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September 8, 2023 **50¢**

# The Review

*Hamtramck*

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## Quick Hits

### HPS releases announcement of new school year

By Charles Sercombe

Last Sunday, two days before the first day of school and during a holiday weekend, the Hamtramck Public School District finally reached out to parents, on social media, about the new school year. In an open letter addressed to “parents and guardians” on the HPS Facebook page, Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed wrote about several developments.

Prior to Sunday, the district had not said anything on its Facebook page, nor its website, about the start of school.

Ahmed also did not return emails from The Review to talk about the new school year.

In her Facebook post, Ahmed confirmed what sources told The Review: that the Early Childhood Center and Holbrook Elementary will not resume in-classroom teaching.

That’s because repairs and improvements at the schools are not completed, which prevents students from returning.

Those students will be learning virtually at home.

Ahmed said the repairs are expected to be completed in a month. She said staffers at each school contacted other staffers and families “to assure that school will begin virtually on September 5.”

There was no mention, in the Facebook post, on how the district will admin-

**Continued on page 5**

## — HAMTRAMCK’S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# What a way to end summer...

By Charles Sercombe

Now that was a way to end summer.

Once again, the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival gave us one more weekend to celebrate our so-very-brief break from winter.

And, judging by the size of the crowd on each day, this one appears to be the best festival the city has recently experienced.

Old Mother Nature gave us picture-perfect weather, and threw in a scorcher of a Monday.

The bands and entertainers were once again top-notch, and the big act of the weekend, The Dead Milkmen, packed Jos. Campau up and down.

For vintage clothing lovers, there was no shortage of selections to try on. Food lovers also had

plenty to choose from.

As for the parade on Monday, it was once again a joyous display of all things Hamtramck. The only downer was that some city councilmembers had an issue with the display of pride flags, and threatened to withhold permission of a parade next year.

You can read more about that in the story below.

The canoe race earlier on Monday once again attracted the loonies of Hamtramck, and allowed adults and kids to take aim and fire away with water balloons at canoe participants and onlookers.

There was definitely a weird juxtaposition of the canoe race and Michael Hurtt performing on

**Continued on page 5**



**Above and below: Scenes from last weekend’s Hamtramck Labor Day Festival and Monday’s parade.**



# Mayor and city council object being near LGBTQ group in parade

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck’s cultural war continues to play out.

This time, it happened at an otherwise-unsuspecting event: The Hamtramck Labor Day Parade.

And, once again, it involved an all-too familiar issue: the LGBTQ community and its supporters.

City Councilmembers Mohammed Alsomiri and Khalil Refai and Mayor

**Continued on page 2**



**The mayor and two councilmembers said they were purposely set up to march in front of the Hamtramck Queer Alliance in Monday’s parade. They then placed themselves further up, and away from the group, and rode in a SUV.**

## NAYA has Lansing connections

By Charles Sercombe

The curious funding item in the new state budget for the National Association of Yemeni Americas (NAYA) recently caught the attention of the Detroit News.

The News reported that it is unknown, at this point, who sponsored what’s called an “enhancement grant” for NAYA.

The organization, which opened a new office in Hamtramck recently, received \$500,000 from the state last year, and another \$500,000 in the new state budget.

The issue of who’s behind the various enhancement grants has been a point of contention among some government watchdogs.

That concern has prompted Hamtramck State Representative Democrat Abraham Aiyash to promise more transparency in budget matters in the future.

Aiyash told The Detroit News:

“This is the first time Democrats have had full oversight of the budget since Reagan. We are going to do everything we can to reform the process to usher in more transparency.”

Aiyash, the first Arab-American to be appointed Majority Floor Leader, and state Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), whose district includes Hamtramck, both have an office in the NAYA building.

Both said they had nothing to do with the enhancement grant that NAYA is receiving.

Instead, Aiyash said, it was State Sen. Jeff Irwin who sponsored it. Irwin’s district includes part of Washtenaw County – some 36 miles away from Hamtramck, where

**Continued on page 2**

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# Mayor and city council object being near LGBTQ group in parade

Cont. from front page

Amer Ghalib objected to their placement in the parade order – in front of the Hamtramck Queer Alliance.

They demanded to be placed away from the Alliance, farther up ahead. As it turned out, the councilmembers and mayor opted to travel in an SUV instead of walking in the parade, as other elected officials have traditionally done.

They also threatened to not grant permission for the parade and festival next year.

The mayor and council have come under criticism for banning the display of pride flags on public property, to the point of even incurring the wrath of State Attorney General Dana Nes-

sel.

Nessel said the city's ban on pride flags made the city a "national embarrassment."

Nessel, who is openly gay, implored the city to rescind its resolution.

At the time the council and mayor banned the flags, they said they were doing so to remain "neutral" on what can be a divisive issue for some communities.

The mayor and council are all-male, and all-Muslim.

Ghalib blamed parade organizers on the matter, telling The Review it was a "provocative move, intentionally done by the organizing committee to make us look, in front of the community, like we are leading the queer group with the flags flying behind us."

Ghalib continued: "They have become very predictable. I told some council members three days ago that I expect them to do this and, for that reason, the first thing we did was to look at the order of the march-

ing groups and we found what we expected.

"To avoid that kind of optics, we brought a big SUV white truck, and we ended up riding it while (City Manager) Max (Garbarino) was the driver. We moved to the first place instead of staying at position number 5. ...

"It seems that the main goal for the organizing committee was to use the festival to promote a certain group agenda. That is not what the sponsors give their money for, including the \$8,000 that we approved to be given by the DDA in support of this festival.

"It looks like everything will have consequences. I don't agree with not allowing the festival to happen again, but we will be involved more in the organizing part, and make it more representative of the whole community – not just to promote one group."

The Review reached out to the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival Volunteer Committee for comment, and here is their

reply:

"This is the first time we have been informed that the mayor was unhappy with any part of the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival, including the parade.

"We worked very hard to make the event a safe, fun and inclusive event for everyone, and to celebrate the diversity in Hamtramck.

"We are saddened to hear that Ameer Ghalib has expressed a complaint about his being in the parade in proximity to a rainbow flag or a display of LGBTQ+ pride.

"It has always been the intention of our all-volunteer group to embrace the many different people and groups that make Hamtramck one of the most diverse cities in metro Detroit, truly 'The World In Two Square Miles.'"

## NAYA has Lansing connections

Cont. from front page

NAYA is located.

Irwin confirmed to The Review that he did sponsor the funding, but said has no direct connection to NAYA.

"I'm connected with them only through their budget requests, and that they serve residents of our state whom I have a responsibility to serve."

NAYA offers a variety of social services including "social, educational, and cultural services and activities all focused on empowering and supporting women, children, and families," according to its website.

Irwin told The Review that he was asked by the director of NAYA, who lives in his senate district, to sponsor the funding.

Asked why he sponsored the funding, Irwin said:

"Michigan benefits from being a welcoming place for people coming from other parts of the world. In addition to our moral responsibility to help our fellow humans who are facing war and poverty, it will benefit Michigan in the long-term to grow and support our Yemini neighbors."

The organization also has two offices in Dearborn.



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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### A hardy ‘thanks’ to all of the festival volunteers

We can't praise Hamtramck Labor Day Festival organizers and volunteers enough for their service this past weekend.

Hamtramck once again racked up another successful festival weekend, and in fact it was bigger and better than ever.

It's one of the few things, these days, that brings the community together. And in these culturally divided times here in Hamtramck, that's a big deal.

Also deserving of praise are the organizers and participants of the new homegrown Hamtramck Parade, which has filled a void left when organizers of the Polish Day Parade pulled out two years ago.

Last year, we were pleasantly surprised at how well-organized it was, and the amount of diversity the parade offered. It was a breath of fresh air.

Unfortunately, amid all the good vibes this weekend generated, there is talk that long-time organizers Konrad Maziarz and Shannon Lowell are moving on.

If that happens – and one never knows if there will be a change of mind – we hope there are others willing to step up.

Or, it just may be a case where the festival has simply run out of gas.

We would certainly like to see another generation of volunteers take over, and keep this party going each year.



#### Virtual learning tips

Students at Holbrook Elementary and the Early Childhood Center will be learning at home for about the next month, says the HPS District.

Repairs and upgrades at the two schools are still ongoing.

For parents, here are some tips to help your child succeed, thanks to the folks at strong4life.com (and we quote them):

Establish basic routines

Routines help children (and adults) know what to expect, creating a sense of comfort and security. Instead of setting a strict schedule, try to follow some simple routines, such as waking up and having lunch at the same times each day.

Create a space for learning

If possible, set up a quiet, comfortable space in your home for learning. Ideally, the space has limited distractions and is not in an area where the family plays or watches TV. If your child's learning space is in a common area, consider providing them with a box or crate to keep all of their school stuff together. That way, they can put everything away at the end of the day and pull it out in the morning.

**Encourage organization**

Online learning is a lot less structured than a normal school day. Children of all ages may need help staying organized, staying on task and completing assignments. Encourage your child to create a calendar and to-do lists.

**Fuel the body to fuel the mind**

Encourage your child to drink water, eat 3 balanced meals and eat 2 to 3 healthy snacks throughout the day. Fueling their body with healthy foods and water will make it easier for them to stay engaged and focus on their schoolwork.

**Take brain breaks**

It can be challenging for kids to focus for long periods of time. Help your child reset and refocus by setting alarms throughout the day to:

- Close their eyes for a minute.
- Listen to a favorite song.
- Get outside for some fresh air.
- Do a few jumping jacks.

**Take advantage of teacher support**

Let the teacher know if you sense your younger child may need some extra support. Encourage older kids to take initiative by getting in contact with teachers on their

own. Even though teachers may be busy, they are still there to help.

**Encourage virtual interaction with friends**

Encourage your child to stay virtually connected to friends through video chat so they can maintain close connection and friendships. For younger kids, work with other parents to plan video-chat playdates.

**Stay connected to other parents**

Find time to check in with other parents, support each other and share ideas about what is working well.

**Make time for fun**

It can be difficult to find joy in times of stress, but laughter can improve your mood, relieve stress and help your body relax. Make time for fun every day and enjoy the time you have together.

**Be patient and flexible**

Expecting everything to go perfectly can lead to feeling discouraged and disappointed. As best you can, try to be flexible and willing to adjust when necessary, and be patient with both your child and yourself.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

## Odds & Ends

**A big thanks...** The Hamtramck Labor Day Festival posted this message on social media this week:

“Thank you to everyone who came out to this year's festival, boat race, and parade. We hope you enjoyed your visit, as much as we enjoyed welcoming everyone to our town this weekend.

“We hope to see you all again next year, and that you bring a few more of your friends on your next visit. Well, we hope we get to see you year ‘round at the various establishments around town.”

**Everyone loves a parade...** Or maybe not.

Mayor Amer Ghalib took issue, not only about being placed in front of the Hamtramck Queer Alliance group in Monday's Hamtramck Labor Day Parade, but also with a banner that the Detroit City Football Club fan club, the Northern Guard, held up on their parade float.

The banner read:

“The only things we hate are ...” and then it goes on to list such things as homophobia, sexism, transphobia, xenophobia.

The part that got Ghalib's attention was this last entry of things they “hate;” “... and that one guy.”

On Ghalib's Facebook page, he took the reference of “that one guy” to mean that it is him being singled out.

There's one problem, though.

It wasn't Ghalib being referred to.

That was the Northern Guard being funny – or, at least attempting to be, depending on your sense of humor.

The reference, was, in fact, not meant to be taken literally as a specific person, but was just a way to lighten things up.

In other words: “that one guy” is... no one; it's fictitious.

Maybe it's not “har-har” funny, but ... well, you get the drift.

So, back to Ghalib.

He took it seriously enough, thinking it was a direct reference to him.

Ghalib then said, on his Facebook page:

“Who do you think this (THAT ONE GUY) referred to on the banner, whom they stand against along

with many other things?”

He went on to say:

“Apparently, the festival that the city (DDA) was one of the major sponsors for, and was supposed to bring people together, instead, it was used by some people through provocative actions to promote hate and more division in the city!

“This issue will be addressed and I expect to hear from THAT GUY soon. ... These actions will have consequences, and they will hear from this man soon.”

Whoa!

The mayor soon after deleted that post, but other folks took screen shots of it. One can only wonder what “THAT GUY” was threatening to do.

**Art opening...** Hamtramck's own artists' collective, HATCH, has an exhibit this Saturday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 9 p.m.

The artist being featured is Luke MacGilvray, and his installation is called “The Confrontation of Pigmentation.”

Here's what Luke has to say about his exhibit:

“This installation is based on the principles of color subtraction, absorption, and reflection. By matching a red

red paints on the walls illuminated by specific light frequencies using a 4-channel light controller.”

Sounds wild enough to us!

HATCH is located at 3456 Evaline.

**Scholarships...** The good folks at Detroit Chapter #9 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA9) and the Detroit Public Schools Foundation recently announced that four lucky Detroit students were each awarded scholarships worth \$2,500.

The VVA9, in service in the Detroit area for four decades, donated \$50,000 to the foundation to provide the scholarships. The awards and the winners are:

The JROTC Scholarship assists an outstanding graduating ROTC cadet in furthering his or her education. Nadia Louie, a graduate of Cass Technical High School, will be attending Norfolk State University, and Leah Brown, a graduate of Martin Luther King Jr. High School, will attend Jackson State University.

The Unsung Graduate Scholarship recognizes individuals who have confronted their own chal-



Who's “That One Guy?” Mayor Amer Ghalib mistakenly thought he was being targeted in Monday's parade.

pigment with the same red frequency of light, it will seem to disappear.

“I witnessed this firsthand with a red ink pen when it failed to show up on paper when a particular red light shone on it. In 2022, I used this principle for a painting shown at the Padzieski Gallery in Dearborn. I matched the ink pigments to the lights and created three seemingly different images.

“In this project I have turned that concept into an immersive experience by matching the blue and

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## The Hamtramck Review

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Coming Events

SATURDAY, Sept. 9, 2-4 p.m. – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome.

CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Aug. 29-Sept. 4.

**Tuesday, Aug. 29**

- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 11000 block of Dyar.
- A car theft was reported by a Yemans St. resident.
- An assault was reported on Whalen.
- A fight was reported at Keyworth Stadium.
- Officers attempted to pull over a black Jeep Grand Cherokee but the driver sped off.
- A hit-and-run accident happened in the 9600 block of Jos. Campau.

**Wednesday, Aug. 30**

- At about 2 a.m., officers responding to a call about a domestic assault in the 3200 block of Trowbridge arrested two females.
- At 2:40 a.m., a domestic assault was reported in the 3000 block of Jacob.
- Officers investigated several vehicles parked in an area temporarily marked as a no-parking zone for street sweeping.
- A vehicle was reported stolen in the 8500 block of Lumpkin.
- A fight was reported on Danforth.
- Officers responded to a possible break-in on Trowbridge.
- A harassment complaint was made on Jos. Campau.
- A domestic assault was reported in the area of Belmont and Alpena.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the area of Conant and Caniff.
- A complaint was made about disorderly people in the 2200 block of Danforth.
- An incident of road rage was reported in the area of Conant and Trowbridge.

**Thursday, Aug. 31**

- Officers investigated a suspicious person on Jos. Campau.
- A male suspect was arrested for damaging property in the 10300 block of Jos. Campau.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Hewitt and Jos. Campau.
- A complaint was made about a reckless driver in the area of Holbrook and McDougall.
- An assault was reported in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.
- A disorderly male was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A complaint was about a juvenile in the 3200 block of Roosevelt.

**Friday, Sept. 1**

- Officers investigating a domestic assault on Comar arrested a suspect.
- A car theft was reported in the 3100 block of Jacob.
- A disturbance was reported in the 2400 block of Holbrook.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 2000

block of Yemans.

**Saturday, Sept. 2**

- A possible auto break-in was reported in the 12000 block of Dequindre.
- A Livonia resident reported a child custody issue.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the area of Conant and Caniff.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly man in the area of Conant and Casmere.
- A fight was reported on Selfridge.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Casmere and Jos. Campau.
- Officers investigated a complaint about trespassers at a Conant Ave. business.
- Officers investigated a report of vehicles, in the area of Conant and Yemans, that were without license plates.
- A complaint was made about reckless drivers in the area of Hewitt and Lumpkin.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 11400 block of Conant.
- A theft was reported at Jos. Campau and Holmes.

**Sunday, Sept. 3**

- At about 3:30 a.m., officers investigating a disorderly group of people at Conant and Edwin arrested two suspects.
- A car was stolen in the 11600 block of Fleming. A vehicle was also stolen in the 2400 block of Pulaski.
- An armed robbery was reported in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.
- An assault was reported in the 3500 block of Caniff.
- Officers found a lost child at Jos. Campau and Casmere.
- An assault was reported at Jos. Campau and Caniff.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 11300 block of Jos. Campau.
- A fight was reported in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau.

**Monday, Sept. 4**

- An assault was reported in the 12000 block of Grand Haven.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar, and another in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- An auto theft was reported in the 2300 block of Burger.
- A theft was reported in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau.
- An assault was reported in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau.
- Gunshots were reported in the area of Circle Dr. and Oklahoma.
- Officers located a lost child within the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival grounds and reunited the child with their parents.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred in the 2300 block of Caniff.
- A domestic assault was reported in progress in the 12000 block of Dyar.

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# What a way to end summer... Continued from front page



a stage nearby, but hey, Hamtramck is (here's that word again) weird.

Of special note, on Sunday at the International Big Time Wrestling match, Hamtramck native Pat Frick was honored for her past career in Big Time Wrestling.

Yes, she was a wrestler back in 1974 through 1989. Frick is the last female wrestler from that era.

She had this to say about her career: "Wrestling was very good to me."

Congrats, Pat!

Here's a sampling of comments we found on various Facebook pages about the festival:

Kim DeCocco-Sharon:



"Wow! Looks like the old days!"

Robert Bandy: "Great job committee. Had a blast, Sunday night's crowd was HUGE. I'm a traditional Danny D and the Vagabonds, Polish Muslims for 20 years. The music this year was incredible. Thanks for the memories."

We'll let the photos do the rest of the talking. 'Till next year folks.



Above Hamtramck native Pat Frick was honored on Sunday during the wrestling match for her past career in Big Time Wrestling during the 1970s.



## This week at the Library . . .

September 8, 2023

**World Literacy Day:** September 8th is Stand Up to Cancer & World Literacy Day. It is also Ampersand & David Day. Why don't you and a David you know head on over to the library to stock up on some great reads.

**Story Time:** Get you kids together and drop in on our Wednesday afternoon Story Time at 12 noon. Presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

**Game Night:** Join us for Game Night at the library. We are serving up something fun each Friday at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play.

**Exercise Classes:** You don't have to wait much longer to get your Adaptive Yoga and Tai Chi fix. The Tai Chi classes are coming back on September 15th at 10 am and adoptive yoga classes begin on September 19th 2:30 pm. As always, these group workout sessions are presented by the RIM Foundation and are open to the public. Check in the next weeks library column for starting time.

**Phil Hale Quartet:** Our next music concert is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th at 5:30 pm. Everyone is invited, free admission.

**MyHeritage Library Edition:** The newest ZOOM presentation hosted by the Library of Michigan is MyHeritage Library Edition, a family history database that you can access through the Michigan eLibrary. Catch this event on Thursday, October 5th at

6:30 pm. To register you need to visit [www.michigan.gov/Impublicprograms](http://www.michigan.gov/Impublicprograms) where you will find more information.

**Books by Davids:** Pull a few books off the shelf by authors with David as their first name. If you like pages to be filled with crime and action, then try David Baldacci's books. Looking for something more humorous, then try the works of David Sedaris. If nonfiction is what is right for you, check out David McCullough's writings. And if you like a book about renowned David, look no further than David Copperfield (the Dicken's novel, not the magician).

**September 11, 2001:** The worst terrorist attack in U.S. History occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3000 persons. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside the U.S. boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircrafts. Two fully-fueled jumbo jets, American Airlines Flights 11 carrying 92 people and United Airlines Flight 175 carrying 65 people, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. United Airlines Flight 93 departed Newark for San Francisco and American Airlines Flight 77 departed Dulles (Virginia) for Los Angeles were also hijacked. Flight 93 crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822  
Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog  
Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to [hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com)

## Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

ister the free breakfast and lunch program that was authorized and funded by the state.

In other school news, Ahmed reminded students that making threats of violence is illegal and will be pursued by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

"All parents and guardians are encouraged to have conversations with their children so that all students understand that they cannot make threats and then claim they were 'just joking,' as all threats will be treated as serious threats, regardless of whether the threat is a joke," Ahmed said.

As for attendance, Ahmed stressed that "regular school attendance is a more accurate indicator of high school graduation than test scores. Regularly attending students have a more positive perception of themselves and their schools."



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS CITY OF HAMTRAMCK

The City of Hamtramck is holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at or soon after 7:00 p.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) to receive comments from the public on the following topics:

The City Council will hold a public hearing on proposed rezoning of 8711, 8719, 8727, 8731, 8737 Lumpkin Street. The applicant, Metropolitan Baking, is requesting that the parcels be rezoned to the Industrial zoning 155.080. Parcel numbers are as follows: 41002070267000, 41002070268000, 41002070269000, 41002070270000, and 41002070271000. This public hearing is contingent upon City Council's approval of the 1<sup>st</sup> reading on September 12, 2023.


The public is invited to comment on the rezoning during the Public Hearing or to make Written comments on or before September 26, 2023 to the City Clerk at [RFaraj@hamtramckcity.com](mailto:RFaraj@hamtramckcity.com).

The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk's Office at 313-800-5233 x343. Please contact the Clerk's office at least 10 days in advance.

Rana Faraj  
Hamtramck City Clerk




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## Crime Watch:

### Pride flag vandalism raises the issue of hate crimes

**By Charles Sercombe**

The thefts and vandalism of pride flags at homes and businesses continues in Hamtramck.

One of the recent thefts involved a youth exiting a car and tearing down a pride flag at the former living quarters belonging to St. Lad's Parish, on Caniff across from the church.

The building is now privately owned. A security camera on the building caught the act, and Hamtramck police are investigating the vandalism and seeking to identify the suspect.

This latest incident has sparked talk of hate crimes happening in the city – in this case, obviously, hate against those of the LGBTQ community and what the pride flag represents.

Critics of the city council and mayor, who are all Muslim and all males, point a finger at them for creating an atmosphere of intolerance ever since they made it illegal to display a pride flag on city property.

In Michigan, hate crime comes under the heading of ethnic intimidation, and is defined as:

(1) A person is guilty of ethnic intimidation if that person maliciously, and with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person because of that person's race, color, religion, gender, or national origin, does any of the following:

(a) Causes physical contact with another person.

(b) Damages, destroys, or defaces any real or personal property of another person.

(c) Threatens, by word or act, to do an act described in subdivision (a) or (b), if there is reasonable cause to believe that an act described in subdivision (a) or (b) will occur.

(2) Ethnic intimidation is a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(3) Regardless of the existence or outcome of any criminal prosecution, a person who suffers injury to his or her person or damage to his or her property as a result of ethnic intimidation may bring a civil cause of action against the person who commits the offense to secure an injunction, actual damages, including damages for emotional distress, or other appropriate relief.

Recently, the state adopted another tool for battling hate crimes by expanding civil rights protections for the LGBTQ community.

That state civil rights expansion was co-sponsored by Hamtramck's own Democratic State Rep. Abraham Aiyash, the city's first Yemeni-American to be elected to the state legislature, and who is also the first Arab-American to be named Majority Floor Leader in the legislature.

Aiyash faced pushback from some members of the Yemeni-American community here in Hamtramck on social media for supporting LGBTQ rights.

There is now an organization in Hamtramck, the Hamtramck Queer Alliance, that is tracking the incidents of vandalism and hate aimed at the LGBTQ community and its supporters.

As far as it goes, regarding the number of incidents of hate crimes in Hamtramck, there have so far been only a handful reported.

Police Chief Anne Moise Running said there have been 11 reported hate incidents from 2017 through 2023.

"They range from harassing communications, intimidation (such as shouting slurs, etc.) (up to) a few assaultive behaviors," Moise said.

Nationally, there have been over 8,000 hate crimes committed in 2020, and over 10,000 incidents in 2021, according to FBI statistics.

The Department of Justice offers this summary on its webpage:


"According to this year's data, 63.1% of single-bias incidents were motivated by the offenders' bias toward race/ethnicity/ancestry, which continues to be the largest bias motivation category. Anti-Black or African American hate crimes continue to be the largest bias incident category, with 31.1% of all single-bias incidents in 2021."

Furthermore, the DOJ reported:

"Together, incidents related to sexual orientation, gender and gender identity represented 20.4% of all single-bias incidents reported in 2022. Also, incidents related to religion were 15.1% of incidents, and those related to disability were 1.4%."

"A total of 1,590 incidents related to religion were reported; the largest categories of religion included:


- Anti-Jewish incidents: 51.4% of religion-related incidents
- Anti-Sikh incidents: 11.6%
- Anti-Islamic incidents: 9.6%
- Anti-Catholic incidents: 6.1%
- Anti-Eastern Orthodox (Russian, Greek, Other): 3.1%"



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## Our Lady Queen of Apostles



### Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Religious Education Program

Registraton is Wednesday September 13, 2023 @ 6:00pm., in the activity center, parent & child/children must attend.

First class begins on Wednesday September 20, 2023. At the Queen of Apostles convent @3891 Prescott St. Cost is \$80.00 for the first child, \$10.00 for additional child/children.

This is for families that attend Queen of Apostles church, St. Florian Church, St. Hyacinth, Pope John II (Transfiguration) church. 90.00 for first child, 10.00 for additional child/children. ALL CLASSES ARE IN ENGLISH.

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**Call 313-891-1520 for more information**

