

The New York Times

City Room

Blogging From the Five Boroughs

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Morning Buzz | The New Chancellor

By [ANDY NEWMAN](#)

A small spring milestone: there are now [two hours more daylight than darkness](#). Hooray. Today: [clouds, high 53](#). Tomorrow: [sunny, high 58](#). Sunday: [clouds and maybe rain, high 59](#).

Out with the new, in with the old: Dennis M. Walcott, “guy from Queens,” product of the city’s public schools, former kindergarten teacher, parent and grandparent of public-school children and, as longtime deputy mayor, City Hall liaison to the school system, had [assumed a growing role](#) during Cathie Black’s [brief and ill-starred tenure](#) as schools chancellor. “It was no secret he was running the show,” one district superintendent said. [NYT]

Now Mr. Walcott, whom a Times editorial calls a “[sensible, solid choice](#),” is in charge. Kind of. “I just don’t know if he can be independent enough to run the schools,” the superintendent said.

More on Walcott the man: “[He doesn’t eat anything bad](#),” said Deputy Mayor Linda I. Gibbs, cubicle-mate at City Hall. “He’s a nuts-and-berries guy.” He skydives, ballroom dances and at least until he got a new job Thursday, he was training for the marathon. [New York Post]

In forcing Ms. Black’s resignation, Mayor Bloomberg reverted to a type that predated his mayoralty: the bloodless businessman, [cutting his losses](#) on an investment that was very evidently going nowhere. [NYT] On Room for Debate, education experts and theorists from the Cato Institute, a school superintendents group, Insideschools.org and elsewhere dissect why Ms. Black’s proven business skills were [not enough to compensate](#) for her educational inexperience.

And outside her Park Avenue home, Ms. Black [told The Daily News](#) and The Post, “I bought a new pair of running shoes today, so I’m off.”

Government & Politics

The Cuomo administration will [sharply reduce the number of Police Vehicle Identification parking placards](#) the state has long handed out, with little oversight and considerable abuse by their holders, to lawmakers, commissioners and other nonpolice personnel. Eighty-five percent of the placards will be yanked. [NYT]

Federal prosecutors [added a bribery charge](#) to the fraud and money-laundering allegations against State Senator Carl Kruger. [New York Post]

Crime & Public Safety

To those who loved them, the four prostitutes were daughters, sisters, friends. To the person or persons who [killed them and dumped their bodies](#) in the desolate brush off Ocean Parkway on Long Island, they were disposable. [NYT] The Post reports that the authorities have [identified a suspect](#) in the killings.

At the rape trial of two city police officers, prosecutors [played a surveillance video](#) showing them going into the building of the woman they are accused of attacking. It is one of several videos that establish that the officers entered the woman's apartment several times. But the defense will use the woman's appearance on the tape to suggest that she was not as intoxicated as the prosecution claims, since she appears to be walking on her own. [NYT]

A woman punched into a coma during a fight over an East Village parking spot in February has [regained consciousness](#). [New York Post]

Cultural Affairs

The [struggling New York City Opera](#) is putting off an announcement of next season's plans as it works to plug a \$5 million deficit and to establish financial stability. (See also The [Wall Street Journal](#).)

Housing & Economy

A plan to build luxury housing and an emergency medical center in Greenwich Village came a step closer to reality as a federal bankruptcy judge [approved the sale](#) of the bankrupt St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan campus. [NYT]

Tenants of a rent-stabilized building in Jamaica plagued by everything from vermin and mold to little or no running water might have thought they had seen it all. If so, [they were mistaken](#). [Daily News]

People & Neighborhoods

City officials have [inched away from a plan to pave part of the Coney Island Boardwalk](#) with concrete, but purists are still outraged by the new proposal. [Daily News]

The [killing of a 37-year-old man on the basketball court](#) at a recreation center in Mount Eden in the Bronx on Monday has residents on edge. [Daily News]

Lego by Lego, a Brooklyn man is [creating a replica](#) of his beloved borough. [Daily News]

After 16 years, Clyde Haberman [bids farewell as NYC columnist](#). But he may not be gone for long. Watch this space for developments.