the future.

"I think we have to work together, collectively, to get to the root of the

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Our 157th Year

Volume 37 | No. 230
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