

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

City Council holds hearing on FY21 budget; residents call for defunding of police force

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Ways & Means held a four and a half hour virtual meeting on Tuesday regarding the FY21 budget, where the focus was hearing from the public about the proposed budget.

In light of the recent events and movement against racism and police brutality across the country, the hearing was packed with testimony from residents asking the City Council to defund the Bos-

ton Police Department (BPD) by "at least ten percent" and redirect those funds to community organizations and programs, especially in minority communities that are typically underfunded.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok created an infographic explaining the budget process, which she has shared in her newsletter and on Twitter. On April 8, Mayor Walsh proposed the budget for FY21, and between April 13 and May 28, the Committee on Ways & Means hosted 27 different hearings on

different areas of the budget, with three hearings focused on public testimony.

Bok said that on June 3, the Council took the first of two required positive votes on the capital budget, and "passed limits on several revolving funds," as well as "rejected the operating budget without prejudice," according to the infographic.

Right now, Mayor Walsh is reviewing feedback and input

(COUNCIL, Pg. 3)

'We can't turn the page...it's time to listen'

By John Lynds

Last Thursday, the first formal memorial service for George Floyd was held in Minneapolis. The National NAACP called for eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence—the total time Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck before he passed out and later died.

In Floyd's memory Mayor Mar-

tin Walsh, and other city officials, participated in the silent protest to Floyd's murder.

Prior to Floyd's memorial, Walsh gave an impassioned speech during his daily press briefing.

Holding back no punches, Walsh addressed Floyd's death head on, the subsequent protests, and brief rioting that occurred in Boston, and the emotional toll Floyd's death has taken on many

here and around the world.

"Here in Boston, Mr. Floyd's murder has caused real pain and it has brought out real pain that has existed for a long time," said Walsh. "I want to thank the many thousands of people who have come out to honor George Floyd and take a stand against racism: on Boston Common, in Franklin

(MEMORIAL SERVICE, Pg. 4)



At Trident Booksellers and Café on Monday, it was time to bring the community back and welcome friendly faces after nearly three months of closure to the public. State regulations allowed outdoor dining on Monday, June 8, but no interior dining is allowed yet. Frances Gossen, of Trident, said it was like "bugging the community," which they have missed greatly.

AL FRESCO BY EDICT

Restaurants, eateries begin move to outdoor service

By Seth Daniel

The reservation list was full on Monday night at Aquitaine Bistro in the South End.

It didn't mean what it used to mean prior to COVID-19 restrictions and shut-downs, but there hadn't been one reservation in the book since March 15, and owner Chris Glionna said the situation

for restaurants is still dire, but Monday's return with outdoor dining only was a small thing to hang his hat on.

"It's starting again today," he said, slightly before the 4 p.m. opening. "We're following the guidelines. We've got safety plans in place and sanitizer and every

(RESTAURANTS, Pg. 9)

Boston Pride, City raise the Pride Flag in a virtual ceremony

Staff report

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Boston Pride Flag Raising, hosted by Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the City of Boston, is being held as a virtual event, as all of Boston Pride's public events were postponed until 2021. The virtual event will take place at 12 p.m. today, Friday, June 5th and can be viewed on the City of Boston's website www.boston.gov and on Boston Pride's Facebook and Youtube pages.

The virtual Pride Flag raising will feature remarks from Mayor

Walsh, Governor Charlie Baker, Representative Elizabeth Malia, Boston Pride board member Malcolm Carey and transgender activist Athena Vaughn. The National Anthem will be performed by Davron Monroe.

Boston Pride worked extensively with the City of Boston to produce a virtual flag raising to signal to the community that June marks Pride Month. The virtual flag raising was produced and pre-recorded and in commemoration of Boston Pride's 50th anniversary,

(PRIDE MONTH, Pg. 7)



Last Thursday during Floyd's formal memorial service, Mayor Martin Walsh and city officials joined in 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence—the total time Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on George Floyd's neck before he passed out and later died.

EDITORIAL

“DEFUND” THE POLICE? NOT SO FAST

Racism, from subtle to overt, has existed at every level of American society since our nation’s inception. It was embedded in our Constitution by our Founding Fathers, many of whom were slave owners, who declared that slaves should be counted as only three-fifths of a person.

Even though slavery was abolished by Abraham Lincoln with the Emancipation Proclamation, segregation and discrimination became the norm in the American way of life after the Civil War and judicially affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1896 decision, *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

Although the Supreme Court overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine in the 1954 decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, it has become clear that despite the apparent strides toward racial equality that have been made in the past 66 years, so little actually has changed.

Tragically, it has taken the brutal death-by-suffocation of a 46 year-old African-American man, George Floyd, at the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis to bring to the eyes of every American the gross discrepancy between the uniquely American ideal that, “All men are created equal” and the stark reality of life today for persons of color who comprise most of our country’s permanent underclass.

To be sure, the shockingly inhumane treatment by police officers of minority suspects (and even non-suspects) in the past few years has highlighted the racism that continues to exist in many police departments across the country.

There also have been instances of police brutality and over-reaction during these past two weeks against mostly-peaceful demonstrators.

But the reality is that the vast majority of police officers have acted in a completely professional manner during this trying period, as most of them always do.

Yes, there are a few who became police officers for the wrong reasons, but the vast majority of our police force is comprised of men and women who want to make a positive impact in their communities and take a great deal of pride in doing so.

The movement underway in some parts of our country to “defund” police departments is, in our view, a shortsighted effort to scapegoat the police for the shortcomings of our society as a whole, especially among the white liberal class, for whom “blaming the cops” is a convenient means for absolving themselves of personal responsibility for the glaring inequality that exists in America in 2020.

Our rank-and-file police officers are underpaid (their starting salaries are barely able to afford the rent for an apartment) and they are asked to perform a myriad of duties far beyond mere law enforcement, especially when dealing with persons who are mentally ill or who have substance abuse issues -- and let’s not even get started on domestic calls.

It also is ludicrous to cut funding for our police departments when there are 300 million guns, many of which are military-grade, in the hands of private citizens, many of whom either are members of radical groups or who individually subscribe to radical beliefs.

To be sure, there are fundamental reforms that need to be undertaken in police departments all across the country to eliminate policies that are racist in their effect. There also must be a commitment to ensure swift accountability for officers who break the rules.

But the same is true for every aspect of American life in both the private and public sectors. The racism that is systemic in many of our nation’s police departments is a reflection of the racism that pervades every nook and cranny of our society from top to bottom.

Unless our nation’s leaders and our people are committed to bringing about real change at every level of our society -- and contributing vast resources in order to alleviate police from the burdens of dealing with drug users and those with mental health issues -- we are deluding ourselves if we think that “defunding” our police will accomplish much of anything toward the goal of achieving a more just and more equal society.

BOSTON BUILDING TRADES UNIONS: WE FIGHT FOR BLACK LIVES, BECAUSE BLACK LIVES MATTER

Dear Editor,

The recent heinous murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery are unconscionable and unacceptable, and demonstrate, again, the brutal, institutionalized racism within our country that originates from many sources, including from the scourge of slavery.

We in the Labor Movement -- a movement comprised of our multi-racial working class -- are committed to destroying racism in all of its forms. We must look inward to acknowledge how our own biases and prejudices inform our actions, and how those actions affect those around us. And we

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

must look outward, shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers, and commit to working together to dismantle the systems of racism and oppression that have led to the deaths of so many black and brown people, that have kept working class people, here and around the world, from sharing in America’s economic prosperity, and that have glorified an unequal financial system that protects corporate greed and the super-wealthy above everyone and everything else.

We cannot fall prey to the hatred and divisiveness of President Trump, or any other white supremacist, or to anyone who will use this moment to confuse right from wrong. We must call out their attempts to play politics of division as they seek to retain power and protect a system that is disastrously broken.

Protecting this broken system

will not help our working families, protesters or law enforcement, and it assures the perpetuation of conditions that lead to events like the murder of George Floyd. White supremacy and white nationalism must be called out and defeated in all its forms, whether on our own streets or at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

We in the Labor Movement know that we cannot achieve economic equality and true justice until we fully recognize that workers’ rights and civil rights are one and the same. We have inherited a history of hard-fought victories that have provided respect and dignity on and off the job for many, but we still have work to do.

Today and every day we commit to building the world that we know is possible, and to get there, we fight for black lives, because Black Lives Matter.

Boston Building Trades Unions

GUEST OP-ED

Protect Massachusetts fall election

As poll workers, we know how much preparation it takes to ensure that Election Day runs smoothly. In order to avoid the scenes we saw in Florida and Wisconsin earlier this year, the Massachusetts Legislature must take action—and quickly—to ensure high-turnout elections while also protecting public health of voters and poll workers.

The bill recently passed by the Massachusetts House takes a number of important steps forward, such as mailing every voter an application for early-vote-by-mail and expanding the number of days of early voting for both the primary and the general. Although not as robust as mailing every voter a ballot, mailing these applications can help boost turnout and at the same time reduce the number of people who would show up in-person at the polls: a win-win situation.

Similarly, since it was premiered in 2016, early voting in Massachusetts has been a resounding success. Increasing the number of days of early voting will enable voters and poll workers to better follow social distancing guidelines by spreading out the number of in-person voters.

However, the bill has some glaring omissions.

Although the bill reduces our

20-day voter registration blackout period to a 10-day voter registration blackout period, any blackout period remains arbitrary and unnecessary. We should eliminate it entirely, as our neighboring states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Connecticut already have. With a September 1st primary date, such a registration cutoff will exclude many students returning to school. We should be encouraging civic engagement among young people, not making it more difficult. Indeed, this impact will be even worse this year as summer voter registration drives are not likely to occur and many of the places, such as libraries, to pick up printed voter registration forms are closed. Every eligible voter should be able to participate and have a positive experience while doing so. That means being able to register or update your registration on Election Day.

Moreover, the bill treats the safety of in-person voting as an afterthought, including minimal guidelines for the Secretary of State and municipalities. We need to do far more to protect in-person voting—and protect poll workers, many of whom are in the high-risk age group (over 65). Everyone needs to be given the opportunity to vote in person.

It will be possible to keep suf-

ficient polling sites open only by providing a safe environment and the necessary personal protective equipment (including N95 masks, as there is greater risk for aerosol small particles in closed spaces where many congregate) for poll workers. The city should actively recruit younger poll workers and consider splitting shifts for Inspectors. Voters should be expected to wear masks, maintain social distance and have access to hand sanitizer at the polls. Polls should have increased check-in stations to reduce crowding.

As poll workers, we show up every election because of our commitment to democracy. We need to know that we and the voters will be safe.

The Massachusetts state primary is already less than three months away. It is vital that the Senate strengthen the bill -- and that it become law as soon as possible. Our democracy depends on it.

Ward 4 Poll Workers, Annie

McCue, Inspector

Andrea Olmstead, Warden

Etta Rosen, Warden

Ruth Rothstein, Warden

Benjamin Siegel, MD, Inspector

Jane Siegel, Clerk

Judith Wright, Warden

Grant Young, Clerk

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Gibson House Museum receives preservation, interpretation grants

The Gibson House Museum has been awarded preservation and interpretation grants from the George B. Henderson Foundation, the City of Boston's Community Preservation Fund and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. The Museum has been awarded a \$44,000 grant from the George B. Henderson Foundation for restoration of its brownstone and repairs to its front-façade window wells, much-needed work that will help preserve the building and enhance its appearance and the local street-scapes.

Supporting further restoration work at the Museum is a \$95,000 Community Preservation Funds award from the City of Boston, which will help underwrite critical structural repairs to the building's ground floor. In its award letter,

the City Council noted that it was "thrilled to be able to assist [the Gibson House] in its growth and success," and that the museum should be proud of its "contribution to the future of Boston."

Complementing the Community Preservation Funds award is a \$5,300 Project Grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities (Mass Humanities), which will fund a reinterpretation plan to go with the ground-floor restoration, "Women at Work: The World of 'Domestics' in Victorian Boston." Both projects will enhance the narrative of the immigrant servants who lived in the house and worked for three generations of the Gibson family.

Work on all three projects will begin later this year, according to the Museum.

Local dentist navigates pandemic as practice reopens

By Dan Murphy

When Dr. Matthew Ginsburg reopened his St. James Avenue dentistry practice for emergency visits as part of Phase 1 of Gov. Charlie Baker's plan for the Commonwealth, he had most of the safety precautions to combat the spread of COVID-19 already in place.

"Nearly 90 of what we usually do has remained unchanged," he said. "Generally dentists have always been excellent at infection control. We're trained in it from Day One of dental school."

For instance, covering one's face might not come as second nature to many, but for the Commonwealth's 6,000 dentists, it was already status quo.

"For me after 20 years in the practice of dentistry, we've always worn masks so it's no prob-



Matthew Ginsburg and his assistant, Danielle, donning PPE.

lem," he said.

One major change, though, is the layout of Dr. Ginsburg's waiting room where tape is now used to cordon off separate areas for patients.

"We have minimized seating in the waiting room, even

though we usually didn't have people there for very long," he said. "Only patients with their parents or guardians are allowed inside whereas we used to allow more people in the waiting room."

His office has a new protocol to screen patients for symptoms of COVID-19 as well.

"To comply with current standards, we're requesting face covering and hand sanitizer be used, or that patients wash hands upon entering the office," Dr. Ginsburg said. "We're also taking their temperatures and requesting that people who feel unwell reschedule [their appointments]."

Dr. Ginsburg notified his patients of this new protocol via email, and while under state guidelines, he was able to resume offering patients routine and cleaning appointments on June 8, he is waiting until June 15 as yet another added precaution during these unprecedented times.

COUNCIL (from pg. 1)

from both the Council and the public. During the week of June 15, Mayor Walsh is expected to resubmit the operating budget for the Council to review, and on June 24, the Council will decide whether or not to approve the operating budget and take its second vote on the capital budget t.

Bok said that she expects the resubmitted budget to go down, but "food access, language access has become vital," and "sometimes public safety is about social and emotional wellness."

Bok said at Tuesday's hearing that the Committee has received 5500 emails with testimony about the budget.

"I am very, very grateful to the many thousands of constituents who have reached out about the budget this year," Councilor Michelle Wu said. She said that the level of public involvement a "very important sign" that nationwide events are being localized. "The way that I'm thinking about the budget in the midst of the heightened attention...every dollar should be intentionally allocated, and go to funding a community building process that is equitable and involved," she said. "We know that they ways we've been funding safety and public safety have not led to the safest outcomes for our communities."

City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo said that there historically has not been enough funding for things like mental health, Boston Public Schools programs, and substance abuse programs. "This is really an

opportunity to look at that," he said. He said that the education budget as currently presented is "identical to the one presented at the State of the City in January. I struggle to see how funding something the way we funded something pre-pandemic" would help to address those issues," he said.

Councilor Flynn added that he has received thousands of emails over the past few days, and that he "wanted to let the public know that I'm going to be closely following what they say," as he is particularly concerned about issues affecting the immigrant community.

"This is one of our biggest responsibilities," said City Councilor Julia Mejia. "We hear the buzzword that the budget is a value statement." She said that "we're looking to see how we can increase funding and capacity for our neighborhood services," as well as allocate some of the BPD budget to the Boston Public Health Commission.

"We need to fund more opportunities and programs around mental wellness," Mejia said, for both youth and adults, as well as more funding for NARCAN training and programming.

For the education budget, Mejia said that it needs to be "more intentional about supporting students who are chronically absent" as well as English Language Learners.

"Race and racism are real," said Councilor Andrea Campbell. "We have yet to...really invest in a greater way in that resiliency

work." She also said that police reform is "absolutely" something that should be invested in, as there is a "long list of policy issues." She said she believes the money should be redirected to investments in community based organizations that support and teach anti-violence.

The Council heard from a panel of different people before taking public testimony. Fatema Ahmad, Executive Director of the Muslim Justice League, was up first, explaining that her work is "organized against the criminal organization people." She said that the concept of community policing is something "a lot of people in the past two weeks have jumped into for the first time," but she called it "a really slick way of marketing policing," and is not actually as community-based as the name might suggest.

Alex Ponte-Capellan of Young Abolitionists and Vikiana Petit-Homme, a representative of a collective of over 20 young black organizers, along with many other teachers, advocates, young people, and others called for the Council to defund the BPD by at least ten percent and allocate that money into things like schools and summer jobs in black and brown communities instead.

Petit-Homme called the ten percent "just a bare minimum" of what should be done, and also called for capping overtimes for officers, not funding military exercises, and removing police from schools.

"When you give people that much power, corruption happens," she said. "We really need to bring the power back to the people; back to the communities."

She said that because Boston is the nation's only city with a youth participatory budgeting process, "I am asking that a majority of the 10 percent go through a participatory budgeting process to get direct input from the community about how to allocate the money."

Mission Hill resident Ikraam Mohamud testified about what she witnessed at the protest on May 31.

"Historically, the conduct of the Boston Police Department hasn't exactly been up to par and that day was absolutely no different," she said. "I have video proof of about what looks like four or five police officers brutally beating up a man in front of the crowd right before they sprayed everybody with pepper spray. We had our hands up... and we were not touching police officer."

She said that just minutes before that, a can of tear gas was thrown into the crowd and she heard the sound of rubber bullets. "Days after this, the BPD denied ever using tear gas and rubber bullets on protesters. This Commissioner needs to tell us if any police officer from any jurisdiction can be held accountable for this and who exactly was in charge."

She also said she had no way of getting home because the MBTA had shut down stations in that area and were not running any buses.

"I had nowhere to go, personally," she said.

"After that, I witnessed with my own two eyes, the police officers who are trained to exercise the most restraint, push down two women to the ground who were doing absolutely nothing to them," she said.

"There is little to no accountability within the BPD. They're the ones who are supposed to protect us, yet somehow we find ourselves in need of someone to police our police force."

She continued, "It is immoral and plain ridiculous to over fund our law enforcement while our schools are extremely underfunded, along with our neighborhoods. It's time to stop militarizing these neighborhoods and start investing in our people."

After several hours of further testimony asking the Council to direct funds away from BPD and into the communities, Bok said that "It's been really important to be as budget chair that today, we've been able to hear from so many Bostonians on the budget at this really important moment. I know that the mayoral administration has been watching this entire meeting and I think it's going to be an important conversation that we have at the next few weeks how... we have a budget for the City of Boston next year that really meets this moment."

Man arraigned on 21 counts of assault with intent to murder

Staff Report

After allegedly firing multiple rounds at 21 police officers in the Back Bay following the protests on May 31, a Dorchester man will be held without bail following a hearing June 3 where Suffolk prosecutors presented evidence to prove he presented a danger to the public.

During a hearing last week in the Central Division of Bos-

ton Municipal Court, Judge Paul Treseler denied a motion filed by defendant John Boampong, 37, of Dorchester, to dismiss 21 counts of armed assault with intent to murder in connection with the shots fired incident that occurred in the area of Providence Street in the early morning hours of Monday, June 1. Judge Treseler ordered Boampong held without bail under state law. The statute allows a judge to hold a defendant accused

of certain offenses without bail for up to 120 days pending trial upon “clear and convincing evidence that no conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of any other person or the community.”

In addition, three other individuals were arraigned in the Central Division of Boston Municipal Court on charges stemming from offenses committed in the aftermath of the May 31 protests. One was charged and arraigned for

possession of a firearm. Two individuals who were charged only with receiving stolen property, and those charges were dismissed by the judge.

“I will always act to hold individuals accountable for acts of violence, and that includes acts of violence against members of law enforcement. Violence against any person will be prosecuted in Suffolk County,” District Attorney Rachael Rollins said. “The

individuals accused of violence and looting must not overshadow the actions of tens of thousands of peaceful protesters who took to the streets of our city to show their hurt and outrage over the murder of George Floyd. I stand with those protesters in demanding justice and accountability for Mr. Floyd and the countless others who are horrified by that act of law enforcement officers.”

MEMORIAL SERVICE (from pg. 1)

Park, and across the city over the last few days. We’ve seen many examples of connection and compassion. We’ve seen protestors looking out for each other. We saw leaders in the community guiding young people to express themselves safely. We saw police officers taking a knee in solidarity. It made me proud to be the Mayor and proud to be a Bostonian.”

Walsh said now, more than ever, there needs to be change.

“We are seeing disturbing scenes across the country, and we are hearing disturbing messages from Washington,” said Walsh. “In Boston, we are keeping our historic public spaces safe for free speech, and we are listening, I am listening, to the voices and the message of our Black neighbors who are harmed by systemic racism every single day.”

Walsh said for elected officials like himself it is time to ‘listen’.

“As elected officials, it’s a time to listen and learn and keep those voices at the center of the conversation — not just for today, not

just for the next week, not just the month, but for our entire careers,” he said. “It’s also a time to roll up our sleeves, work together — that’s all of us, working together — and get some real work done. I am committed to making real change. I pledge my continued commitment to making Boston a national leader in healing the wounds of our history and building a more just future.”

Walsh addressed the rioting that occurred in Boston two Sundays ago. While it was tough to watch, Walsh said the rioting did not shake his Administration’s resolve.

“Sunday night was a tough moment, but this is a good week for our city,” said Walsh. “We cleaned up and we are helping small businesses get fixed up. We continue to listen to our Black community and push for equity and justice in all that we do. We continue to fight this virus with every ounce of energy we have. We continue to support the residents of Boston through this crisis, with food, with financial relief, with health and

safety advice, and whatever else it takes. All this work is making us a more connected city and a more resilient city. I am more confident than ever that we will come out of this a stronger, healthier, and more equitable city.”

Walsh added that City Hall does not operate in a vacuum and that his staff had participated in many of the peaceful protests that occurred after Floyd’s death.

“Neighborhood coordinators from our Office of Neighborhood Services participated in the rallies and marches and helped organizers with a range of issues,” said Walsh. “Let me say that again: some of our coordinators from Neighborhood Services that work for the City of Boston participated in the rallies — not as city employees, as individuals. And many other people have in this building. I have been meeting with our Black employees and employees of color. I’ve been listening. To be quite honest, what I hear is heart-breaking. As a white person, you can and you should be opposed to racism. You can learn and understand how it affects people.

But when you make the space for people you know to truly open up, and when you really hear what a daily experience racism is for them, it deepens your perspective and it strengthens your resolve to be an ally and push for change. That’s what I am doing, and I encourage everyone who is white to do that listening. Listen to the black Bostonians who are protesting. Listen to your neighbors, friends, and colleagues of color.

Resolve to be part of the solution.”

Walsh said when he first got into recovery for alcoholism he said he learned recovery is about changing the human being.

“I heard the Serenity Prayer a million times prior to that, but the Serenity Prayer kept me sober because the Serenity Prayer says it all,” said Walsh. “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. What we’re dealing with in Boston is about wisdom. Wisdom to listen; wisdom to understand. If you don’t understand right now, just listen.”

Walsh continued, “I’ve had many conversations in the last days with the employees from the City of Boston: Some are Cabinet positions; some are entry-level positions. We created a space where we can have a conversation. They weren’t talking to the Mayor of Boston, they were talking to Marty Walsh. They opened up, and I watched the reaction of their white colleagues. Some people honestly said — Department heads and Cabinet-level — “I don’t know what to do right now. I don’t know how to respond right now.” The response is: let’s just listen for a while. Let’s not give opinions. Let’s not criticize. Let’s not judge. Let’s listen. Because if we listen, we’ll be a stronger city for it. When I say this, I’m not lecturing anyone, I’m talking to myself; I’m talking to the press that’s here; I’m talking to everyone.”

Walsh said the images that we

are watching are difficult to watch and while it’s hard to see our country be torn apart—our country’s had this underlying tearing for a long time.

“There’s a moment in time — and now is that moment in time — for us to address racism, address real change,” said Walsh. “What I mean by that is not just simply talking about a policy. I can talk about all the policies up here all I want, and say this is what we’re going to do. It’s about acting on that.”

Walsh went on to say that the U.S. has had a bad habit in the past of just ‘turning the page’ when incidents like Floyd’s murder happen in the country.

“We can’t turn the page,” said Walsh. “I was Mayor when there were riots in Ferguson. There were riots there and we had some demonstrations in Boston. I was worried something would happen but nothing happened so we turned the page. There’s been mass shootings across the country over the years and everyone gets up and arms for a while that we need gun reform but we turn the page. And then there’s another murder in Baltimore or in New York but we turn the page. We have a great ability to turn the page when something really uncomfortable comes to the surface. George Floyd’s death is painful to watch. It’s awful to hear his kids and his brother and his family talk in such a great way about him. It’s sad that he is not here. We can’t turn the page on that.”

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Annual Boston Pride Guide goes digital for the 2020 celebration

Boston Pride announced today that the annual Boston Pride Guide is being published digital only, due to the postponement of all major Boston Pride events this year due to the COVID19 pandemic. Boston Pride postponed the Pride Parade, Festival and other public events until June 2021 out of concern for the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQ community and others. It is Boston Pride's 50th anniversary which will be commemorated with virtual events this year, leading into next year when everyone can safely be together and celebrate Boston Pride's history of decades-long activism and advocacy for the LGBTQ community.

The cover of the digital pride guide, created just days ago by artist Noah Grigni, who also designed the 2019 cover, reflects the turmoil across the country as a result of the recent atrocious murders of Black and Brown people at the hands of police officers in so many places across this country. Boston Pride stands with those who, over the last several days, have protested

in cities all across this country to advocate for the kinds of structural reforms that will benefit the Black and Brown community.

Boston Pride Guide's digital version includes stories on how the LGBTQ community has been affected by the COVID-19 crisis access to healthcare, recipes from a local chef, visual art, and more.

"We are very proud of the work that went into the digital Pride Guide as it reflects the current times that we are in, from the cover depicting recent events, to the stories about the pandemic and resources to help the community," said Jessie DeStefano, Editor-in-Chief of the Boston Pride Guide. "We are grateful to our writers and artists who have helped to put together the digital Pride Guide, and we look forward to being back in print next year."

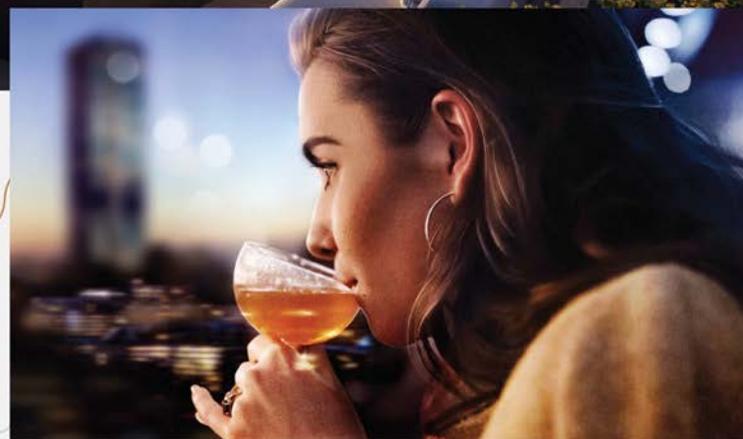
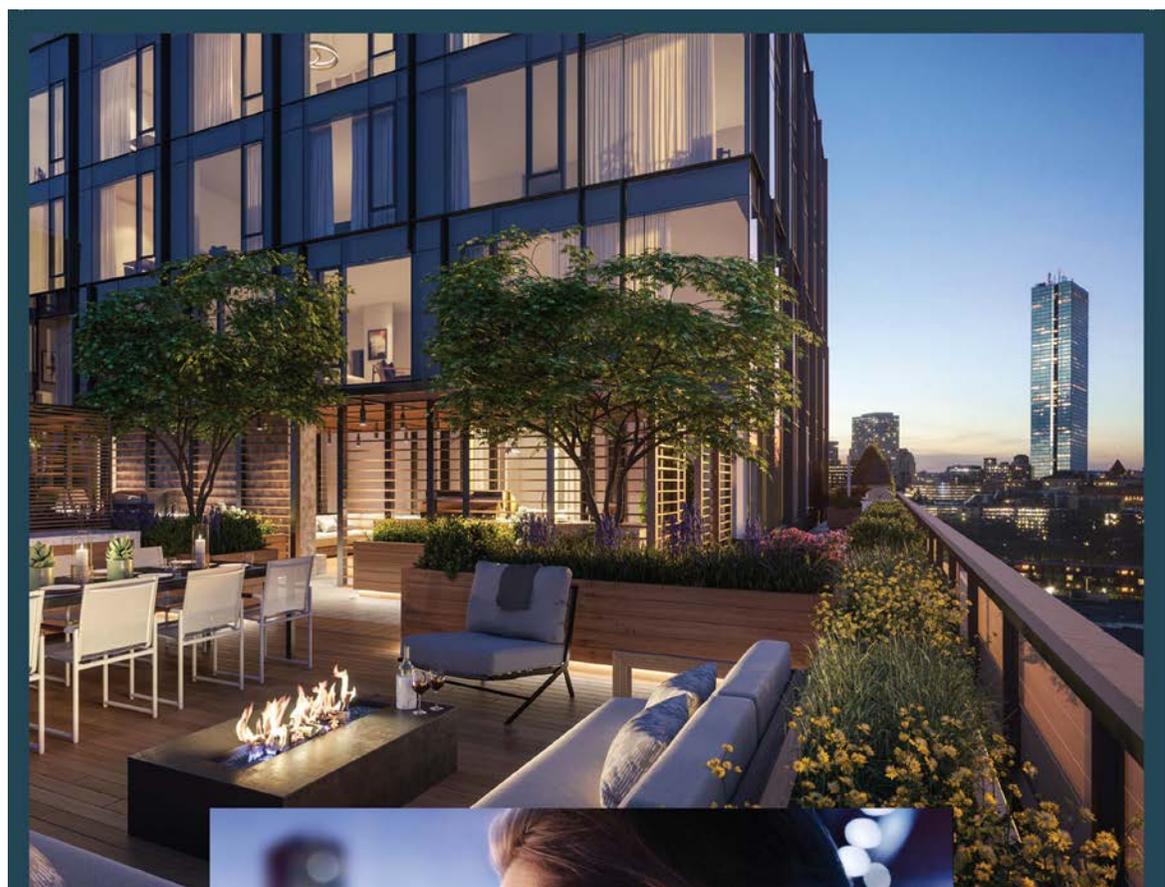
In addition to stories for the LGBTQ community, the digital Pride Guide features the latest information on Boston Pride's virtual events being planned for June 2020. Those events include:

the Pride Flag raising by the City of Boston, a virtual Pride festival with entertainment, the annual Pride Lights event that commemorates those who affected by the

HIV/AIDS epidemic, a panel on LGBTQ veterans issues, author talks in partnership with the Boston Public Library, the illumination of buildings in and around Boston

in rainbow colors and more.

The digital Boston Pride Guide will be available at www.boston-prideguide.org

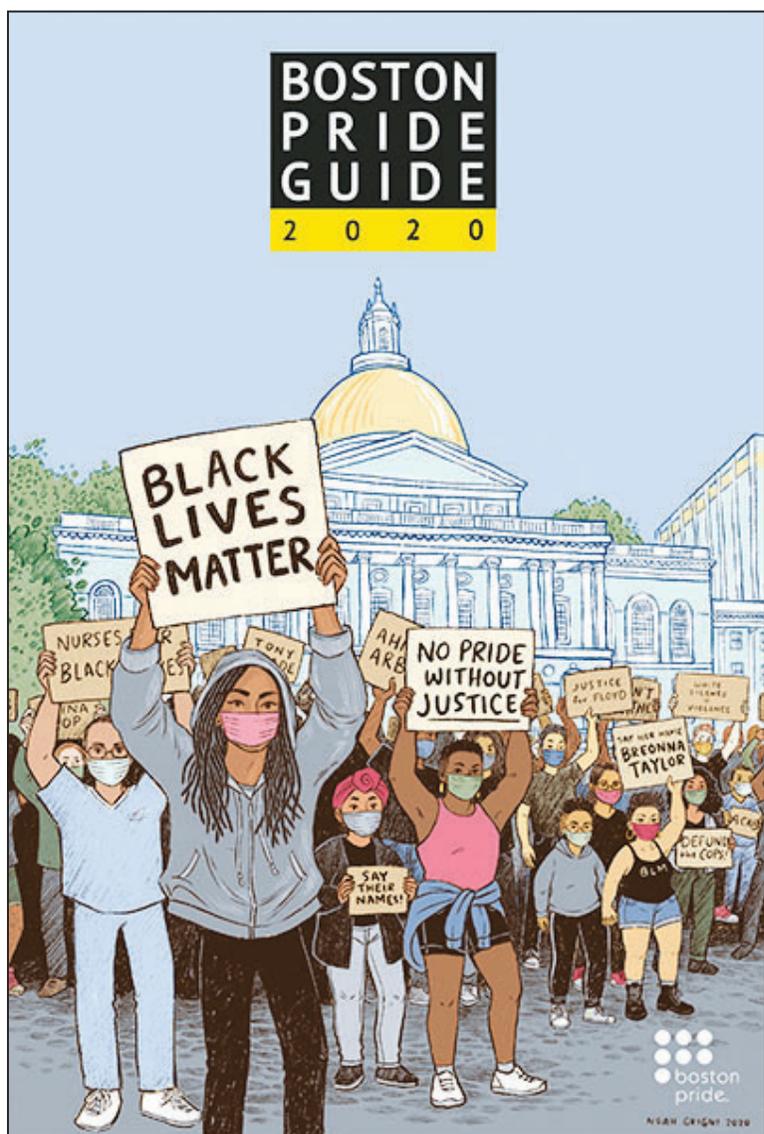


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Cover of the 2020 Boston Pride Virtual Guide by Noah Grigni.

Walsh pledges to continue meeting needs of residents, businesses

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh held a press conference on June 4, where he gave an update on COVID-19 and how the city is responding and moving forward.

“We are continuing our recoveries at two or three times the rate of new cases which is a very positive trend,” Walsh said. “The data tells us that we continue to move in the right direction and we have met the initial benchmarks that we set for moving forward in a gradual reopening.”

Walsh said that during the surge in April, ICU patients were being treated at over 120 percent of the combined normal capacity of Boston hospitals. “We set a benchmark of getting below 85 percent; as of today we were down to 81 percent,” Walsh said last Thursday.

Last Tuesday, the last Boston Hope patients were discharged from the medical center at the Boston Convention and Exhibition

Center. “It’s not a suspended operation pending future need, and that’s a positive milestone,” Walsh said.

He also said that for the week ending on May 30, the City’s positive test rate was 7.5 percent, which was a “new low,” he said.

Walsh said that Bostonians should continue to practice social distancing both indoors and outdoors, and continue to take precautions like wearing a face covering, cleaning surfaces, and washing hands often. “The virus has not gone away,” Walsh said. “All of these precautions remain important as ever while the state’s reopening plan continues to move forward.”

He said that the risks are still there and everyone needs to understand them. “A gradual reopening means a gradual economic recovery,” Walsh said. “We know that many people are still struggling and will continue to struggle for some time.”

He said that the needs of families, workers, seniors, and small businesses will continue to be met.

“We will continue the approach to this work with equity for communities with the deepest needs, informed by our Health Inequities Task Force,” Walsh said.

For small businesses, \$7.5 million has been allocated for economic relief, and \$3.6 million has been distributed to more than 1500 small businesses in the City. An additional \$6 million has been put into a program for grants to help businesses get PPE and other materials to reopen safely.

The City has also worked and will continue to work helping people with the housing crisis, Walsh said. In April a rental relief fund was created to help renters who lost their income and are not eligible for unemployment or other relief.

“Since the fund was launched, we got over \$720,000 into 215 households across 17 neighborhoods to cover rents for April and May,” Walsh said. He added that the City’s partner agencies are working on processing more than 550 additional applications to con-

tinue distributing funds.

An additional \$5 million was added to the fund last week, and a new round of application opened on June 5 and will run for two weeks.

“We want to make sure that people can pay their rents,” Walsh said. “We do not ask immigration questions in this application; we do not share information with anyone else.”

Work is also being done with regards to rental vouchers. Walsh said that the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) is currently working with 400 families who have children in the Boston Public Schools. He said that 167 families currently have vouchers, and 86 families have been placed in permanent housing.

“From now on, they will not pay more than 30 percent of their income towards rent,” Walsh said. “Financial relief and vouchers are about meeting the urgent needs of our families being hurt by both poverty and the COVID crisis.”

Walsh also discussed the continuation of the more long term goal of

expanding affordable housing, saying that construction has resumed on 21 City-sponsored affordable housing developments. This adds up to 1,067 affordable units and \$425 million total investment, Walsh said.

“Over 900 more income restricted units created under our Inclusionary Development Policy are back under construction,” Walsh said. Additionally, the Boston Housing Authority has resumed construction on 880 new apartments in Roxbury, the South End, Jamaica Plain, South Boston, and East Boston, he said.

“These will allow public housing residents to relocate in brand new, energy efficient homes,” Walsh said. “As they move, new families will be able to come out of shelter and move into existing units. In total, that’s 3,000 affordable homes under construction right now. All of this work is about having a more equitable city; a city where everyone can be healthy and safe, but we know that here in Boston...we have much more work to do.”

Project Place volunteer walks 150 miles in her apartment building to help fund-raise

By Seth Daniel

When one chooses to walk 150 miles for charity, the destination might be somewhere in Western Massachusetts or Connecticut – or even far up north.

Project Place volunteer Nila Webster, who lives in Revere, completed her 150-mile walk for Project Place – a program in Boston’s South End that gives homeless and formerly incarcerated people a second chance – without ever leaving her apartment building.

Webster, who has suffered from cancer for the past 10 years, wanted to raise money for the charity during COVID-19 as Project Place had been prevented from having its annual banner fundraiser in April. However, there wasn’t a lot she could do outside – especially as someone coping with cancer and cancer treatments. She had been inspired by an elderly man in the United Kingdom, though, who was 100 years old and raised money for COVID-19 charities by walking in his garden.

Webster said she knew she could walk, and there was space in the halls of her building, so she set off for a long trip through a familiar space.

Counting her steps and areas travelled, Webster started the walk in early May, and by May 27 she had hit mile 139. It was a tight squeeze, but with her friends and neighbors cheering her on from a

distance, she got to the 150-mile mark in the atrium of her building in the last week of May.

“When I read the story of Tom Moore, the 100 year old Army captain from England who walked his garden to raise money for charity, I immediately thought of Project Place,” said Webster. “During the height of Corona, I was asking myself what I could do to bring positive energy into the world, and I realized that like Captain Moore, I could walk to raise awareness for a charity I love and respect. So I pledged to walk 150 miles to raise awareness for Project Place during the month of May. Today, May 29, I completed the walk-a-thon for one, with many neighbors and friends supporting the cause.”

Katy Dirks, director of development for Project Place, said they met Webster when she was looking for charities to help – particularly those that give people a second chance. Since meeting her about a year ago, and hosting her for a talk with their clients, it has been a wonderful partnership. Webster was a regular at the Washington Street headquarters, and always wanted to do more. When COVID-19 hit, she could no longer do that, but she would not give up on the idea of helping in some way.

“Nila is just a beautiful person,” said Dirks. “She just walked around the Atrium of her building for hours and hours and hours until she had walked 150 miles. That’s amazing for someone with

brain cancer and for someone in isolation because of COVID-19. It was amazing. She is just such a superstar for us. Every time we talk, she is so humble, especially at a time like this. We had to cancel our fundraiser in April, and we usually raise \$1 million at that event. She wanted to help make that up.”

Webster said now is the time when people can channel their time and energy into helping others and making the world a better place.

“I was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2010 and was one day away from hospice,” she said. “These years later, I still have tumors on both lungs that can spread at any moment. But I was given a second chance, and Project Place is all about giving people second chances and new beginnings. Their work is life-changing and empowering for all of us.”

“Like my cancer story, the story of Project Place is a story of hope, and turning that hope into a living reality through real-time solutions for those who truly need it,” she continued. “And if we are uncertain in this time of Covid-19, and our own jobs and lives have been put on hold and we are not sure how to help, we can choose our favorite charity and pledge to walk for them -- be it five miles, 10, or maybe more. Now of all times is the time for us to pull together and channel our energy into making this whole world more beautiful.”

Dirks said times at Project Place



Nila Webster – a frequent volunteer at Project Place in Boston’s South End – has been isolating through COVID-19 due to a cancer diagnosis. Without being able to travel to the non-profit, she still wanted to find a way to help. She did so without even leaving her building – walking 150 miles in the atrium of her Revere apartment building all through the month of May. Here, she’s pictured finishing mile 150 on May 29.

have been very tough. More than 30 percent of the homeless population in the area has tested positive for COVID-19, and efforts to help the community have had to be re-tooled with the advent of social distancing and online learning. Losing their annual fundraiser and access to volunteers like Webster has also been a massive challenge.

Still, they have continued the work and have actually placed 11 people in jobs during the last 10 weeks of the pandemic, many of whom have gone from homelessness to being front-line workers

everyone is depending on.

“It’s amazing that these clients at one time felt invisible in terms of the value they can offer others,” said Dirks. “Now it’s a total flip and they’re the ones we’re all relying on for so much.”

Dirks said they did share Webster’s story on social media, and it got an amazing response.

“She got some of the highest hits on our social media channels that we’ve ever had,” said Dirks. “It was so inspiring to so many. That’s an exciting thing.”

PRIDE MONTH *(from pg. 1)*

Boston Pride had chosen to raise the original Gilbert Baker Pride flag which was first flown in San Francisco in 1978 and consists of eight symbolic colors that reflect the strength and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community.

Standing with our Black and Brown brothers and sisters and as we reflect on the current turmoil unfolding across our country, Boston Pride with the full support of Mayor Walsh will be raising the Unity flag that includes two addi-

tional black and brown stripes as well as the colors of the Trans flag at City Hall Plaza today. Over the next year, Boston Pride, in partnership with the City of Boston and the LGBTQ+ community at large, will host listening sessions and will

pursue creating a unique Pride Flag to be flown for Boston Pride 2021 and beyond.

“As we confront a global pandemic and the painful reality of racial injustice, we need to support one another, and work together to create the change we want to see,” said Mayor Walsh. “I’m proud to stand firm with Boston’s Black and Brown LGBTQ+ community, celebrate the entire LGBTQ+ community’s incredible legacy, and recommit ourselves to racial justice and progress during this crucial moment in our city’s history.”

“We invite everyone to participate in discussions surrounding the design for the new Boston Pride flag. We encourage com-

munity participation so that all are represented,” said Linda J. DeMarco, Boston Pride President.

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Boston Pride and the first Pride event in Boston was held one year after the New York City Stonewall Riots, which erupted in June 1969 in response to persistent harassment and violence perpetrated by members of the police. Fifty years later, the violence against Black and Brown communities, especially Black Trans women, undeniably highlights ongoing structural systems of oppression and racism, reminding us that our work is far from done. We will continue to fight for social justice and equal rights for all LGBTQ+ people.



PHOTO BY MAYOR'S OFFICE/CITY OF BOSTON

The City of Boston and Boston Pride raised a new Pride flag this year at City Hall late last week. Pride Week and the Parade have been reformatted to online or other types of events.

Enrollment Open for Beacon Hill/ Back Bay Girl Scout Troop 65321

Girl Scout Troop 65321, covering the Beacon Hill and Back Bay neighborhoods, is accepting enrollment for new scouts entering Kindergarten and 1st grade (Fall 2020). Meetings are held on Monday nights, approx. 1-2 times per month, at the Advent Church on Beacon Hill. To enroll your daughter or for information on enrollment for other grades, please e-mail Jill Hauff at jill.hauff@gmail.com.

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Emerson College president wants America to 'wake up'

By Lauren Bennett

Emerson College President Lee Pelton recently penned a letter to the Emerson community detailing his own experiences with racism, as well as his response to racism in America in the wake of George Floyd's death. The Sun spoke with Pelton to discuss his thoughts on the letter and the unrest happening in Boston and across the world.

The June 1 letter, in which Pelton describes America as being "on fire," has reached between seven and eight million people, he said. Pelton told the Times that the letter "has opened the door for other black leaders to walk through and publicly describe their interactions with the police."

In the letter, Pelton describes his encounters with police as a black man, writing that he has "been called the n-word by white people in every state and every city that I have ever lived in. I have been pulled over driving while black more times than I can remember. I have been spit on by a white parking lot attendant." He goes on to say that when he was President of Willamette University in Oregon, teenage boys blocked his path home with their car because he looked similar to someone

who was accused of stealing from homes in the area.

"When I asked what that person looked like they described someone more than twenty years younger than me," Pelton wrote. And at twenty years old, Pelton said he "suffered the deep humiliation of having to go to the back alley of a local restaurant to order food" in Arkansas.

Pelton said he chose to be this deeply personal in a public letter because he was "speaking both as a black man and as a president," and that he felt the recent events "required" him to represent both.

"In some ways, my letter is a representative example of what Du Bois called the 'double consciousness' of black people and that in our daily lives we are required to negotiate being black in a predominantly white world," Pelton said. "Black Americans have a profound sense that Mr. Floyd's murder is not new, and is in fact part of a long history of racial injustice in the US that began even before its founding in 1619 when slaves were brought to these shores."

Pelton said that the nationwide protests have brought up feelings of "frustration and anger" in people and said that it "seems clear" to him that there are many across America "with hearts to feel, voice



Emerson College President Lee Pelton.

es to be heard, and minds to think have a deeper appreciation of what it means to be a Black person in America."

He said that many black people, including himself, "get very nervous" when they see a police officer in their rearview mirror. "I have felt that way since I first started driving 50 plus years ago," he said.

In response to repeated racism and police brutality, residents of cities across the country, including Boston, are calling for their local governments to defund police

departments and direct a portion of the money to programs and organizations that directly benefit the community. Pelton said he thinks this is something that could be a reality in many cities.

"I do believe that cities will begin to reallocate funding for law enforcement to programs that promote health, safety, and education," he said.

City Councilor Julia Mejia also filed a hearing order on Monday for a hearing "concerning college and university campus police in the City of Boston," which would examine police departments at colleges and universities in Boston and call for testimony on what needs to change.

Pelton said that Emerson College's Police Department used to be called the Emerson College Security Department, and does not function like a traditional police department. "Our officers carry no guns, we don't have any militarized weapons, and I would suspect that over 90 percent of our budget for the police is people, not programs," he said. "Our police force is very small."

He added that Emerson College's police department differs from other larger universities "where officers carry weapons and have arrest authority."

This letter is not the end of Pelton's conversation with the Emerson College community. Pelton said he will be further addressing the Emerson community in the same way that he always does: "with an open mind."

"Wake up, America," he said, "and recognize that 'these are structural barriers in our nation's cities that deprive black and brown folks from access to wealth, to quality education, to equal access, to employment, and those barriers are what we refer to as structural racism. They are long-standing and deeply embedded in this nation's history beginning in 1619 and at its very founding.'"

He said that "unraveling" this structured racism "will require time, leadership, resources, and an unflinching commitment."

Unconscious bias is an example of racism and bigotry, he said, and requires "a different kind of effort because it involves people's attitudes and prejudices and blindness to how they behave and act with respect to people of color in this country."

He added, "there's no free passes for anyone, including me."

Phase Two of state's reopening plan begins this week; Kennealy says will have two steps

By Lauren Bennett

Phase Two of the state's reopening plan began on Monday, June 8, after an announcement by Governor Charlie Baker over the weekend.

"This terrible terrible virus and the terrible toll that it takes will be with us until there are medical breakthroughs with respect to treatments or vaccines. But thanks to your hard work and your sacrifices, we're bringing the fight to the virus and we're moving forward and Massachusetts is continuing to reopen," Baker said on June 6.

He said that since the beginning of May, the seven day average for positive COVID-19 tests is down 82 percent, the three day average of hospitalizations is down 55 percent, and the number of hospitals operating in surge is down 76 per-

cent. "It's good to see these stats continue to drop," Baker said.

The Commonwealth has conducted a total of 630,000 viral tests so far, and the number of tests continues to increase each day, he added.

He said that since the "trends are moving in the right direction," the state is in good shape to move onto Phase Two of the reopening plan.

"COVID-19 is still very much with us," Baker said. "While we should all feel a certain sense of relief and progress with respect to the start of phase 2, we should also keep in mind that we have a way to go to get to what we would call the permanent new normal. Please do your part to continue to socially distance, wear face coverings, practice good hygiene, and stay home if you feel sick."

Phase Two includes the expansion of outdoor recreation activities, as well as marks the beginning of preventative health care services such as mammograms, colonoscopies, and heart screenings, all of which were put on hold during the worst of the outbreak.

Secretary Mike Kennealy provided more information about Phase Two, including that it will be in two steps. The first step, which began on Monday, allows for the reopening of retail stores, childcare, day camps, lodging, youth sports, and outdoor seated dining at restaurants, with specific safety guidelines.

Step Two, "the start of which will be determined based on continued improvements in public health metrics," Kennealy said, "will allow restaurants to serve guests indoors," as well as allow

for the opening of "close contact personal services" like nail salons, massage therapy, and tanning salons.

Kennealy explained that there are three levels of safety guidelines for residents, businesses, and workers for Phase Two, as there was in Phase One: "general social guidance, mandatory workplace safety standards, and sector specific safety protocols," he said.

Last week, the state released guidelines and protocols for retailers, restaurants, and lodging, as well as pools, beaches, and outdoor sports ahead of the start of Phase Two so those businesses and activities could prepare to open safely.

"Today, we released protocols on close contact personal services as well as protocols for what we're calling 'sectors not otherwise addressed,'" Kennealy said, which are "businesses with unique operations that don't really fit into other categories."

Kennealy said that in order to reopen, businesses "must meet all safety standards, create a COVID-19 control plan, and complete a self-certification."

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito asked residents to support local businesses in their communities.

"When you buy from the local and small businesses that make up the fabric of your community you support our Massachusetts economy," Polito said. "Go to the corner stores and shops in your town centers; they need you."

She also said that the full list of businesses that can open, along with guidance for specific sectors, can be found at mass.gov/reopening.

"As we reopen, we know that we can count on you, that we'll continue to partner with you and together we will continue to fight the spread and help our economy recover, rebound, and grow in our Commonwealth," Polito said.

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RESTAURANTS (from pg. 1)

thing the governor asked for and more...Given the reservations we had booked for tonight (Monday), we might stay open later. We're sold out tonight. That's something."

Under Gov. Charlie Baker's opening plan announced on June 6, restaurants with outdoor seating were able to open with major restrictions on Monday, June 8. At Aquitaine, that meant six tables outside arranged six feet away from one another. A large table outside featured a QR Code that could be scanned for those that didn't want paper menus and wanted to order using their phones. Others can use paper menus, he said, but they are thrown out after each use. They are offering touchless payment methods, and currently are staying open from 4-8 p.m. every day - serving French food on Saturday and Sunday, he said.

All of that was relayed with a shrug, and the understanding that having been closed nearly three months solid, the restaurant and the rest of its family of restaurants were suffering mightily. Many restaurants face an uncertain future even as they try to re-open and invite guests back to dine outside.

Already, stalwarts like Stella Restaurant off of Blackstone Square in the South End has closed down for good after 15 years, announcing that about a month ago. The same went for CODA on Columbus Avenue in the South End, which had served local beer and casual food for many years before calling it quits. The numbers of restaurants that return is still up in the air.

At Aquitaine, Glionna said despite the struggles of the current moment, it does feel good to open the doors, and see familiar, long-time customers again.

"It does feel good," he said. "Nobody knows what will happen though. People walk by and see our tables and start clapping for us. They're excited and they are happy. It is a strange new world."

For less traditional restaurants like stalwart Newbury Street hang-out Trident Booksellers and Café, the first day of welcoming guests back to sit outside was a great success.

Around 4 p.m., they had several people sitting at the tables, enjoying drinks or snacks. They are serving breakfast, beer and wine, desserts, lemonade and they have their wi-fi up and running.

Reading, of course, is also permitted.

"We started with three tables today, and then we put out a

few more as people came," said employee Frances Gossen, who was greeting customers with a mask and sanitizer on the sidewalk. "We had all six of our tables filled at one point. It's the first day of Phase 2, but if it keeps up like this we'll go earlier and a little later too."

Right now, they are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and they are still doing curbside take-out as they have been for some time.

What has gotten them through this tough time, however, is the sale of online books.

"We've done a lot of online book orders, we updated our website and we put our entire stock of books online," she said. "We have hundreds of orders, which is what really pulled us through. This is really just getting us back out and hugging the community. We miss them. The reception has been great and we need them as we battle the Amazons."

The City and its Licensing Board is working with other agencies, like the Public Improvement Commission and the Boston Transportation Department (BTD), to create unique spaces for restaurants. On Wednesday, the City said they had received about 500 requests for temporary

extension onto outdoor space, and already more than 200 businesses have received full or conditional approval to expand their outdoor space to serve patrons. The Board is actively issuing approvals for temporary extensions on private and public property, and applications will continue to be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis.

"Boston is committed to a safe, phased reopening process," said Mayor Martin Walsh. "That includes helping our small businesses open safely and successfully, and we've been working wherever we can to remove barriers and provide new opportunities. The restaurant industry has been incredibly impacted by this global pandemic, and we've made helping the small businesses that make our neighborhoods and city so special a priority during this time."

If restaurants have applied and received approval, they can begin outdoor service on their property, or in the public parking spaces outside their establishment, immediately. Those outdoor spaces can remain open until 10 p.m. on weeknights and 11 p.m. on weekends.

Outdoor restaurant tables must be minimum 6 feet away, and tables can't seat more than

six people. Workers must wear masks, and patrons must wear masks until they are seated at their tables. In the State of Massachusetts' regulations around reopening, indoor restaurant dining is not yet allowed.

The Board, Boston Transportation Department, Inspectional Services Department, Public Improvement Commission, and Public Works Department will waive fees

for the approved use of outdoor space for this program, on both public and private property, on a temporary, non-precedent setting basis. The Licensing Board last month also voted to lift citywide the preexisting condition of "alcohol with food only" on outdoor space or any other similar condition that prohibits the sale and service of alcohol on outdoor space without the service of a food item.



Chris Glionna of Aquitaine Bistro in the South End puts up a sign in the outdoor dining area of his restaurant on Monday afternoon. While things are still dire for restaurants, Glionna reported they were fully booked with reservations for their outdoor space Monday night.

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Must have 2 mos. of exp. in patent litigation involving medical devices, pharmaceutical compositions, treatment methods, or mechanical arts.

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ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The door header in the last clue is on 38 Buswell Street which was built as Cypress Chambers in 1911.

This was designed by architect Daniel Howard Woodbury as a Classic Revival style apartment house. Today it is a Boston University residence hall. The next clue will be found in The South End.

Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1 BACK BAY	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Feldman, Benjamin A 1 Fairfield LLC	Conyngam Gregory S Cohen, William R	190 Commonwealth Ave #B 1 Fairfield St	\$882,500 \$5,000,000
BEACON HILL			
Grzybowski, Amy L Gorman, Shawn O Acorn Boston LLC	106 Mt Pleasant Ave LLC Powell, Scott E Jane A Haycox T	108-R Mount Pleasant Ave #3 82 Mount Vernon St #1 97 Mount Vernon St #51	\$565,000 \$3,100,000 \$1,122,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Dillon, Eleanor W Campbell, Chelsea J Welsh Young W Cantn St T Brooijmans, Natasja Lee, Eugene 103 Warren Development Meals, Jansen Dasenbrock, Hormuzdiyar H 21 Worcester Street Assoc	Stamoulis, Christiana Crawford, John C Fleischer, Carl M Murray, Mallory P Simons Barbara B Est 103 Warren Avenue RT Kochavi, Shana E Won, Dongjun J 21 Worcester Street LLC	1 Bellingham Pl 542 Columbus Ave #3 44 Rutland Sq #1 427 Shawmut Ave #2 16 Symphony Rd #3 103 Warren Ave 1313 Washington St #218 39-39A Worcester Sq #4 21 Worcester St	\$2,550,000 \$845,000 \$1,550,000 \$1,075,000 \$749,000 \$2,500,000 \$282,427 \$740,000 \$3,800,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Carleton, Joseph Shuster, Michael	Atlantic Ave 63-10D Huang, Gang	45-63 Atlantic Ave #10D 1 Franklin St #4208	\$760,000 \$2,765,000

SELDC discusses garden entry, roof deck in the district

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission met virtually on June 2, where they heard two proposals for residential work in the district.

At 591 Tremont St., Project Manager Stephanie Seeley proposed installing a door and tile at the landing at the garden level entrance under the stoop.

She said that the homeowners would like to install a door similar to the one at 593 Tremont St., which includes a partial arch head and a metal frame with an interior glass panel. "The metal part will be painted black," she said, and will have a custom jamb.

The tile is a porcelain ceramic tile that will extend from the base of the stairs into the alcove behind the door. She also proposed a new light fixture, but after some discussion, it was determined that light fixtures are exempt from the Commission's purview because there were no wall mounted light fixtures during the Victorian era, but the Commission does have preferences for them.

Seeley said she does believe there is an existing door, which led the Commission to wonder whether or not it is original. She said she believes it's "just a green door" and she doesn't "recall there being

any interesting details to it."

Commissioner David Shepperd also said he does not believe the door is original, but the rest of the Commission said they wanted to make sure before approving the new door. If the existing door is original, it would have to be restored per the guidelines rather than replaced with a new one.

Commissioner Fabian D'Souza said that he does not believe the tiling is appropriate for the district, and thinks it should be concrete which is in line with the rest of the South End. Commissioner John Amodeo agreed, and also questioned whether the tile is suitable for outdoor use.

Boston Landmarks Commission Preservation Planner Mary Cirbus said that "my guess is that the work at 593 [Tremont St.] was not approved," as it contains a similar door and tile that the Commission discussed as being not appropriate to the district with the proposal for 591 Tremont.

The Commission ultimately voted to remand this application to BLC staff to work on a "configuration of the door that is more appropriate to the South End," as Commissioner John Freeman said that these types of doors did not typically have glass during the historic period. Additional details to be worked out by staff include

how the door is attached, as well as a site visit for staff to determine whether or not the existing door is historic.

At 181 Warren Ave., architect Derek Rubinoff proposed to construct a roof deck with hatch access.

Rubinoff said that the proposal is for a condominium at the top of a four story building, and the deck will be replacing the existing private roof deck with a larger one. Right now, access to the existing deck is via a roof hatch that would be "changed and moved."

He said that the current deck cannot be seen from the front, but the railing can be seen from the rear. He said the proposal includes "moving the rear of the deck slightly forward." He said the reason for having a larger deck is because the homeowner has a "fairly small apartment," so he would like to have more space outdoors. The newly proposed deck is about 18 feet wide by 22.6 feet long, but it is not a complete rectangle. The deck would be accessed via an angled hatch, and the existing chimneys would remain on the deck.

The proposed railings would be painted galvanized steel or aluminum. There is no lighting proposed for the deck.

(SELDC, Pg. 11)

SELDC (from pg. 10)

The Commission had issues with the visibility of the deck from the street, as there is currently a mockup in place.

"This is a fairly visible deck, and typically what we would do is have a subcommittee that would go to the site and have the mock-up moved while looking at it live," Commissioner John Freeman said.

Commissioner Catherine Hunt agreed, saying she feels the mock-up is "far too visible." She also called for a subcommittee to determine ways that the railing could be made less visible from a public way.

The apartment owner, Taruno Steffensen, said that he feels "the mockup was made way too high," to which the Commission responded that they would need to see a revised mockup to make a decision on the deck.

"We can look at that," Rubinoff said.

"I think those railings are way too high and I agree that we need to do a site visit," said Commissioner Diana Parcon.

"I think...Mary [Cirbus] had identified that there's also visibility through a gap in the buildings on

the rear elevation," Commissioner John Amodeo said. "While we don't like visibility at all, we tend to be more forgiving of rear elevation visibility than front elevation visibility."

Commissioner John Freeman suggested having a thinner railing structure for the deck and lowering it. "Every inch you lower it is an inch you won't have to push it back," he said.

Amodeo said that pushing it back a foot from the view it is currently seen it will not reduce the amount of deck seen from the street.

The Commission voted to remand this proposal to a subcommittee of Catherine Hunt and Fabian D'Souza, who will make a socially distanced site visit to determine how best to reduce the visibility of this deck from the street. The subcommittee meeting will be open to the public as required by the Open Meeting Law.

Rubinoff will let BLC staff know when the revised mockup is ready, and then a date will be chosen "very soon," Mary Cirbus said.

BVHDC approves nine townhomes at 132 Arlington St.

By Lauren Bennett

The Bay Village Historic District Commission (BVHDC) met virtually via Zoom on June 9, where the project at 132 Arlington St. was officially approved. The project came before the Commission last month for an advisory review, where it was very well received by the Commission.

David Goldman of New Boston Ventures said again this month that the goal of this development was to build something that was fully compliant with zoning laws, except for the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District. "We tried to build a development which reflects the character and design of the other buildings and townhouses in the Bay Village neighborhood," he added.

He said that although the project was "very well received at first visit, we think it's even better now."

Architect Jonathan Garland presented the proposal, which consists of nine three-story residential townhomes, each of which will have a single car garage with a continuous curb line that stretches across Edgerly Place. The residential entrances will also be along Edgerly Place, and each unit will have a rear patio space.

The materials for the building

include red brick with champagne gray colored metal accents, and a metal picket rail where the French door balconies are—some on the second level and some on the third.

Garland showed examples of other buildings in the district where metal is used over a multistory brick building with glass, showing that his design will fit within the context of the neighborhood.

Garland said that the team is "trying to be creative with the use of window bays," as some are more prominent on the third floor and some are more prominent on the second floor.

For the garden patios in the rear, each unit will have a private garden space on the first floor with an additional space on the second floor and a staircase connecting the two.

There were different parapet options, but Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said "I felt more drawn to the image... with the parapet being divided into the individual rowhouse units."

Some of the Commissioners agreed with that, saying the individual rowhouses were better, but said it doesn't necessarily have to be that way for the design to work.

Goldman said at the last hearing and again at this one that at

one point in history, this lot had rowhouses on it so this building would pay homage to what was once there.

Jas Bhogal, a developer who has developed projects in the neighborhood, commended the project, saying he "applauds the design."

Armando Hernandez from 35 Piedmont also said he is in favor of the project, adding that he thinks it "looks amazing."

A question was raised by the Commission about whether or not residents would be able to get resident parking stickers on the street.

"On behalf of [Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA)] Planning...the city can't deny parking permits," Tom Perkins of the BVNA said in the chat on Zoom. "This isn't an issue we can control."

An abutter also spoke, saying he is in favor of the project and that the Commission has "done a great job working with the developers."

The Commissioners were supportive of the project as well, calling it a "great addition to the neighborhood."

The BVHDC unanimously voted to approve this project "as consistent with the guidelines subject to staff review of certain aspects of exterior building materials," Commissioner Kathleen McDermott said.



Please Recycle

For the Record

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: Due to public health concerns, the hearings that normally would be held on a week have been postponed or canceled due to the guidance of Mayor Martin Walsh and the order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.

From the June 13 Community Preservation Act Historic Preservation Workshop, 9:30 a.m., Online Via Zoom:

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Principles of Historic Preservation
- Preservation Dos and Don'ts
- Basics of Conditions Assessments
- Case Study: Building Rehab and Reuse
- Where to find more information
- Questions & Answers

From the June 15 South End Landmarks Subcommittee, 5 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84183646287):

•566 Columbus Avenue

Previously reviewed at the 5/05/2020 and 5/18/2020 SELDC Public Hearings. Proposed Work: Construct a new building.

From the June 16 Zoning Board of Appeal business meeting, 10 a.m., via broadband (https://www.boston.gov/

departments/broadband-and-cable/watch-boston-city-tv):

The City of Boston Zoning Board of Appeal will hold a business meeting in order to discuss action included in Mayor Walsh's Executive Order of February 24, 2020, An Executive Order Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal. The purpose of the business meeting is for the Board to consider and discuss the creation of written policies, protocols, procedures and/or regulations which, in the judgment of the Board, will facilitate the efficient, predictable conduct of its proceedings and decision-making.

From the June 17 Air Pollution Control Board, 11:30 a.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/6864582044):

•Application for a Modified Downtown Boston Parking Freeze Permit from the Abbey Group on behalf of Boston Flower Exchange LLC for 405 exempt parking spaces and 100 commercial parking spaces located at 540 Albany St. The permit is for the construction of a new underground parking garage with spaces to be shared between lessees, employees, patrons, customers, clients, patients, and guests of the project, and the general public. Modification of the exemption would allocate 100 commercial spaces from the Downtown Boston parking freeze bank.

•Application for a Modified Downtown Boston Parking Freeze Permit from VHB on

behalf of BP Hancock LLC for 576 commercial parking spaces and 1,437 exempt parking spaces located at 100 Clarendon St. This permit is for the reconstruction of an above-ground parking garage with spaces to be shared between lessees, employees, patrons, customers, clients, patients, and guests of the project, and the general public. Modification of the permit would have no effect on the Downtown Boston parking freeze bank.

From the June 23 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, 10 a.m., via online Webex (hearings originally scheduled for April 16):

•37 Dwight St. Applicant: Highline Development Purpose: Construct a roof deck with roof hatch access. Construct rear deck. Both with exclusive use to Unit #2. Stairways shall have a headroom clearance of not less than 80 inches.

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PERMITS

Due to the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, the Boston Fire Department is extending the expiration date on all existing Place of Assembly and Annual Permits from June 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Any issued Place of Assembly Permit or Annual Permit stating an expiration date of June 30, 2020 will now automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in mid-August, and the permitting

cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

•Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

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.



BEACON HILL ROOF DECK

33 BEAVER PLACE
4 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 4,664 SQFT
\$8,490,000



133 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #6
2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 1,994 SQFT
\$3,100,000



80 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #PH
4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 3,560 SQFT
\$6,250,000



180 BEACON STREET #16E
2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 1,409 SQFT
\$1,999,000



380 BEACON STREET #2
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,714 SQFT
\$5,500,000

