

All in da family

2 baby deaths under probe

COPS ARE investigating the deaths of two 1-month-old baby girls in separate incidents Saturday, authorities said.

Relatives found little Anayah-Lynn Howard unconscious on her mom's bed inside their apartment on 238th St. in Cambria Heights, Queens, about 6 a.m. Medics rushed the infant to Long Island Jewish Hospital, but doctors were unable to save her. Anayah-Lynn's mother may have rolled on top of the infant while she slept, accidentally suffocating her, cops said.

About three hours later, in the Bronx, medics rushed an unconscious little Lexi Ortiz from her parents' home on Clay Ave. to Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, where she died. Lexi had a preexisting medical condition, cops said.

Autopsies have been slated to determine how each infant died.

Thomas Tracy

He's shot in face but on the mend

A 21-YEAR-OLD man is lucky to be alive after a gunman shot him in the face during a clash in the Bronx early Saturday, officials said.

The victim was on rain-swept E. 222nd St. near Eastchester Road in Williamsbridge when the gunman opened fire about 4:30 a.m.

The victim was hit in the left cheek but managed to take himself to an area hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

The gunman ran off. No arrests have been made.

The incident happens as shooting in the city have dropped by 17% so far this year, according to NYPD statistics.

As of Thursday, 339 shootings had been investigated this year by the NYPD across the city — compared to 410 during the same period last year.

Thomas Tracy

2 thieves take hack's new car

TWO MEN jumped a livery cab driver in the Bronx early Saturday and stole his brand-new car, police said.

The 35-year-old cabbie had just parked his blue 2017 Hyundai Elantra on Williamsbridge Road and Pelham Parkway in Pelham Gardens when the two men armed with a knife approached about 2:20 a.m.

As they threatened to stab him, the suspects robbed him of his iPhone, wallet and keys, officials said. They took off in the Elantra, which has livery plates, officials said.

A third man was acting as a lookout, officials said.

No injuries were reported. Cops were looking for the stolen car — and the three suspects — Saturday.

Thomas Tracy

Loved ones help John (Sonny) Franzese into Brooklyn home Friday. A far cry, from his younger years (left), the century-old bad guy is relaxing.



Freed wiseguy, 100, chills with kin in B'klyn

BY CATHERINA GIOINO and LARRY McSHANE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

IT WAS a family reunion 100 years in the making — and worth the wait.

The daughter of century-old ex-Colombo family underboss John (Sonny) Franzese was thrilled Saturday as her oft-jailed dad enjoyed his first full day of freedom in eight years.

"I'm very delighted that he's home," said Loraine Scorsone (photo inset) after the venerable gangster — sprung from prison Friday — spent the night with family at her Brooklyn home.

Her brother Michael, who accompanied their dad on the ride down from the Federal Medical Center in Devens, Mass., agreed the family patriarch's presence was a welcome addition.

"Dad enjoyed a nice, quiet and well-earned night at home," Michael said Saturday via email.

"The day was a bit overwhelming for him, I'm sure.

"He has four remaining children, several grandchildren and a bunch of great-grandkids who want to know him, love him and give him some happiness in his remaining years. He deserves it."

All told, Sonny Franzese spent more than four decades of his life behind bars.

He arrived at the two-family Greenpoint home on Friday night and went inside without saying a word. He was greeted with hugs after his latest prison stint, and there was no sign of him Saturday.

Franzese, a native of Naples, Italy, was the oldest inmate in the federal system following what he hopes was his final arrest. The made man, already in his 90s, was convicted of shaking

down a pair of Manhattan strip clubs.

Missing from the long-awaited get-together was Sonny's namesake son John Jr., who became an informant and testified against his dad in 2010.

"He took the stand, swore to tell the truth and then lied through his teeth to save his own skin," said Michael, who followed his father into the Colombos before walking away from organized crime.

Michael Franzese — once ranked by Forbes magazine as No. 18 on its list of the 50 most powerful American Mafiosi — became a born-again Christian, father of seven and motivational speaker.

The frail Sonny, who used a walker to get inside from a white Range Rover, flashed a smile Fri-

day evening as he headed inside.

Franzese, who turned 100 on Feb. 6, wore a gray sweatshirt with matching sweatpants.

He was a contemporary of the crime family's namesake Joe Colombo, and reportedly rubbed elbows with Frank Sinatra at the old Copacabana nightclub.

Franzese joined the Colombos in the 1930s, taking his first arrest in 1938 for assault. He was jailed a half-dozen times over the years on parole violations.

But mob lore has long held that Sonny was convicted in 1967 for a bank robbery that he did not commit. Michael, in his email, insisted that was true.

"My father was framed 50 years ago," he said. "He was no bank robber, and I'll take that to my grave. My father and I have had our disagreements. Obviously, I walked away from a life that he continued to honor.

"But we love one another to this day."

