



FOR RAY

AMIR "CASH" ANDERSON, WHO WAS AMONG KIDS WHO WORKED OUT AT RAY RINALDI'S BOXING GYM, WON FRIDAY TO GO 8-0 SINCE TURNING PRO. "THIS IS FOR YOU, RAY," HE SAID AFTER THE WIN. **B1**

SYRACUSE

Family ticketed for passing red light in funeral procession to cemetery



David Daws at the intersection of East Avenue and East Genesee Street. In February, he was driving in a funeral procession when a traffic camera snapped a photo and generated a ticket for going through a red light. *Chloe Trofatter, ctrofatter@syracuse.com*

The family appealed the ticket, but the city rejected the appeal.

Finn Lincoln *flincoln@syracuse.com*

Syracuse ticketed a family in a funeral procession who drove through a red light on the way to a cemetery to bury a loved one.

The family said they appealed the ticket generated by a traffic camera near a school on the East Side, but the appeal was rejected.

"I just think it's a really terrible way to make money by the city. It's awful," said Michelle Daws, the owner of the car ticketed. "People are already grieving their close family members and the city is profiting off it."

In November, the city started a traffic camera program that generates tickets to drivers who speed in school zones or go through red lights near the schools. The city gets 65% of the ticket money and the company that operates the cameras gets 35% of

the revenue.

Funeral directors said it is common practice for funeral processions to travel together and go through traffic lights while

"Keeping a group together is important. A procession is like a chain of compassion."

Ron Fiorentino, director of the Thomas J. Pirro Funeral Home

remaining cautious. The cars are marked, usually have lights on, and other cars just stop to let processions go by.

"For the over 40 years I've been doing this, everyone stays together," said Chris Shepardson, owner of the Shepardson Funeral Home, which handled the funeral the family was going to. "That's the custom, that's the way it's been forever."

Ron Fiorentino, director of the Thomas J. Pirro Jr. Funeral Home, said as long as he can remember, other drivers respect funeral processions.

"Keeping a group together is important," he said. "A procession is like a chain of compassion."

Shortly before noon Feb. 2, David Daws was driving his fiancée, Alison DeStefano, to St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt for the burial of her grandfather.

Their car was marked with funeral flags as the procession of about 25 vehicles passed through the intersection of East Genesee Street and East Avenue near Nottingham High School, David Daws said. Their car was one of the last in the procession.

About a week later, Michelle Daws said **SEE TICKET, A4**

CLAY

Town appears ready to rename Plantation Blvd.

Officials are moving to change the street name that pays tribute to the luxury lifestyle built on slavery

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For decades, a little-known street lined with concrete, middle-class apartments and townhomes in Clay has gone by an ill-fitting name:

Plantation Boulevard.

But that name may soon be history. The people of Plantation Boulevard and officials in the town government and Onondaga County Legislature are pushing to replace the name that evokes the Old South luxury lifestyle built on the backs of Black slaves.

Nodesia Hernandez, majority leader of the county Legislature, said she was approached in March by a friend who lives there and was troubled by the name. Town officials, in a politically bipartisan effort, supported the change.

Hernandez and Clay officials on Friday used the occasion of Juneteenth, which marks the end of slavery in the United States, to go out to Plantation Boulevard and talk about the planned street change.

The town still needs to approve it, but they took down the street signs anyway.

"A street named 'Plantation' has no place in Clay," said Joe Bick, the town's deputy supervisor. "We have no interest in paying homage to a defeated enemy and the system of enslavement they fought to maintain."

The street, just off Morgan Road near the Amazon fulfillment center, is made up of around a dozen rental properties home to a diverse collection of families and older residents. There are no single-family homes on the street and not many yards or trees.

In an open letter posted to Substack, Hernandez said the name "Plantation Boulevard" was originally given by developers trying to attract residents and that its origins don't actually lie in local history.

"It reflects a common trend of suburban developments in the mid-1900s adopting romanticized 'Old South' names like Plantation, Dixie, Confederate and others," it reads. "These were used as marketing tools to evoke a nostalgic, sanitized image of the antebellum South."

After Hernandez's friend raised the issue, she met with Legislator Kevin Meaker, Bick and members of the Clay Town Board, who were receptive to erasing the street's name, Hernandez said.

She also went and spoke to residents who live there. She had a petition.

"Every door we went to was very open and welcoming," she said. "They spoke about how they have always felt wrongly about living on the street but just didn't know what to do about it." **SEE STREET NAME, A4**

MADISON COUNTY

Court: School board VP had child porn videos on phone

Cazenovia board member

Travis J. Longo faces federal and local charges.

Elizabeth Doran *edoran@syracuse.com*

Cazenovia's school board vice president had three videos containing child pornography on his phone, including infants being raped, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court. One of the videos is more than a minute long.

Investigators also recovered chats from Travis J. Longo's phone that show he discussed "his sexual interest in children," including a child known to him, the documents say.

The three videos were exchanged between Longo and others on an internet-based messaging application installed

on his phone. Two involve infants; one involves a toddler. Additionally, investigators found an image on Longo's phone that includes a partially naked child.

Longo, 46, was first charged last week with four misdemeanor counts of endangering the welfare of a child, according to the Madison County District Attorney's office. He's accused of sending sexually explicit messages to a child, state police have said.

Following that arrest, troopers searched Longo's phone. On Saturday, Longo was charged in federal court with receiving and possessing child pornography. He is currently being detained on the federal charges. A hearing is set for today.

Annie Lafex, a federal public defender representing Longo, said her client denies the allegations against him.

The Cazenovia Board of Education was to hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Monday to authorize its lawyer to begin removing Longo. After an executive session, the board

is set to appoint Bond, Schoeneck & King as its legal counsel.

After that, the board was to vote on a resolution to seek the removal of Travis Longo for "official misconduct," following New York State Education Law, according to the district clerk.

The school board had set a deadline of noon today for Longo to resign from the board. That didn't appear to take place.

The resolution calls for a copy of the written charges detailing the misconduct to be served on Longo.

Longo — who also goes by the last name Barr — is the founder of Cazenovia Pride Fest. Cazenovia Pride announced in an Instagram post Friday it was canceling this year's Pride Festival and dissolving the organization.

He is also the co-founder of H. Grey Supply Co., a general store in downtown Syracuse that previously had a store in Cazenovia.

