

THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Applicant now intends to open rec/med marijuana dispensary on Newbury St.

By Dan Murphy

An applicant who had previously proposed opening a medical-only marijuana facility at 331 Newbury St. returned on Monday to the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Licensing and Building Use Committee – this time with plans to open a combined recreational/medical dispensary at the same location.

Compassionate Organics, founded by Geoffrey Reilinger of the Back Bay, filed an application with the City to open a medical-only dispensary in 2016, which was subsequently approved by the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) and received a letter of non-opposition.

(COMPASSIONATE ORGANICS, Pg. 3)

FIRST NIGHT CELEBRATION



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOYOUMJIAN

Shown above: Trombonist Hans Bohn performed 'Lassus Trombone' as part of First Night Boston 2020 during the Pipes and Pops concert at Old South Church in the Back Bay on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. Hundreds flocked to the concert before heading to Copley Square for the countdown to 2020 at midnight.

Shown below: The Prudential Building showed its anticipation for the coming of the New Year with '20' illuminated on its upper floors.



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

The full City Council takes the Oath of Office from Mayor Martin Walsh in Faneuil Hall on Monday, Jan. 6. It is the most diverse Council in the history of the City, and is the first time that it has been a majority-female Council.

Taking the Oath

City Council welcomes four new members; elects Kim Janey as council president

By Lauren Bennett

Four new members of the Boston City Council were sworn in at Faneuil Hall on Monday, joining their nine returning colleagues to create a historic council that is majority female and majority people of color. District Councilors Kenzie Bok, Ricardo Arroyo, Liz Breadon, and At-Large Councilor Julia Mejia—the first-ever Latina on the council—all took the oath of office for the first time. At the first Council meeting shortly after, District 7 Councilor Kim Janey, whose district covers about half of the South End, was elected council president. Janey succeeds Andrea

Campbell, who was the first black woman to hold the title.

Mayor Marty Walsh walked the councilors through the oath at the ceremony, and then delivered a speech. "This has certainly been a

momentous election in the City of Boston," Walsh said. "This will be the most diverse council in history." He expressed his faith in the

(INAUGURATION, Pg. 5)

Kenzie Bok sworn in as D-8 Councilor; ready to tackle district issues

By Lauren Bennett

After being elected last November, Kenzie Bok was officially sworn in as a City Councilor with her twelve colleagues at Faneuil Hall on Monday, where she took the oath of office to serve the

neighborhoods of the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway/Kenmore, Mission Hill, and the West End.

Bok won every precinct in the district and garnered 70 percent of the vote in last November's election. On her inauguration day,

(BOK, Pg. 3)

Mayor Walsh delivers State of the City address

Promises investment in education, transportation, housing

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh gave his annual State of the City address at Symphony Hall on Jan. 7, where he made many promises in terms of affordable housing, education, and transportation. He also

looked back at what the City has accomplished over the past year, and how it can continue moving forward.

For the first time, Mayor Walsh highlighted resident success stories ahead of his speech. Four individuals were invited to the stage to

share their stories and how Mayor Walsh's programs have helped their dreams come true.

Yohan Almonte from Mattapan was formerly homeless and ended up in jail, but he said that Mayor

(STATE OF THE CITY, Pg. 4)

EDITORIAL

THE EARTH IS ON FIRE

As this is being written, reports indicate that the worst is yet to come for the people of Australia, whose land literally is burning up all around them.

The apocalyptic images of families being driven from their homes, wearing face masks and eye goggles because of the acrid smoke that is darkening the daytime sky, and then being evacuated by boat from the beaches, are something out of a science fiction film.

But now, in 2020, reality has caught up with science fiction.

The Australian bush fires are the apex of what has been a sad, sad year for our planet. The Australian fires already have destroyed about 15 million acres — an area almost as large as West Virginia, more than triple the area destroyed by the 2018 fires in California, and six times the size of the fires last summer in the Amazon.

The fires not only have rendered large areas of the continent uninhabitable for humans, but they also have killed incredible numbers of wildlife -- some reports estimate half a billion creatures have perished -- threatening some species with extinction.

The bush fires have killed 24 persons and are causing health issues for every person in their path, especially those with existing lung diseases. The air quality in Canberra, the capital city, on New Year's Day was the worst in the world thanks to the smoke cloud that is as wide as Europe and now envelops much of the Australian continent.

The problems attendant to the bush fires are not confined to Australia. New Zealand, which is more than 1200 miles across the ocean, is enduring toxic air pollution levels. In addition, the carbon that is being released by the burning of the bushland will increase even further the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere that are the principal cause of global warming and climate change.

The influence of a changing climate is now evident in each day's global weather pattern, according to a study published last week in *Nature Climate Change*.

The study employed a new technique to analyze daily patterns of temperature and moisture across the globe. It found that the locations of above and below average temperature and moisture have been distinct from natural variations on every single day for almost a decade.

The bottom line is simply this: The world is getting hotter day-by-day and therefore bringing a dramatic change to our climate and environment. Some things, such as the massive fires in Australia, are dramatic and noticeable. Others, such as the gradual melting of the glaciers, are subtle, but their effects on the degradation of the planet are just as devastating.

It should be apparent to every thinking person that we are getting very close to a point of no return in terms of climate change. However, with governments across the globe in the hip pockets of the special interests who are opposed to the drastic measures that are needed to prevent further degradation of the environment, it is difficult to be optimistic about the future of our planet.

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ELECTED OFFICIALS



GUEST OP-ED

A New Year's Resolution for the MA Legislature

By Jonathan Cohn

All eyes will be focused on the national level in 2020. We have a hotly contested presidential primary around the corner and then a hotly contested presidential election in the fall. If we are willing to do the work, we can—and will—make sure that Donald Trump does not get a second term in office.

When the next president takes office, there will be a lot of necessary work to undo all of the damage the administration has caused over the past few years. But we shouldn't let an important fact slip by: there are steps Massachusetts can take right now.

So here's a New Year's resolution for the Massachusetts Legislature: With its strong Democratic supermajorities, it can and should be pushing back more assertively against the Trump administration and charting a progressive path forward. This is especially salient on the issues of climate change and immigration.

According to international climate experts, this new decade may be our last chance to meaningfully mitigate climate change. The Trump administration, by taking the U.S. out of the Paris climate deal and rolling back and repealing the Obama administration's cli-

mate regulations, has set us down the path of spiraling climate chaos.

But Massachusetts shares some of the blame. Although we tout our green credentials relative to other states (especially around energy efficiency), the Legislature hasn't passed comprehensive climate legislation since the Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008. We lag behind other states in our commitment to renewable energy and still heavily rely on unsustainable natural gas.

Last session, the MA Senate passed a gold standard climate bill that touched all sectors of the economy, yet the House insisted on doing only a series of half-measures. Such timidity doesn't cut it when the clock is ticking. There are bills in the legislature to require a detailed plan for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, to set the goal of 100 percent renewable energy, and to put a tax on carbon emissions and fund green investment across the state, and the Legislature should take swift action on these—and others.

On the immigration front, we constantly hear stories about families being ripped apart at the border. But that's happening in Massachusetts, too.

The Safe Communities Act is the best way to address that. The SCA would make sure that we

aren't deputizing state and local law enforcement to act as ICE agents -- work they are not being paid to do anyway. We may not be able to stop every deportation, but we don't need to be complicit.

By preventing state and local law enforcement from asking about immigration status, and by guaranteeing basic due process protections, it would make sure that our immigrant community feels safe to report crimes—and simply to exist in public life.

We also put our immigrant communities at risk by preventing undocumented immigrants from obtaining driver's licenses. For many, driving is essential to get to work, to school, to the doctor's office, etc.—and people need to be able to drive safely and without fear. Another bill before the Legislature—the Work and Family Mobility Act—would help make that happen.

Here in Massachusetts, we like to think of ourselves as a beacon to other states (sometimes, even to other countries). But it would be a moral stain on our commonwealth if we spent the four years of the Trump administration without taking any meaningful action to prevent climate chaos or protect our immigrant friends and neighbors.

BOK (from pg. 1)

she confirmed her excitement and readiness to take on the role of serving her constituents. At the top of Kenzie's list is working on affordable housing, as she has most recently served as Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning at the Boston Housing Authority and feels she is equipped to deal with one of Boston's top issues.

Bok said the after campaigning for months and speaking to the community, she's "just ready to get to work. You knock on all these doors and people have so many ideas and things to work on and so I'm ready to get to it."

She joked that her first steps are to get her email up and running and her office in order, but she also

has plans for what other issues she wants to tackle first.

The proposed sale of the Hynes Convention Center is a big issue in the Back Bay that will affect the entire city, and Bok said that it is high on her list of issues to work on right away.

The feeling of excitement and pride was palpable on Monday morning, especially for the newly elected councilors as they prepare to work together on bettering the city.

"It's such an exciting and historic council to be part of," Bok said. "I think that what's nice; we're going to be collaborating as a whole body on some of the biggest issues that face the city."



Kenzie Bok with her parents in front of her new seat in the Iannella Chamber.

COMPASSIONATE ORGANICS (from pg. 1)

sition from the Boston City Council, but was opposed by NABB, said Mike Ross, the applicant's attorney.

Afterwards, the City changed its requirements, mandating the applicant secure a host community agreement, and that applicant refile and provide more information regarding parking provisions with the ZBA. But the applicant, however, was ultimately unable to secure the necessary building permit from the City to move forward with the project.

"Our intent was to open and demonstrate who we are and how we operate as a medical facility and then come back to [the committee] and talk to you about what it would take to make it adult-use," Ross said. "[More than] two years ago, it made sense to move forward with that strategy, but unfortunately, we haven't been able to open."

Since that time, Rellinger has paid more than \$10,000 a month in rent, Ross said, which ultimately led him to recruit Green Thumb Industries (GTI), a Chicago-based company that operates 40 dispensaries in 12 states, as an outside investor. GTI ultimately infused enough money into the business to gain control of Compassionate Organics, although Rellinger is still involved in the venture, Ross said.

Also, because a City ordinance has since been enacted mandating that a half-mile buffer must separate any two dispensaries located in Boston, Ross said Compassionate Organics believes it should rightfully be able to open on Newbury Street and take precedence over other applicants that came along afterwards.

Elliot Laffer, committee chair, countered this argument was "specious" because the original application was for a medical-on-

ly dispensary whereas the current proposal includes plans to sell recreational marijuana as well.

As part of its mitigation efforts in the community, Ross said Compassionate Organics would hire security to patrol the Commonwealth Avenue Mall in an effort to curb public consumption of marijuana in the area. "We're prepared to put money towards community effort that deal with these type of issues," he added.

Ross said the dispensary's capacity would only be 68 people, which would help minimize its impact in the neighborhood.

Laffer also requested that the applicant consider banning the sale of single pre-rolls, much like many area liquor stores have done with single-serve "nips," and return with an answer before the NABB board is scheduled to meet tonight, Jan. 9.

In another matter, representatives from Smash-burger, a Denver-based chain of "fast-casual" hamburger restaurants, detailed their plans to open at 545 Boylston St. in the space previously occupied by Noon Mediterranean restaurant.

Andrew Upton, the applicant's attorney, said the restaurant intends to sell beer, but that alcoholic beverages wouldn't be permitted on its outdoor patio (at least to start).

"We hope to open in April if we can," Upton said, adding the proposed restaurant wouldn't require any zoning relief.

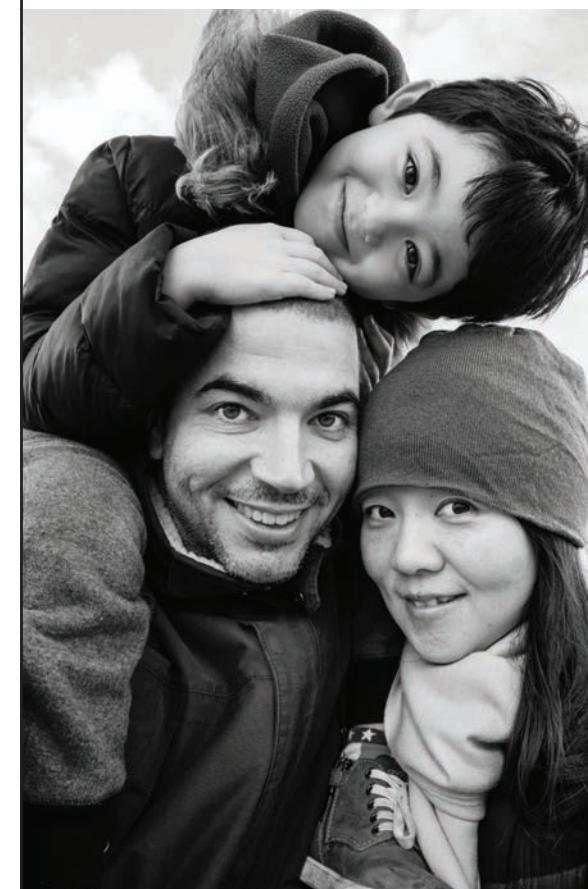
Moreover, representatives from Pressed Café, which serves coffee, raw juices and smoothies, along with panini and other lite fare, and operates four locations in Burlington and Newtown and North and South Nashua, N.H., respectively, detailed their plans to open a fifth eatery in the space previously occupied by 5 Napkin

Burger at 105 Huntington Ave. in the Prudential Center.

The proposed restaurant, which would have a closing time of 10

p.m., is slated to open in April or May, they said.

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Former Council President blasts mayor on education initiatives

By Seth Daniel

One of the cornerstones of Mayor Martin Walsh's State of the City speech on Tuesday night was his new, historic commitment to public education in the city, but former Council President Andrea Campbell isn't buying the pitch.

The mayor announced a \$100 million investment in new direct funding to support students at the Boston Public Schools Tuesday night. He said the funding will be phased in over the next three years to reach an annual investment of \$100 million for direct classroom funding — monies that will be over and above the typical cost increases in the budget. The mayor said this level of planned new investment has never been seen before in Boston's history, and will reach every public school in Boston.

"We believe in a Boston where every single student has access to high quality schools to reach their full potential, and this \$100 million investment will make that vision a reality," said Mayor Walsh in his Address. "This new investment will be carefully targeted to evidence-based strategies so that every dollar makes a difference. We'll begin with intense support for underperforming schools because kids who start with less need more and deserve more. By lifting up our schools, we'll become one strong district and one stronger city."

However, about one hour after the speech, Councilor Campbell — who represents Dorchester and Mattapan and was the only councilor not to attend the State of the City — issued a statement outlining her opposition to his new policy.

"The Mayor's announcement falls into a disturbing pattern of flashy announcements that feature big dollar figures, but never change the dynamic for children and families," she wrote. "The reality for children and families attending BPS is that roughly 80 percent of students in downtown Boston attend high-quality schools, compared with only 5 percent of students in Mattapan. Nearly four out of 10 non-exam school students will not graduate from high school, and of those who do graduate, two out of three will not finish college within six years. Even if we can agree that not every child should go to college, Madison Park, BPS's only vocational technical high school has been the lowest performing high school in Massachusetts for six years."

Walsh's plan would invest the

money over three years in student wellness and mental health supports, curriculum enrichment, and programming and activities. He said in his speech that 100 percent of that money would go directly to students or services provided by schools.

It was supported by Supt. Brenda Cassellius, the School Committee, and Boston Teacher's Union President Jessica Tang.

However, it collides with a policy submitted by Campbell last June when she was still Council President, a policy called 'Action for Boston Children.' Campbell's statement Tuesday night said it was a plan that looked to fix the inequity of the schools throughout Boston.

"I would not be skeptical if the Administration acted on these recommendations," she wrote.

Campbell criticized Walsh for having big announcements about education that don't produce results.

She said Universal Pre-K, which was announced last year at a cost of \$15 million, has only created 29 new BPS Pre-K seats since 2016. She also cited BuildBPS, which was a \$1 billion announcement three years ago. She said half of that money has been spent, and not a single shovel is in the ground for a new building.

"Beyond these flashy announcements, there is a real problem: a lack of vision and plan," she wrote.

Walsh's announcement is in support of the strategic vision plan that Supt. Brenda Cassellius has filed in draft form with the School Committee. The final draft will be presented on Jan. 15.

STATE OF THE CITY (from pg. 1)

Walsh's Operation Exit program "changed my life." The Operation Exit program allows Boston's population most vulnerable to gun violence and returning incarcerated people a chance to give back to their communities.

"Now I'm a member of the Laborers Union, earning good pay and the respect of my community," Almonte said. "Mayor Walsh believed in me and I believe in Boston."

Lamarana Bah immigrated to Boston from Sierra Leone 15 years ago, and never thought that he and his wife would be able to own a home to raise their three boys in. Bah said that Mayor Walsh's Neighborhood Homes Initiative, which uses City-owned land for affordable homeownership, helped him with a down payment and a mortgage on a home. He and his wife now own their home in Dorchester.

"Our dream came true and that's why we believe in Boston," Bah said.

Smiler Haynes is 86 years old, and spoke highly of Mayor Walsh's newly rebranded Age Strong Commission. She said she enjoys the senior programs at Grove Hall Community Center, and "I tell all my friends that the Mayor's Age Strong office is a great resource for all kinds of things: free shuttle rides, home repairs, volunteer opportunities, fitness classes — my favorite is tai chi! The City believes in our seniors, and we believe in Boston."

Angel Castillo Pineda immigrated to Boston from Guatemala four years ago. After attending East Boston High School, Pineda said he wants to go to college and joined Mayor Walsh's High School to teacher program. He hopes to return to Boston Public Schools and teach ESL to students like him.

Walsh started his speech by talking about the city's accomplishments. He said in the past six years, over 120,000 new jobs were added to Boston's economy. The crime rate has been cut by nearly 30 percent, arrests are down 33 percent, and almost 5,000 guns have been taken off the streets. "Boston is one of America's safest cities," Walsh said.

Despite the successes, "there's a lot of work still to be done," Walsh said, particularly in the categories of education, transportation, and housing.

On the education front, Walsh talked about investing in "universal pre-kindergarten, longer school days, English language-learning, Special Education, free community college, nurses in every school, mental health counselors, and housing supports," Walsh said. "We're taking down barriers to learning and closing achievement gaps wherever we find them."

Walsh announced a plan that will provide \$100 million in new revenue for direct classroom funding. He said that this level of investment is unprecedented and he will start with "intense support for underperforming schools."

Transportation is a top issue in the City, as the Mayor said he hears complaints daily about traffic congestion and unreliable public transportation.

Last year, more than 30 miles of roads were resurfaced, 1,000 crosswalks were repainted, sidewalks rebuilt, and safety signage was installed across the city. Bike connections are being improved throughout the city as well.

"Since launching our safety plan, we've cut fatalities on our roads by half," Walsh said. "But one death or injury is too many."

Walsh said that what he hears often from every neighborhood is the need for more enforcement. "This year, I am directing the Boston Police and Transportation Departments to work together and implement a plan to strengthen traffic enforcement in our city. We're going to make our streets work better for everyone."

Additionally, Walsh said that seniors are being protected from MBTA fare increases, late-night bus service for third-shift workers will be provided, and the City is paying for the MBTA to be free for all students in Grades 7-12.

"I'm going to keep advocating and I am calling, once again, for the City of Boston to have a seat on the MBTA board," Walsh said. "It's time to give people a voice. For our economy, our environment, and our quality of life, it's time for 21st-century transportation."

Mayor Walsh also promised unprecedented investment in

housing, as it is "the biggest economic challenge our residents face." Walsh said that since he took office, the city has built two thirds of all new homes in the Greater Boston area, and a quarter of the new homes were subsidized last year.

"The data shows our strategy is working," Walsh said. "Rents and home price are stabilizing. But they're still too high for many people."

Walsh announced that \$500 million over five years will be invested to create thousands of homes across the city, "affordable to a range of incomes, from the most vulnerable to the middle class."

Starting with \$100 million of city resources will double the city's current investment, Walsh said, and additional revenue will be generated by working with the City Council to sell the Lafayette garage. Additionally, the City will work with the State Legislature to approve the transfer tax that will charge a 2-percent fee on sales above \$2 million in Boston.

"These investments are transformative," Walsh said. "I invite housing advocates and residents to help us bring them to life."

Affordable homes for seniors will also be built and renovated, and public housing across the city will be preserved, he added.

"And, for the first time in Boston's history, we will issue city-funded rental vouchers, so more low-income families can be

stable and secure," Walsh said.

"Altogether, this is one of the most progressive housing policies in America, because we believe in a Boston where housing is more than a commodity, it's our community."

Walsh also praised the city's work on inclusivity and diversity, but pushed for even more diverse Boston.

"Over the past six years, our new hires have been 55 percent women and 51 percent people of color," he said. The Police Department has two Latino officers on the Command Staff for the first time, the new recruits in the Police Academy are 30 percent women and speak 12 different languages, the Fire Department has its first female district chief, first African-American chief of operations, and first Asian-American woman firefighter.

Mayor Walsh said that Boston is a city that fights for equality on all fronts, including social, economic, and environmental justice, supports immigrants, and fights for gender equality, LGBTQ equality, disability rights, veterans' right, and a strong middle class.

Walsh finished his speech with an empowering, hopeful message for the city's future.

"We believe in our young people," Walsh said. "We believe in working people. We believe in our elders. We believe in our veterans and first-responders. We believe in immigrants. We believe in second chances. We believe in each other. We believe in Boston."

Easing the Nightmare: Online resource helps parents navigate the schools

By Seth Daniel

It's tough to get parents to think about September in January, but when it comes to enrolling in the school system, January is like the first day of school.

This week opens up the school enrollment priority round, and many parents are trying to figure out the ins and outs of how to enroll, where to enroll, and what schools are available.

That process has never been harder to navigate, and a good many parents find themselves nursing migraine headaches when trying to figure out the process and system of getting their children into the best Boston Public School, charter school or private school.

That process has gotten much easier now courtesy of the Boston School Finder non-profit organization, which curates a one-source website for parents to see all their options for schooling in Boston — whether it's public school, private

school or charter schools.

And the time, said Executive Director Latoya Gayle, is now.

"A lot of families don't realize they have to be thinking of September in January, but the best time to enroll is now," she said, speaking of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Priority Registration. "That time is important because of the way the lottery system works for BPS. Everyone who gets in during the first round will get a lottery number and then choices will be made for the first round. In the second round (after Jan. 31), the only choices are what's left over after the first round. The charter lottery is also coming up in February, and it's very easy and can be done online. The private schools have rolling deadlines, but now is the time for them as well. It's important to remember you can always refuse a seat, but you can't refuse a seat that isn't there when you apply."

The Priority Registration for BPS started this week and runs through Jan. 31. It is particular-

ly critical for parents looking to enroll kids who are going into grades K0 (Age 3), K1 (Age 4), 6th grade, 7th grade and 9th grade.

In January, BPS holds open houses at many of its schools, as do charter schools and private schools. Every school is a community unto itself, and when parents are put in the position of trying to find the best fit, it can be daunting just to know what is available.

That's where Boston School Finder can help, said Gayle.

Gayle learned the system through raw experience, and it wasn't always a good experience. She has a junior in high school, and a 4-year-old headed into kindergarten. She said her experiences drove her to begin looking to create a non-profit to help parents like her find information on all of their options.

"I have a junior in high school and my youngest just started kindergarten," she said. "I remember obsessing for hours trying to figure out a school for my oldest child.

I'm not originally from here so it seemed so outrageous because it's something that should be simple. When I started the process again with my 4-year-old, I quickly saw nothing had changed. It was crazy. Boston School Finder is a response to that experience, which so many other parents have also experienced."

This is the second year for the non-profit, and the third school choice round that they've been up and running for. The goal, Gayle said, is not to rate schools or tell parents where their kids should go. Rather, it's to let them know all of the options that are available, the processes they need to follow, and the resources that are available.

"School Finder is a website with a comprehensive database of all the schools in Boston across all sections," she said. "We have BPS schools, charters and private and religious schools accessible to most people. Parents can really look at the plethora of choices they have in the City, all located in one place

on our site. It's a lot easier than trying to skim around everywhere to find the information."

"We do not rank schools because what I think is a great school for my kid, that same school may not be the best school for some other family," she continued. "Families do need information and knowledge of the process and we try to give them all the information and options — and what people say about how certain schools are doing in certain areas. With that information, they can make the decisions."

The website is translated into eight languages, and it is free to the public. Boston School Finder also has developed a network of parents, and has — and is looking for — Parent Ambassadors to help spread the word and ease the stress of finding a good school in the city. The site is very mobile-friendly and can be easily accessed via computer, phone or tablet.

The web address is www.bostonschooldfinder.org.

INAUGURATION (from pg. 1)

councilors and praised their past successes.

"I'm excited to have you and have new voices as a part of the conversation as we move Boston forward," Wash said. "I want to make sure that Boston is the best city for everyone who wants to live here and be here." He said that right now, there is "zero partnership" in Washington, D.C., and that he believes "Boston can and must show a way forward." Walsh added that Boston will continue to lead with its values, and he is "honored to do this work alongside you," he told the councilors.

District 8 Councilor Kenzie Bok won every precinct in the district and garnered 70 percent of the vote in last November's election. On her inauguration day, she confirmed her excitement and readiness to take on the role of serving her constituents. At the top of Kenzie's list is working on affordable housing, as she has most recently served as Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning at the Boston Housing Authority.

Bok said she's "just ready to get to work. You knock on all these doors and people have so many ideas and things to work on and so I'm ready to get to it."

She joked that her first steps are to get her email up and running and her office in order, but she also

has plans for what other issues she wants to tackle first.

The proposed sale of the Hynes Convention Center is a big issue in the Back Bay that will have an effect on the entire city, and Bok said that is high on her list of issues to work on right away.

The feeling of excitement and pride was palpable on Monday morning, especially for the newly elected councilors. "It's such an exciting and historic council to be part of," Bok said. "I think that what's nice; we're going to be collaborating as a whole body on some of the biggest issues that face the city."

After the inauguration ceremony, the councilors headed across the street to City Hall for their first meeting together, where Janey was elected as the first order of business. In her speech, Janey thanked her fellow council members, especially Andrea Campbell for her leadership on racial equity, as well as Mayor Walsh and her family. She also outlined work the council has done this past year, and what she believes needs to be focused on in the coming term.

"I am so proud of the work that we have accomplished together," she told her colleagues. "There is no better way to begin this term than by working with you to create a more inclusive and equitable

Boston for all." Janey promised to continue to prioritize racial equity and inclusion as a City Council.

"Representation matters," Janey continued. This council is made up of the first openly gay woman, the first Latina woman, and is more representative of the City of Boston as a whole, she said. "My district has rich history and amazing cultural assets," she said, but it is also "ground zero for many of the inequalities in our city." There is an "enormous wealth gap" despite economic prosperity in the city, and the housing affordability crisis continues, she added.

She also talked about other issues plaguing the city, such as the climate change crisis which she said "needs urgent action," as well as car congestion that brings the "flow of traffic to a grinding halt." Gun violence is also still too prevalent in many of the city's neighborhoods, she said.

"Working together, we passed the short-term rental ordinance, millions of dollars in affordable housing, the wet-lands protection ordinance, and a new strengthened Trust Act to protect our immigrant brothers and sisters," Janey said of the council's work this past year.

"We must work collaboratively in our efforts to create a bright future for all of Boston," she said.



With Gov. Charlie Baker giving a standing ovation, Mayor Martin Walsh exits the stage at Symphony Hall in the Back Bay on Tuesday night, Jan. 7, after his annual State of the City Address. Mayor Walsh delivered a 20-minute oration that touched on new initiatives in housing, education and transportation.

She also announced the creation of a City Council Committee on Payment in Lieu of Taxes, as this has been a focus of the Council especially this past year. She also proposed free MBTA buses to help with the economic disparities still felt strongly throughout the city.

"This is a climate justice and economic justice issue," she said of transportation. "The dangerous decisions coming out of the White House are putting us all at risk and jeopardize our ability to live out the American Dream. Who is

at the table matters," as it "determines not only what is served, but who gets to eat."

Despite the many issues the city faces, Janey appears ready to take on her new role.

"We must be intentional in creating economic opportunities for local residents, women, and people of color," she said. "As the new council president leading the most diverse City Council in history into the new decade, I know the challenges before us require bold action, creative solutions, and strong leadership."

SCENES FROM THE CITY OF BOSTON INAUGURATION



Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia – amidst tremendous applause – has a very emotional moment on stage after being sworn in as the first Latina ever on the City Council. Mejia's journey to the Council included a narrow one-vote win over candidate Alejandra St. Guillen. Her many supporters in the Hall wore buttons that read, 'One Vote Counts.'



Shown left: Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia was the first Latina to be seated on the Boston City Council.

Shown right: District 1 Councilor Lydia Edwards listens to the speech of new Council President Kim Janey along with At-Large Councilor Annissa Essaibi George.



Mayor Martin Walsh introduced the Council with a short speech.



Worcester Square resident Bob Minnoci congratulates Councilor Annissa Essaibi George on her inauguration Monday morning.



PHOTOS BY SETH DANIEL

Shown above: Suffolk Registrar of Probate, Felix Arroyo (back, left) celebrated with Felix G. Arroyo (back, right) with the inauguration of Ricardo Arroyo – who will represent Hyde Park and Roslindale. *Shown right:* District 7 Councilor Kim Janey was elected as the new Council President on Monday. She received 10 votes from her colleagues, with Councilor Frank Baker voting 'present.'



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CITY CELEBRATES FIRST NIGHT, RING IN THE NEW YEAR IN BOSTON



Conductor Lawrence Isaacson led the orchestration on New Year's Eve. Here, he introduces the next piece to be performed, "Trumpeter's Lullaby."



The Old South Church was packed with New Year's revelers that were treated to profound performances in an awe-inspiring venue. The audience was invited to perform with the orchestra in an animated rendering of the Irving Berlin classic, "God Bless America."



Old South Church organist Michael Crawford performs Toccata From Symphony V by Charles-Marie Widor. The Church opened its doors on New Year's Eve for a Pipes and Pops concert sponsored by First Night Boston 2020.

Shown right: Old South Church Senior Minister, Rev. Mary S. Taylor, gave welcoming remarks to the gathering.



Ana and Larry David Eudine were moved by the Pipes and Pops music at Old South.



Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian

The City Of Boston held its annual First Night celebration to welcome the New Year. Revelers came from all across the city, state, and country to be entertained by parades, fireworks, concerts, ice sculptures, and that anticipated guest of the night, the year 2020.



Ivy, Sarah, and Leo Trent were transfixed by the performance of "Tuba Tune" by C.S. Lang.



Luis Campero performs on his accordion, providing holiday ambience to the night.



Connor Vigean and Jamie Chelel were dressed to the nines for New Year's Eve.

ANNUAL FROG POND SKATING SPECTACULAR DURING FIRST NIGHT 2020

Photos by Emily Harney

The Skating Club of Boston held its annual Frog Pond Skating Spectacular for the First Night

2020 celebration in the evening of Dec. 31, New Year's Eve. The spectacular gives a chance for students to perform for large crowds on the Frog Pond and for special skating guests to join them.



Jack Liu and Effie Chen skated a doubles program.



Danielle Gagnon enjoyed performing for the large crowds.



Sophie Ianelli, of the Skating Club of Boston, stands between two Christmas trees as she gets ready to perform at the Frog Pond Skating Spectacular during the early evening of the Boston First Night 2020 celebration.



Grace Cai.



Brendan Mann was quite the showman during the spectacular.



Shown above: Julianna Bardon shows off her skills at turning.



Shown right: Sophie Ianelli reaches for the stars.

Shown left: Megan Wessenberg kicks up some ice as she performs a jump.

Lasker's convenience closes, new owners looking at restaurant, deli

Realty group, Hoopoe Advisors, also busy improving Mass Ave property

By Seth Daniel

A real estate group refused to renew the lease for Lasker's Convenience store on Appleton Street in the South End, and they are hoping to add a new restaurant or deli operation to the space.

Lasker's, in one form or another, has occupied the corner at 67 Appleton St. for several decades, but the new ownership said the operators were trying to do things they felt weren't good for the neighborhood. After purchasing the property in July for \$2 million, according to property transfer records, Hoopoe Advisors decided to terminate the Lasker's lease recently and are very close to having what they felt was a better quality tenant on the ground floor.

"They essentially wanted to open a smoke shop and we didn't want a smoke shop in the building," said Attorney Anthony Rossi, who is working on the project with Tariq Siyam, of Hoopoe. "They were doing a lot of Juul and vaping and they wanted to build out that kind of business."

We weren't going to allow vaping in our properties. It's been Lasker's for 20 years. It wasn't the same and we decided not to renew their lease."

Rossi said they are already in discussions to sign an upgraded tenant.

There is a good possibility, he said, that a South End operator with two existing restaurants could sign on to open a third concept in the Lasker's space.

"We're already talking to a restaurateur that wants to lease that space," he said. "It would be high-end Mediterranean small-plate food offerings. The operator is already in the South End and has operations here. We're working on a letter of intent now...The people we're talking to have great reputations."

Another options is a deli with cold cuts, panini sandwiches and a high-end convenience store.

Already, they have renovated the living units above the commercial space, said Rossi. They put on a new roof with copper flashings, new lighting, new front doors and are taking down the awning.

"The red awning is all coming out," he said. "We want it to look consistent and more in line with the community."

All of the units now have central air, so this spring they will take out the air conditioner as well from the window.

He said Hoopoe has been a great company for him to partner with, and have been interested in going the extra mile on this and other projects.

"Our group buys close to \$20 million worth of real estate in Boston each year," he said. "We concentrate on getting buildings we believe could be nicer. It's a great opportunity on Appleton, and we wanted to get a better use than a smoke shop."

• Meanwhile, Hoopoe is also in the process of undertaking a similar renovation at 603 Massachusetts Ave. in the South End.

The building has been gutted and they have closed the old convenience store that was once there.

The idea is to also put a restaurant there, and they have already completely renovated the living units and added a sprinkler system.

City of Boston kicks off free winter fitness series

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) have announced the Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts from Jan. 5 through May 1. The four-month-long series will offer free classes at 11 locations across the city.

Winter offerings include walking group/snowshoeing at Franklin Park, yoga at BCYF Paris Street Community Center in East Boston and Veronica B. Smith Senior Center in Brighton, strength training at BCYF Gallivan Community Center in Mattapan, Zumba Gold

at BCYF Golden Age Senior Center in Charlestown, bootcamp in the ADSL Building at Town Field in Dorchester, barre at BCYF Vine Street Community Center in Roxbury, POUND at Anna Mae Cole Center in Jamaica Plain, chair yoga at Morville House in the Fenway, Zumba at BCYF Curtis Hall in Jamaica Plain, and cardio fitness at the Bubble at Carter Field in Roxbury/South End.

The program is tailored to the interests of residents and participants, including age-friendly, classes for kids and older adults as well as those new to fitness

classes. By engaging in a citywide effort to increase opportunities for physical activity, BPHC and the Parks Department aim to further reduce barriers to active living and achieve the goal of ensuring that Bostonians have ample opportunities to be active year-round thanks to the expansion of this program. Outdoor activities are weather permitting.

For more info, including dates and times, please visit Boston.gov/winter-fitness. For information on cancellations, check Twitter at @healthyboston and @bostonparksdept or call (617) 534-2355.

NEWS BRIEFS

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Christmas tree recycling will take place on the first two weeks of January, from the Jan. 6 week of collections to the Jan. 13 week of collections.

All ornaments and lights should be removed from the tree and it should be placed bare on the curb for the neighborhood's first recycling day. It should be placed on the curb by 6 a.m. for pickup. The tree will get shredded at a central facility and then used as compost in various Boston parks next spring. After the first two weeks, trees will be collected as trash and will go to the incinerator/landfill with the regular trash.

BACK BAY HAPPENINGS

• Boston Common Master Plan Open House

Join the Friends, the City of Boston, and Weston & Sampson for the Second Boston Common Master Plan Open House at the Josiah Quincy School Auditorium in Chinatown, 152 Arlington St., on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. The Open House format will include a slideshow presentation, question and answer period, and an opportunity for active participation within small breakout groups. Your continued participation is crucial in planning the brightest future for Boston Common.

• SAVE THE DATE for a new winter event on Boston Common! To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, on Sunday, February 9, the Friends of the Public Garden will be sponsoring Skating with Friends, FREE skating for all on the Frog Pond! Stay tuned for more up-dates.

SOUTH END DATES

• The Sound End Forum Opiate Working Group next meets on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 4 p.m. in the

Hampton Inn and Suites, Mass/Cass.

• The Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the D-4 Police Community Room, Harrison Avenue.

FENWAY TIMES

The Time Out Market Truck, fueled by hot cocoa and treats, launches today, Jan. 9 at The Rink at 401 Park. The refurbished vintage truck will be located on Time Out Market's patio alongside Fenway's first ice skating rink. The Time Out Market truck will be serving hot cocoa, cider, soft drinks, cookies and snack bars. The hours of operation are: Thursday and Friday 3 p.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.. Additionally, MasteChef's MasterBuds World Fusion Tour 2020 is coming to Boston at Time Out Market this Saturday, Jan. 11. Between 5-10 p.m., join Master-Chef Season 10 contestants, the "MasterBuds" chefs Subha R a.m.iah, Noah Sims, Nick DiGiovanni, Kenny Palazzolo and two guest chefs, for a unique culinary and cultural experience in Boston. Guests will have access to a-la-carte menu choices for 1, 3, or 5 dishes from the Masterbuds in the demo kitchen. VIP tickets allow an opportunity to meet and greet and taste each of the featured chef's dishes. Attendees of the event will enjoy delicious plated dishes handcrafted by Chefs Subha, Noah, Nick, Kenny, and guest Chefs Anthony and Becca over music, networking, and beverages at Time Out Market.

Guests have 3 dining options:

1. A single (1) dish from any one of the chefs for just \$18/dish.

2. A three (3) dish experience for \$50/pp - Three dishes (an appetizer, a main dish, and a dessert)

3. A VIP five (5) dish experience \$75/pp - The 5 dish experience

(NEWS BRIEFS Pg. 11)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
HARRASSMENT PREVENTION ORDER (G.L. c. 258E)
TRIAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
Boston Municipal Court
West Roxbury Division
445 Arborway
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Docket No. 1906R00653
Plaintiff's Name: Gloria Manforte
Defendant's Name:

Charles M. Spencer
17 Court St. #2601
Boston, MA 02108
Date of Birth: 11-23-63
Sex: Male
VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE punishable by imprisonment or fine or both.
THE COURT HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ORDERS TO THE DEFENDANT: This Order was issued without advance notice because the Court determined that there is substantial likelihood

of immediate danger of harrassment.
1. YOU ARE ORDERED NOT TO ABUSE THE PLAINTIFF by harming, threatening or attempting to harm the Plaintiff physically or by placing the Plaintiff in fear of imminent serious physical harm, or by using force, threat or duress to make the Plaintiff engage in sexual relations.
2. YOU ARE ORDERED NOT TO CONTACT THE PLAINTIFF, in person, by telephone, in writing, electronically or other-

wise, either directly or through someone else, and to stay at least 100 yards even if the Plaintiff seems to allow or request contact. The only exception to this Order is that you may send to the Plaintiff by mail or by sheriff or other authorized officer copies of papers filed with the court when that is required by statute or court rule.
3. YOU ARE ORDERED TO REMAIN AWAY FROM THE PLAINTIFF'S RESIDENCE located at 835 Hunting-

ton Ave. #1502, Boston, MA and wherever else you have reason to know the Plaintiff may reside.
You are also ORDERED to remain away from the entire apartment building or other multiple family dwelling in which the Plaintiff's residence is located.
B. NOTICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
1. An appropriate law enforcement officer shall serve upon the Defendant in hand a copy of the Complaint and

a certified copy of this Order (and Summons) and make return of service to this court.
2. Defendant Information Form accompanies this Order.
DATE OR ORDER - 11/22/19
TIME OF ORDER - 10:35 a.m.
Expiration date of order - 12/6/19 at 4 p.m.
Next Hearing Date - 12/6/19 at 9:00 a.m.
MODIFICATION, EXTENSION OR TERMINATION OF HARRASSMENT PREVENTION ORDER

G.L. C. 258E
C. PRIOR COURT ORDER (ATTACHED) MODIFIED/EXTENDED: This modification was issued after a hearing at which the Plaintiff appeared and the Defendant did not appear.
The Court has ORDERED that the prior order issued on 11/22, 2019 be MODIFIED as follows:
The expiration date of this order has been EXTENDED.
DATE OF TH IS ORDER - 12/6/2019
TIME OF TH IS ORDER - 12/6/2019

be MODIFIED as follows:
The expiration date of this order has been EXTENDED.
DATE OF ORDER - 12/27/2019
NEXT HEARING DATE - 12/27/2019 AT 9:00 A.M. IN COURTROOM 1
JUDGE - STEVEN M. KEY
D. PRIOR COURT ORDER (ATTACHED) MODIFIED/EXTENDED: This modification was issued after a hearing at which the Plaintiff appeared and the Defendant did not appear.
The Court has ORDERED that the prior order issued be 11/22/2019 be MODIFIED as follows:
The expiration date of this order has been EXTENDED.
DATE OF TH IS ORDER - 12/6/2019
TIME OF TH IS ORDER - 12/6/2019

1/9/2020 BS

EBNA neighbors balk at Alex's Pizza extended hours

By Dan Murphy

Since Alex's Pizza & Grill extended its late-night hours several months ago, neighbors have suffered the brunt of it, including an increase in noise and trash issues, according to those in attendance at the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) monthly meeting Tuesday night at Project Place.

President Ken Smith said after the restaurant (located at 1252-54 Washington St.) adopted a 3 a.m. closing time three or months ago, he has received numerous complaints regarding excessive noise between midnight and 3 a.m., as well as the cleanliness outside its storefront.

"Street-cleaning can't get close to the sidewalk because of cars double-parked at the pizza shop," neighborhood resident Arthur Coe added.

Smith said he and Faisa Sharif, Mayor Martin Walsh's neighborhood liaison, have discussed these quality-of-life concerns with the restaurant's owners, who agreed to focus more on trash pickup, and to speak with his drivers about making more of an effort to be quiet while making nighttime deliveries.

"There is an opportunity to revisit it," he added.

Officer Christopher Shoulla said he would talk to Captain James Hasson of District 4 about further discussing neighbors' concerns with the restaurant owner under the auspices of Boston Police.

Regarding crime in the neighborhood, Shoulla said it had been "very quiet," and that he was "not aware of anything unusual in the last month," although the Drug Unit did make several arrests along Fay Street.

In another matter, Coe said the application for New York Mart (a.k.a. Ming's Supermarket) is scheduled to appear on the dock-

et for the Board of Appeals April hearing, and he encouraged neighbors to turn out for it to express their concerns.

(New York Mart is seeking a zoning variance that would allow it to continue using a vacant building on East Berkeley Street as a warehouse for food storage, but the matter has been deferred several times, including at the December ZBA hearing.)

•EBNA also welcomed Katie Wason, special projects manager for BDY SQD Ink Block at 34 Traveler St., for its Business Spotlight.

BDY SQD, which also has another location at 349 Newbury St. in the Back Bay, is a performance and recovery studio that offers three complementary modalities – one-to-one assisted stretching, infrared sauna and Normatec boots - to "deliver a consistent and regular reset," according to the company website.

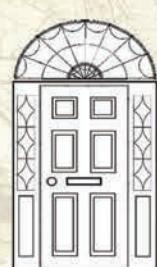
"We offer recovery for everyone," Wason said. "It's not just for athletes."

BDY SQD offers a range of membership and drop-in options, including a \$45 rate for a 30-minute stretch, followed by a 30-minute detox," Wason said.

•Meanwhile, Smith said EBNA was looking to fill two of its 11 seats on the board of directors, and Steve Berns, a neighborhood resident and retired attorney, volunteered for one of the openings. (One seat has remained vacant for an extended period of time while the other opened up recently after Chris Johnson, outgoing vice president, stepped down from the board after five years of service).

New board members are slated to be sworn in at the EBNA's next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. in Project Place.

City Councilor at-Large Annissa Essaibi George is currently scheduled to appear at the meeting as well.



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BUYER 1

BACK BAY

CDZ RT
Caspen, Nicole
Lin, Dawson S
Ohren, Joel
Kant, Doug O

BEACON HILL

Polaris 2000 LLC
Depoalo, Mara
Chan, Bryan C
Sise, Meghan
Qin, Weijian
Bonfantini, Alfred R

SOUTH END/BAY VILLAGE/KENMORE

Singh, Raymond
Chakravarthy RET
Dhaka, Shantanu
Ersu, Ali K
Martinez, Kresley R
Kennedy, Ryan
Mcbride, Robert R
Tang, Yuyang
Umnvag Kenmore LLC
Raffa, Zachary
Canning, Hye S
Martinez, Kresley R
Giannakis, Adamantia K
Wetherille, Patrick
Wargin, Jeffrey
Kant, Doug O
Crisler, William J
Macdougall, Jospeh
Luby, Brendon D
Auerbach, Steven G
Kennedy, Ryan
Chan, Alexandra
Wu, Wing T
Oppenheim, Jacob

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Stent-Torriani, Jonathan
Mazof, Andrew L
Mcmullin, David
Leahy, Peter
Ocipinti, Anne N
Nader, Anthony

SELLER 1

Samuel E Toto RET 2005
Montgomery, Laura A
Magg LLC
Cabral, Joseph
Brooks, Samuel S

Domolky, George C
Epstein, Lawrence R
Chu, Jonathan
Raish, David L
Michale P Boyle RET 2008
Fayon, Theresa M

ADDRESS

75 Clarendon St #209
75 Clarendon St #406
180 Commonwealth Ave #19
146 Marlborough St #7
400 Stuart St #29B

37-41 Beaver Pl #BP2
10 Bowdoin St #409
286-288 Cambridge St #5
142 Chestnut St #10
19 Revere St #7
15 River St #304

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\$945,000
\$1,290,000
\$770,000
\$2,560,000

\$1,750,000
\$810,000
\$445,000
\$1,667,000
\$650,000
\$920,000

\$1,220,000
\$2,200,000
\$1,212,500
\$900,000
\$769,000
\$1,786,000
\$3,000,000
\$970,000
\$44,000,000
\$605,000
\$1,075,000
\$769,000
\$607,500
\$1,499,000
\$773,000
\$2,560,000
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\$4,320,000
\$1,786,000
\$1,305,000
\$250,000
\$1,482,500

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D - 4 POLICE NEWS

TWO HOODS

On Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019, at around 10:30 p.m., police responded to a radio call at 281 Huntington Ave. for a reported robbery.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who said two unknown male suspects had robbed him of his cell phone, wallet, ear pods and backpack.

The victim stated he was walk-

ing down Gainsborough Street going towards Huntington Avenue when the suspects, who were both wearing black jackets with the hoods pulled up, approached him. At this time, one suspect punched the victim in the mouth while the other demanded that the victim hand over all his belongings to them. After they had seized the victim's belongings, the suspects then fled down Huntington Avenue towards Northeastern University

sity. The victim said he then ran to College Convenience to call 9-1-1 and report the robbery.

The victim, who suffered a minor laceration to his lip, refused medical attention at this time, and police searched for the suspects to no avail.

LATE-NIGHT SMACK

On Wednesday, Jan. 1, at around 4:39 a.m., an officer responded to the Boston Medical

Center emergency room to take an assault-and-battery report.

On arrival, the officer spoke to the victim who said he was assaulted in the vicinity of New York Pizza at Massachusetts and Columbus avenues.

The victim stated he doesn't remember much of the incident, but after a taxi dropped him off at the restaurant, three unknown male suspects approached him and assaulted him. The victim said

he was punched several times in the head before the suspect went through his pockets. The victim said the suspects might've taken a few dollars from him but that nothing else was missing.

The victim, who was observed to have welts on his head and a bloody nose, said he then walked to Boston Medical Center, where he admitted himself to seek treatment for his injuries.

D-4 sees 7-percent drop in Part One crime in '19 from previous year

By Dan Murphy

As 2019 was drawing to a close, District D-4 had seen a 7-percent drop in incidents of violent and property crime in 2019 as opposed

to the previous year, between Jan. 1 and Dec. 29, 2019, compared with 3,484 during the same timeframe in 2018.

The number of homicides climbed to five in 2019 from one the previous year while rapes and attempted rapes

saw around a 36-percent decrease as the number dropped to 23 from 36 the previous year.

Robberies and attempted robberies were up nearly 10 percent, with the number climbing to 149 from 136 in 2018.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault saw a nearly 36-percent uptick as the number shot up to 61 from 45 the previous year while non-domestic aggravated assault was down around 4 percent as the number fell to 228 in 2019 from 237 the previous year.

The rate of commercial burglaries was up about 51 percent, climbing to 71 incidents from 47 in 2018, while residential burglaries were down around 24 percent as the number fell to 145 in 2019

from 191 the previous year.

Other burglaries were down around 26 percent, with 17 incidents last year, compared to 23 in 2018.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle saw an approximately 23-percent decrease as the number fell to 149 in 2019 from 205 the previous year.

Other larcenies were up nearly 3 percent as the number climbed to 467 from 454 in 2018.

Auto theft saw a slight uptick as the number rose to 149 in 2019 from 145 the previous year.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 5 percent as the number of incidents fell to 17,342 in 2019 from 18,250 the previous year.

Dangerous building collapses into Upton Street alleyway

By Seth Daniel

The New Year opened with a bang on Upton Street, as the back fire escape and brick wall of 23 Upton St. collapsed into the alleyway below – a building that has been recently purchased for renovation, but had been a source of neighborhood complaints prior to that for years.

Boston ISD reported that the collapse took place around 10 p.m. at the vacant property, and no one had been injured. That said, neighbors in the surrounding building had to be evacuated.

"ISD issued violations ordering the property owners to immediately retain a Massachusetts registered structural engineer to evaluate and provide written reports, as well as to secure permits to make the property and the adjacent property safe," read a statement

from ISD. "Representatives from Inspectional Services met with the building owner Jan. 2 to discuss next steps, and issued a permit for emergency repairs to make the property safe, to make emergency repairs and to provide emergency egress for 25 Upton St. ISD will continue to monitor compliance."

Navem Partners purchased the building and recently started making improvements. They were on the agenda of the South End Landmarks meeting for this past Tuesday, Jan. 7, for a roof-deck review.

Patrick Dooling, of Navem and a South End resident, said the company had been waiting final permit approvals to start complete renovations of the building – which had been vacant and dilapidated for years before Navem purchased it.

He said they are working hard to clean and shore up the collapse,

but plan to move forward with the project.

"We're grateful for the quick actions of our first responders to secure the site (the night of Jan. 1), and are working now with Boston ISD, along with our full team of architects, engineers, and general contractor, to quickly remediate the scene," he said. "The remediation work is already in process. Most importantly, we're working to ensure the safety of our neighbors."

"At this time we do not anticipate any changes to our development plans, and will move forward with the project as soon as the primary safety and repair issues are taken care of," he continued.

Work crews worked through the night late last week, and over the weekend, carpenters were to move in to shore up the outside of the building.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault saw a nearly 36-percent uptick as the number shot up to 61 from 45 the previous year while non-domestic aggravated assault was down around 4 percent as the number fell to 228 in 2019 from 237 the previous year.

The rate of commercial burglaries was up about 51 percent, climbing to 71 incidents from 47 in 2018, while residential burglaries were down around 24 percent as the number fell to 145 in 2019

NEWS BRIEFS

From Pg 9

served by your favorite MasterChef contestants. Enjoy a meet and greet and a saving of \$15 for the 5 dishes. LIMITED TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON SITE-based on availability and while supplies last. Full

cash bar is available for guests 21+. Tickets are available now at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/masterbuds-world-fusion-tour-2020-boston-tickets-87710320931>

For the Record

From the Jan. 14 Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, City Hall Rm. 801, 9:30 a.m.:

- 165 West Canton St., South End. Applicant: 165 WC, LLC
Purpose: Remodel existing single family dwelling. All new MEP'S.

• 165 West Newton St., South End. Applicant: Michael Resteghini
Purpose: Whole house interior renovation with rear wall window and door reconfiguration. All new finishes throughout except top floor.

• 615 Massachusetts Ave., South End. Applicant: Andrew Babbin
Purpose: Construct a new Roof Deck with skylights. Install a new roof.

• 296 Columbus Ave. Applicant: Jeremy Ko

Purpose: To change occupancy from 4 units to 5 units by adding studio apartment on basement level. The work involves adding a bathroom, kitchen, common wall, and apartment entrance door. The existing basement level is finished space with laundry from gut rehab 35 years ago.

From the Jan. 14 Bay Village Historic District Commission, City Hall Rm. 709, 4 p.m.:

• REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BAY VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REGULATORY STANDARDS.

From the Jan. 14 Boston Landmarks Commission, City Hall Rm. 900, 6 p.m.:

• 1003-1013 Harrison Avenue: Proposed demolition of existing 20th-Century warehouse buildings located within the Eustis Street Protection Area. For new Benjamin Franklin Institute.

• Discussion of 2020 Work Plan.

From the Jan. 16 Boston Groundwater Trust meeting, Lenox Hotel, 710 Boylston St., 3 p.m.:

- Adoption of Minutes from November 12th Meeting - :05 VOTE REQUIRED
- Financial Report and New Treasurer - :10 VOTE REQUIRED
- Distribution and Review of Annual Report - :10
- Discussion of the presentation made to the Board in November on Wood Piles and Sea Level Rise - :15
- Executive Director presentation on proposed changes to Article 32 (Ground-water Conservation Overlay District) zoning - :30
- Executive Director's Report - :10
- Other Business - :10

• HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.

**OPEN SUNDAY
12:00- 1:30PM**



JOY BEACON HILL

3 JOY ST #II - \$2,975,000
4 JOY ST #I - \$4,950,000
5 JOY ST #PH - \$6,999,000

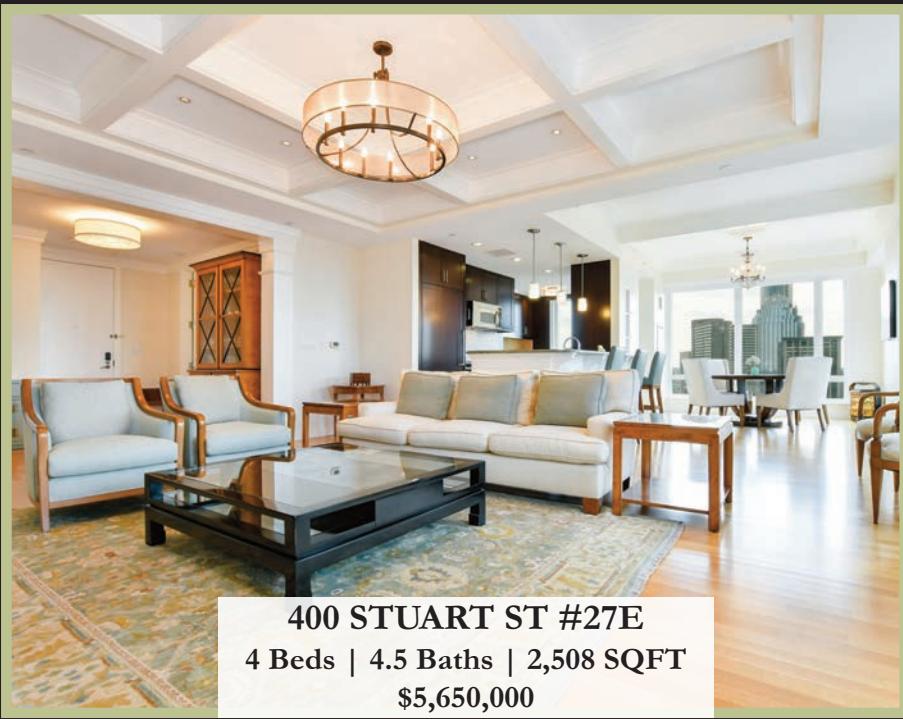
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\$5,250,000



776 BOYLSTON ST #E9A
3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,519 SQFT
\$12,500,000



400 STUART ST #27E
4 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 2,508 SQFT
\$5,650,000



288 COMM AVE #PH
4 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 3,750 SQFT
\$8,950,000

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