

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## #ArthursGarden: Out of the drab dullness of plywood has come a garden of color

By Seth Daniel

Plywood can be improved.

Just ask Arthur Halvorsen, and artist who has been blasting in and out of the Back Bay and South End painting flower murals on every piece of plywood that replaced the glass storefront windows on June 1.



Artist Arthur Halvorsen (left) has created flowers on the plywood storefronts dotting the Back Bay and South End lately – calling his flower pieces #ArthursGarden. Working at Warren Hardware in the South End and teaching ceramics professionally, the spray paint on plywood work was a quick response from his artistic instincts.

Most of the Back Bay and South End businesses that were looted in rioting on May 31 and after took to boarding up the windows and keeping the boards there. It just didn't do for Halvorsen, who

described himself as a renaissance man who has a healthy art career and also works at Warren Hardware in the South End.

(#ARTHURSGARDEN, Pg. 6)

## Missing the Mark: Emancipation Statue in Back Bay likely to be re-comissioned

By Seth Daniel

A statue of Abraham Lincoln and a newly-freed slave – titled 'Emancipation' – has hit the ire of many in the neighborhood

and throughout Boston over the last week as being outdated and insulting.

Though the statue has been repeatedly criticized for years – as has its original, twin statue in Washington, D.C., - most recent-

ly Activist Tory Bullock began the current campaign to get it removed and replaced.

"My name is Tory Bullock and I've been watching this

(EMANCIPATION STATUE, Pg. 11)

## Baker urges those who have attended gatherings to get tested

By Lauren Bennett

Gov. Charlie Baker announced on June 15 that there would be 50 pop-up COVID-19 testing sites throughout the Commonwealth, and urged anyone who has recently participated in a large gathering, such as a protest, to get tested for the virus.

Baker said on Monday that the average positive test rate in Massachusetts is down "to about three

(BAKER UPDATE, Pg. 3)

## Walsh declares racism a public health emergency

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh announced at a press conference on June 12 that he has declared racism a public health crisis in the City of Boston, as well as that he will allocate 20 percent (\$12 million) of the Boston Police Department's (BPD) overtime budget to community programs for youth, food security, immigrant advancement, and more.

(WALSH UPDATE, Pg. 4)

## Women's Lunch Place receives Cummings Foundation grant

By Lauren Bennett

Women's Lunch Place (WLP), a day shelter providing essential items, meals, and services to women experiencing homelessness and poverty, has received a grant through the Cummings Foundation's \$20 Million Grant Program to help continue its work in the community.

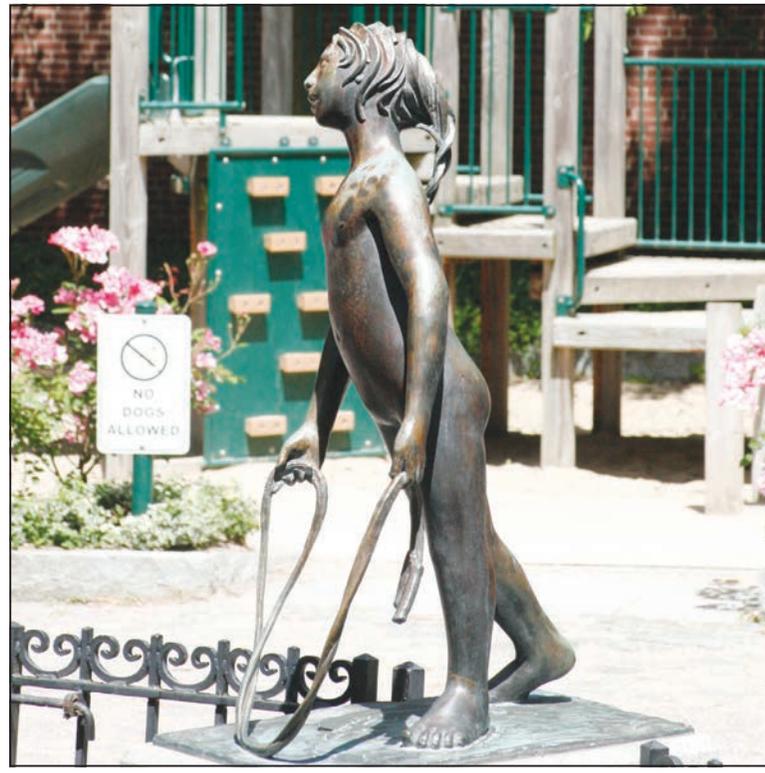
WLP was one of 130 nonprofits chosen from a pool of 738 applicants for the grant, and Executive Director Jennifer Hanlon Wigon said that this is not the first time

the Cummings Foundation has awarded money to WLP. The organization has been awarded the "\$100,000 for 100" grant, which is \$100,000 to 100 nonprofits over three years, "but we are eligible for the 10 year sustaining grant which would be \$300,000 over 10 years," she said.

Hanlon Wigon said the money will be used to fund WLP's Outreach Advocacy Initiative, which has kicked into overdrive since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

(WLP, Pg. 5)

## TIME TO PLAY...AGAIN



The City of Boston re-opened all playgrounds on Monday, June 15, after having been closed since March. Here, the wonderful statue of a child jumping rope in Hayes Park is shown in front of a newly opened playground structure Monday afternoon. Residents using playgrounds are encouraged to practice social distancing, wear a face covering and wash and sanitize hands before and after playing. Still closed are fitness equipment, basketball courts and organized group sports on fields. Tennis and Pickleball courts are open. Permits for events or recreational sports are still suspended until further notice.

# EDITORIAL

## A TREMENDOUS COURT DECISION

The decision this past Monday by the U.S. Supreme Court extending the rights of gay and transgender workers under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars employment discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, and sex, is a wonderful affirmation of the shift in this country from one of outright homophobia just a generation ago to the acceptance by a large majority of Americans of persons regardless of their sexual preferences or gender identity.

This newspaper for more than 25 years has supported the efforts of the LGBTQ community to secure all of the rights that are enjoyed by every American and to be free from discrimination of all kinds.

We applauded the Goodridge decision in 2003 by our Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that held that the Commonwealth must legally recognize same-sex marriage, something we had advocated for almost a decade previously.

In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court in the Obergefell case affirmed same-sex marriage as a Constitutional right, thus making it applicable to all 50 states.

This week's decision by our country's highest court now extends Title VII protections for gay and transgender persons to all 50 states. Previously, about half of the states still allowed a person to be fired by their employer solely on the basis of their sexual status.

There still is more to be done in terms of bringing full legal and social equality for our LGBTQ fellow citizens, but Monday's 6-3 decision, which included two of the conservative justices, Roberts and Gorsuch, unquestionably represents a huge step forward for gay and transgender Americans.

## JUST UNBELIEVABLE....

The tragic shooting death this past Friday night of 27 year-old Rayshard Brooks outside of a Wendy's restaurant by an Atlanta police officer has confirmed even further (as if there needed to be any more proof) the degree of racial bias that exists in many police departments across our country and the need to move swiftly to institute major reforms in those police departments in order to avoid further tragedies.

How it can be that a fleeing person, who apparently was under the influence of alcohol, can be shot in the back at close range while running away barefoot in a parking lot is mind-boggling. The officer fired three shots, of which two struck Mr. Brooks. In addition, neither of the two officers involved with the incident provided medical attention to Mr. Brooks until two minutes later when one of them unrolled a bandage.

If officers either are unable to control their racial animosity or are so lacking in training that they cannot act without shooting someone dead in the back when there already is heightened scrutiny of their actions, then the time truly has come to completely revamp the method of policing in this country.

And the sooner, the better.

## AND NOW, STINGING JELLYFISH....

The ocean temperature barely has reached 60 degrees in Boston Harbor and vicinity, but the warnings on our beaches have confirmed what the beachcombers among us have known for a week or so -- the dreaded jellyfish have arrived.

According to the experts, these are the lion's mane jellyfish, whose flowing tentacles (hence their name), when they are fully-grown, can extend as long as 90 feet. (Reportedly, the largest recorded specimen ever measured occurred in 1865 off the coast of Massachusetts and had a bell with a diameter of seven feet and tentacles of about 120 feet.

They principally are found in the extreme northern oceans, but they come to our latitudes at this time of year, though fortunately not many are of the full-size stature that they attain in colder waters.

The jellyfish have been seen from Nahant to Hull in recent days. Although most are not fully-grown at this stage of their lives, they nonetheless have the ability to deliver quite a sting to anyone who comes into contact with them.

So swimmers beware. The ocean may provide a respite from the coronavirus, but the jellyfish will be waiting.

## GUEST OP-ED

## The Rental Relief Fund is helping to keep Bostonians in their homers during the pandemic

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we knew that many people would be challenged by housing costs while they were out of work. As a part of our comprehensive response, we wanted to include assistance for renters. That's why we created the Rental Relief Fund, a program to help cover residents' rent payments. We started this program in April, and we recently announced an additional round of funding.

The Rental Relief Fund was set up to help residents who have lost their income and are not eligible for employment benefits, and residents who, even with unemployment benefits, are still not able to make ends meet. We dedicated \$3 million for the first round of funding, which began in April. Earlier this month, we opened up a second round of applications, and dedicated an additional \$5 million to the program, bringing the total to \$8 million. We are currently accepting pre-screening applications in 10 languages for the second round

until June 19 at 12:00 p.m.

Our goal is to ensure housing stability for Bostonians who are out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize how profoundly the public health emergency is impacting people, and our response is focused on equity and protections for our most vulnerable populations.

The reason we are adding this money is that we expect low-income renters to remain in financial distress for some time. The state eviction moratorium that we helped to get in place will be lifted August 18, or 45 days after the State of Emergency ends. We have worked hard in the last couple of years to reduce evictions, and we have one of the lowest eviction rates in the country. We want to keep it that way. We want to make sure people can stay in their homes.

It's important to know that it is safe to apply for this fund. You will not be asked about your immigration status during the Rental Relief Fund process, and it does not affect immigration applications as a "public charge." Also, none of your information will be

shared with anyone else that's not processing your application. Our goal is to help anyone in need of rental assistance without fear or barriers.

So far, we have granted \$818,000 to 257 households across 17 neighborhoods to cover rent for April and May. That means 257 individuals or families are no longer facing potentially losing their housing or being displaced thanks to this Fund. We are currently in the process of reviewing more applications with our partner agencies and will continue to distribute money until the fund is depleted.

I know that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting people in many ways, especially in vulnerable populations. As we begin to gradually and safely reopen, we will continue to provide support for students, seniors, immigrants and renters. The Rental Relief Fund is one step. If you have any questions, you can call the Office of Housing Stability at 617-635-4200, or you can visit [boston.gov/RentalRelief](http://boston.gov/RentalRelief).

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

## SELDC praises changes to 566 Columbus Avenue proposal; no official vote yet

By Lauren Bennett

A subcommittee of the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met on June 15 to discuss the design details of the Harriet Tubman House at 566 Columbus Ave. The subcommittee consists of Commissioners John Freeman, Catherine Hunt, and David Shepperd.

Last month, the SELDC approved the building in concept, and the demolition of the existing building was approved in 2019, said Boston Landmarks Commission Preservation Planner Mary Cirbus. She reiterated that the

SELDC does not have purview over the use or sale of the building, which has caused some conflict in the neighborhood.

Architect Jonathan Garland presented an updated proposal to the subcommittee that was based on some comments heard at last month's hearing. Some of the updates included a better connection along the West Springfield side of the building, as well as changes to the metal on the corner and daylight studies for the building soffit.

Garland said that previously, the smaller window openings at the corner of the building were the same size as the ones on the brick

portion of the facade, which "created more metal than glass in this one area," he said.

In the new rendition, Garland showed a broken transition of brick from Columbus Ave. to Mass. Ave., and the metal goes from the second level to the top of the building.

"We think it's a much stronger corner," Garland said. He also said that they have "taken away how the sculpted metal transitions at every floor."

On the Columbus Ave. elevation, "some of the language of

(SELDC, Pg. 3)

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**SELDC** (from pg. 2)

the brick on this facade” has been changed. The way the parapet line “jogs up and down now” was also something that was changed, as well as introducing a granite base to line the edge, and bringing that same stone material to wrap around the windows on the first floor.

The corbeling above the windows will start with triple band, then as the floors go up will transition to double band, then single band.

Garland said that this creates a “more grand feel” on the ground floor, which gradually gets lost “as you go up.”

On the Mass. Ave. elevation, the same corbeling will be used and the fifth floor will be tied into the cornice itself.

On Columbus Ave. looking down West Springfield St., there was previously a double height metal mansard roof with dormers, but in the new rendition, the fifth story of the building will now be brick, and it will be a one story mansard with no dormers.

As it abuts the rowhouses, it will still be a two story mansard but there will be no dormers, Garland said.

A grayish color was proposed for this section, as it “picks up on the mansard roofs of the rest of the houses on West Springfield St.” Garland said that a faux slate material would be used here between the windows, and it would be a flat plate metal that is non-reflective.

At the West Springfield elevation, Garland said the “harsh line” at the fourth story would be removed.

At the ground level canopy soffit, Garland explained the daylight studies and how the light would affect underneath the canopy.

“What we’re trying to do is make sure that the outdoor seating is well-lit and getting ample sunlight from these different seasonal time periods,” he said.

He also said that the originally proposed planter has been removed at the stairs so they could be widened, and the handrail material has been changed to an oil rubbed bronze color to match the other metals.

After Garland’s presentation, the Commissioners asked questions and made comments about what they saw.

“I think it’s a nice improvement,” Commissioner Catherine Hunt said, but she still had issues with the West Springfield facade.

She said that the two story element on that portion of the building “continues to trouble me,” saying that “this is a more delicate street.” She said that she recognizes Garland’s attempt to blend in with the rest of the street with different materials and setting the stories back, but “I just think it’s too massive for West Springfield.”

Garland said that “this was a standard condition in the South End” with how buildings like this came down side streets.

Commissioner John Freeman

said that the Commission has received a lot of comments from the public, and a common concern is that the rooftop headhouse equipment would be visible. Garland said that there are no large chilling plants or cooling towers, and “we’ve done a very careful job of where we locate the elevator,” so the HVAC condenser units that will be installed on the roof will be setback and unable to be seen from the street.

Garland did not have a roof plan to show during this presentation, but he said one could be put together for the next meeting.

Commissioner David Shepperd said that “the metal doesn’t speak like it’s part of a historic district to me.” He said he liked the faux slate along the top part of the building, but he said he “expected” to see brick on the face of the building where metal is proposed. “The brick is fitting with most of the Victorian buildings in the neighborhood,” he said.

“I think the building has taken a huge step forward,” Commissioner John Freeman said. “The changes make a really big difference. I think the corner works architecturally.”

He said that he believes the metal connects better now and works with the building. “I think the window detailing,” he said, including the “reduction and corbeling as it goes up and the slight color difference around the windows; that’s going to be so subtle but not so subtle that you miss it.”

He said that the building “brings in some modern elements” and combines them with historic elements, which is “exactly what a new building should do.”

He said that the Columbus Ave. corner “needs a little more articulation,” but it’s “very very close to being excellent.”

He also shared some of Hunt’s concerns about the West Springfield St. facade.

“What we’ll be looking for going forward is several options of ways to approach this,” he said. “Then we can talk about them.”

During public comment, one resident said that he doesn’t “see a lot of 19th century detailing in this building,” and asked the Commissioners to point out why they believe this building is fit for the district.

“We can’t tell someone not to do a recreation,” Freeman said, but “we don’t want to make Disneyland.” He said that the Commission wants new buildings to be “sympathetic with historic buildings but should stand apart from them.”

Resident Leslie Kulig said that she is “confused and discouraged that the four story part of the building isn’t on West Springfield.” She said that it will “create a lot of shadow and darkness on West Springfield St. on my building.” She also suggested more garden area and more detail on the windows, as she believes the size of the corbeling is too small.

Alexa Pinard, an Urban Designer at the Boston Planning and Development Agency, thanked everyone for their work and contributions to the design of this building. She said she will ensure that all comments will be taken into consideration for the final design, and “I think the design just keeps getting better every time we see it.”

Several other neighbors wrote into the chat that they were disappointed and concerned with the height and massing of the building, and the fact that it might block light at certain times of day on the West Springfield side.

Freeman told the design and development team that for the next subcommittee meeting, they should be prepared to bring live computer generated models of the building that are able to be rotated, some different options for the West Springfield St. side, and provide a roof plan that shows the proposed HVAC condensers.

The subcommittee will not vote on this project, but once they feel they have the best design, it will come back before the full Commission for an official vote.

The next meeting of the subcommittee does not yet have a date, but one will be selected “as soon as possible” and posted on the City’s website when it is scheduled, and will again be open to the public.

**BAKER UPDATE** (from pg. 1)

percent,” and about 1000 people remain hospitalized with the virus, which is down over 70 percent.

He said the state continues to see “positive incremental progress.” He said that about a week into Phase Two of the reopening process, outdoor dining, lodging, and summer camps are starting to reopen to the public with restrictions.

“Our progress to date is encouraging, but it doesn’t mean the virus has left town,” Baker said. “It’s up to all of us to continue to do the things that we know can kill COVID.”

On June 17 and June 18, 50 pop-up COVID-19 testing sites will be open to test “individuals who have recently attended large gatherings,” Baker said. “Anyone who has attended a large gathering over the last two weeks should get tested.” Test results will be provided confidentially, and people are urged to share the results with their doctors. Baker said that

these large gatherings where thousands of people have been coming together in large groups are coinciding with the reopening process.

“Any time large groups of people come together, there’s a risk for transmission,” he said. He said that he “certainly supports” people’s rights to peacefully protest, but “some people who have the virus don’t show symptoms and can spread the virus to others.” He said that even if “you’re feeling fine,” you should get tested anyway.

“Everyone’s done amazing work to keep people safe,” Baker said. “Getting tested this week on one of those two days is a way to play your part.”

According to the state, Massachusetts has tested over 700,000 people to date for COVID-19. “The state currently has capacity at 45 labs to perform up to 30,000 COVID-19 tests per day, and its nursing home testing strategies have been replicated by states

across the country,” according to a recent press release. “The Administration continues to prioritize expanding access to testing, with a key focus of that strategy being ensuring access to testing in skilled nursing facilities, rest homes, and assisted living residences and other 24/7 staffed congregate care settings.”

The Baker-Polito Administration filed a federal plan on May 30 to expand testing under the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act of 2020, from which the state has received \$374 million in federal funding, which will be used for increasing testing capacity, increasing access to testing for vulnerable and high-risk population, having the testing capacity to support a possible second surge, and more, the state said.

A complete list of pop-up testing sites is available at <https://www.mass.gov/gettested>.

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# Congresswoman Pressley, Councilors Bok and Mejia on hand for virtual Ward 4 Dems meeting

By Dan Murphy

U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley and City Councilors Kenzie Bok and Julia Mejia were all on hand Tuesday, June 16, for a virtual meeting of the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee.

Rep. Pressley, who now holds the seat that John F. Kennedy once occupied, detailed her accomplishments to date, including introducing more bills than any other member of Congress. This legislation included a Workers' Rights Bill, which she rolled out within her first 14 days in office.

Rep. Pressley's other accomplishments to date include convening the first Congressional meeting on childhood trauma last July and helping create the Future of Transportation Caucus.

"I believe inequities and disparities exist because of transportation injustice," she said.

Rather than focusing on maintenance of roadways, Rep. Pressley said the Transportation Caucus would instead works towards

"expansion of roadways" and "multi-modal infrastructure."

She added, "It's very timely as there is an infrastructure bill pending."

Rep. Pressley is also committed to ending qualified immunity – a doctrine the U.S. Supreme Court introduced in 1967 that protects members of law enforcement from being held legally accountable when they are performing their jobs, and which has come under intense scrutiny following the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police.

"There never can truly be justice for the people of Boston who have been robbed of their children at hands of police, but [police] must have accountability," she said. "Qualified immunity has protected officers and stood in the way of equality."

Rep. Pressley said Massachusetts' 7<sup>th</sup> District, which she represents and includes parts of Boston, Cambridge and Milton, as well as all of Chelsea, Everett, Randolph and Somerville, has been hit the hardest by COVID-

19 because of "structural racism, asthma and diabetes," among other factors. Essential workers on the frontlines, who are often people of color unequipped with Personal Protection Equipment, in particular have been disproportionately affected, she said.

"I'm very proud that Massachusetts has collected and reported racial data and contact tracing," she said. "We can collect data not just for data's sake, but to save lives."

Councilor Bok, chair of the city's Ways and Means Committee, said when she first received the city's proposed budget for fiscal '21 in April, she "knew it was a work in progress."

And after receiving the revised budget submitted by Mayor Martin Walsh on Monday, she said she is concerned that the state might make budget cuts that will affect the city later in the summer.

But Councilor Bok said this budget cycle is also an opportunity for change.

"Everyone is asking themselves, 'what does it looks like in this

moment?'" and 'how do we use this moment?,'" she said. "We cant have this just be a flash in the pan, but we won't get everything we need in reform of society in next week."

Councilor Bok said the conversation would also continue on collective bargaining with the police, which is set to expire this year.

"For me, the budget has been all-consuming over the last few months, but I hope to turn back to the housing policy over the summer," she said.

Just before the pandemic struck, Councilor Bok had called for a hearing on cooperative housing in the city.

"I hope to circle back to the coop order after the summer because of the consolidation of ownership and the moratorium on evictions," she said. "This is a moment of rest, but not forgiveness."

And with the city's high bond rating, she said now would be an opportune time for the city to consider buying apartment buildings that be converted into coop housing.

Also, Councilor Bok said her office has been working to address food insecurity in her district, which has reached "unprecedented levels" during the current public health crisis.

Councilor Mejia, who was sworn into office Jan. 6, said she barely had time to get acclimated in her new role before the pandemic struck and she was forced to go "remote."

"I never thought in my life as a first-term city councilor, I'd be learning how to do the job during [this period of] social unrest and the pandemic," she said. "I'm here to speak the truth, to hold myself accountable, to hold the mayor accountable, and to hold the city accountable."

Since taking office, Councilor Mejia delivered her maiden speech on creating sanctuary spaces throughout the city and has led four resolutions and cosponsored 10 more.

Councilor Mejia has also filed nine hearing orders, including one on food insecurity that has resulted because of the pandemic.

## WALSH UPDATE (from pg. 1)

"We know about the inequalities in our country and we're working everyday in the City of Boston to eliminate them," he said. "Equity has been the center of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Walsh said that "the public conversation changed" when George Floyd was murdered on May 25.

"Young people refused and still refuse to accept that injustice," he said. "I've been listening to that movement...how racism shapes lives and hurts communities as we're seeing here right now."

He said that this announcement

is "the beginning, not the end," and more announcements are to come.

An initial investment of \$3 million from the police overtime budget will go to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Walsh said.

"Racism is a driving force that shapes the access to the social determinants of health, like housing, education, and employment" Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez said at the press conference, "The executive order...is an important step in ensuring attention and focus on

this work and resources that will allow us to do what's necessary."

He said an eight-step strategy led by the BPHC along with the Department of Health and Human Services, which includes "policy and practice solutions that work to dismantle systemic racism and create barriers to strong public health," as well as an assessment of health inequity in all policies to see where there are gaps. He also said a Boston Inequity Health Now plan would be created that "gets to the root causes of these inequities, not simply just respond to them."

Martinez said that seeing where the gaps in the health system are will allow for the use of that data to "analyze the real facts" and "join advocacy at the state and national level for these policies."

Walsh said that "in addition" to declaring racism a public health crisis, he is also "taking steps in law enforcement accountability," such as strengthening the existing community oversight panel. "These steps call for a 10 point action plan put forward by the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and other elected officials of color in Boston and the Commonwealth."

The BPD has completed a review

of its use of force policy, Walsh said, "outlined by the national '8 Can't Wait' movement."

He said as a result, the BPD is "clarifying rules to meet the standards, and has immediately implemented several reforms," such as use of force policies "proven to reduce the likelihood of violence," as well as a training program known as Ethical Policing is Courageous (EPIC).

"This means that officers will not only be required to intervene when they witness unnecessary use of force, they'll be trained with strategies to preventing abuses and intervening if they occur," he said.

Walsh also said that BPD "will no longer use the hair test for evidence of drug use in officers or recruits."

Walsh said that the reallocation of 20 percent of the BPD overtime budget and the other measures announced are "certainly not enough," and the City will "continue to make and demand change."

He also announced what he called a "process for community input, review, and reform." He said that through this process, "all police use of force policies," will be reviewed, and communities will be engaged by including the

voices of a "diverse range of input, experiences, and stories." He said the findings of the review would be reported to the community for feedback, after which all use of force polices would be reformed based on that feedback.

"Our process is not designed to delay change," Walsh said. A new task force, led by Bostonians from civil rights organizations and led by former US Attorney Wayne Budd, will "conduct an immediate review of all police force policies," as well as "provide guidance about how we strengthen the co-op board," Walsh said. He said that the City "will be accepting any changes that they recommend," and the task force is effective immediately.

"I pledge to make Boston a national leader in this work, and we are following through on our pledge," Walsh said.

"It's this kind of leadership that takes our whole City working together. I'm calling on all of us, every Bostonian, every elected official to be a part of the solution." He said that "we must continue to listen to the voices at the center of the conversation" and that "systemic change must go far beyond law enforcement."

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# At annual meeting, Christian Scientists consider what meaningful worship means in time of crisis

By Kevin Ness

It was a different kind of worldwide church meeting — a small group of individuals sat in a church in Boston, six feet apart, and took turns speaking to a camera rather than the usual sea of faces from around the world. Monday, June 8, marked the annual meeting of the Church of Christ, Scientist, and this year, the church's five-member board of directors determined that the best way to express love and care for all — in the spirit of the Golden Rule and out of respect for public orders — wasn't to gather in person, but to unite in a virtual space to acknowledge God's love and presence globally.

Although done online this year, Christian Scientists gathered to pray, reflect, and look ahead, as they have nearly every year since the church's founding over 140 years ago. A hymn was sung in five different languages, with video submissions from members around the world. The message was clear: in a time of tremendous challenge and global crisis, when all are seeking solace, strength, and real help in confronting issues like injustice, hatred, isolation and loss, Christian Scientists are committed to going deeper and stretching further to live lives of real service.

"There's a lot of progress yet to be made, a lot of healing in the world is needed," board chair Scott Preller said, "and we want

to keep working to be part of the healing light of how this world moves forward."

The words "God is Love" appear near the front of almost every Christian Science church sanctuary, including the one where the church officers sat, as a reminder of what church is all about: the power of love, found in Christ, to transform and heal individual lives and communities at large.

"What real love does is reduce fear," said Robin Hoagland, of the church's board, "and that is the love that is most needed right now."

The church's clerk welcomed new church members from over 30 countries, — from Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, to the UK, US, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Members also welcomed a new president, Anne-Françoise Bouffé, of Paris, France. The meeting included field reports on what church has meant to members this year.

A member from Germany who has been organizing humanitarian aid for the UN spoke about the power of prayer to bring inspired ideas for providing meaningful and effective assistance.

A member from Peru shared how the encouragement of church members after his son died in a car accident not only healed his sorrow but also brought an end to chronic joint and spine pain that had not been cured by medical treatment. These healing experiences led



*The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, is headquarters for the Christian Science denomination. The Church has branches in some 70 countries, and members throughout the world participated in their annual meeting by joining remotely this year. Massachusetts has 42 local Christian Science congregations.*

*INSET: Christian Scientists participate in the virtual annual meeting of their denomination in Boston. A hymn was sung in five different languages with video submissions from members around the world. Massachusetts has 42 local Christian Science congregations.*

him to join his local Christian Science branch church, and eventually "The Mother Church" — The First Church of Christ, Scientist — which has a global membership.

"Great charity and humility is necessary in this work of healing," wrote the founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy. "The loving patience of Jesus, we must strive to emulate." Christian healing isn't something that can be imposed or approached dogmatically, Christian Scientists emphasize, but is a transformative experience of coming into closer communion with God, and grasping a new view of oneself as made in God's likeness.

*The Christian Science Monitor*, the church's international news publication, was mentioned during the meeting as having a deep impact on members' efforts to be problem solvers and healers. The paper aims to "embrace the human family and [shed] light" on the day's most pressing issues, like racism — as it has since the early days of the U.S. civil rights movement — and COVID-19, its coverage of which has been offered without a paywall, as a public service.

Many church members have missed the sense of community that comes from worshipping

together in person, but they have also expressed a growing conviction that God's care becomes even more tangibly present and alive when people are urged to think in new and innovative ways about what it takes to truly meet needs.

A newer member from India said: "Real church is not made up of bricks or cement. Real church is demonstrating Truth, Love, and Life [meaning God] wherever you are. Church [is] never closed."

*Kevin Ness is the Manager of Christian Science Committees on Publication for The First Church of Christ, Scientist.*

## WLP (from pg. 1)

WLP's traditional program is offered in their space on Newbury Street, where women come in and sit down for a home cooked meal on real china, as well as get support for things like housing stabilization and eviction prevention, COVID-19 educational materials, and advocacy/case management including legal aid. But the virus has forced the nonprofit to change the way these services are offered to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Hanon Wigon said that WLP's outreach advocates are "developing relationships; they're going out into the community where our guests are" and "engaging them in advocacy services."

She shared a story of one of WLP's long-term guests who lived on the street and had untreated mental health disorders. "Every day, six days a week she would come and be in our community," Hanlon Wigon said. "One of our outreach advocates started to engage and develop a relationship

over time."

One day, the woman fell ill with a serious health issue, and WLP was able to help get her hospitalized and help address her mental health issues. "Our advocate was able to truly pull resources together across the medical and services community where she would have fallen through the cracks," Hanlon Wigon said. "She would have been released from the hospital with no support."

Hanon Wigon said the woman is now living with a family member and is receiving treatments for her mental health. "She looks so good," she said, and still visits the shelter.

Another guest was living outside in the back alley, and an outreach advocate kept going out to talk to her, asking her if she wanted to come inside for a cup of coffee. After declining several times, she agreed to come inside for a meal, and eventually, she agreed to be connected with support ser-

vices," Hanlon Wigon said. Now, the woman is living in Pine Street Inn supportive housing.

WLP's "inside out" model that has been used since COVID-19 has taken some getting used to, Hanlon Wigon said. "By having advocates out in the field more, the needs were so much greater than we recognized," she said.

Moving from real silverware and fine china to takeout boxes was another big change for the nonprofit.

"WLP is not just a soup kitchen" Hanon Wigon said. "We have beautiful, nutritious meals that we serve. We believe that access to good, healthy, nutrition is not the purview of the wealthy and everybody should have that."

The takeout meals are served outside, where prepared breakfasts, lunches, drinks, and snacks are available for the women, totaling about 180 meals a day. All direct care services such as clothing, toiletries, sunblock,

water bottles, and PPE like masks, wipes, and hand sanitizer are also all available outside.

Outreach advocates continue to call their clients and visit them off-site, Hanlon Wigon said.

For the first time, WLP is also offering pantry boxes for elders and shut-ins, and has networked with programs in the City to be able to gather and deliver over 700 meals a week to scattered site housing for women who are homeless but living in a temporary shelter.

"With the pantry boxes," Hanlon Wigon said, things like milk, eggs, poultry, and beans can be delivered for people to "prepare their own meals with. Our chef is even looking to develop recipes to include with them."

The boxes can be tailored for recipients, such as if a family has kids or if someone has diabetes and has dietary restrictions. "We're trying to understand out guest's needs and their ability to access food that

will support their health," Hanlon Wigon said. "We're really providing services in ways that we never thought before."

These new services are expected to continue after the pandemic, and WLP hopes to expand partnerships with organizations across the city so they can reach even more people with their services.

"All that costs money," she said. "There are significant expenses but we've been trying to partner and get funding where we can. We never realized how expensive the takeout process was."

She said in a statement that WLP is "grateful for the Cummings Foundation's investment to support innovative programming for women experiencing hunger, poverty and homelessness and we are honored to be among the community of human service agencies they recognize as essential to providing dignity and security for our most vulnerable women."

# Dorothy's Costume Boutique to close after 70+ years

By Lauren Bennett

For more than 70 years, Dorothy's Costume Boutique has been a destination for wigs, shoes, costumes, and accessories, but owner Jon Diamond said he has to close up shop.

Owner Jon Diamond said he has made the difficult decision to close the Mass. Ave. boutique because COVID-19 has caused the cancellation of many events across the city for the foreseeable future, and he isn't making enough to pay his rent and other expenses.

The shop has been in the Mass. Ave. location since 1970, but the store was originally started in 1947 by Diamond's parents, Dorothy and Harold, along with his

grandfather, as a hat business.

Diamond said that when the "pope said women didn't need to wear hats [to church] anymore," the shop went to more of a boutique and offered items like earrings, pocketbooks, wigs, and gloves.

"I took it over at the end of '84," Diamond said. "I never wanted to get into retail. I was more of an outdoor guy; I liked parks and nature." He said that while he was brought up around the business and helped his parents set up displays as a kid, "I didn't think it was for me."

He even went to school for park management, forestry, and landscape architecture, but when his parents retired in 1984, he ended

up taking over the store after promising that he would take care of his brother.

In 1988, the store took on Halloween costumes and accessories, and "it just sort of took off," Diamond said. "It blossomed into the best Halloween shop ever."

Aside from Halloween, which was a big time of year for business, holidays like Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, and even Thanksgiving were also popular times of the year for the store, he said. Everything from turkey hats to lingerie to ugly sweaters could be found in the 2400 square foot space.

The store also sells Pride merchandise, as well as winter hats, gloves, and scarves, and sunglasses and parasols for the summer. "It's a smattering of everything," he said, adding that he has seen a lot of repeat customers over the years who trusted the shop for all of their costume needs.

But this year, so many events have been cancelled due to the virus, including St. Patrick's day, the Boston Marathon, and the annual Pride parade. "There might not be a Halloween this year," Diamond added. "No events, no tourists this summer, no theater,

no students, no nothing."

He said that he's missed three months of revenue and "I can't see how we can make it up." Diamond said he has received no government relief or support from his landlord. He was, however, able to get out of the remainder of his lease, but he still has to come up with rent for April and May.

"This wasn't our fault," he said. "We fell down because of this pandemic. It was unfortunate. This is sort of a perfect storm to jeopardize our sales immensely."

After being closed since mid-March, the shop reopened in May 25 with curbside pickup, but Diamond said it was "kind of a waste of time," and it was then that he realized the business was not going to survive, despite its wide variety and "good customer service."

On June 8, the store opened for in-store shopping with shields and masks for his employees. After a radio spot, the store was "swamped" with customers looking for a good deal—but it's not enough to sustain the store long-term.

"People are upset," he said. "We've been there for so long and have such a wide range customer base from Christian Scientists to drag queens."

While the shop was popular, he said sales had been somewhat declining even before the pandemic hit. With online sites like Amazon and a "lack of people shopping" in brick and mortar stores, "people's shopping habits have changed dramatically," he said. "This was really the nail in the coffin to be honest with you," he said of the pandemic. "If sales were really good, I would probably stay and tough it out."

Diamond said he would consider a pop-up shop in the future, but right now he is selling everything at a discount. Costumes are 50 percent off, shoes and boots are 40 percent off, and everything else is 30 percent off. The boutique's last day will be June 30.

"I'm hoping to sell the business and the name, but it just stinks right now," he said. "Nobody would want a business that has no events for it." He said that the pandemic has also hit many other businesses in the area, leading to less traffic. "Lots of the businesses and restaurants are cooked in this neighborhood," he said.

For now, Diamond thanked all of his customers for their "years of support and for making my adult life kind of interesting," he said. "It was a fun run."

## Mass Dads: Poll finds state is best in nation for working dads

Seth Daniel

Those who are dads in Massachusetts enjoy some of the best life-expectancy and working conditions in the nation, according to a study released this week by WalletHub.

It's a fact that many can relax with and enjoy this Sunday as Father's Day rolls around – and certainly there isn't as much to celebrate as there has been in the past.

WalletHub measured 23 key indicators like work-life balance, the numbers of children in poverty where a father is in the home, life expectancy and child care services and found dads in the Bay State have it better than dads in any other area of the country.

"Massachusetts is the best state for working dads," said Jill Gonzalez, an analyst for WalletHub. "It has one of the highest median family incomes, at over \$96,000, the lowest unemployment rate for dads, and the second lowest share of kids under 18 with dad present who are living in poverty. The average freshman graduation rate for men in Massachusetts is also very high, above 86 percent. In terms of parental leave policies, the state got the highest score."

Massachusetts dads were up at the top with those from Minnesota and Connecticut – followed by the District of Columbia and New Jersey.

Some of the best scores in the poll found that the state had the lowest unemployment rate for dads with kids younger than 18, and it was also the best in the nation for having the lowest male uninsured rate. Additionally, male life expectancy was 8<sup>th</sup> best in the nation, and the percentage of kids younger than 18 – with their dad present in the home – living in poverty was the second lowest in the country.

The average length of the work day for men in the state was 10<sup>th</sup> lowest as well, creating that #1 ranking for work-life balance.

Gonzalez said child care and health services for children also was measured and helped to propel the state as the best for dads.

"Child care is another important factor that contributed to Massachusetts topping the other states," Gonzalez said. "It has the highest number of pediatricians per capita, high quality state school system, and a large share of nationally accredited child care centers. Some of the other strengths for the state include having the lowest male uninsured rate (3.5%), high male life expectancy, a low male suicide rate, as well as a small percentage of men who can't afford doctor's visits."

The worst states for working dads were New Mexico, Mississippi, Louisiana and West Virginia.

## #ARTHURSGARDEN (from pg. 1)

After the Hardware Store was looted early on June 1, he decided the plywood look needed some color, and that gave way to scores of plywood panels being painted with approval – and without at times – all over the downtown neighborhoods.

"I have a desire to decorate," he said, noting that he works in ceramics and teaches ceramics. "When I see a blank space, I say, that needs color. When the hardware store got looted I couldn't stand the plywood look. I wanted to do something artistic to it. The quickest thing was spray paint. I translated my flowers I have done in ceramics to flowers spray painted on plywood. It sprung so many ideas immediately.

"I am vandalizing in some cases, but not vandalizing permanent things," he continued. "I'm only vandalizing things that are going to come down. I'm only vandalizing the Band-aids."

The flowers began popping up all over the place about two weeks ago, starting at Warren Hardware and branching out into the Back Bay, Newbury Street, Ink Block and on Tremont Street in the South End. They are marked by bold colors and black lines that form all kinds of flowers.

"These flowers translate easy

to it because of the thick black line and I use very bold colors," he said. "I'm not shy. Graphically it's stunning. It's really just about me spreading my seeds. I see my flowers as you do on an everyday situation – maybe something you bought at the supermarket, or something at a funeral or flowers for a birthday party. Maybe you see someone with flowers on the T and you smile even though they're not yours. It's to make you smile; that's what I'm doing.

"The stories behind my flowers are for me," he continued. "I absolutely see them as people and as emotions. But there is no narrative. You approach them with your own narrative. I like that. Everyone gives them their own narrative."

Halvorsen works at Warren Hardware by day, but he also teaches ceramics at Mudflat Pottery School in East Somerville. He is also an adjunct professor at Lesley University, and graduated from the Maine College of Art in 2007.

He said the whole point of 'Arthur's Garden' is that they will come down, but he also hopes they can spawn private pieces and public pieces – flowers that stand up in public places or backyards like paper dolls. If they get stolen, then that's just part of the art, though

he isn't advocating it.

He said his personal hero – particularly now with what he's doing – is Keith Haring, who did chalk drawings in the New York City subway in the 1980s to highlight the underreported AIDS crisis.

"He is my idol and this is how he started," he said. "When he got famous for doing the chalk drawing in the subway – 60 Minutes was interviewing him and during that interview he got arrested. That's what catapulted him. That was something he did to highlight the AIDS crisis no one was talking about. I feel like I'm doing the same thing. That is the artist's job."

As he has gone on, he said he continues to learn and has done panels recently that have come together very well. Like any artist, the more he works with the medium, the better he gets.

But the reality of reality also comes into play.

"I'm starting to understand what kind of paint runs more than others and I'm learning what gold is better and what silver is better than other silvers," he said. "I have to work quick. I'm in there and out because I've only had permission to do a few of them. So I'm learning all the time, and I also have to remember to do my taxes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Recycled newspapers can be made into

cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper and many other products, including new newspapers!



# Restaurants look for space anywhere they can find it

By Seth Daniel

When Petit Robert Bistro on

Columbus Avenue in the South End needed to re-open, space was the number one concern.

With an existing patio dining situation from before COVID-19, Petit Robert had the idea already,

but needed to create more room.

So they turned to their neighbor, carpenter Chris DeBord – who built one of the most popular and luxurious parklet seating areas so far in the South End.

“I’ve lived here for many, many years and I’ve had more than a few good meals here at this restaurant,” said DeBord last Friday. “We need to help them out now. We figured if you’re going to build this, why not go a little further and make it really nice.”

The City of Boston has been bending over backward to help restaurants throughout the City – but some of the earliest entries in creative eating has come in the South End.

Mayoral Liaison Faisa Sharif told the Blackstone/Franklin Neighborhood Association late last month that there would be a lot of creative concepts being rolled out – including taking over sidewalks, reducing parking spaces and closing off streets in some instances.

With no indoor dining permitted right now, and likely only a small percentage permitted in the next phase, finding outdoor space

to increase the numbers of tables that can be served will be key.

“We want to see if while the weather is good we can help them replace some of those tables from inside in expanded outdoor area, but we’re going to have to be creative,” she said.

That has been unfolding over the last 10 days on just about every block.

At Petit Robert, they have greatly expanded on their sidewalk, and the parklet is parked on three street parking spaces.

DeBord said he has made a living out of restoring old brownstones and historic homes in the South End. His specialty is design and historic renovations.

On Friday, he said it was the first restaurant parklet he had ever built, but he said he was having fun with it.

“I think it will be fun to come down here and eat on it,” he said. “I think anyone would like to eat here.”

By last weekend, the parklet and outdoor seating at Petit Robert were bustling with activity, likely the busiest sidewalk serving bistro in the city.



When Petit Robert Bistro in the South End needed a parklet for extra dining space on Columbus Avenue, they went next door to their friend Chris DeBord, a carpenter who has worked for decades in the South End. He said on Friday this, however, was his first restaurant parklet.

## Public Space Invitational to distribute artwork via lottery at Titus Sparrow

Staff Report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced last week the selections of the City’s seventh Public Space Invitational, a civic design competition that seeks ideas that reimagine and enhance Boston’s public spaces – including Titus Sparrow Park in the South End.

Since 2018, New Urban Mechanics has partnered with The Trustees and TD Bank to bring new ideas and events to Boston’s community gardens and green spaces through the Community Grown program. In light of continued physical distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s Public Space Invitational focuses on bringing a slice of the

city’s green spaces to homes in Boston.

Six teams of local artists have been selected to customize and paint sets of window boxes, planters, pots, and birdhouses with original artwork.

Selected artists will work remotely with residents and community groups to collaborate and

get feedback on the artwork. The Trustees will then plant a mix of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, flowers, or herbs in the containers. Finally, the customized pieces will be distributed to 90 individuals and families at three neighborhood green spaces: Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester, El Jardín de la Amistad in Roxbury,

and Titus Sparrow Park in the South End.

Recipients of the customized pieces will be chosen via a lottery process. Residents of Boston who are interested in receiving a customized window box, pot, or birdhouse can request one using the following application form.

• <https://forms.gle/1tciam5mxD5cjbz5> (English)

## National leading grassroots organization, Indivisible, endorses Ed Markey for U.S. Senate

Staff report

Indivisible, a national, progressive grassroots organization with over a million members across the country, today announced its endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

“Senator Markey is a model progressive legislator: consistent, accountable to his constituents, and ready to fight for a more just and equitable future. He is a leader in the climate movement and a champion for a more just, sustainable, and livable future,” said Lucy

Solomon, IE Director for Indivisible. “Senator Markey consistently demonstrates progressive leadership and vision by prioritizing working people and marginalized communities, and we’re excited to continue this work with him.”

“It’s an honor to receive this endorsement from such a grassroots powerhouse as Indivisible,” said Senator Markey. “Progressive action starts at the grassroots level, and in order to defeat Donald Trump, take back the Senate from Mitch McConnell, and keep our House majority, we need groups like Indivisible. I stand with Indivisible on the need to stop the dan-

gerous effects of climate change, to increase access to health care, and racial and economic justice. I am grateful to them for their support.”

Indivisible’s mission is to educate and activate voters and hold elected officials accountable to the values of equality, justice, compassion, and inclusion and to elect progressive leaders.

The endorsement follows the recent announcements of support for Ed Markey from several major groups across the state, including American Federation of Teachers, Massachusetts Indivisible Northampton, Our Revolution Massachusetts, Planned Parent-

hood Action Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice, Progressive Democrats of America, the NRDC Action Fund, the Jamacia Plain Progressives, American Postal Workers Local #4553, and UNITE Here Local 26 labor union workers.

Indivisible is a grassroots movement of thousands of local groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. The organization is composed of thousands of group leaders and more than a million members taking action to resist the GOP’s extreme agenda, elect local champions, and fight for progressive policies.

Senator Markey has served in the United States Senate since winning the special election in 2013 and has amassed a deep record on environmental, climate, gun safety, and consumer protection issues. He co-authored the Green New Deal, and his leadership has led to legislation to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border, protect LGBTQ+ rights, and ensure that Donald Trump cannot launch a nuclear first strike without Congressional approval. Raised in Malden, Ed Markey has always stood up for the priorities of Massachusetts.

# Walsh resubmits fiscally responsible budget

Maintains historic investments in housing, education and public health and accounts for economic impact of COVID-19

Staff Report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh on June 15 resubmitted his Administration's Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget, which builds on the Walsh Administration's record of presenting a balanced, sustainable and proactive budget that invests in the needs of our growing city, while also taking into account the economic impact COVID-19 has had on City revenue. The \$3.61 billion recommended budget represents an increase of \$119 million, or 3.4 percent over the FY20 budget, and the resubmission follows over 30 City Council hearings that helped identify opportunities for further targeted investments and cost-savings.

In this budget resubmission, the City has accounted for a projected \$65 million in revenue loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, \$30 million of which was initially accounted for in the Mayor's original budget proposal in April. Despite this lost revenue, and as a result of six consecutive years of proactive fiscal management that has positioned the City of Boston to continue investing in core city services and resident needs at a

time of global economic uncertainty, the budget resubmission affirms Mayor Walsh's historic commitment made in his State of the City address in education and housing.

Through those commitments, the City will allocate \$80 million in new funding for the Boston Public Schools to both meet the challenges of COVID-19 and work towards closing achievement and opportunity gaps. This budget marks the first year of the Mayor's \$100 million commitment to new revenue for direct classroom funding, over and above cost increases. This funding will reach every school in the Boston Public Schools district, and will begin with intense support for underperforming schools.

The budget also protects Mayor Walsh's unprecedented commitment of \$500 million over five years to create thousands of homes all across our city that will be affordable to residents at a range of income levels.

The FY21 budget fulfills the first year of the Mayor's commitment of City resources with an \$18 million investment in new operating and capital fundings. In the first year of this new housing investment, the City is dedicating new funds to create affordable homeownership opportunities, preserve and generate affordable rental opportunities including Boston's first City-funded rental voucher program.

"With this budget, we have an opportunity to seize the moment that

is before us to make investments that are grounded in equity, inclusion and that are intentional about directing funding to places where we know it will have the greatest impact in benefiting our residents," said Mayor Walsh. "I am proud that thanks to years of careful fiscal stewardship, we are able to continue making smart and strategic investments at a time when many residents need it most. I believe that with responsible fiscal planning, with investments in the equity, health and wellbeing of our residents, and with our spirit of courage and collaboration, we will emerge together from these crises stronger and more resilient than before."

As part of his budget resubmission, Mayor Walsh will reallocate 20% or \$12 million of the Boston Police Department's overtime budget to make a significant investment in equity and inclusion across the City. These investments include:

\$3 million for the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) to begin implementation of the eight strategies outlined in Boston's declaration of racism as a public health crisis,

\$1 million to support trauma teams and counseling services at the Boston Public Health Commission

\$2 million in new funding for community based programs and supports through City departments, such as violence intervention grants, youth program-

ming, language and food access, Immigrant Advancement, the Age Strong Commission and the Human Rights Commission,

\$2 million for additional public mental health services through a partnership between the Boston Police Department and Boston Medical Center Emergency Services Program or BEST,

\$2 million to support economic development initiatives to support minority and women owned businesses and;

\$2 million to provide additional housing supports and youth homelessness programs.

While the City has a growing tax revenue base, the City also continues to find efficiencies and prioritizes investing in innovative solutions to provide world-class City services. The FY21 budget resubmission includes an additional \$35 million in cost-saving measures across City departments through the implementation of a hiring freeze on non-essential vacant positions for six months, revisions to fixed costs like debt service, non-personal reductions and a revised snow removal appropriations based on updated projections for average actual spending. All told, the City has identified and closed a \$65 million budget gap amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic while prioritizing bold investments and maintaining vital city services for residents.

For the sixth consecutive year, the City of Boston has received a AAA bond rating, reflecting the city's strong fiscal management and stable financial position. The City of Boston recently was named

by Moody's as one of the best prepared cities to handle a national recession.

As part of his budget resubmission, Walsh is recommending the adoption of a Boston Public Schools budget of \$1.26 billion, representing an \$80 million or 7% increase over last year's budget. While this budget marks the largest proposed BPS budget in the city's history, it is one that makes targeted investments in underperforming schools and has a baseline of equity across all investments. Public education spending remains over 40% of the City budget; education spending is up over \$440 million on an annual basis since FY14; and per-pupil spending at BPS will approach \$22,000, more than a 30% increase over the past six years.

As Boston vigilantly manages COVID-19 in our community, resources are embedded in all City departments in FY21 to continue the robust response and to keep our residents healthy and safe. Ensuring a well-funded Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is especially vital to maintain this response and the FY21 budget includes a \$13 million increase, and over \$106 million total for BPHC. This level of investment will ensure a fully funded BPHC, Emergency Medical Service and Office of Recovery Services for next year, continue to fight the effects of COVID-19 and fund the first costs associated with the Mayor's recent declaration of racism as a public health crisis.

For more information about the budget, visit Boston's budget website at [budget.boston.gov](http://budget.boston.gov).

# Chester Square Neighbors discuss Chester Park, involving more neighbors

By Lauren Bennett

Chester Square Neighbors met virtually via Zoom on June 3, where those in attendance heard from Michelle Laboy about the Friends of Chester Park concept for the improvement of different areas of the park.

Laboy said that the Friends have been talking since 2017 about the idea of unifying Chester Square, as Mass. Ave. did not originally go through the park. After urban renewal, "the city plowed right through the middle of the park," Laboy said.

The park remains disconnected today, and the group has discussed several ideas for slowing traffic down and prioritizing pedestrian crossing. One idea is to connect the two fountains with a crosswalk, giving residents on either side a safe way to cross and visit neighbors.

Laboy said it would also reduce traffic speeds, as there is a long distance between traffic lights at Chester Square, which causes cars to speed through the area.

Other ideas for the park include

having a dedicated kids' play area or a dog park, as well as median art from a local artist, "welcoming" gates to the park, and lower bushes around the fountains. Laboy said that people were concerned about the current height of the bushes, because people could "hide in there and do bad things," so the easiest solution is to cut them lower so people's heads can be seen over them.

Another option instead of the bushes is to create an understory of low flowering trees and moving the benches to face closer to the entrance, but Laboy said that this option would take longer to implement than just cutting the bushes lower.

The potential kids' space could include surfaces for kids to climb or jump on, and an area for table games like chess and checkers was also discussed, as many older people like to come to the park to play games.

Laboy said that this proposal has been presented to the City's Chief of Streets, and that she is hoping mayor's liaison Faisa Sharif can assist in organizing a meeting with the Boston Transportation

Department as well.

South End resident William Krause said that having a spot for dogs and/or kids would activate the park and cause there to be less litter and needles. He also said he is in favor of the lower shrubs or even no shrubs at all around the fountains. He and others were interested in knowing how they can help get these ideas out to the broader community and begin to implement some of them.

He said he would like to see this park become a destination for people and not just somewhere they pass through to get somewhere else.

Cory Azmon from Rep. Jon Santiago's office and said that "it's not looking likely" that there will be much funding in the budget next fiscal year for park improvements.

"We still don't have a state budget," he said. Last year there was funding for South End Library Park as well as the Mary Longley Garden, he added.

The neighbors discussed putting a sign somewhere public with a link to the drawing of the park improvements, with a message like "Are you interested in learning

more about how you can help?" to get neighbors involved in this project. They also discussed making the drawing the cover photo for the Chester Square Neighbors Facebook page, as well as putting it on the Chester Square Neighbors website. These are probably things that will not happen right away though, as the protests and recent shootings in the area are what require attention at the moment, the neighbors said.

Part of this conversation went hand in hand with one earlier in the evening about Chester Square needing a larger number of participants. Several people made the comment that it's always the same people who come to the meetings.

A suggestion was to make sure the official Chester Square Neighbors Facebook account has a presence on the South End Community board on Facebook.

"I think we need to make an effort to include more people in these meetings and care about the Square," Miriam Biss said. "It's a very small step but I think it's a good step. When people feel that they belong to something they take better care of it."

She suggested that socially distanced "stoop parties" might be a way to get more people involved in Chester Square Neighbors.

The neighbors also discussed how many believe that the entire neighborhood is worse with regards to trash being left out on sidewalks and in streets.

Sara Mitchell suggested a petition for "nice trash cans" to make positive change in the community instead of blaming people for leaving trash where it doesn't belong.

Laboy suggested doing the petition via email because of COVID-19 concerns, but "people are a little oversaturated with information," she said, so it should be a "very targeted email" sent at an appropriate time. Once enough signatures are collected, the petition would be shared with the parks department to show the community has a true interest in this.

Carol Blair also suggested creating a Google Sheet for "gripes" as well as tasks that neighbors can complete to help them feel like they are truly making a difference in the neighborhood in a way that is coordinated and productive.

# Community, FAA finally making progress on measuring airplane noise

By Seth Daniel

Just when air travel has fallen by 80 percent or more, it seems the community and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are making progress on understanding how airplane noise is affecting Boston neighborhoods like the South End.

Steve Fox, the South End liaison to the MassPort CAC, said there have been a number of positive meetings between the CAC and the FAA since the pandemic began – a move that looks to lead to a new way of potentially measuring how airplane noise affects the communities underneath.

“We have really begun a very

rigorous and sustained engagement with the FAA,” said Fox. “I would say 70 percent of the meetings were with FAA representatives, both locally and from Washington, D.C. The good news from a resident perspective is we seem engaged in a dialog with them about noise, where before we were talking to MassPort and they didn’t control that at all.”

He said there have been good conversations with the FAA regarding the way noise is monitored using the DNS Standard. That standard averages noise, day and night, over a seven day period and looks at the aggregate.

However, Fox said in the South End, it’s the intensity of the noise

that matters. On Runway 27, which goes over the South End, flights tend to use a computerized navigation system (called R-NAV) that places one flight in the same path every two minutes for hours at a time – many times beginning at 5:30 a.m. That only shows up as a blip in the data with the DNS system, and doesn’t account for how crazy it makes those on the ground when planes blast over one after another at an early hour.

“It doesn’t account for intensity and the kind of sustained activity that would be created with an R-NAV system, where every flight goes over the same path every 10 seconds for hours,” he said. “That produces a more intense reaction for people affected than a measure of

decibels over a seven-day average.”

He said the FAA is listening and trying to understand how they can account for this, though one problem is the agency wants to have a one-size-fits-all answer to measure every airport in the country. That creates a problem for an urban airport like Boston, whereby many major cities locate their airports further from the city’s center.

He said the next step is to make sure the federal delegation understands the issue and provides advocacy to institute a way to measure intensity under the flight path, rather than the seven-day average of noise levels.

“What we’re doing right now is setting the stage for how the Bos-

ton delegation can put Runway 27 significantly on the agenda for consideration,” he said.

In other airport news, Fox said that because of the low levels of air travel, MassPort has decided to move up the Runway 27 reconstruction, which was planned for later in the year. That work began last week, and is expected to take 73 days.

It creates some respite for those under the flight path in the South End because few planes will be going over the neighborhood in that time period. However, Fox said, the losing proposition there is air travel is so low that there probably wouldn’t be many planes coming over anyhow.

## Sen. Brownsberger and Rep. Livingstone hold wide-ranging virtual Town Hall meeting

By Dan Murphy

State Sen. Will Brownsberger and State Rep. Jay Livingstone welcomed around 50 guests for a virtual Town Hall meeting Thursday, June 11, to discuss a wide range of issues, including the looming state budget, the future of the T and proposed police reform.

“State Police reform needs to happen,” said Sen. Brownsberger, who added that despite rallying calls to strip them of funding, the State Police now only accounts for about 1 percent of the Commonwealth’s annual budget. “We shouldn’t take all the money away from police or eliminate police. I don’t think I can get to that place myself.”

Gov. Charlie Baker has filed a bill that besides requiring officers statewide to be certified, would take complaints against individual officers to the state level, and which Sen. Brownsberger said the legislature expects to vote on soon.

The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus is also now working on recommend changes for policing, but Sen. Brownsberger said oversight responsibilities must fall on the officers in charge as well.

“We need committed police leadership to send the message to officers about what kind of policing the community wants,” he said. “We can also make a difference moving the compliant process to the state level.”

As it stands with complaints against officers today, Sen. Brownsberger said a collective bargaining union and management often send in arbitrators who don’t always enforce discipline.

Rep. Livingstone, whose district includes the Cambridgeport neighborhood in Cambridge, said there was a lot of public backlash in response to Cambridge City Council’s recent conversation on

increasing funding for that city’s police force, which ultimately “lost momentum” when some of the department’s critics realized a budget cut would mean certain responsibilities they deem necessary would no longer be handled by police there.

“What exactly we want from the police is going to be a very important discussion,” said Rep. Livingstone, who served as Middlesex County’s Assistant District Attorney for four years. “A tremendous difference [between officers] is what kind of training they’ve received, that’s part of the equation, and what kinds of equipment they use is part of the discussion as well.”

In another matter, the state’s projected \$43 billion budget for fiscal ‘21 is expected to fall short of that benchmark by between \$4 billion and \$6 billion, Rep. Livingstone said. And with a budget shortfall of between \$2 billion and \$7 billion projected for the following fiscal year, the state’s \$3.5 billion “rainy day fund,” which is the second biggest in the country, won’t be enough to cover this expected deficit.

“The biggest wildcard now is federal funding because of the HEROES Act” Rep. Livingstone said of the pending stimulus bill that would allocate nearly one-third of its requested \$3 trillion to state and local governments to pay “vital workers” first-responders, healthcare workers and teachers now at risk of losing their jobs because of budget cuts. “If municipal and state government is bailed out by the federal government, that’s going to make the biggest difference, but right now it doesn’t look pretty.”

This comes only weeks before the state’s formal legislative cycle for the fiscal year is slated to wrap up July 31, but Sen. Brownsberger remains confident the legislature can accomplish several major

goals by then, including establishing an early-voting or vote-by-mail system; passing a proposed \$18 billion state transportation bill; and implementing some measure of police reform. “There are a lot of other things that would be great to get done as well,” he said

Sen. Brownsberger said it’s also likely legislative sessions would be extended during a time he described as fraught with “more uncertainty than any other budget cycle in decades.”

“It’s just a legislative vote; it’s something we can do,” he said. “I don’t think there are any major procedural barriers if we want to do it.”

Rep. Livingstone agreed with this prediction, saying: “There’s been a lot of discussion on breaking it up or extending the sessions. When the formal sessions end July 31, there will be a discussion about voting on the budget afterwards. It hasn’t been finalized yet, but that’s my guess as to what will happen.”

Both state officials warily ponder the future of the MBTA.

While the T has lost considerable revenue from a dramatic drop in ridership since the pandemic hit, Sen. Brownsberger said only \$700 million comes from fares, while the remainder of its \$2 billion annual budget is provided via state sales tax and to a lesser extent from property tax revenue

from the Commonwealth’s cities and towns.

Sen. Brownsberger said the T must continue to operate for those who rely on it as their primary mode of transportation, but he said according to a recent survey, more than half of respondents who began working from home because of the public health crisis said they expect to continue doing so even after state restrictions have been eased on their workplaces.

“Frankly I don’t think there’s any way to safely ride the MBTA,” said Sen. Brownsberger, who added despite his affinity for the T, he has only taken one round-trip subway ride since the pandemic struck. “You don’t want to be on a crowded train where you’re pushed up against people, you just don’t.”

Rep. Livingstone said MBTA officials told him after the 2009 recession, it took six years for ridership to return to ‘08 levels, and that the current crisis is expected to have a similar long-term effect. Low ridership has its advantages, though, he said, such as allowing the T to implement comprehensive new safety measures, as well as to expedite some repair work.

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Sally Brewster

Betsey Barrett

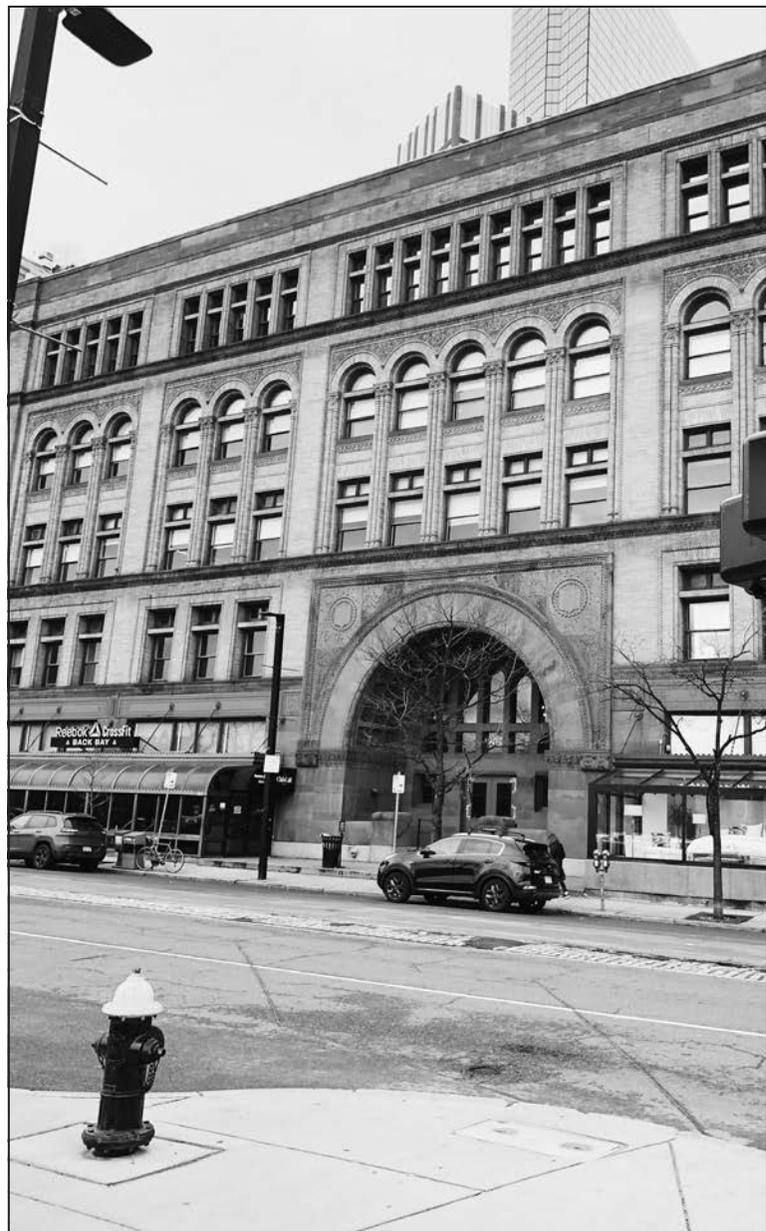
Ron Berkowitz

Toni Doggett

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

By PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The date "1891" shown in the last clue can be found on 209 Columbus Avenue, designed by architects Henry W. Hartwell and William Cummings Richardson. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. This complex is known as the "Youth's Companion Building" since it housed the "Youth's Companion" magazine offices and production facilities until 1915.

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay. 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

Nigro, Joseph D  
Morrissey, Melissa C  
Cordo, David N  
Sullivan, Matthew T  
Xu, Kun  
Hall, Keith  
Zhang, Emily

### BEACON HILL

Harris, Robert P  
Jane Kelley T  
Jane Kelley T

### BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Danon, Daniel  
Carstens, Elizabeth J  
Gowrie, Deborah  
Roberts, Alan H  
Chang, Edith Y  
Henning, Michael  
Huang, Weihua  
Padinkov, Iliyan  
Dhand, Amar  
Parm-Reg RT  
Toman, Michael  
Lee, Nathan  
Adler, Jillian  
Elder, Kimberly A  
Silva, Gregory P  
DeBenedictis-Kessner, J  
Bayerl, Andrew G

### WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Crusenberry, Stephen M  
53 Houghton Street LLC  
Wei, Shu

## SELLER 1

Beauregard-Watson, Suzan  
Righi, Giulia  
Vendome Union 618 NT  
Chen, Diana  
Jmavro Realty LLC  
Pinango, Magaly E  
Hess, Donald T

Deutsch, Margaret C  
Hawpet LP  
Hawpet LP

Furtado, Sean P  
Severson, Carol L  
Pincus, Michael S  
Adelstein, Lester J  
Kleinman, Adam S  
Engstrom, Katherine  
Alterovitz, Gil  
Pembroke T  
Jones, Peter F  
JCG Worcester RT  
Campbell, Amanda L  
Scott, Andrew  
Wehr, Charles  
Butke, Danielle  
Dhand, Amar  
Barkey, Ronald A  
21 Worcester Street

Dezube, Dustin  
Teresa M Farah RET  
Rittner, David

## ADDRESS

141 Arlington St #4  
278 Clarendon St #7  
160 Commonwealth Ave #618  
103 Marlborough St #8  
458 Beacon St #6  
390 Commonwealth Ave #411  
195 Saint Botolph St #4

2 Beaver St  
9 Hawthorne Pl #11D  
9 Hawthorne Pl #319

17 Braddock Park #3  
11 Follen St #3F  
18 Melrose St #1  
505 Tremont St #206  
173 Warren Ave #1  
499 Columbus Ave #6  
183-185A Mass. Ave #304  
133 Pembroke St #4  
407-409 Shawmut Ave #2  
728-740 Tremont St #3  
122 W Concord St #1  
88 W Springfield St #4  
52 Waltham St #2  
1180-1200 Washington St #201  
1672-R Washington St #102  
1688 Washington St #3  
21 Worcester St #2

1 Nassau St #2204  
147-149 Richmond St #4  
580 Washington St #704

## PRICE

\$431,000  
\$1,221,595  
\$1,700,000  
\$650,000  
\$1,560,000  
\$1,115,000  
\$1,200,000

\$2,340,000  
\$760,000  
\$65,000

\$1,968,200  
\$540,000  
\$1,045,000  
\$2,400,000  
\$1,485,000  
\$962,500  
\$1,200,000  
\$850,000  
\$1,535,000  
\$5,250,000  
\$2,175,000  
\$550,000  
\$790,000  
\$1,025,000  
\$1,073,000  
\$1,035,000  
\$1,180,000

\$1,185,000  
\$610,000  
\$925,000

# Framingham teen charged for arson in the torching of a Boston Police cruiser

Staff report

A teenager was arraigned today in Boston Juvenile Court for arson for the role he played in the torching of a Boston Police Department cruiser on the night of May 31, 2020 after a day of peaceful protests over police brutality and the murder of George Floyd, District Attorney Rachael Rollins announced.

Judge Peter Coyne granted the Commonwealth's request for \$10,000 bail on the charge of arson of a motor vehicle. An additional charge of inciting a riot will be heard at the next court date, scheduled for June 23, 2020.

If the youth's family is able to make bail he will be required to have GPS and stay out of the City of Boston, among other condi-

tions.

"At my direction, this office has taken every step to hold those accountable for their violent and destructive conduct on May 31<sup>st</sup> and the days that followed," said DA Rollins. "Our investigation on behalf the citizens of Suffolk County, the peaceful protesters, and Officers of the Boston Police Department involved a bifurcated approach: coordinating charges and prosecutions for those arrested on the night in question where there was sufficient evidence to do so with the oversight of the First Assistant District Attorney and Chief of my District Courts, and developing the logistics and strategic plan for conducting a subsequent investigation into substantial additional criminal conduct of individuals that were not

arrested that evening.

"The investigation leading to the arrest of the young male yesterday involved close coordination and collaboration with the Crime Strategies Bureau of my office, the Boston Police, the Boston Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit, the FBI, the ATF as well as the US Attorney for the District of Massachusetts," said DA Rollins. "These partnerships on a local, state, and federal level are critical to this successful effort and led to today's court appearance and prosecution. We will always work together to protect our community."

"I will always act to hold individuals accountable for acts of violence, and that obviously includes acts of violence against members

## EMANCIPATION STATUE (from pg. 1)

man on his knees since I was a kid," he wrote in an online petition. "It's supposed to represent freedom but instead represents us still beneath someone else. I would always ask myself, 'If he's free why is he still on his knees?' No kid should have to ask themselves that question anymore."

The statue depicts Abraham Lincoln standing at a lectern and apparently having signed the Emancipation Proclamation. His hand sticks out over the head of a black slave who has seemingly just been broken from his chains – though he is still kneeling, scantily clothed and appearing in a position of subservience to Lincoln. The imagery in modern times – and also in its contemporary time – leaves a lot to be desired.

Bullocks' petition has gained quite a bit of steam and once more brought attention to the Park Plaza statue.

This week, Mayor Martin

Walsh told the Sun he is willing to remove the statue and he's willing to engage in a dialogue with the community about the future of the piece in Boston.

However, he also said he is interested in potentially re-commissioning the statue into one that recognizes equality in a better way than the Lincoln piece. The memorial falls under the Arts Commission's purview, so there will be a process that needs to play out in that body before any action can be taken.

The Mayor's Office said they are looking into what needs to be done to remove and re-commission the statue, if that's what the community deems it wants.

NABB President Martyn Roetter said the organization takes no position on statues being removed in or near the Back Bay.

"Erecting statues of prominent individuals and removing or destroying or defacing them and other memorials reflect very

strong differences and shifts in opinion and powerful emotions over the years, from Oxford and London to Vienna and former Soviet bloc countries, as well as the U.S., Spain, India and elsewhere," he said.

The statue actually has a very interesting history, and has been criticized since the day it was put into place in Washington, D.C. – with many noting it was well-intentioned but missed the mark.

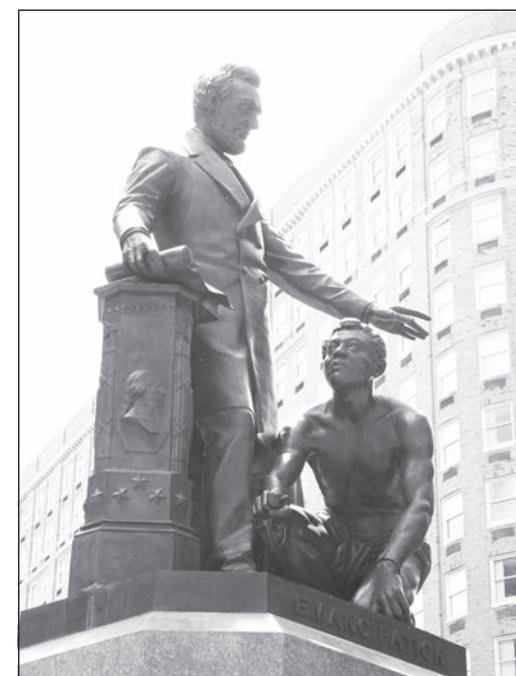
The piece was done by Thomas Ball – the well-known sculptor from Charlestown who also did Washington on his horse in the Public Gardens. It was done in 1876, and paid for by freemen who wanted to celebrate the emancipation moment in Washington, D.C. That is where the original monument was placed and celebrated – with Frederick Douglass providing the oratory on the day it was unveiled. According to an art history critique by Peter Browne some years ago, Douglass's official words were complimentary and he praised the effort of freemen to raise the money and pay for such a prominent piece. Others in attendance said later that Douglass off-script said he did not like the attitude of the piece, with the black man on his knees not evoking a posture of freedom.

In that time, according to Browne, the image of the black

man in that position would have been well known as it was the famous logo of the American Anti-Slavery Society – expect the man was in chain and asking 'Am I not a man and a brother?' Many believe Ball chose the imagery based on that notion, but with the chains broken.

No one will know, but art historians have also criticized the statue both in Washington, D.C., and in Boston. Browne's piece quotes art historian Kirk Savage as saying it was, "a failure to imagine emancipation at the most fundamental level, in the language of the human body and its interaction with other bodies."

A copy of Ball's Washington, D.C., statue came to Boston in 1879 by efforts from Moses Kimball, an elected official who had once been a partner of P.T. Barnum and operated the Boston Museum of curiosities on Tremont Street. It was placed at its current location in Park Plaza when the former Boston



An 1876 'Emancipation' statue in Back Bay's Park Plaza – done by the famous Thomas Ball of Charlestown – is receiving great criticism this week and a quickly growing petition is calling for it to be removed. The statue is a copy of an original in Washington, D.C., that was paid for by freemen looking to memorialize the moment of emancipation.

and Providence Railroad Station would have been behind it, though that is now gone.

Browne's piece argued that there needed to be some reinterpretation of the statue, including having it surrounded by more positive statues of leaders like Lewis and Harriet Hayden.

Or, perhaps, it might just be removed and re-commissioned.

## ARREST (from pg. 10)

of law enforcement. 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 pro-

testers in demanding justice and accountability for Mr. Floyd and the countless others who are horrified by that act of law enforcement officers."

The investigation into the incident is continuing.

## 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.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS MEETING ON THE FY21 BUDGET:** A June 18, 9:30 a.m., meeting for the Committee to discuss the City's FY21 budget.

**From the June 18 Public Improvement Commission meeting, Rm. 801, 10 a.m.:**

- On a petition by Mark Kenmore LLC for the Widening, Relocation, and Extension of the existing right-of-way lines of Commonwealth Avenue (public way), Boston Proper, generally at Beacon Street/Kenmore Square, located west of Brookline Ave.

- On a petition by Mark Kenmore LLC for the making of Specific Repairs within the following public ways in Boston Proper, consisting of curb realignment, roadway and sidewalk reconstruction, as well as new and relocated pedestrian ramps and driveway curb cuts:

- Commonwealth Avenue – at address no. 560-574, generally at Beacon Street/Kenmore Square;

- Beacon Street – generally at Com-

monwealth Avenue/Kenmore Square.

- On a petition by Crown Castle Fiber for a Grant of Location with lead company status and no participants to install new telecommunication conduit with City shadow within Camden Street (public way), Boston Proper, located generally at the rear of 396 Northampton Street, northwest of Columbus Avenue.

- 1260 Boylston Street; Boston Proper – Pedestrian Easement, Specific Repairs – On a set of joint petitions by Scape Boylston LLC, Boylston Kenmore 1260 LLC, and Roofdeck LLC.

- Columbus Avenue; Boston Proper, Roxbury – Specific Repairs – On a petition by the City of Boston Transportation Department.

**From the June 18 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH HEARING, noon, via Zoom:** Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend reimbursements up to the amount of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**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.

**From the June 23 Boston Landmarks Commission, 4 p.m., via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84813424975):**

- Back Bay Fens - 31 Park Dr.: Replace existing concrete street light with metal street light and small cell wireless infrastructure including radio cabinet and antenna.

- Christian Science Church Complex - 210 Massachusetts Ave.: At fountain remove and replace bricks in-kind to accommodate replacement of trough grates, and waterproof trough.

- Charles River Esplanade: Extension of tree management and succession plan approved by BLC on 7/24/2018 to expire on 7/24/2021.

**From the June 30 Zoning Board Appeals hearing, 10 a.m., via WebEx:**

- 171 West Brookline St., South End. Applicant: Bradley Apone. Purpose: Install a new rear deck on the first floor. to amend ALT931291.

- 171 Newbury St., Back Bay. Applicant: Jason Zube. Purpose: Changing from a retail store to tattoo parlor.

**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 automatical-

ly 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.



**BOSTON'S WATERFRONT**

**2 BATTERY WHARF #3311**  
**2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,039 SQFT**  
**\$4,250,000**



**400 STUART STREET #26D**  
**2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 1,502 SQFT**  
**\$2,950,000**



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



**20 CHESTNUT STREET #1**  
**4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,640 SQFT**  
**\$7,995,000**



**17 LOUISBURG SQUARE**  
**5 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 7,610 SQFT**  
**\$18,500,000**

