

Score! Worth \$1.1B, Knicks tops in NBA

See where the city's money goes

Being able to peek at the city's ledger has gotten a whole lot easier.

City Comptroller John Liu launched an improved version of the "Checkbook NYC" online database yesterday, which lists all of the expenditures for more than 100 city agencies.

The new website, checkbooknyc.com, includes an easier-to-use interface, historical information and apps that monitor spending, contracts and payroll costs.

"With out-of-control cost overruns and a growing public sense that tax dollars are not funding real priorities, this application could not have come sooner," Liu said in a statement.

(IVAN PEREIRA)

CLARIFICATION

The image on yesterday's amNewYork cover was a model micro unit that's on display at the Museum of the City of New York. It is not the final design of the unit that the city will build.

Nets, after move to Brooklyn, also on Forbes' top 10

BY ANNA SANDERS
Special to amNewYork

At \$1.1 billion, the Knicks were named the most valuable team in the NBA by Forbes magazine yesterday.

The Knicks' value increased 41% in the last year, driven largely by a \$980 million renovation to Madison Square Garden. The project began in 2011 and the benefits are starting to pay off.

"The renovation created more corporate sponsorship opportunities, more revenue from premium seating, and it gave the team a chance to dramatically boost ticket prices," said Forbes senior editor Kurt Babenhausen, who contributed to the report.

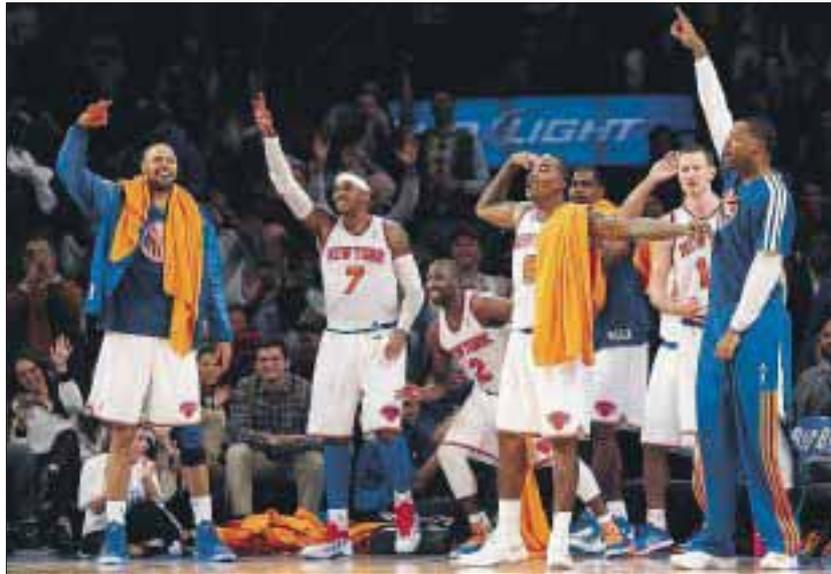
The renovations, which are expected to be completed this summer, helped earn the Knicks \$243 million in revenue last season.

The Knicks took the top spot from the Los Angeles Lakers, valued at \$1 billion.

The Brooklyn Nets also made the top 10 most valuable teams, clocking in at \$530 million.

The average NBA team value increased 30% since 2012.

The Dolan family owns controlling interests in the Knicks, MSG and Cablevision. Cablevision owns amNewYork.



The Knicks' value increased 41% during the past year and the team earned \$243 million in revenue last season. (GETTY)



Deron Williams
(JIM MCISAAC)

Top 10 most valuable NBA teams

- 1 Knicks, \$1.1 billion
- 2 Los Angeles Lakers, \$1 billion
- 3 Chicago Bulls, \$800 million
- 4 Boston Celtics, \$730 million
- 5 Dallas Mavericks, \$685 million
- 6 Miami Heat, \$625 million
- 7 Houston Rockets, \$568 million
- 8 Golden State Warriors, \$555 million
- 9 Brooklyn Nets, \$530 million
- 10 San Antonio Spurs, \$527 million

NAACP joins case against big soda ban

The NAACP and other opponents of the city's pending soda ban squared off against the Health Department in civil court yesterday in an attempt to block the mayor's controversial proposal.

The civil rights group — along with soda companies, restaurants and other businesses — contended that the plan to prohibit the sale of sugary sodas greater than 16 ounces is illegal and hurts mom-and-pop stores in minority communities.

The city, however, argued that the Department of Health was mandated to implement the ban because obesity is a leading health problem.

It is unknown when the judge will rule.

The ban is set to go into effect in March and will affect any venue that gets a letter grade from the Health Department.

(IVAN PEREIRA)



The super-size sugar drinks ban is set to take effect in March. (GETTY)

Coke 'bust': Drug stashed in bra at JFK

What a boob.

Two alleged drug smugglers were caught at JFK Airport within just a few hours of each other earlier this month, including one who hid cocaine in a bra, authorities said.

Late at night on Jan. 12, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers uncovered a 2-pound stash of cocaine concealed in a bra and in a pair of sneakers in the luggage of a woman who was flying in from the Dominican Republic, customs officials said.

DNAinfo.com
New York
neighborhood news

'Unemployed' now have the law on their sides

The City Council approved a bill yesterday that prevents New Yorkers with gaps in their resume from falling into pitfalls in their employment search.

The unemployment discrimination bill, which passed with a 44-4 vote, is the first in the country that bans companies from basing their hiring decisions solely on the applicant

being unemployed.

The measure also makes it unlawful for employers to mandate current employment as a job requirement.

The city's unemployment rate is 9.4%, so job hunters need all the help they can get, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn said.

"Discrimination is wrong in all its forms, and we cannot — and will not — allow

New Yorkers who are qualified and ready to work have the door of opportunity slammed in their faces," she said in a statement.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, however, said yesterday he will veto the measure, which he doesn't support because it opens small businesses up to lawsuits. The bill has enough votes to override a veto. (IVAN PEREIRA)



The City Council measure bans employers from basing their hiring decision solely on an applicant being unemployed. (GETTY)