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Meng Introduces Legislation to Combat COVID-19 Hate Crimes, Same Day LIC Fence is Vandalized



Twitter (@JimmyVanBramer)

May 7, 2020 By Christian Murray

The Asian-American community has borne the brunt of a number of bias attacks since the COVID-19 outbreak and Congresswoman Grace Meng wants the federal government to keep tabs on it.

Meng has introduced legislation—called the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act— that would require the Department of Justice to review all coronavirus-related hate crimes that have been reported to federal, state and local authorities.

The DOJ would then be required to brief Congress monthly on its findings and the actions it has taken.

Many groups, Meng says, have been targeted since the COVID-19 outbreak, including the LGBTQ and Jewish communities. She wants the DOJ to provide data on these complaints, detailing the victim's race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background and location of occurrence.

“As millions across the nation are worried about and impacted by the coronavirus outbreak, many are also living in fear following the dramatic increase of threats and attacks against different communities due to the rise in COVID-19,” Meng said.

“The COVID-19 Hate Crime Act is a necessary step to confront this disgusting and deplorable rise in intolerance and violence,” Meng added.

The bill comes at a time when there has been a surge in anti-Asian attacks and rhetoric. Just today, anti-Asian graffiti was plastered on a construction fence in Long Island City. Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer was quick to post it on Twitter—to express horror.

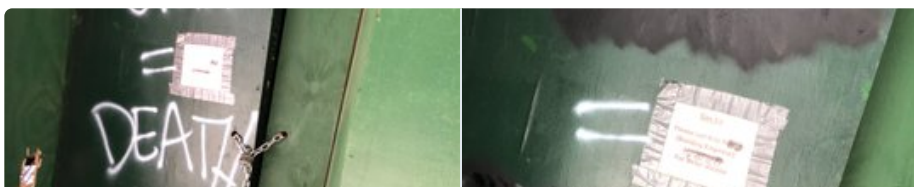


Jimmy Van Bramer ✓

@JimmyVanBramer



Moments ago [@helenshirley](#) showed me photos of some horrible hate language on a fence in [#LIC](#). Aimed at China/Chinese, it's gross. Helen asked if we could remove it & I called the [@NYPD108Pct](#) which sent a team out & removed it immediately. No place for hate. Thank you 108th pct!





♡ 25 4:31 PM - May 7, 2020 · Long Island City, Queens



 [See Jimmy Van Bramer's other Tweets](#)



In the past two months, there have been a series of attacks against Asians.

In March, a 47-year-old man and his son were the subject of anti-Asian statements on Queens Boulevard at 70th Ave.

“You f–king Chinese,” a man reportedly shouted before pushing the victim in the face. “Where’s your f–king mask.”

In another incident, a 59-year-old Asian man was kicked in the back — which knocked him to the ground— by a teenager in Manhattan.

These incidents led to New York Attorney General Leticia James to establish a hot line (800-771-7755) in March for New Yorkers to report hate crimes.

Several Queens leaders argue that U.S. President Donald Trump has fueled some of the Anti-Asian attacks—by referring to COVID-19 as the “China virus” and blaming China.

Meng, who has criticized the president for labeling it the China virus, today urged her fellow lawmakers in Congress to support her hate crimes bill.

“I urge all my colleagues to join my effort to fight these bias crimes, and keep all Americans safe.”



email the author: ** (/cdn-cgi/l/email-protection#264843515566575343434855564955520845494b)**

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More than 5,500 Queens Residents Have Been Killed by COVID-19: DOH

<https://queenspost.com/more-than-5500-queens-residents-have-been-killed-by-covid-19-doh>

May 8, 2020 By Allie Griffin

More than 5,500 Queens residents have been killed by COVID-19 since the virus took hold of New York City in March, according to newly released data.

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
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Candidate Knocked out of Queens BP Race Sues Governor for Cancelling Special Election

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May 8, 2020 By Allie Griffin

Prosecutor Jim Quinn, a former candidate for Queens Borough President, filed a lawsuit against Governor Andrew Cuomo today for canceling the special election for the position.

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Whitestone Grocers Arrested for Price Gouging of Face Masks

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May 8, 2020 By Allie Griffin

Two Queens men have been arrested and charged with price gouging for selling face masks for \$45 a pack at a Whitestone grocery store.

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Astoria Man Charged With Selling Stolen COVID-19 Test Kits for \$200 Each

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May 8, 2020 By Michael Dorgan

An Astoria man has been accused of selling stolen COVID-19 test kits for up to \$200 each.

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Long Island City Antibody Testing Site Revealed

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May 8, 2020 By Allie Griffin

The location of the Long Island City antibody testing site announced yesterday [_ \(https://queenspost.com/free-antibody-testing-available-in-long-island-city-starting-next-week\)](https://queenspost.com/free-antibody-testing-available-in-long-island-city-starting-next-week) has been revealed.

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Edible Queens Magazine Will Shutter at End of the Month

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May 8, 2020 By Allie Griffin

A magazine celebrating the diverse culinary offerings of the World's Borough will shutter at the end of the month after struggling to stay afloat as the coronavirus pandemic has devastated the restaurant industry.

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Queens City Council Members Want Department of Homeless Services Head Fired

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May 8, 2020 By Michael Dorgan

Queens Council Members Robert Holden and Eric Ulrich have called on the mayor to fire Department of Homeless Services Commissioner Steven Banks for failing to properly manage the city's homeless crisis.

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
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Woodside on the Move Faces Big Cuts as City Looks to Slash Budget

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May 5, 2020 By Michael Dorgan

Woodside on the Move, a non-profit organization that has served western Queens for decades, faces significant budget cuts that threaten much of its programming.

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Rego Park's Woodhaven House Restaurant to Permanently Shutter Due to COVID-19

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May 7, 2020 By Allie Griffin

An Irish pub and restaurant that has served Rego Park residents for nearly two decades will shutter permanently due to the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns.

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New Bill Aims to Penalize Publicly Traded Companies That Cash in on Federal Bailout Package

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May 7, 2020 By Christian Murray

Two Queens legislators are putting on notice publicly-traded companies that have cashed in on the federal stimulus package.

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