

# Big woof! Largest animal hospital expands



Schwarzman Animal Medical Center staffers check out pooch at facility that's the world's largest veterinary teaching hospital and the city's only Level 1 Veterinary Trauma Center. The center announced Tuesday it has completed an 83,000 square-foot, \$125 million expansion.

AP FOR THE SCHWARZMAN ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER

# Council panel slaps gun poi

## Statement hits GOPer for bringing weapon to protest, but censure nixed

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NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

City Council's Ethics Committee on Tuesday blasted Councilwoman Inna Vernikoff for bringing a gun to a peaceful protest in 2023 — but voted not to formally take the matter further.

Committee Chairwoman Sandra Ung slammed Vernikoff in a statement read into the record, saying the Republican Council member displayed a “brazen disregard” for her fellow New Yorkers and public safety

speak on behalf and express the majority's deep disappointment with Council member Vernikoff's conduct,” Ung said, also criticizing Vernikoff for not offering a public apology.

Last week, sources with direct knowledge of the matter indicated to the Daily News that the committee was looking to advance a formal censure motion of Vernikoff to the full Council, which would then have voted on it in a more severe form of rebuke. However, the Ethics Committee shut down that possibility with Tuesday's vote.

Vernikoff, who represents

after bringing her firearm to the 2023 Brooklyn College rally — five days after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel — which she was counterprotesting. However, the charges against her were later dropped after police found the weapon was missing a piece, making it inoperable.

Diama Ayala, the City Council's deputy speaker, told the Daily News after Tuesday's hearing that the committee ultimately opted for this move in order to avoid the matter potentially dragging into next year.

“To me, the most insulting part of all of this is the resistance to

appalling,” Ayala said during the meeting.

Vernikoff, for her part, was unapologetic.

“Carrying a weapon into public assembly, especially an assembly which consists of masked supporters of ‘Globalize the Intifada,’ is not only appropriate, but is necessary,” Vernikoff said in response to the committee's condemnation, adding that she encourages more New Yorkers to use their Second Amendment rights when Zohran Mamdani is mayor.

“As Speaker (Adrienne) Adams previously stated, it is

for elected officials to model the behavior we expect of New Yorkers.” Council spokeswoman Julia Agos said in a statement.

Staten Island Councilman David Carr, the ethics panel's only Republican, came to Vernikoff's defense, saying there was “no evidence” to suggest she meant to threaten or cause concern by intentionally tanning the gun.

He also slammed the 2022 state law designating many public places, such as protest areas and school grounds, as “sensitive locations” where wielding firearms is illegal.

“I believe restrictions like this