

METRO

Politically connected Shomrim leader charged with raping 15-year-old girl

By Tina Moore, Carl Campanile and Max Jaeger

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Jacob Daskal was charged with raping a 15-year-old girl.

Christopher Gregory

The politically connected president of the Boro Park Shomrim safety patrol was arrested on charges that he repeatedly raped a 15-year-old girl inside his Brooklyn home, police said Thursday.

Jacob “Yanky” Daskal, 59, a major donor to multiple campaigns, was picked up at about 12:30 p.m. at his home on 46th Street, where he allegedly attacked the teen between August and November 2017, police said.

Investigators are probing whether the abuse lasted longer, according to sources.

Insiders say Daskal has friends in high places and claim his political largesse got him in tight with elected officials.

“He’s a well-connected guy. In Borough Park, he’s a big deal — a macher,” or important person, said one insider who requested anonymity, noting that Daskal is particularly close to retiring Assemblyman Dov Hikind.

"It comes a complete shock. This is nuts. Yanky Daskal has grandkids."

Campaign-finance records show he wasn't afraid to splash cash for his favorite political causes.

He dropped \$1,000 on Mayor de Blasio's 2009 public-advocate bid and has given nearly \$9,300 to Hikind since 2004, according to state campaign-finance records listing his name and Borough Park address.

He tossed \$1,000 to corrupt former state Sen. Malcolm Smith in 2008 and has lavished a little over \$4,500 into state Sen. Simcha Felder's campaign coffers since 2007, the records show.

Someone named Jacob Daskal also gave \$250 to de Blasio's 2003 City Council campaign, according to city records listing a name but no address.

Meanwhile, pols were funneling cash into the Boro Park Shomrim volunteer safety group over which he presided.

The organization reaped \$425,708 in eight city contracts alone between 2010 and 2015, according to Politico New York.

City records indicate Daskal works as a principal at G & J Realty.

The company is registered to Daskal's 46th Street address, state business records show.

Daskal is being charged with felony third-degree rape, as well as forcible touching, sex abuse, criminal sex act and acting in a manner injurious to a child under 17, police said.

Neighbors were surprised, though not all had glowing things to say about him.

"He isn't nice. He puts his garbage on my sidewalk and leaves it out. Nasty man," said one who asked not to be identified.

A woman who answered the intercom at Daskal's home declined to comment.

Hikind and the Boro Park Shomrim did not return a request for comment.

The Boro Park Shomrim **has been embroiled in an NYPD gun-permit-fixing scandal** with tendrils that reached police brass and two de Blasio donors, although Daskal has not been charged in that case.

Additional reporting by Larry Celona

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