

## ISSUES/PROGRAMS

### Q-1-2016

This time period, marked by succession of snowstorms, WRCR continued to announce and list snow-related closings, power outages and other emergencies, thus keeping public safe and informed.

All Town Supervisors, County Executive, our State Senator and Congresswoman, continued with their regularly scheduled interactive Q&A segments, thus keeping WRCR listeners updated on happenings in their local city halls, Albany and Washington, DC.

In addition to that, several topics dominated our news/talk programs:

East Ramapo School Board controversy: Parents from the East Ramapo School District filed a lawsuit against the school board, claiming that "fiscal mismanagement" is risking the education of students. The petition was submitted to the state supreme court and referenced findings from the report recently completed by the team of monitors appointed by the Department of Education. Dennis Walcott, who leads the three-person team, wrote in the report that they recommend a permanent monitor with the power to veto decisions made by the board. According to the documents filed by parent activists they are urging the Department of Education and Board of Regents to do exactly that and prevent the board from making what they say are bad choices with money that should be spent on providing a fair education for each child.

The worsening drug overdose epidemic was frequently discussed on our airwaves from different aspects. One was overprescribing by physicians. Dr. Alfred Ramirez, who practiced psychiatry out of Middletown, was arrested in connection to the death of 31-year old Yonkers teacher Daren Gajdusek who was found dead in his apartment in March 2015 after an apparent overdose. Following investigation Ramirez was charged with selling prescriptions to patients along with another man, James Cooney of Yonkers, who assisted in selling the false prescriptions and pills on the streets of the Lower Hudson Valley. Dr. Ramirez was indicted by the Grand Jury. Another aspect was easy access to illegal drugs. Discussion was prompted by the following event: The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office released information regarding a drug bust from this past Wednesday. 30 Year-old Oscar Junior Mercedes Rodriguez of New York was arrested in Fort Lee, New Jersey after he was pulled over on Route 4 for an unspecified reason. A subsequent search of his vehicle resulted in finding a street value of \$1 million in cocaine stashed in a hidden compartment. Rodriguez was arrested and charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance. On the "good news" side, audience was informed about an agreement for CVS Pharmacy to provide naloxone without prescription. Naloxone is an opioid blocker which reverses overdose. According to Governor's office, 1500 lives were saved last year by trained personnel last year. Senator Carlucci spoke at length about his efforts to train general public in administration of this life-saving medication.

The above is just a sample of many topics of public interest discussed on our airwaves.

Morning Show airs daily, Monday through Friday 6 AM to 10 AM, providing 20 hours of local audience-responsive call-in programming per week to residents of Rockland county.

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