

## Another Voice: Burstein tirelessly serves the residents of Erie County

Another Voice  
Jul 21, 2020

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**B**y **Aimana ElBahtity**

Physicians from the Medical Society of Erie County feel that it is truly disappointing to see the July 16, 2020 Buffalo News article in which some questioned the overtime compensation made to hard-working public health employees, such as Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein.

Burstein works all day and literally through the night, responding to urgent requests for information as our county, and our country, struggle to navigate through this unprecedented global health crisis.

Operationally, Burstein oversees an expansive and effective Covid-19 response. The Erie County Department of Health works around the clock to provide up-to-date surveillance data to continuously monitor the Erie County Covid-19 trends with regularly scheduled press conferences and timely responses to all media requests.

Under Burstein's direction, the Erie County Public Health Lab provides residents with free Covid-19 diagnostic tests with the shortest turnaround time for test results – within 48 hours – in Erie County and likely within New York State.

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Burstein supervises Erie County Covid-19 contact tracing, performed seven days a week, including all weekends and holidays, to contain the spread of the outbreak.

Burstein and the contact tracer leadership developed a system for in-depth disease investigation, contacting all new cases within 24 hours, coordinating with employers, placing all new cases in isolation and all close contacts in quarantine and monitoring them daily.

Burstein oversees a strong enforcement program to keep Erie County residents safe that responds to hundreds of complaints of unsafe practices in restaurants and bars by providing education, conducting inspections, issuing violations, and, ultimately, closing facilities that repeatedly fail to comply with New York State rules and regulations relating to Covid-19.

Despite these great efforts in response to this unparalleled trial, Burstein must continue to supervise the health department's ongoing and essential core public health operations, including rabies control, other communicable disease investigations, routine restaurant inspections, beach water testing, overdose prevention initiatives and community health education activities to ensure the safety and health of the community at-large.

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The notion that anyone would not support the limitless efforts of our tireless public health advocates is nothing short of a travesty. The Medical Society and physicians of Erie County stand strong and proud alongside the endless efforts of Burstein and our public health officials during these unprecedented times.

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Taking a page from the playbooks of autocrats around the globe, President Donald Trump has deployed federal agents to patrol the streets of Portland, Oregon, where, dressed in camouflage uniforms that identified them only as "police," they have reportedly used tear gas to dispel protesters - and more darkly, cruised the city in unmarked vans in search of suspected protesters before spiriting ...



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### Don Paul returns to WIVB after abrupt exit by Stevie Daniels

Updated Jul 1, 2020

After a few weeks off, the last thing I expected to be doing was writing about 73-year-old Don Paul's return to WIVB (Channel 4). But I'm back and amazingly, so is he. The reason for his return is the abrupt departure of rising meteorological star Stevie Daniels after impressing in only 15 months in Western New York. Paul, the



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## Stevie Daniels lands weather job in her hometown of Baltimore

Updated Jun 25, 2020

Former WIVB-TV (Channel 4) meteorologist Stevie Daniels announced Wednesday on Twitter that she has accepted a job in her hometown of Baltimore. Daniels, who left Channel 4 last week after only 15 months at the CBS affiliate, wrote that she will be working weekdays at 5:30 p.m. on WMAR, the ABC affiliate in Baltimore owned by E.W. Scripps, which

