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BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

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SEPTA officials said they're looking to redevelop the area around the Langhorne regional rail station with mixed-use retail and residential to better promote the area's walkability and help revitalize downtown Penn del nearby. PROVIDED BY SEPTA

Bucks teen terror suspects could face life in prison for NYC attack

Jo Ciavaglia
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The federal government formally charged two Bucks County teenagers in connection with an alleged March 7 attempted Isis-inspired terrorist attack outside the residence of the New York City mayor.

The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced the eight count indictment against Emir Balat, 18, of Middletown and Ibrahim Kayumi, 19, of Newtown Township April 7 charging them with terrorism-related offenses including attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The indictment alleges that Balat, a Neshaminy High School senior, was recorded on dashcam video shortly before he allegedly unsuccessfully attempted to detonate two explosive devices discussing with Kayumi they'd be engaging in "martyrdom," and Balat described leaving behind a note.

"As alleged, just weeks ago, Emir Balat and Ibrahim Kayumi carried out a terrorist attack on the streets of New York," U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton said. "They sought to murder multiple innocent victims in the name of ISIS."

Since the attack, the federal government alleges the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force has uncovered evidence revealing alleged "meticulous planning" by the men including a notebook with detailed attack plans and a storage unit containing explosive residue and bomb-making materials, the feds said in a press release.

The alleged notes and instructions recovered from the vehicle the men used to travel to Manhattan showed "just how much cruelty they had planned," FBI Assistant Director in Charge James C. Barnacle, Jr. said.

What the FBI alleges it found in papers left in the car and a Middletown storage unit

The notebooks found in the car included a list of ingredients and directions for making explosive devices, directions for handling the explosives and detonating them, according to the release.

"Another page described an apparent alternate plan for an attack by vehicle, including: the "Ideal vehicle" for conducting an attack, which was to be "load bearing," "large in size," "reasonably fast," and "heavy in weight"; (a list of possible "target[s]," including "festivals," "parades," "protest," and "celebrations"; and "steps to making

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Getting SEPTA plan on track

Langhorne train station redevelopment draws some concerns in Penn del

Lacey Latch
Bucks County Courier Times
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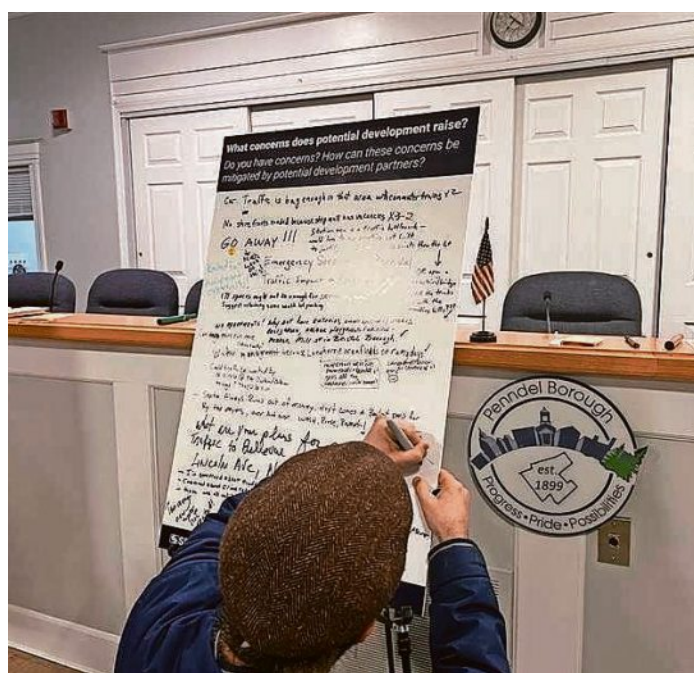
Dozens of residents from Penn del, Middletown, Langhorne Manor and elsewhere packed Penn del Borough Hall last month to hear more about the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's plan to redevelop the Langhorne train station.

Still in its early stages, the mixed-use housing project is receiving mixed reviews from area residents. Some have said they'd prefer to see no development at the site at all, potentially even reverting the parking lot to open green space.

At the same time, many residents have long been hoping for major improvements in Penn del and are cautiously optimistic that this project might be the catalyst for revitalization along Route 1 that they've been waiting for.

"I think this community does need something that we can kind of leapfrog from," Penn del resident Chris Bell said.

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Penn del resident Chris Bell adds to a comment board at the SEPTA open house on March 23. Residents were invited to learn more about the agency's proposed plans to develop part of the Langhorne train station.

LACEY LATCH/BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Lawsuits filed in restaurant-landlord dispute over Rocco's in Newtown

Michele Haddon
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A contentious battle sparked by the closing of Rocco's at the Brick in Newtown Borough has prompted lawsuits

between the restaurant operator and landlord.

Rocco's, which was located inside the Brick Hotel along Washington Avenue before its abrupt closure in November, is the subject of a civil suit and counterclaim between the restaurant's opera-

tor, Marc Gelman, and Verindar Kaur, who owns the hotel property with her son, Chiranjiv Juhul. Gelman and Kaur also share ownership of the restaurant, listed as Rocco's Steaks and Spirits LLC.

Looking to assign fault for Rocco's untimely demise, the lawsuits illustrate

an antagonistic business partnership fueled by mistrust, providing differing accounts about what led to the sudden end of the popular downtown restaurant.

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