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Democrat and Chronicle

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026 | DEMOCRATANDCHRONICLE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Rep. George Latimer, in an interview on Aug. 5, recounts his visit to Delaney Hall in Newark, New Jersey, on July 31, one day before a second detained man died in that federal immigration detention center. CHRIS MCKENNA/NEW YORK STATE TEAM

NY congressman talks ICE facility conditions

Latimer toured site a day before detainee's death

Chris McKenna New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

Just a day before a high-profile death in a federal detention center in New Jersey, New York U.S. Rep. George Latimer had walked the corridors of that very facility to see firsthand how immigrant detainees are treated in Delaney Hall. • The Westchester County Democrat had arranged his visit a couple weeks earlier to exercise the same oversight role other Congress members have played at the Newark facility. It just so happened his hour-long tour with fellow New York Rep. Ritchie Torres on July 31 came shortly before Edwin Lopez-Cornejo's death — the second at Delaney Hall in eight months — thrust the 1,000-bed detention center back into the spotlight.

In an interview with USA TODAY Network on Wednesday, Aug. 5, to recount his trip, Latimer said the tour reinforced his view that Delaney Hall and every other detention center used by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement should be closed. Not because he saw anyone being mistreated while he and Torres were escorted through the dor-

mitory-style living areas. But because what we he observed was, in his view, an immoral and dehumanizing warehousing of people whose only offenses may have been living in the U.S. without proper authorization.

See ICE, Page 7A

Hearing airs child poverty struggles

Residents share their experiences with panel

Kerria Weaver
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

New York State's Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council held a public hearing on Aug. 4 to present their anti-poverty efforts and to hear experiences and suggestions from New Yorkers. Barbara Guinn, commissioner of the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, said the purpose of the hearings is to get out into the community and receive feedback on their existing services. "It's really important that we make sure that those who are eligible know about the benefits and they receive them," Guinn said. Some of the council's recommendations to decrease child poverty include creating a state housing voucher program similar to Section 8, increasing New York's child tax credit to \$1,500 and establishing a state food benefit similar to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. With these recommendations, the council hopes to decrease child poverty by 50%. Tianna Johnson, a longtime advocate for the Children's Agenda, attended the public hearing and spoke from her own experience about the available benefits and programs.

See POVERTY, Page 5A

New York State's Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council held a public hearing on Aug. 4 to gather feedback on their efforts to decrease child poverty.

KERRIA WEAVER/DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

Rochester couple charged with murder in death of boy

Victoria E. Freile
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Rochester couple has been charged in connection with the death of a 2-year-old boy who suffered severe injuries in May, Rochester police said.

India Duncan, 25, the boy's mother, and Joshua Velez, 30, were arrested Tuesday afternoon and charged with second-degree murder in connection

with the boy's death, according to Rochester Police Capt. Frank Umbrino.

Additional charges are pending in connection with the alleged abuse.

Boy found unresponsive

Police were called May 10 to 1630 Dewey Ave. for a report of an unresponsive 2-year-old, Umbrino said.

The boy, identified as Isaiah Jones, also known as Isaiah Velez, was found

unresponsive by emergency medical workers and firefighters who were at the building for an unrelated call.

Isaiah was taken to Rochester General Hospital for treatment.

Boy suffered severe injuries

Hospital officials reported Isaiah had multiple bruises, bite marks and other concerning injuries. His condition was critical, and his injuries were consid-

ered life-threatening.

"Despite extensive life-saving efforts and medical procedures, Isaiah died on May 18," Umbrino said.

At the time police were called, Isaiah was in the care of Duncan and Velez, who were in a

See COUPLE, Page 4A

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