



AP / REBECCA BLACKWELL

Trump valet Walt Nauta entered a not guilty plea to all charges.

Trump valet enters plea in docs case

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Donald Trump's valet, Walt Nauta, pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges he helped the former president hide classified documents from federal authorities, appearing with a new Florida-based lawyer to represent him.

Nauta was charged alongside Trump in June in a 38-count indictment alleging the mishandling of classified documents. His arraignment was to have happened twice before, but he had struggled to retain a lawyer licensed in Florida and one appearance was postponed because of his travel troubles.

Before his arraignment, Nauta hired Sasha Dadan, a criminal defense attorney and former public defender whose main law office is in Fort Pierce, where the judge who would be handling the trial is based. She appeared in court with Nauta, alongside his Washington lawyer, Stanley Woodward, who entered the not guilty plea on his behalf.

Nauta answered, "Yes, your honor," when he was asked whether he had reviewed the indictment during the brief court appearance.

He and his lawyers exited the courthouse after the arraignment and entered a black Mercedes-Benz sedan

without answering questions from reporters.

Trump pleaded not guilty during his June 13 arraignment to charges including willful retention of national defense information. But Nauta's arraignment was postponed that day because of the lawyer situation and then was pushed back again last week when a flight from New Jersey he was to have taken was canceled.

The indictment filed by special counsel Jack Smith and his team of prosecutors accuses Nauta of conspiring with Trump to conceal records that the former president had taken with him from the White House after his term ended in January 2021.

Prosecutors allege Nauta, at the former president's direction, moved boxes of documents bearing classification markings so they would not be found by a Trump lawyer who was tasked with searching the home for classified records to be returned to the government.

The relocation of the boxes was captured on surveillance camera footage that the Justice Department had subpoenaed.

Prosecutors say Nauta also misled the FBI during an interview with agents last year when he said he was unaware of boxes of documents having been brought to Trump's residence at Mar-a-Lago.

Negligence

WHAT TO KNOW

■ **A Suffolk judge has ruled** Mather Hospital had a duty to warn a cabdriver when it declined to admit a homeless schizophrenic man with a history of violence who raped her minutes into his ride to a residential shelter in December 2015.

■ **The man, Francis Barrios**, is serving a 24-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree rape in 2016.

■ **The judge's decision allows** the negligence case to move forward as the cabdriver, who was 34 years old at the time of the incident, seeks a jury trial and monetary damages determined by the court.

Mather Hospital sued by cabbie in '15 rape case

BY GRANT PARPAN

grant.parp@newsday.com

A Suffolk judge ruled Mather Hospital had a duty to warn a cabdriver when it declined to admit a schizophrenic man with a violent history who raped her minutes into his ride, court documents show.

The decision by acting state Supreme Court Justice James Quinn allows for the negligence case filed by the driver and her husband against the hospital to continue after attorneys for Mather had sought to have the case dismissed. The couple is seeking a jury trial and monetary damages to be de-

ONLY IN NEWSDAY

termined by the court.

The man, Francis Barrios, who was living in a Middle Island homeless shelter at the time, is serving a 24-year prison sentence for the Dec. 1, 2015, attack.

He had checked-in voluntarily at the hospital for treatment of anxiety but was released from the emergency room that same day, and the hospital arranged and paid for a cab ride to the shelter.

"Once Mather Hospital chose not admit Barrios into the hospital for treatment and formed the method of discharge and paid for the transportation, this Court is of the opinion that the discharge did not take place until the patient arrived at his or her destination," Quinn wrote in his June 15 decision. "The fact pattern of

Summer programs seek



JOHN ROCA

A volunteer assists children at a Long Island Cares summer feeding site in Shirley on Thursday.

lawsuit can proceed



NEWSDAY / JOHN PARASKEVAS

Mather Hospital sought to have negligence case dismissed.

this case created a duty on behalf of the hospital to admit Barrios or at a minimum provide proper transport for a schizophrenic individual, not on his prescribed medication for an extended period of time with violent behaviors."

Police reports, witness statements and ambulance and hospital records from the evening

of the attack — included in court filings — show Barrios' movement from an ambulance in Gordon Heights to the back of a taxi cab where bystanders confronted him and tried to offer help to the driver.

While being treated at Mather, hospital staff made the decision to send Barrios home with instructions to schedule a follow-up outpatient psychiatric appointment, according to medical records disclosed to the court. He had told medical staff he had a history of abusing animals and had been incarcerated, according to a psychiatry assessment by the hospital.

The civil case was filed as a medical malpractice claim in 2016 and later dismissed, but an appellate court determined in 2018 the driver could have a viable negligence claim, Quinn noted in his decision. The driver's identity is known to

Newsday, but is being withheld since she was the victim of a sexual assault.

Quinn wrote Mather Hospital could have admitted Barrios, who told both ambulance and hospital staff he was diagnosed schizophrenic and had not taken his medication in more than a month. The hospital also could have sent him back to the shelter using medical transport, the judge noted.

"If the defendant Barrios was discharged without being stabilized, as indicated by the records, then defendant Mather Hospital owed a duty to plaintiffs to disclose or to keep Barrios hospitalized until he was stable," Quinn wrote.

Attorneys for Mather Hospital have cited privacy concerns in why it did not disclose information about Barrios.

"Mather Hospital has the utmost respect for New York's

courts and remains committed to respecting a patient's legally protected right to privacy," the hospital said in a statement. "Mather respectfully disagrees with the court's decision and is pursuing all legal remedies."

Mitch Birzon, the attorney for the driver, called Quinn's decision "bold" and "rewarding."

In a statement to police the evening after the crash, the hospital's lead financial officer at the time said he called for the cab and handed the driver \$24 from petty cash to cover Barrios' fare back to a shelter on Koren Lane in Middle Island.

"I said, 'Have a nice night' and Francis walked out with her," the hospital employee told police.

In her own statement, the driver, who was 34 years old at the time of the incident, said just minutes into the ride that Barrios told her "he wanted to

hang out with her" and that he "was a bad boy." As she drove down Route 25A in Mount Sinai, Barrios began punching her in the face, eventually leading her to swerve and crash.

"I grabbed my mic and I was yelling 'Car 6, car 6, please help!' . . . then I realized he must have pulled the mic cord out," the driver told police.

Barrios, a registered sex offender at the time of the attack, soon began choking the driver, causing her to "pass out." When she woke up, she was in the back seat of the cab being sexually assaulted, she said.

Barrios, now 41, was charged with first-degree rape and pleaded guilty in 2016. He is serving his sentence at Great Meadow Correctional Facility in upstate Comstock.

The parties are due back in court for a conference later this month.

to feed children while school's out of session

BY JOIE TYRRELL

joie.tyrrell@newsday.com

For tens of thousands of Long Island students, breakfast and lunch at school is often their best meal of the day. Several nonprofit organizations have stepped in to make sure children are fed during the summer with school out of session.

Two of Long Island's largest nonprofits that address food insecurity — Island Harvest and Long Island Cares — have kicked off their summer feeding programs, where children under 18 can access free breakfasts and lunches at sites throughout Long Island. The programs run from the end of school until it starts again in September.

Meals are served at summer and day camps, community centers, libraries, churches and community-based organizations.

On Thursday, Long Island Cares announced another initiative to assist families. In a partnership with Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience at Samanea New York in Westbury, Long Islanders who purchase a ticket and donate one bag of groceries will receive

WHAT TO KNOW

■ **Two of Long Island's largest nonprofits** that address food insecurity — Island Harvest and Long Island Cares — have kicked off their summer feeding programs where children under 18 can access free breakfasts and lunches at sites throughout Long Island.

■ **The programs run until school starts** again in September. Meals are served at summer and day camps, community centers, libraries, churches and community-based organizations.

■ **An interactive USDA online map** helps families search for a service site by address, city or ZIP code.

we can help make sure fewer children go hungry this summer," said Justin Paquin, president of Paquin Exhibitions and Theatrical.

The exhibit features more than 300 of Vincent Van Gogh's artworks in a three-dimensional display.

Food donated through the drive will end up in pantries or at feeding sites operated by the nonprofit. King Kullen, ShopRite of Bay Shore and ShopRite of Massapequa have each donated 250 pounds of food to the effort.

Long Island Cares supports 24 summer food service sites throughout Long Island and last year provided more than 50,000 meals to children in need during the summer, according to Jessica Rosati, Long Island Cares vice president of programs.

It was the first day for Long Island Cares' summer feeding site in Shirley on Thursday and a handful of children sat at a table and were served a meal that included chicken salad, crackers, diced peaches and milk.

The agency partners with Lighthouse Mission, where the parents of the children picked

up groceries for the week while the kids ate.

Kerry Tooker, manager of Child Nutrition Programs for Long Island Cares, said participation will grow as families become more aware of the feeding site.

"We have already had parents come and say, 'My child's at home — next time I will bring them,'" she said.

Summer can be challenging for families, experts said. According to the data from the New York State Education Department, about 145,000 Long Island schoolchildren are considered economically disadvantaged.

Island Harvest Food Bank's Summer Food Service Program, administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the USDA, serves a mix of breakfasts and lunches during the week. That program runs until Sept. 2 and is expected to provide 50,000 meals to approximately 1,800 children at 29 sites across Long Island this summer. Those sites also provide education about nutrition and other resources to families.

Randi Shubin Dresner, president and chief executive of Island Harvest, said her organiza-

tion has seen a jump in need because of inflation and changes in federal food assistance programs. The number of people accessing food at a Melville distribution center jumped 199% from December to March, she said. Children being home in the summer also makes resources even tighter for families, she said.

"We always talk about how excited people are to get out of school and to participate in summer activities," she said. "But for many kids, they don't talk about it, but they're not so excited because of what they're faced with. Food insecurity is a real problem. . . . It's a long summer. Kids are out playing — they use up more energy and many of them just don't have access, so we're honored to be able to support so many kids through our summer feeding program."

Last month, the state Education Department announced the kickoff of the Summer Food Service Program, which will provide free meals to approximately 400,000 young people at nearly 2,500 sites statewide. An interactive USDA online map helps families search for a site by address, city or ZIP code.