

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## 'MARY POPPINS RETURNS' AT CHESTER SQ. PARK



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

The Friends of Chester Square had their first-ever movie night in the Park on Sunday, Sept. 8. With ice cream and 'Mary Poppins' on the big screen, it made for an excellent late summer gathering.

## District 8 hopefuls discuss housing, opioids, transportation and more in candidates forum

By Dan Murphy

Two weeks before the Sept. 24 preliminary municipal election, the five District 8 city council hopefuls squared off at a candidates forum to discuss some of the most pressing issues now facing the city and district, including development and affordable housing, changing transportation needs, the future of Boston Public Schools, and the opioid scourge, on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at Suffolk Law School.

Candidates on hand at the forum, which was jointly sponsored by the Beacon Hill Civic Association, the Neighborhood

Association of the Back Bay and the West End Civic Association, included Kenzie Bok, an affordable housing advocate, community leader and the former chair of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee; Montez Haywood, a longtime prosecutor with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office; Kristen Mobilia, a community leader and advocate; Jennifer Nassour, an attorney and chair of the Massachusetts Republican Party from 2009 to 2011; and Hélène Vincent, a social and environmental justice activist and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. John Nucci, Suffolk Uni-

versity's vice president of external affairs, served as the event moderator.

In response to how she could be an effective city councilor when faced with a strong mayoral charter, Nassour replied, "I've known the mayor for almost 30 years and during that time we've agreed to disagree a lot, but also learned how to negotiate."

Vincent, meanwhile, cited the City Council's "perceived lack of power" as her main impetus for running for office.

"I'm running because of the lack of trust between people and the

(D8 FORUM, Pg. 3)

## Stanhope Hotel project filed with City of Boston for 300-keys

By Seth Daniel

A Boston and New York developer announced Wednesday that they have filed a Letter of Intent with the City to develop a 300-key hotel project on Stanhope Street directly across from Freida Garcia Park and the Mass. Pike.

HN Gorin, Inc., announced they have formed a joint venture with Masterworks Development

Co., LLC, to develop the 300-key hotel on Stanhope Street in the Back Bay. The venture filed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to begin the formal approvals process Wednesday morning.

"We look forward to working with the City and the community to create a boutique hotel in one of the city's most beautiful neigh-

borhoods," said Roz Gorin, HN Gorin, Inc. "The Stanhope site is an ideal location for a boutique hotel given its urban setting and proximity to the Back Bay train station, as well as shopping and restaurants, and amenities, which any traveler looks for in a downtown hotel."

Roz Gorin is the third genera-

(STANHOPE HOTEL, Pg. 2)

## Walsh calls on South End to stay patient on opioid fight

Says City is getting ready to roll out Mass/Cass 2.0 plan

By Seth Daniel

Mayor Martin Walsh made his annual trip to the South End Forum on Tuesday, Sept. 10, and devoted almost all of his 90 minutes with the packed house to the administration's plans for combating the opioid epidemic that continues to rock the neighborhood.

The context of the meeting for many neighbors was the fact that in 2016, Walsh appeared at the same meeting and asked for "six

months" to get the problem under control. In that time, the situation has gotten far worse for those on the streets and the neighbors who live amongst the problems.

At the new More Than Words bookstore on East Berkeley Street, Walsh was passionate in his discussion and response, sympathetic to neighbors and resolute in trying to stem the problem that is centered in Worcester Square and has

(SOUTH END FORUM, Pg. 7)

## ZBA under review amidst bribery allegations

By Lauren Bennett

Amidst an alleged bribery scandal at the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) that has unfolded over the past few weeks, Special Advisor to the Mayor (and former Inspectional Services Department director) Buddy Christopher announced on Sept. 6 that he would be taking a temporary leave of absence so as to not interfere with the investigation.

That was quickly followed up last weekend by ZBA member Craig Galvin announcing his resignation, which Mayor Martin Walsh has accepted.

"The private sector work I performed that qualified me for the work I've done for the city, and the connections I made then, disqualify me from participating now in the inquiry the Mayor has requested," Christopher said in

(ZBA, Pg. 6)

## DEM. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE O'ROURKE AT BACKLASH BEER CO.



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

Democratic Presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke campaigning at Backlash Beer Company in Newmarket, on the South End border, last Thursday, Sept. 5. The candidate made his first Boston stop at the brewery to greet students and talk about his message. It is the first major campaign stop in the neighborhood this time around.

# EDITORIAL

## TIME TO END THE 'WAR ON DRUGS'

For those of us who have been around for longer than we might care to admit, America has been consumed during our lifetime by the never-ending battle to combat drug abuse.

It was in 1971 -- almost 50 years ago -- that President Richard Nixon first declared a "war on drugs." The mind-set that took hold thereafter, both among politicians and the public, led to a dramatic increase in the penalties for drug possession, including marijuana, which was classified as a level one drug at the federal level, the same as heroin.

In the 1980s, First Lady Nancy Reagan launched a "Just Say No to Drugs" campaign and in the 1990s, the Clinton administration and Democratic politicians likewise maintained a strong anti-drug policy with heavy penalties.

However, the true basis for the war on drugs was stated bluntly by former Nixon White House aide John Ehrlichman in 2016: "We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."

The end result of our five-decade war on drugs has indeed been what the Nixon administration had hoped for. There are as many Americans with arrest records as with college diplomas; an American is arrested for drug possession every 25 seconds and our nation has more citizens behind bars than any other country in the world, both in terms of sheer numbers and as a percentage of our population.

In 1980 about 50,000 people were in prison for violations related to drug laws -- but today that number is over 400,000.

Yet, the war on drugs and our mass incarceration rates have not even remotely led to a decrease in drug use.

In addition, the spillover from our drug enforcement laws has destroyed the social order in other countries, with the drug cartels essentially reigning supreme in many nations in Central and South America, as well as in Afghanistan.

But the most pernicious effect of the war on drugs has been that it has created an environment that directly has led to the high death rate from drug abuse among our citizenry. More Americans now die each year from overdoses than perished in the Vietnam, Afghan, and Iraq wars combined.

Portugal and Switzerland have decriminalized drug possession of all kinds -- yet the death rate in those countries from drug abuse is almost non-existent. The reason is very simple: Those nations have treated drug dependency as a health issue, rather than a criminal matter.

The war on drugs, as have so many of our real wars, was based on a lie. Our addiction to incarceration has ripped apart families and destroyed individual's lives and their futures.

The war on drugs has been a failure in every respect -- and it's time that we face that reality.



SINCE 9/11 WE HAVE GROWN STRONGER

## GUEST OP-ED

### Not everyone in Boston feels resilient. We're working to change that.

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

There is no question that Boston is a strong city that's used to banding together. We celebrate championship-winning sports teams, remember our importance in the roots of American history, and cheer on runners along Boylston Street every April. We also stand together during the hard times.

The city's response following the Boston Marathon Bombing shed light on our community's innate commitment to supporting our families, friends, and neighbors who have been impacted by violence of all forms. When faced with devastation, we remained united, and we endured.

We recently finished installing the Marathon Markers at Boylston Street which represent the victims of the attack at the two bombing locations. These two monuments will light up the area and serve as a constant reminder of both what was lost on that fateful day and the determination and resilience of the survivor community at large.

There are countless survivors still reeling from the trauma they endured on April 15, 2013 and the days following. There are people living with physical scars, and people living with invisible injuries. There are also people throughout Boston who have lived with this kind of trauma for years, due to other acts of violence, including gun violence, gang violence,

and other tragic acts that impact entire neighborhoods. Not all Bostonians feel resilient, and I'm working to change that.

That's why the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture is carrying out the One Boston Resilience Project, an inclusive process to envision the City's collective strength after violence, as illuminated by the Boston Marathon Bombing. This project is intended to help us build connectivity and resilience across the city, through the development of a citywide memorial.

We're leading a citywide community engagement process that allows us to come together as a city and reflect on what it means for all Bostonians to be resilient in the face of tragedy and trauma. This project will result in a piece of public art that aims to be reflective of all Bostonians, and will help us build connectivity and resilience together as one city.

The goal of this community engagement process is to receive as much feedback from residents as possible. We want your input. What does resilience look like? What features should the memorial have to emphasize the strength of the City and everyone living here?

Public input will be gathered over four months. We want to reach as many people as possible, so we will use a variety of platforms to receive feedback. We will distribute a citywide survey, con-

duct listening sessions, use digital outreach, and have creative and participatory activities in multiple languages with an emphasis on multicultural inclusion to maximize access to participation for all.

We have a few dates already planned. Please join us for the first round of listening sessions:

- Back Bay: Tuesday, September 10 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Boston Architectural College's Cascieri Hall, 320 Newbury St.

- Jamaica Plain: Thursday, Sept. 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at BCYF Hennigan Cafeteria, 200 Heath St.

- East Boston: Thursday, Sept. 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Veronica Robles Cultural Center, 175 McClellan Highway

- Dorchester: Saturday, Sept. 28, from 2-4 p.m. at Codman Square Branch of the Boston Public Library, 690 Washington St.

This is a project important to all Bostonians, and that's why I want as much help as possible. I hope you'll participate in the One Boston Resilience Project to create a much deserved memorial to highlight Boston's journey to healing and commitment to supporting each other. Through it all, we stick together.

Learn more at [boston.gov/one-bostonresilience](http://boston.gov/one-bostonresilience)

*Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.*

### STANHOPE HOTEL (from pg. 1)

tion to lead the family's 110-year-old company which is active in the acquisition, development, redevelopment, ownership, management, and financing of millions of square feet of office, industrial and multi-family residential properties in Boston and throughout the country. She has been involved in notable projects such as 101 Merimac St., 101 Federal St., 75 Federal St. and 55 Summer St.

Founded in 1992, Masterworks is a private real estate company that has a successful track record of owning, developing, and oper-

ating hotels across the United States.

The development plan has been guided by and is in compliance with the multi-year planning process for this area, the Stuart Street Study (2008-2011), that more recently resulted in the adoption of development Guidelines (October 2015) and new zoning (March 2016).

The Study examined potential development opportunities and evaluated the suitability of various height, density and use scenarios, including impact on neighboring historic buildings, residential areas

and open spaces, to develop a comprehensive vision for the future.

Designed by Group One Partners, who has experience designing numerous hotels in Boston, including the Envoy Hotel in the Seaport, the team is proposing a building that is consistent with the zoning on the site.

NABB Chair Martyn Roetter said it would be premature to comment on the proposal at this moment, but he did say NABB would likely be meeting with the developer to discuss issues such as traffic.

## THE BOSTON SUN

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# Eight Streets ditches monthly meetings, adds more social events

By Seth Daniel

The Eight Streets Neighborhood Association has announced that they plan to take on a new meeting and social schedule in the

coming civic year, ditching the idea of monthly meetings in favor of having more social events.

Eight Streets was on the docket to have its first meeting of the civic year on Sept. 10, but informed its

membership that they would not be having a meeting.

Instead, they have moved to have a fall meeting on Oct. 8 in Project Place rather than a monthly meeting schedule.

“Over the years the focus within the Eight Streets Neighborhood Association (ESNA) has slowly shifted from activism to more socially-oriented and community-engaging activities,” said Pres-

ident Michael Almond. “ESNA has invested significant time and resources such that our abutting parks - Peters, Ringgold and Wat-

(EIGHT STREETS, Pg. 7)

## D8 FORUM (from pg. 1)

government...and our job as city councilors is to bring that power back to the people,” she said.

While working for City Councilor Anissa Essaibi George during her first term, Bok said she dissected the city’s budget and analyzed it in great detail – an initiative that underscores the importance of the City Council which was soon adopted by other councilors.

“It’s about how the City Council perceives its role, and I think there’s huge scope for change there,” Bok said while adding that the seeming constraints that the City Council are often nothing more than a “paper wall.”

Haywood said he would seek to build a coalition with other city councilors to “address and negotiate” with the mayor.

Mobilia described “civic engagement” as the most useful tool at a city councilor’s disposal and said she would also do her part to bolster existing neighborhood organizations while working to create new ones.

When asked how she would tackle transportation-related issues now facing the city, including the installation of bike lanes; scooters and other dock-less vehicles being regularly abandoned on city streets; and navigation apps like Waze directing drivers to take quiet, residential streets, Vincent said she would foremost implement a “holistic system of bike paths, including downtown, to get people off the sidewalks.”

Vincent also pointed to the need for legislation to better regulate dock-less bikes and scooters, as well as to discourage navigation apps from directing drivers down some residential streets during cer-

tain hours.

Bok, on the other hand, suggested upgrading MBTA service as the best immediate fix for the transportation problem.

“We can’t keep adding people and cars to the city – it’s impossible,” Bok said. “We need to invest in the T.”

Also, Bok suggested changing the direction on some streets as a way to keep navigation apps from steering drivers down some residential streets.

Haywood encouraged those in attendance who see scooters and other dock-less vehicles left unattended to call 3-1-1 while emphasizing the need for legislation to better regulate them.

With so many different modes of transportation now sharing city streets, Mobilia said it’s imperative that everyone learn the “rules of the road.”

“Whether you’re a driver, a biker or a pedestrian, we need to slow things down in the city,” Mobilia added.

Regarding the current absence of a public elementary school in the district, Bok suggested that Boston Public Schools could seek out empty classroom space for such educational purposes, rather than pursuing a “footprint” that would house all classes under one roof. This piecemeal approach would help demonstrate the need for a new school prior to building a new school, she said.

Haywood echoed this sentiment, suggesting the Winchell School at 26 Blossom St., the tenement house at 25 North Anderson St. and the West End House at 16-18 Blossom St. - three historic West End buildings owned by Massachusetts

General Hospital that are now in danger of being razed to accommodate the expansion of the planned expansion of its main campus – could easily accommodate classroom space for a neighborhood elementary school.

Haywood added that while he believes that BPS exam schools “should stay in place,” children who don’t have the same educational “head start” as others should also be afforded the same opportunities to achieve.

Similarly, Mobilia said, “Exam schools don’t mirror the current [BPS] population...and we want to make sure every child has the opportunity to take [these admittance tests].”

And like their children, Mobilia added that BPS parents also needed to be educated, and that parents need more of a voice in the School Committee.

As the only candidate who is also a parent, Nassour lamented that none of her three children could attend public school in the district.

“I would take the budget apart to make sure the money is all spent on children, not the adults,” Nas-

sour said, adding that she would leave the state of BPS exam schools as is.

Vincent said she would advocate for equity of all BPS students. “I would fight for all neighborhood schools because I care about every child in this city,” she added.

While considering the city’s current opioid epidemic, Haywood said Boston should follow the example of Toronto, Vancouver and other Canadian cities that have adopted safe injection sites where addicts can consume drugs under the watchful eye of a healthcare professional.

“We need to attack this problem in a medical way,” Haywood said. “We need doctors, not police officers.”

Like Haywood previously stated, Nassour advocated for reopening the bridge to the Long Island shelter – the homeless shelter and substance abuse treatment center in Boston Harbor that Mayor Martin Walsh abruptly closed five years ago – as an immediate first step in addressing the city’s opioid problem.

Nassour also emphasized the importance of providing treatment

for family members of addicted individuals as well.

Considering the future of development, Mobilia called for an immediate reform of the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

“I’m not against development, but we’re not going in the right direction now - it’s not democratic,” Mobilia said. “We need to make sure affordable housing stays in the neighborhoods where the development is happening.”

As for Vincent, she expressed concern that irresponsible or short-sighted development could lead to Boston becoming “a collection of streets, not a community.”

Said Vincent: “The Problem is worse than we think.”

Meanwhile, Haywood said the process needs to change whereby a developer proves the merit of their project in the eyes of the city and neighborhood residents before ground is broken.

“[A would-be developer] would have to prove a compelling need to the city and the people in the neighborhood...and look closely at the nature and character of where the building would be [situated],” Haywood said.



## Public Meeting

# Urban Renewal Community Meeting

**Thursday, September 26**  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Boston City Hall**  
1 City Hall Square  
9th Floor, BPDA Board Room #900  
Boston, MA 02201

### Project Proponent:

Boston Planning and Development Agency

### Project Description:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency invites surrounding stakeholders to a community meeting regarding updates to the Government Center Urban Renewal Plan Area.

mail to: **Christopher Breen**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4202  
email: [chris.breen@boston.gov](mailto:chris.breen@boston.gov)



John Nucci (far left), Suffolk University’s vice president of external affairs and forum moderator, and District 8 City Council hopefuls (left to right) Kenzie Bok, Montez Haywood, Kristen Mobilia, Jennifer Nassour and Hélène Vincent.

# FRIENDS OF CHESTER SQUARE PARK HOST OUTDOOR MOVIE: 'MARY POPPINS RETURNS'

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

The Friends of Chester Square Park hosted an outdoor movie screening of "Mary Poppins Returns" at Chester Square Park in the South End Sept. 8. It was their inaugural Movie Night

event at the park, and something they've planned since last summer. The Boston Police Department ice cream truck was there for free ice cream to enjoy with the movie. Many came to enjoy the nice September night watching the movie with friends and family.



Michael Rodriguez, with Olive, and Kyndal Feinman, with Mischa, at Chester Square Park Movie Night.



Henri Drew watching "Mary Poppins Returns" during the Chester Square Park Movie Night.



Eric Lynville, Sara Yessenow, James Goldring and Larry Ong with Danny.



Kyndal Feinman, State Rep. Jon Santiago, Michelle Laboy, Kelsey Schiller, Carol Blair, Jim O'Donnell and Rudy Mitchelle.



Henri, Nora, Bob, Anna and Alice Drew found a great spot on their picnic blanket

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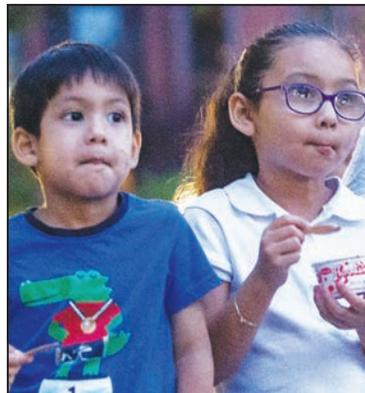
# MOVIE NIGHT AT CHESTER SQUARE PARK



Clio, Patricia and Max Horan enjoying ice cream before the movie.



Ella Saxe watching "Mary Poppins Returns" with Michael Saxe.



Anthony and Estefania Alonzo enjoy Hoodsies and a movie.

The Beacon Hill Times - beaconhilltimes.com  
The North End Regional Review - northendregionalreview.com  
The Boston Sun - thebostonsun.com  
The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - charlestownbridge.com

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## THANK YOU

**Thank you** to everyone who has shared their story, concerns, and ideas with me over this campaign. I hope to earn your vote to represent District 8 at City Hall, where I will be an advocate for our neighborhoods each and every day.

**VOTE on Tuesday, September 24**

or by Absentee Ballot at Boston City Hall, Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, or by mail.

Vote **Jennifer Nassour** to be your next City Councilor!



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for BOSTON CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 8

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Election Day: September 24  
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PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

## ZBA (from pg. 1)

a statement. "Rather than recuse myself, I am simply taking a temporary leave of absence so as not to interfere with the inquiry."

Christopher had been the ISD Director for some time, dealing with numerous issues in the South End, Back Bay and Fenway over the years with residents. However, in recent months, he took on a special project for Mayor Walsh to be the point person for a new effort to address the Opiate Epidemic.

Now, his work there has been derailed for the time being as the saga on the ZBA continues.

The U.S. Attorney's office announced on Aug. 30 that John Lynch, former Assistant Director of Real Estate at the Economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC), a division of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), pleaded guilty to

accepting \$50,000 in bribes from a Boston real estate developer to convince Lynch to obtain a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) vote that would extend a permit for a multi-unit development. The permit would allow the real estate developer to gain an additional half million dollars in profits, according to the US Attorney's office.

Lynch was charged with one count of bribery involving an organization receiving federal funds and one count of filing a false federal tax return that did not include his receipt of the bribe payments.

"Lynch faces a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine of up to \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greater, and forfeiture," the release states.

On Sept. 8, Galvin resigned from the ZBA, according to City

officials. The Boston Globe reported that Galvin's resignation letter did not provide a reason for the resignation, but that the website for Galvin's real estate firm states that it served as a consultant and a listing agent to one of Lynch's projects.

Mayor Walsh said on Sept. 5 that he has launched a review of the ZBA "to ensure best practices," according to a release from the city.

"Boston is a city that is booming with economic development, from new companies moving to our city and the creation of housing being at an all-time high-record," said Mayor Walsh in the release. "The pace of our growth is unparalleled to any other time in our city's history, which is a tremendous economic boon for our city, but also brings its own set of challenges. Through this review, I want to make sure that our agencies and staff are best equipped with the knowledge, tools and training they need to do their jobs

effectively and to the standard of which they are held."

Mayor Walsh has selected Sullivan & Worcester LLP to conduct the review, which will begin with the rules and regulations currently in place that decide how the ZBA works with individuals and their projects before the board.

"Since taking office, my Administration has worked to level the playing field in the development process in Boston, emphasizing transparency and ensuring broader access and input from the community," said Mayor Walsh. "I recognize that there is always more work to be done to make the business of city government more accessible and transparent to everyone. I am hopeful that we will learn from the findings of this review how else we can better serve our constituencies and implement best practices used in the field."

On Sept. 6, the City employed Attorney Brian Kelly to focus on the allegations of this incident, according to city officials, who added that Kelly has reached out for a scheduled interview with each of the ZBA members and will also reach out to any others involved with this particular project to find out what occurred.

"It continues to be a top priority to get to the bottom of what happened here," a spokesperson for Mayor Walsh said. "We anticipate having our questions answered through Attorney Brian Kelly's review, and Mayor Walsh is taking the action needed until we

know more."

City officials said that the ZBA will continue to operate normally, as there are projects that cannot wait for the review process, such as in the case of a person carrying two mortgages and not being able to sell their home unit a permit is issued or a building owner seeking accessibility improvements such as ramps or elevators. The scheduled September 10 meeting occurred as planned, with the absence of Galvin on the board. That left only five board members to hear the cases, which led ZBA Chair Christine Araujo to explain to applicants that they would need unanimous support from the board in order for their projects to be approved.

"One of my first actions as Mayor was to streamline the zoning process and change the BRA into a planning agency that, for the first time, focuses on the community," Mayor Walsh said in a statement. "I've worked to level the playing field in every aspect of development and I've made clear that if we find anything that allows someone to put their thumb on the scale that I will make immediate changes. There are timely projects before the board right now that will unfairly and negatively impact residents who have been waiting to improve their homes if they are not addressed. I've asked for an independent and comprehensive review and I am fully committed to overhauling the Zoning Board of Appeal."

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## Public Meeting

# Kenmore Hotel

Wednesday, September 25

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Rajen Kilachand Center for Integrated  
Life Sciences & Engineering

610 Commonwealth Ave  
Boston, MA 02215

### Project Proponent:

Mark Kenmore LLC

### Project Description:

The Proponent has filed a development plan for a Planned Development Area for the proposed project. The Proponent proposes to construct a new, 29-story, approximately 391-room hotel surrounded by a new, approximately half-acre public plaza. The Project also includes the demolition of the existing building at 560-574 Commonwealth Avenue, and shifting the building site east, amid the new public plaza. The shift allows construction of a new public street to connect Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street, in between the new plaza and the former building site. The Proponent will be responsible for construction of the new public plaza and roadway improvements, which will improve the pedestrian experience in Kenmore Square.

mail to: **Tim Czerwienski**  
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One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.5303  
email: tim.czerwienski@boston.gov

**Close of Comment Period:**  
9/30/2019

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**SOUTH END FORUM** (from pg. 1)

quickly fanned out to the rest of the South End this year.

“For each person we got into recovery, it seems like two people replaced them,” he said. “That isn’t a great answer. We were coming over to this meeting and I just thought it was overwhelming. We have every right to get our heads punched in today at this meeting. People have every right to be fed up. We’re trying. I ask you to say committed to us. We’re going to continue to move forward and push other cities and towns to do it too. It’s gotten worse.”

He said regardless of the resources put into the problem, it only seemed to magnify it.

“Regardless of all the work and efforts put into the issue, it just doesn’t seem to get it under control,” he said.

At all times – unlike in the past – the mayor was less defensive and ready to try anything. He was as passionate for getting rid of problems that residents are dealing with as he was about trying to help people on the street to get into recovery.

Walsh’s presentation was made all the more difficult because his former point person on the issue, Buddy Christopher, suddenly took a leave from this position in the wake of a scandal at the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Walsh said they do have a new plan for addressing the situation that has unfolded – dubbing it Mass/Cass 2.0.

That plan is not quite ready to be presented, he said, but he did give plenty of hints at what it will entail – and there seem to be some new approaches and some old successes.

While most expected the audi-

ence to be in an uproar at the meeting, it generally wasn’t the case. Part of that was likely in response to the mayor’s initiatives in the new plan – which included a return of the bicycle officers that neighbors have said were so valuable in the past.

“We are also bringing in dedicated bike patrols,” he said. “In the neighborhood, those were in place and they made a difference. They were taken away and put in other areas, but they are coming back.”

In addition, he announced that there were going to be a lot more street counselors now dedicated to the Mass/Cass area of the South End. He said they were recently able – with the help of State Reps. Aaron Michlewitz and Jon Santiago – to get a \$750,000 budget earmark that allowed them to hire 10 more recovery counselors to be on the streets. That will take the overall number up to between 18 and 20.

“That’s a big deal,” he said. “These people are dedicated solely to this neighborhood and you will see them out there...That means we’ll have 20 people on the streets and going around from person to person to person to encourage them to get into treatment.”

Deputy Police Supt. Michael Stratton told neighbors there was also going to be a much larger contingent of police on the beat in the area too.

“If you haven’t already seen a difference, you will because there are a lot of officers being devoted to this area,” he said.

One key piece of that new program, aside from the bikes, was an effort to decentralize the AHOPE needle exchange program on Alba-

ny Street.

“We’re probably not looking for more sites for the Engagement Center, but the needle exchange program we have a plan to spread that out,” he said. “Needle Exchanges shouldn’t frighten people. They are keeping people healthy. We’re exploring putting them in other locations in Boston. We should have them in health centers and in other locations. You have my commitment on that. It’s in our new plan.”

Walsh also talked at length about discussions he has had with other City and town leaders from the area during a recent meeting in Boston of the Metro Mayors Coalition. He said a key part of his plan is to really put pressure on surrounding communities to make sure they have resources available for those needing services in their

communities. With more than 50 percent of those in Boston not hailing from Boston, he said there is a need for services to be regionalized.

“That’s a big part of 2.0,” he said. “It’s not just Boston sharing services around the neighborhoods, but it’s about 351 cities and towns sharing the services.”

He said many times it’s about working with local authorities because no one outside of Boston wants recovery services in their cities or towns. However, he said it will be incumbent to put pressure on leaders in other communities that it is the right thing to do.

Said one long-time neighbor, Roland Sullivan, from East Springfield Street, who basically summed up what many in the neighborhood feel at the moment.

“I’m so over and done with

this,” he said, noting that he routinely sees people shoot up three or four times a day on his stoop. “I have no room for empathy and sympathy. I need action. I probably shouldn’t say this, but last month when the police came and did the clean sweep, it made a difference. For about a week, it was wonderful. I hate it to be a police state, but there is nothing else left to do.”

The mayor acknowledged some of the frustrations in the room, and said neighbors had every right to feel that way.

Then he once again asked for patience.

“I’m not giving a timeline tonight like six months,” he said. “We’re going to do what we can to solve the issue. I wish I had a better answer. We’re going to roll out 2.0 and try it. Stay with us.”

**EIGHT STREETS** (from pg. 3)

son - are all well managed with independent organizations in their own rights. ESNA has also build up a social media platform so that many of our residents choose to engage with the neighborhood via Facebook and our website. Finally, since most of the issues we now face - crime, development, trash, rodents, sidewalk and street repair - are of a relatively routine nature the ESNA Officers, in consultation with our street captains, have decided to change our meeting and social calendar. We believe these

changes will continue to bring more people together and build an even stronger neighborhood.”

In addition to the fall meeting, there will a Fall social on Dec. 10 at The Eagle.

Other meetings are:

- Winter Meeting, Feb. 11 at Project Place.
- Spring Social, April 14 at TBA.
- Summer Meeting, June 9, in Project Place.
- Summer Block Party, Aug. 11, at TBA.

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# BETO O'ROURKE HOLDS MEET-AND-GREET AT BACKLASH BEER COMPANY

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

Democratic Presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke held a student meet-and-greet event at Backlash Beer Company in Newmarket, on the fringes of the South End, on Sept. 5. It was the Texas politician's first trip to Boston since announcing his run for president.

O'Rourke came from New York City on Bolt bus, held a town hall in Medford at Tufts University before coming to Backlash. The students attending the event came from universities all over the Boston area, with many representing student groups of color, such as Alianza Latina from Boston University and MIT's La Union Chicana de Aztlán. About 150 people attended the intimate event.



Boston University students and members of Alianza Latina, Kiefer Rosa, Bryant Liriano, Michael Arellano, Riaz Butt-Garcia and Sammie Casas.



Presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke (C) with BON ME CEO Patrick Lynch and Rebecca Simonson (L) in front of a BON ME truck outside the event.



Beto O'Rourke with Helder Pimentel, co-owner of Backlash Beer Company.



Beto O'Rourke gives his message to young voters during his meet-and-greet.



Presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke during press conference.

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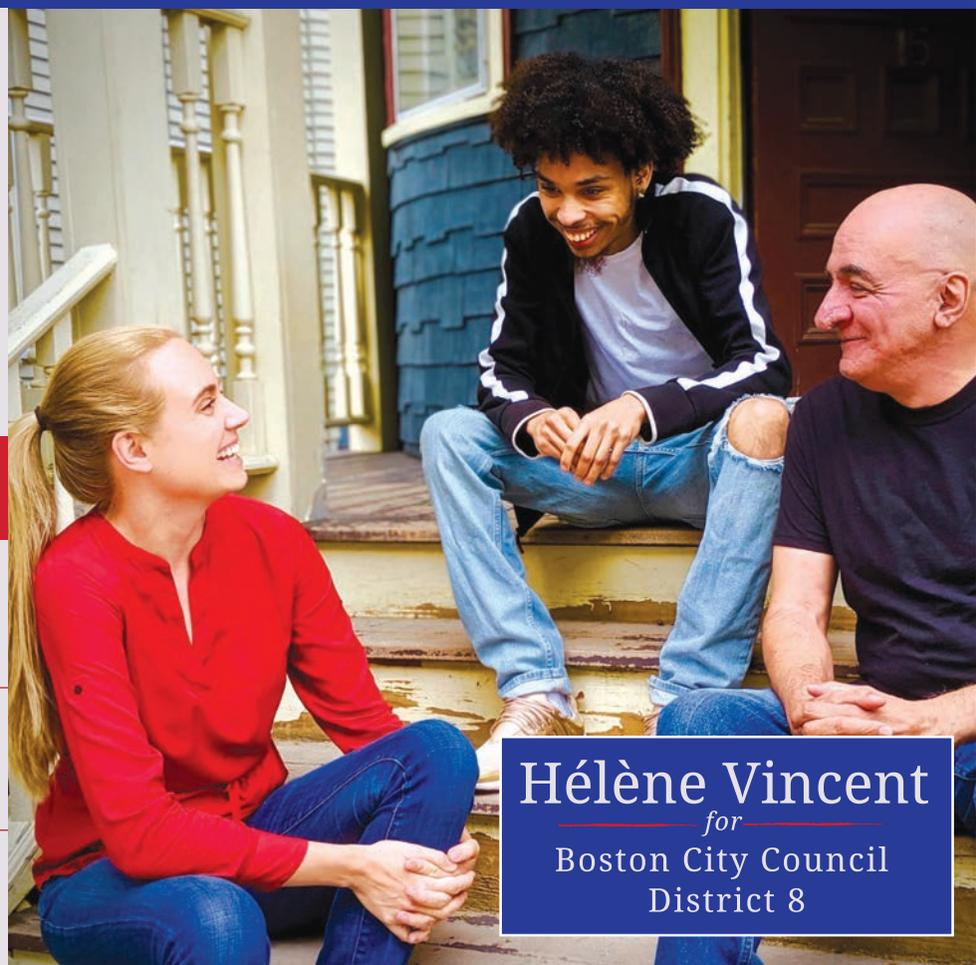
Expand supply of real affordable housing  
Increase on-campus housing at colleges and universities  
Stop displacement of Boston residents

#### Reliable Transportation

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Advocate for systemic MBTA investments

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FOR MORE INFORMATION [VincentForBoston.com](http://VincentForBoston.com)

# FIRST DAY AT THE HURLEY K-8 SCHOOL



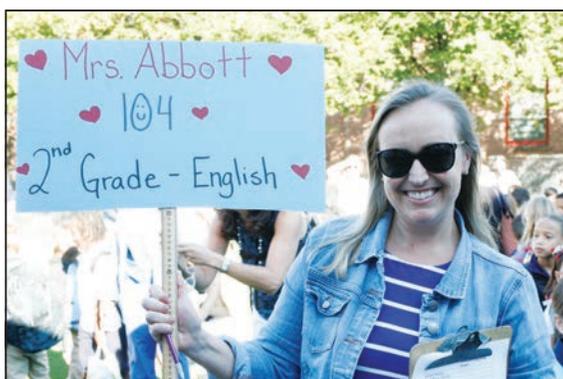
Paula Cruz, Antonia Durango-Cruz, Kiara Reyes and Carmen Reyes get ready for second grade.



Janeishka Trujillo, Isabella Gonzalez, Kiany Troncoco and Bivianette Firnandini.



Shown above, Angelina Camacho, a Hurley parent and part of Mayor Martin Walsh's team that handed out pencils across the district, gives a pencil to Gilianny Sanchez. Shown to the right, Claire Peterson, a second-grader, was accompanied by her mom, Courtney, and her kindergartner brother, Grant.



Second-grade teacher Erin Abbott prepares to start her ninth year at the Hurley, welcoming back all of her new students on Sept. 5.



Photos by Seth Daniel

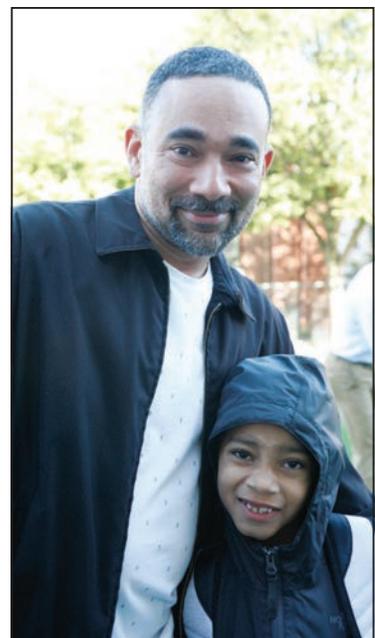
The Hurley K-8 Bi-Lingual School in the South End began the school year with excitement on Thursday, Sept. 5. New Principal Bethy Verano and school leaders introduced staff with a flair to students and parents gathered on the soccer field. Verano said she was excited to lead the school community, and excited to get to know each and every student and family.



New Principal Bethy Verano introduces herself to the school community outside the school.



STEM Teacher Ingrid Morales donned some boxing gloves when she was introduced on the first day - ready to fight for her students!



Ernesto Pena and Jimani Pena ready for the first day at the Hurley.



Three friends reunited. After a long summer apart, sixth-grader friends Maia Sobral, Scarlet Garcia and Maggie O'Neill were reunited on the first day in the schoolyard.

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# See-Sharp: Opera singer/composer hopes to revolutionize modern opera

By Seth Daniel

The idea of women in castle parapets wearing powdered wigs, men in a Viking costumes and notes in a foreign language held for an eternity is what many might think of when they conjure images of opera, but it's the course that singer/composer Omar Najmi hopes to steer the art from away from.

And so the Boston Lyric Opera singer has written his first original operatic work set in a school for the blind and featuring performers who are both sighted, partially sighted and blind.

"This is significant for me because it's my first time both composing and producing," said Najmi. "We all wanted to put something together. We're into modern music and wanted something new. I decided to try my hand at composing it. At the same time, I rediscovered this play that I read in my AP Spanish class in

high school. I thought, 'Wow, that would make the best opera.' It's been three years in the making. The language is beautiful and the story is larger than life. It has something unique and includes an audience that's not typically been served or featured in the operatic medium."

The play's big premiere came last week in Watertown's Moseian Center for the Arts, but prior to that they had been practicing for several weeks in the South End at City Lights.

City Lights Director Duggan Hill said he was floored by the operatic revolution that took shape in his center over the past few weeks.

"I said, 'Let's do it,' when I heard it was opera," he said. "We don't have much of that. Then I started to see what it was that was going on. This idea of producing an opera with blind performers is incredible. You can see it happening. It's very uplifting for them and everyone else. They're all great singers, but it really was wonderful



Looking to revolutionize opera, singer Omar Najmi has composed his first new work, and it's set in a school for the blind, sung in Spanish and incorporates sighted, partially-sighted and blind performers in the cast. The cast has been practicing at City Lights in the South End for the past two weeks in preparation for the premiere in Watertown Sept. 6.

to have it here."

The new work is set in a school for the blind and 10 of the 12 characters are blind and the work is in Spanish with a podcast for translation. While not every person in the work is sight-challenged in real life, a number actually are. The work has been buoyed by a grant from the Boston Foundation to improve access and representation in the arts for groups like the sight-challenged.

As such, one of the lead roles is played by John Castillo, who was born in Venezuela and lives in Boston. He has been blind since birth

and is training as an opera singer as well.

He was an immediate success.

However, because he can't read a score, he is very skilled at learning music by hearing and memorizing. That as a challenge with a new work because it has never been performed or recorded before. To help, Castillo's father coached him through the music long before starting rehearsals.

Najmi said the result has been amazing.

"He has perfect pitch and it's incredible how he learns the music in his memory," he said. "He was

actually light years ahead of everyone else on the first day of rehearsals."

What Najmi and Music Director Brandon Shapiro are trying to do is revolutionize opera and take it to a new place during a time when the traditional model is struggling.

"This is a time of major revolution in opera and probably arts in general," said Najmi. "Over the past decade, many major opera houses in the U.S. and worldwide have closed their doors. They cannot make it financially. We wanted to change the definition of what the opera genre can be and who it can be about. Instead of having a structured company where I'm at the head and there's a company underneath me, we put everyone in an equal structure where we're all equal participants."

Shapiro said another part of that revolution is in the composition of the company, where there is no chorus and everyone plays a character with their own parts. Additionally, he doesn't stand up like a typical opera conductor.

"This is done without a conductor," he said. "Following a conductor is an inherently sighted thing. If we took that traditional aspect away, it put everyone on stage on an even plane in real, mutual collaboration. That was kind of a revolution for opera in and of itself."

'En la ardiente oscuridad' (In the Burning Darkness) premiered last weekend, but Najmi said he believes it will be a first step for the production, with it hopefully playing in many other places.

## South End Landmarks continues discussing Hotel Alexandra details

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) Hotel Alexandra subcommittee met on September 10, following the full Commission's approval of the project in concept on September 7.

"Our intention is not to start over," said Commissioner John Freeman told the design team. "By accepting this in concept we are also accepting a lot of the decisions you've made."

The purpose of these subcommittee meetings is to allow the SELDC to be involved in the design process as it evolves over time until a final design is settled upon. "We'll probably meet several times and look at the Alexandra and the new construction," Freeman said.

At this particular meeting, the design team mainly discussed the material palette for the hotel. Architect David Nagahiro of CBT Architects said that they chose materials for the tower that allow the existing historic building to be "much more prominent."

"Glass is the most important material that we are going to select," he added, going into more detail about the specific mullion they chose for in between the panes of glass. The western side of the building will feature darker glass on a portion of it "to give it some character with the panel dif-

ference," the team said.

The team also discussed lighting the building at night, which is early in the process right now but they hope to illuminate specific details on the Hotel Alexandra, and have light fixtures that will graze up the building. They said the conduits for the lighting will be hidden, but some of the fixtures will be exposed. Resident Lloyd Fillion said that he hopes the lighting will be subtle to be respectful to neighbors' homes.

Commissioner Freeman brought up the fact that other buildings in the South End have some sort of cornice line, but the design team said that the proposal for the Alexandra has a "sliced off" aspect instead of wrapping the molding around the corner of the building exists because that is what is there now.

There was some other discussion about the materiality of the project and what people hope to see from it, including that it appear high quality and have texture that will bring that corner back to life.

Commissioner Freeman said that he hopes to have a subcommittee meeting at the property in the near future to examine worn or deteriorated materials in person. He also said that the next subcommittee meeting should be focused on these preservation elements. The subcommittee will continue to have publicly open meetings to discuss these types of design details.

## Collapsible trash bins a hit during pilot program

By Seth Daniel

Neighbors on East Brookline Street logged very positive reviews of the collapsible trash bin pilot that has been ongoing since Aug. 6.

In a presentation at the South End Forum on Tuesday, Dan Revello of East Brookline Street reported that they had 23 volunteers to use the bins in 16 buildings. That has given the neighborhood and the City a great sample to find out if the bins are working well.

"In the responses we got from users, 78 percent said it's useful and 78 percent said it has helped to prevent loose trash," said Revello. "It is doing what we hoped it would do."

The bins are the brainchild of Forum Moderator Steve Fox and Eight Streets Neighborhood Association President Michael Almond.

A constant problem in the downtown neighborhoods is that

residents don't have a place to store large trash barrels, which has resulted in bags being on the streets. That ends up being a trash-pickers heyday, closely followed up by an open air buffet for rats and mice – and squirrels on occasion. In an effort to curb the loose trash and critter problem in the South End, Fox and Almond introduced the idea of collapsible bins and East Brookline Street quickly asked to be the test subjects.

Some of the early responses include:

- 86 percent said it was easy to use.
  - 64 percent said it was easy to collapse.
  - 50 percent reported storing it under their main staircase.
  - 28 percent reported lining it with a trash bag.
  - 35 percent said other neighbors used the bin.
  - 100 percent reported it has helped curb rodents.
- Revello said one comment indi-

cated that the bin didn't help prevent trash-pickers from opening bags, but it helped by confining the open bags to the bin and so trash was not spread all over the streets.

Another said there was a challenge because there was no top on the bin, and they found that people tended to put dog waste bags into their bin on trash day.

Chief of Streets Chris Osgood said the pilot would continue until Oct. 1, and they would gather more information from the trash contractors and the City's Public Works Department.

"You guys came to us with an idea and it aligned with something the mayor deeply cares about – keeping the streets clean and safe," he said.

Fox said one user comment summed it all up for him.

"One person said that they liked it so much that if the pilot ended and they didn't go with the bins, this person wanted to keep theirs," he said. "I think that says a lot."

# City Council holds hearing to discuss ‘unreasonable and excessive’ noise levels

By Lauren Bennett

Excessive noise continues to be a top issue for many neighborhoods across the City as Boston continues to grow and expand. The Boston City Council Committee on Environment, Sustainability, and Parks held a hearing on Aug. 29 regarding unreasonable and excessive noise. Sponsored by City Councilor at-Large Althea Garrison, the hearing focused on two panelists who provided information about what the noise levels in the city look like, as well as what the city is doing to manage noise.

Committee Chair Matt O’Malley said they received letters from several residents, including one from a Jamaica Plain resident regarding noise from special events, one each from Dolores Boogdanian and Kathy Greenough of Audubon Circle regarding noise for projects there, and one from Martyn Roetter of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay regarding noise issues from vehicles, construction, digging, and the new trash pickup schedule.

Carl Spector, Commissioner of the Environment Department, was the first panelist at the hearing and talked about what the city already does to regulate noise. “The city can be a noisy place,” he said. “The City and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have enacted laws and regulations to restrict noise.”

He said that currently, several city agencies have responsibility for enforcing certain restrictions. The Boston Police Department deals with excessive noise from motor vehicles, loud parties, and other behavior that is considered “disturbing the peace,” Spector said. The Inspectional Services Department is responsible for provisions regarding construction hours, and the Air Pollution Control Commission is responsible for regulations regarding excessive noise from permanent heating, cooling, and ventilation equipment.

“Every year, the Environment Department receives about 400 complaints of excessive noise from all neighborhoods directed at a wide variety of sources,” Spector said. He said that the first goal of the department is to work with both the complainant and the generator of the problem to identify the issue and assist them in finding solutions.

A large source of complaints is from airplane noise, which Spector said the City has no jurisdiction over. The Federal Aviation Administration and MassPort have control over that, he said. However, there is a MassPort Advisory Committee that “makes sure that those

authorities are aware of and are responding to complaints, but cannot take any direct action itself,” he added.

Though he is not positive about the date, he said that around 30 years ago is when the Air Pollution Control Commission passed existing regulations for the control of noise in Boston, but they are mainly focused on permanent equipment such as HVAC units, Spector said.

“We have one staff person in the Environment Department whose primary responsibility is to respond to complaints,” he said. He said the first approach to responding to these complaints is to make sure people are aware of regulations. “In most cases, we are able to resolve the problem amicably,” Spector said. “Sometimes it takes a bit of time, but that’s what we do.”

He said that a database and

*“...about 40 decibels, people begin to experience mood disruption...”*

record is maintained for all complaints that come to the Environment Department.

Another source of complaints in the city is construction noise and times. Spector said that start time for construction is 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. “If people think there are violations of that, they should call 311 and complaints are directed to the Inspectional Services Department,” he said. “There are times when construction can take place outside of those hours but the construction firm should be getting permission from ISD to do that.”

City Councilor Matt O’Malley said that he encourages his constituents to try talking to their neighbors first about noise, “but should they feel uncomfortable about doing that, nor not get the positive response...they should of course call 311 and there are always ISD inspectors on site.”

Spector added that they try and involve neighborhood liaisons from the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services with issues like these, as they tend to be very familiar with the people in the neighborhoods and those who may be doing construction as well.

The second panelist was Erica Walker, who works at the Com-

munity Noise Lab at Boston University. Walker has a doctoral degree in Environmental Health from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health, where she also established nonprofit organization Noise in the City, which measured sound levels in the City of Boston.

Walker said that for Noise in the City, she measured sound levels at 400 sites in the City of Boston. “I developed and deployed the Greater Boston Neighborhood Noise Survey and we saw 1200 responses to that survey,” she said, and subsequently released an online report that includes analysis of data from the 400 sites as well as the survey data and analyzed noise complaint data from the Boston Police Department.

Walker said she also developed and released an app called Noise Score, which allows people to document their noise complaints by measuring sound levels and also recording how the noise makes them feel.

Right now, she works at Boston University, where she founded the Community Noise Lab. “The lab is a little bit different than Noise in the City, now we’re working with specific communities to address very specific noise issues,” she said. Right now within the City of Boston, she is working with Mission Hill, which is concerned about sound levels coming from the Longwood Medical Area as well as construction noise and noise from loud parties. In East Boston, she is working with issues surrounding sound levels from the airport, and in Fenway, she’s working on issues with construction noise and the summer concerts at Fenway Park. She is also working with a number of communities in the Greater Boston area on other particular issues.

The first step is to take real-time sound measurements, she said. “One of my hypotheses in measuring sound levels in the City is that we do a very superficial job,” Walker said. “We measure how loud it is but sound level is much more complex. Not only is it how loud it is, it’s also what we call the frequency or the character.”

Walker said she is interesting in measuring not only how loud sounds are but also the frequency composition as well as people’s perception of sound. “Sound is one thing; it’s a physical characteristic of our environment, but noise is the part that’s unwanted so I’m definitely interested in understanding how residents perceive sound because I feel like it’s very important to understand perception when we’re dealing with health impacts in particular,” she said.

In the Fenway right now, Walker is measuring sound by Fenway

Park and set up several sound monitors before last weekend’s Zac Brown Band concerts. She is also doing a laboratory-based experiment where “we’re taking sounds from the City of Boston and we’re exposing participants to these sound levels and we’re monitoring their cardiovascular stress and mental responses with hopes of seeing how sounds in a typical urban environment impact our health acutely,” she said, as well as community engagement events ranging from hearing screenings to sound walks to lectures. She said a report will be released soon for Fenway’s results.

Walker also said that elected officials “need to be open to listening to people when they complain and not looking at it as something that a lot of people with privilege are complaining about. It’s a real environmental health issue that’s backed up by millions of epidemiological studies.”

She said that about 40 decibels, people begin to experience mood disruption. She said as you move up on the decibel spectrum, it

begins to disrupt sleep around 55 decibels. At around 65 decibels, which Walker said is about how loud Boston is on a typical day and sometimes at night as well, “we begin to see cardiovascular-related issues, such as hypertension, increased risk for heart attacks, cardiovascular-related emergency admissions, and cardiovascular related mortality,” she said.

She said that instead of competing Boston’s sound levels with those of other cities, it is more important and more useful to compare it to what studies show impacts health. She said that when it is looked at this way, “sound levels in the City of Boston are concerning.”

(NOISE LEVELS Pg. 15)

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# 'I want to hear your issues:'

## Sen. Brownsberger pays a visit to Peterborough Senior Center

By Lauren Bennett

State Sen. Will Brownsberger visited the Peterborough Senior Center on Sept. 10 to present what he's been working on at the State House, as well as get feedback from the seniors about issues that are important to them.

Brownsberger said that the issue of transportation is at the "top of the list for many people," and "we need to do better in this aspect."

The MBTA fare increase has been on the forefront of people's minds recently as many are upset that they have to pay more for what does not seem to be improved service. "I am increasingly interested in the issue of lowering fares," Brownsberger said. He said that everybody's pushing the T to spend more money, but Brownsberger said he believes giving the T more money in order to lower fares for passengers "might be the best way to use additional money for the T." However, he still thinks that the issues with the deteriorating equipment need to be fixed first and foremost in order to increase reliability

in service, as he said that there are parts in the T system that are over 100 years old.

"I think there is more that we can do to improve the system," he said. He also talked about the improvements that are coming to the Green Line, as that is up next for improvements. "We're going to see better reliability on the Green Line," he said. He said that over the next 10-15 years, new Green Line trains will be rolled out, and carrying capacity on the Green Line will double. The new cars will be slightly longer and will have more passenger space inside them, as there will be less wheel space taking up room for passengers, which is a problem with the cars now.

Additionally, over the next five years, the city will see all new cars on the Red Line as well. Brownsberger made it clear that these types of overhauls take a lot of time to implement—the Red Line car replacement started back in the former Gov. Deval Patrick administration, he said.

One of the seniors commented that Uber and Lyft "are a big problem," and seem to create a lot of

congestion on already congested roads.

"We have put a lot of regulations in place," Brownsberger said, adding that there needs to be stronger incentives for people to share rides when they use services like Uber and Lyft, in order to reduce the amount of one passenger rides taking up space on the road.

Another issue on the matter of transportation is the accessibility of certain MBTA stations. Several seniors said that there were issues with Symphony Station, including that it is not ADA compliant as there is no elevator and the signage is difficult to read.

Brownsberger said that this is something that is going to be addressed by the MBTA. "It's not off the list; it's definitely happening," he said.

Aside from transportation, the issue of housing is "one of the hardest," Brownsberger said, as it affects so many people. He said the issue is high on his list of things to address. He also said it goes hand in hand with transportation, as people need to get to and from where they need to go through-

out the day, and then back to their homes.

One senior said she feels that people of color are not invited to the housing discussion. She said she would love to be able to secure a job, a home, and transportation, but has been met with pushback.

"We're doing the best we can to address all of those, but obviously, we need to do more," Brownsberger said. He said there are many people feeling "economic pain," but "there is no doubt that is concentrated in people of color." He said he would like to see a more progressive taxation to create more

affordable housing in the city.

Other issues important to the Senator include the environment and making Massachusetts a leader on those issues, as well as education funding for the areas most in need. He is also working to put more resources into place for people coming out of the criminal justice system.

"I'm focused on what is of most concern to my constituents," Brownsberger said. He told the seniors, "I really appreciate you taking the time to share what's important to you. I want to hear your issues."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SOUTH END LIBRARY PROGRAMS

South End Writes at the South End Library will kick off on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m. Filmmaker Katrina Browne, a descendant of the largest slave-trading family in the U.S., traced the geographic, historical and political legacy of her ancestry, together with eight of her cousins, to produce a documentary movie, "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North." One of the cousins, Dain Perry, and his wife Constance,

who is a descendant of slaves, have conducted some 350 screenings and facilitated conversations in more than 160 cities across the country, including many libraries and churches. Both active in the Episcopal Church, they will facilitate a discussion about the subject after the movie's showing.

### PIPE ORGAN CONCERT AT CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of the Holy Cross' enormous 1875, 101-rank,

(NEWS BRIEFS, Pg. 14)

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# FENWAY VICTORY GARDENS CELEBRATE FENSFEST



Gerry Wright as Frederick Law Olmsted, Kim White, and Alex Sawczy.



Trina Arpin, Fenway Victory Gardens member of 11 years, volunteers to cook burgers on a grill.



Andrea Fosa (left) and Sage Bullard (right) playing a game of checkers.



Torrey Utne, Joanna Gammel, and Vice President of Communications for the Fenway Victory Gardens Michelle Parkos.



Samantha Baronie, Laura Poulin, President of the Fenway Victory Gardens Elizabeth Bertolozzi, John Stauffer, Josie Faria, and Bob Simmons.



Iory Allison (left) and Philip Bibb (right), Victory Gardens members of 29 and 40 years, respectively, look through for-sale items during the celebration.



Aurora Caamano with 11-month-old Rusty.

Photos by Mike Mejia

The Fenway Victory Gardens celebrated the end of the growing season with their annual FensFest on Saturday, Sept. 7. Attendees enjoyed

an afternoon filled with games, BBQ, and live music on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Located within the Emerald Necklace, the Fenway Victory Gardens hold more than 500 gardens for Boston residents.



Victory Gardens members of eight years, Ryan Grave (left) and Kimberly Parker (right).

Priscilla **Kenzie** Bok  
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

## For District 8 Boston City Council

Kenzie Bok's years of leadership addressing affordability, organizing residents across the city, and promoting smart solutions to address our challenges has earned her the support of the leaders and organizations we trust the most.

- Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz
- Rep. Jay Livingstone
- Rep. Aaron Michlewitz
- At-Large Councilor Michelle Wu
- At-Large Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George
- District 7 Councilor Kim Janey
- MA Women's Political Caucus
- Right to the City Vote
- Boston Ward 5 Democrats
- Boston Ward 4 Democrats
- UNITE HERE Local 26 (hotel workers)
- SEIU 1199 (healthcare workers)
- SEIU 32BJ (janitors and property-service workers)
- MA Nurses Association
- UAW (Region 9a)

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# VOTE SEPTEMBER 24

[www.kenziebok.com](http://www.kenziebok.com)

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Kenzie Bok

# NEWS BRIEFS

From Page 12

E. & G. G. Hook & Hastings Opus 801 pipe organ will once again play following an extensive restoration during the overall renovation of the Cathedral. More than 2,000 of the instrument's 5,300+ pipes were removed and cleaned off-site along with other work. After remaining silent during the two-year interior renovation of the Cathedral, the historic Opus 801 will now sound again.

Leo D. Abbott, FAGO, Ch.M., Music Director Emeritus of the Cathedral, will perform the first organ concert on Opus 801 following its restoration on Sunday, Sept. 15, at 3 p.m. A suggested donation of \$25 (or \$15 for students and seniors) will be gratefully accepted to benefit the Organ Restoration Fund. The Cathedral is located in the South End at 1500 Washington St.

## BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

Tour of the Ether Dome and the Russell Museum at MHG:  
NABB Special Events Presents a Tour of the Ether Dome and the

Russell Museum at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Please join NABB Special Events for a fascinating guided tour of the MGH Ether Dome and the Paul S Russell Museum of Medical History and Innovation, Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 11 am- 12:30 pm.

While there is no charge for this event, space is limited. An optional lunch is being planned after the tour. Please RSVP to specialevents@nabbonline.com if you would like to attend the tour. Also please let us know if you will be joining us for lunch.

• Police Panel/Public Safety Meeting

The next Police Panel / Public Safety Forum will take place on Thursday, Sept 26, at 6:00 pm, in the Parlor in the Park House next to the First Church 66 Marlborough Street. For more information, please contact Charles Neckyfarow: publicsafety@nabbonline.com

•Newbury Street will be closed to traffic and become a pedestrian-only walkway from Arlington

Street to Massachusetts Avenue on September 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for Open Newbury Street.

## SOUTH END DATES

•The next Blackstone/Franklin Squares Neighborhood Association meeting will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. in the D-4 Police Community Room.

•South End Open Studios. The United South End Artists has announced that the 2019 Open Studios will take place at locations across the South End on Sept. 21 and 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

•The East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) will meet next on Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Project Place.

•The Ellis South End Board meeting will take place on Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m., in 66 Berkeley St.

## FENWAY TIMES

The 4th Annual Taste of the Fenway will be on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 5-7 p.m. on Van Ness St. from Kilmarnock St. to Richard B. Ross Way. This outdoor festival

will feature talented chefs from Fenway's finest restaurants, live music, and interactive art. You and your guests will savor delicious tastings of food, beer, wine, while enjoying a fun evening in the Fenway. Each ticket is \$50 and includes all-you-can eat food and drink tastings. Get your tickets or become a sponsor at tasteoffthefenway.org. For inquiries, please contact Iris Tan at itan@fenwaycdc.org or (857) 234-6509.

## FENWAY PARK HAPPENINGS:

Friday, Sept. 13 - The Who Concert—5 - 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 14- Billy Joel Concert — 5 - 10:30 p.m.

## RED SOX

### HOME GAMES:

9/17 vs. Giants at 7:10pm

9/18 vs. Giants at 7:10pm

9/19 vs. Giants at 1:05pm

9/27 vs. Orioles at 7:10pm

9/28 vs. Orioles at 1:05pm

9/29 vs. Orioles at 3:05pm

## KENMORE HOTEL PUBLIC MEETING

There will be a public meeting regarding the Kenmore Hotel on Sept. 25 at the Rajen Kilachand Center for Integrated Life Sciences & Engineering, 610 Commonwealth Ave., from 6-8 p.m. The Proponent has filed a development plan for a Planned Development Area for the proposed project. The Proponent proposes to construct a new, 29-story, approximately 391-room hotel surrounded by a new, approximately half-acre public plaza. The Project also includes the demolition of the existing building at 560-574 Commonwealth Avenue, and shifting the building site east, amid the new public plaza. The shift allows construction of a new public street to connect Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street, in between the new plaza and the former building site. The Proponent will be responsible for construction of the new public plaza and roadway improvements, which will improve the pedestrian experience in Kenmore Square.

# For the Record

From the Sept. 10 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, City Hall:  
GCOD

•180 West Canton St., South End. Applicant: 180 West Canton Street Realty Trust

Purpose: Change Occupancy from a Two Family Dwelling to a One Family dwelling with full interior renovations to existing brownstone. Work to include new finishes, MEP's, fire alarm and fire protection systems.

•120 Brookline Ave., Fenway. Applicant: Fenway Enterprises 120 Brookline Avenue LLC

Purpose: Owner/Landlord building core/shell work and exterior site and landscape improvements. Building work includes selective demo, utility stub ins, and exterior storefront improvements to prepare a shell space for future retail fit out. Building work to occur at the first floor of three floor building.

### HEARINGS

•416 Beacon St., Back Bay. Applicant: Beta Nu House Corporation

Purpose: Interior and exterior renovations of a 4 story brick rowhouse. Proposed work includes repairs to exterior masonry, window replacement and energy efficiency upgrades, renovations to kitchen and bathrooms and reconfiguration of bedrooms with accessibility upgrades. Current use is R-2 Fraternity.

•83-89 Queensberry St., Fenway. Applicant: 60 Kilmarnock Owner, LLC

Purpose: Construct eight-story building 395 units, Res. Amenities, Offices, Retail/restaurant Spaces with subsurface parking garage.

•95-101 Queensberry St., Fenway. Applicant: 60 Kilmarnock Owner, LLC

Purpose: Construct Eight-Story Building 85 Units, Res., Amenities, with underground parking garage.

From the Sept. 11 License Board meeting, City Hall:

•Kimball & King, Inc. D/B/A: Modern Relik, 485 HARRISON Ave., South End.

Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - Coffee bar counter within a furniture store showroom.

Manager: Marilyn Kimball. Hours of Operation: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

•Caffe Nero Americas, Inc. D/B/A: Caffe Nero, 100 HUNTINGTON Ave., Fenway.

Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - Second floor mall level; kitchen and prep area in rear of store, with seating. Manager: Gavadier Cruz. Hours of Operation: 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

•304 Newbury Street Residential LLC D/B/A: 304 NEWBURY St., Back Bay.

Has applied for a Innholder No Liquor License to be exercised on the above - 4 story building, 6 residential apartment units. Each unit contains its own kitchen, bath and laundry facilities, Every unit is a 1 bedroom and 1 bathroom. Manager: Brent A. Berc

•PINEAPPLE RESTAURANT GROUP BOSTON, LLC. D/B/A: THE TROPHY ROOM AT THE ALISE HOTEL, 22-28 CHANDLER St., South End. Holder of an Innholder All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to change the d/b/a of the licensed business - From: The Trophy Room at the Alise Hotel To: The Trophy Room at Staypineapple Boston.

•DOT BOY, INC. D/B/A: The Lower Depths, 476 COMMONWEALTH Ave., Fenway. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day Wines and Malt Beverages License has petitioned to change the d/b/a of the licensed business - From: The Lower Depths To: The Kenmore.

•HYNES FINE DINING, LLC. D/B/A: TOWNE, 900 BOYLSTON St., Back Bay.

Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to

amend the description of the licensed business - From: The main entrance and 2 exits, two (2) bars, dining room, chef's dining table, kitchen, two bathrooms and two storage rooms on 1st floor. Main stair and secondary exit, two dining rooms, bar, kitchen, one restroom and storage on 2nd floor. The main entry is off Boylston Street, secondary entry form the Hynes Convention Center level lobby. Emergency exits onto Prudential Plaza, Hynes Convention lobby on both Street and Plaza levels. Service entries from Hynes Convention Center service lobby on Street and Plaza levels. Seasonal outdoor patio on private property for 90 patrons between the hours of 11:00 AM 11:00 PM. To: The main entrance and three exits, two bars and dining room areas, bathrooms, kitchen and storage space on first floor in two large rooms. Main stair and secondary exits, kitchen, restrooms, one bar and three dining areas in three large rooms on second floor. The main entrance is off plaza on Boylston Street, secondary entry from Hynes Convention Center lobby on both Street and Plaza levels. Service entries from Hynes Convention Center lobby on Street and Plaza levels. Annual outdoor patio on private property for 90 patrons between the hours of 11:00 AM 11:00 PM. Secondly, has petitioned to change the manager of the licensed business - From: Jose Eduardo Esposito Estrada To: Leo Fonseca. Lastly, has petitioned to change the d/b/a - From: Towne To:

Rochambeau.

•Shawmut Hudson, LLC. 401 PARK Dr., Fenway. Has applied for a Farmer Brewery and Winery Pouring License to be exercised on the above - 1,500 square feet made out of steel columns and glass partition walls and solid partition panels. The indoor Tap Room is 1,050 sq. ft. In front of the Tap Room there are two (2) means of egress on either side of the building, One (1) door leads to the outdoor patio (1,762 sq. ft.). In front of the Tap room, the glass partitions slide back and stack on top of each other to open the front of house space to the air. The total area of the Tap Room and the attached annual (weather permitting) outdoor patio on private property same hours as restaurant described is 2,812 square feet. Manager: Ryan Potter. Closing Time: Midnight.

From the Sept. 17 Licensed Premise Violations hearing, City Hall Rm. 809a, 10 a.m.:

•Slesar Bros. Brewing Company, Inc., doing business as: Boston Beer Works

Location: 61 Brookline Ave., Fenway. Date: 04/06/2019

Notice: Patron on patron assault and battery.

•Boston 1927 Lessee, Inc., doing business as: Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers, 50 Park Plz Boston, Back Bay. Date: 07/13/2019: Patrons of premise drinking alcohol on pubway. Expired BFD Assembly Permit.

From the Sept. 18 St. Botolph Architectural hearing, City Hall Rm. 709, 5:15 p.m.:

### DESIGN REVIEW

•30 Cumberland St. At rear façade visible from the Southwest Corridor Park, construct a new two story addition. At side façade visible from the Southwest Corridor, construct new three story bay window. At roof level, build new copper clad cupola and roof deck. At front façade; repair brick and brownstone in kind. All facades, replace windows with new aluminum clad windows.

### ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW/APPROVAL

•191 St. Botolph: At front and rear façade, repaint brick.

From the Sept. 19 COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION HEARING. A Hearing Order Regarding the City Council Biannual Urban Renewal Progress Update, 1 p.m., City Hall.

**D - 4 POLICE NEWS**

**TASTE OF HER OWN PEPPER SPRAY**

On Sunday, Sept. 1, at about 6:05 p.m., police responded to a radio call for an assault and battery in progress at 569 Boylston St.

Upon arrival, officers spoke to the victim, who said a male suspect riding a Blue Bike and an unknown female suspect attacked her while she was standing outside Dig Inn at 557 Boylston St. At this time, the suspects kicked the victim all over her body with shod feet and punched her in the head before stealing \$65 that the victim kept inside her bra and fleeing down Boylston Street towards the Public Garden.

The victim, who was observed to have several lacerations on her face and nose, told police she attempted to pepper-spray the suspects, but inadvertently sprayed herself in the face. The victim also told police that she didn't know the suspects, nor did they brandish a weapon during the robbery.

Police broadcast a description of the suspects to fellow officers and searched the area for the suspects to no avail.

The victim declined medical attention at this time.

**BENCH WARMER**

On Tuesday, Sept. 3, at approximately 6:40 p.m., officers from the District 4 Drug Control Unit conducted a drug investigation in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Albany Street – a location that has been the source of an overwhelming amount of 9-1-1 calls and other community complaints related to ongoing drug-related issues there.

At this time, officers were stopped in traffic at a red light at the aforementioned location heading towards Melnea Cass Boulevard the first male suspect sit down on a bus-stop bench and remove a plastic bag containing a tan substance believed to be narcotics from his left sock.

The first male suspect was then seen ripping the bag apart and handing a portion of it to another male suspect before placing the bag back inside his sock.

Officers then exited their unmarked vehicle and walked to the front of 794 Massachusetts Ave., where they approached the suspects and identified themselves as police. Police then observed numerous plastic bags containing a tan substance they believed to be fentanyl inside the pocket of the first suspect's hoodie.

Officers notified the first suspect of their observations before taking custody of him and seizing 14 plastic bags of suspected fentanyl from his person, along with an empty, knotted plastic bag.

Police read the first suspect his Miranda rights before inquiring where he purchased the drugs. When the suspect refused to answer the question, he was placed under arrest and charged with possession of a Class A substance (fentanyl) with intent to distribute.

Plainclothes officers then located the second suspect and a female accomplice in the area of 1891 Washington St., identified themselves as police and after separating the two, asked the second suspect if he had any drugs on his person. Afterwards, police searched him and seized 10 plastic bags of suspected fentanyl, which the suspect claimed was for personal consumption.

The second suspect told police he purchased the drugs from someone on Massachusetts Avenue. After the suspect told police he had no syringes on his person, the suspect said that he only snorts fentanyl. A knife and cell phone were seized from the suspect before police placed him under arrest and transported him to District 4 headquarters for booking.

When police asked the female accomplice if she had any drugs in her possession, she removed suspected fentanyl from her pocketbook and handed it over to them. After she was advised of her Miranda rights, the woman told police she had purchased the drugs on Massachusetts Avenue earlier that day. Police advised the woman to seek treatment before informing her that she will be summonsed to Boston Municipal Court for possession of a Class A substance (fentanyl)

While in the holding cell, the first suspect was observed removing his right sock and apparently attempting to conceal something. Police recovered a plastic bag containing 10 smaller bags of suspected fentanyl, which the suspect asserted was for his personal use. He told police that he hadn't sold any drugs on Massachusetts Avenue, nor had any money been exchanged for drugs at that time. When officers also seized \$396 cash from the suspect, he claimed to have withdrawn the money from the bank earlier that day.

The total weight of the drugs was 31 grams in the plastic packaging, which, along with the seized cash, was logged in as evidence.

**NOISE LEVELS (from pg. 11)**

"I feel like Boston can be at the forefront of dealing with environmental noise issues," Walker said, encouraging the City Council to use her resources and others as well. "We should take a risk and begin to be more creative about how we address these things and how we provide data to our residents. I feel like this is the beginning of a conversation that could move and shape the way other cities in the United States and across the world handle noise issues."

After Erica's testimony and question and answer, two people signed up for public testimony. The first was Victor Brogna of the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association. Brogna said that he has been a Boston resident for about 70 years. "What I see is a

cultural change that is amplification has become louder and louder and the loudness has become more standard," he said. He said that he can frequently hear outdoor concerts at City Hall Plaza from halfway down Hanover St. "I find this certainly annoying," he said.

He said he can also hear the street performers at Faneuil Hall from "probably a quarter of a mile away" on State Street. "This is a quality of life issue, but I don't know whether that's pressing enough to cause a major correction," Brogna said. "I would like to see the focus on the public health issue and maybe that can bring us to a cultural change."

Roy Owens also complained about noise levels in Roxbury, as he also said music can be heard

from several blocks away. Noise from college parties on Woodville St. and West Cottage St. are also a problem.

"As we become more and more overdeveloped and do not adequately regulate these ever increasing noise levels, our pollution has become a public safety hazard that should alarm all of us," Councilor Garrison said in her closing statement. "We can do better and my sincere hope is that this hearing today will lead to real solutions and would change how we handle the cases of excessive noise. As an at-large City Councilor, I will continue to be an advocate for all residents who, like me, are concerned about unreasonable noise."

**Real Estate Transfers**

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Benshoff, Michael J	Senlocke Enterprises Ltd	255 Commonwealth Ave #1	\$545,000
Longwood Tower RT	Branting, Deborah V	261 Commonwealth Ave #2	\$862,000
Vincent Sandonato T	Blue Spruce Realty LLC	240 Marlborough St #1B	\$590,000
BEACON HILL			
D&S Realty LLP	Branca, Doreen	18 Garden St #1	\$675,000
SOUTH END/KENMORE/BAY VILLAGE			
Dimella, Michael G	Moitra, Ankur	6 Columbus Sq #2	\$888,000
Farrow, Keith H	Hughes, Tracey	21 Follen St #1	\$1,610,000
Cochran, Donald Q	Post, Samantha	38 Lawrence St #21	\$835,000
Marlowe-Leoutsakos, N M	Roseen, Caitlin A	5 Melrose St #4	\$540,000
Gianatasio, Frank	Laverde, Joseph	213 W Canton St #1	\$1,900,000
Floyd, Charles	Klenerman, Martha J	53 Warren Ave #1	\$1,220,000
Horn, Randall	Isenring, Giang L	61 Warren Ave #1	\$795,000
Kelly, Christopher	Winthrop, Adam P	234 Causeway St #714	\$2,065,000
Malone, Hilary M	Concord Mainsail 3 LLC	35 Concord Sq #2	\$3,525,000
2006 Goodell T	Ozalp, Ahmet	21 Father Francis Gilday St	\$780,000
Farrow, Keith H	Hughes, Tracey	21 Follen St #1	\$1,610,000
Bagasra, Abbas	Tramarjon LLC	416 Marlborough St #408	\$965,000
Marlowe-Leoutsakos, N M	Roseen, Caitlin A	5 Melrose St #4	\$540,000
Kabir, Eeshan	121 Portland LLC	121 Portland St #707	\$740,000
Wittemore, Edwin	Wroblewski, Colin	6 School St	\$679,000
Bernstein, Mathew	Komins, Roger	40 Traveler St #303	\$1,225,000
Gianatasio, Frank	Laverde, Joseph	213 W Canton St #1	\$1,900,000
190 W Springfield St 1 LLC	Razzaque, Fahim	190 W Springfield St #1	\$1,263,873
Cochran, Donald Q	Post, Samantha	38 Lawrence St #21	\$835,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Goodwin, Doris K	Ghassan S Salameh RET	1 Avery St #25A	\$2,595,000
Sinrich, Zachary A	Canty, Allison E	357 Commercial St #716	\$522,500
KSRD Properties 2 LLC	Suffolk Devonshire LLC	185 Devonshire St #100	\$1,880,000
Schwartz, Coralie	Berman, Howard A	1 Franklin St #3510	\$3,600,000



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 \$2,650,000



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 3 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,600 SQFT  
 \$2,990,000

