MURAL AT MADISON PARK
READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 8

If you are looking to get in contact with our staff or any info related to the Boston Sun please call 781-485-0588 or contact us via email. Email addresses are listed on the editorial page.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Council passes FY2021 Budget

By Lauren Bennett

After more than two hours of discussion, the Boston City Council voted virtually via Zoom on Wednesday to pass the FY21 operating budget, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) budget, and the capital budget.

The operating budget was passed 8-5, the BPS budget was passed 11-2, and the capital budget was passed unanimously. The Council also voted to transfer funds from the Parking Meter Fund and the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund into the Capital Grant Fund, as well as forty million dollars to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OEPB) Liability Trust Fund.

Many Bostonians have participated in this year's budget process from all districts in the midst of a civil rights movement and a worldwide pandemic, and have spoken out on issues that are important to them and where they would like to see change. Councilors were not in compete agreement about whether or not to pass the operating budget, as some felt the proposed budget does not do enough, while others were afraid of what would happen if it did not pass and suggested that more work can be done after it is passed.

to approve an appropriation of

(BUDGET, *Pg. 3)*

Protestors marching up Tremont Street on Monday called for changes to Gov. Charlie Baker's police accountability bill – specifically bonuses for officers who engage in extra training. Protestors also called to defund the police, but more simply wanted to publicly memorialize the black men and women recently killed by police actions.

PLANTING AT HAYES PARK

PHOTO BY MARYELLEN HASSELL

Christie Gibson and her daughter, Renée, joined the Friends of Hayes Park in planting the summer geraniums in the center bed last week. The beautiful spring tulips will now give way to the wonderful red of the geraniums through the heart of the summer.

Protests through the South End continue, funding changes sought

By Seth Daniel

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of the South End on Monday – heading up Tremont Street to the State House – to protest a controversial portion of Gov. Charlie Baker's police accountability bill, a portion of the bill that would pay officers a $5,000 bonus for going beyond the standards training procedures.

Monday's protest was in part to memorialize Rayshard Brooks, who was shot in the back and killed by police in Atlanta on June 12 while running away from them. His funeral was Tuesday in Atlanta.

(PROTEST, *Pg. 6)*

Rushing: Keep 'Emancipation' statue with Lincoln in Back Bay

By Seth Daniel

A Back Bay statue from the late 1800s celebrating Emancipation is on the hot seat once again in its long history, with hundreds calling for its removal immediately due to the awkward imagery, but former state representative and long-time historian Byron Rushing is calling for the statue to remain.

The statue issue came to light this time when activist and educator Tory Bullock put up an online petition to call for it to be removed. The statue, done by famous sculptor Thomas Ball, shows a freed slave kneeling and appearing subservient to Lincoln rather than free.

The issue has garnered a great deal of attention lately, and Mayor Martin Walsh has suggested it be recommissioned and a new statue put up that has more appropriate imagery. Meetings are now scheduled at the Boston Arts Commission on June 25 and 30 to discuss the statue.

The statue is actually a copy of the original, which is housed in

(RUSHING, *Pg. 5)*

Walsh gives COVID-19 update on BPL, testing, biz. assistance

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh held a press conference on June 18, where he gave an update on COVID-19 as well as the reopening plan.

He said that as of last week, the overall positive test rate is down 19.6 percent, the "first time our positive test rate in the city has fallen below 20 percent."

Last week, pop up testing sites were opened for those who attended large gatherings such as recent protests. Walsh said that nearly 1300 people were tested, and the positive test rate was one percent.

(WALSH UPDATE, *Pg. 4)*

EDITORIAL

COVID-19 IS A PREDATOR -- AND WE ARE ITS PREY

The media, politicians, and others have likened our ongoing battle with the corona virus as the equivalent of "going to war."

The doctors and nurses in the overburdened ERs in New York City, when its hospitals were being overwhelmed with corona patients in March, put it this way in discussing the stresses and challenges they were facing when they lacked personal protection equipment, ventilators, and other essential medical needs: "It's like going to war, but without being given guns and ammunition."

But as we enter the fourth month since the start of the lock-downs in many of our states, the "going to war" metaphor does not seem entirely appropriate.

Rather, the corona virus, which is stealthy and unseen except under a microscope (it is 1/1000th the width of a hair on our heads), is more like a hunter seeking its prey -- and its main prey is the human race.

We like to think of ourselves as kings of the world, sitting atop the food chain. Even if we cannot match a shark in the water or a lion in the jungle, we have weapons readily at our disposal to cope with any threats we may face from the natural world.

But the corona virus has humbled us. We as a species have proven no match for this pandemic that Mother Nature has thrust into our midst.

As with any predator in the wild, the corona virus seeks out the easy targets, the old and the weak. Per Darwin's theory of evolution, only the strongest survive.

But intelligence also is a key to the survival of members of a species. The pandemic has proven that point as well, also taking as its victims those whose arrogance exceeds their common-sense, and whose folly makes them an easy target for a hunter that fears nothing and that will take advantage of any lapse in judgment.

The early openings in the Southern states, where people have refused to wear masks and do not practice physical-distancing, and where infections now are predictably skyrocketing, have shown the folly of underestimating the power of the virus.

We think a more accurate way for us to view the corona virus is that it has reduced the human race to the equivalent of meerkats. (Timon in the Lion King is a meerkat.) Meerkats, small mongooses, live constantly on alert and retreat to their underground network of burrows upon sensing the slightest threat of danger. If they let their guard down for an instant when above-ground, they can become easy targets for predators.

We too, now find ourselves in a state of existence in which our movement is restricted. We must remain ever-vigilant and be aware that the corona virus is everywhere. As with any predator, the corona virus always is on the prowl and stalking, just waiting for any one of us -- its prey -- to make that one, fatal mistake.

As is becoming clear in the Southern states, we are fooling ourselves if we think that we have outwitted this virus and that three months of lockdown were sufficient to save us from its grip. The reality is that the corona virus never will cease hunting us and that we must devise a new normal if we wish to regain a semblance of our former lives.

Hopefully, our new way of life, whatever that will look like, will be something better than our present meerkat-like circumstances.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY, STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

Massachusetts adds jobs in May as unemployment stagnates

Staff report

The state's May total unemployment rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point at 16.3 percent following a revision to the April rate of 16.2 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts added 58,600 jobs in May. This follows last month's revised loss of 646,700 jobs. Over the month, the private sector added 65,700 jobs as gains occurred in Construction; Leisure and Hospitality; Education and Health Services; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Other Services; Manufacturing; and Financial Activities. Information and Government lost jobs over the month.

From May 2019 to May 2020, BLS estimates Massachusetts lost 605,000 jobs.

Losses occurred in each of the private sectors, with the largest percentage losses in Leisure and Hospitality; Other Services; Construction; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.

The May unemployment rate was three percentage point above the national rate of 13.3 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force increased by 123,200 from 3,406,900 in April, as 100,000 more residents were employed and 23,200 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 13.4 percentage points.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – increased to 62.4 percent. Compared to May 2019, the labor force participation rate is down by 5.1 percentage points.

May 2020 Employment Overview

- Construction added 17,400 (+16.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has lost 39,200 (-24.2%) jobs.
- Leisure and Hospitality gained 12,400 (+9.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 225,200 (-59.9%) jobs.
- Education and Health Services added 11,100 (+1.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services lost 83,100 (-10.2%) jobs.
- Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained 8,000 (+1.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 37,900 (-6.3%) jobs.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 6,700 (+1.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 113,200 (-19.6%) jobs.
- Other Services gained 6,600 (+7.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are down -47,100 (-33.8%) jobs.
- Manufacturing added 5,100 (+2.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 20,200 (-8.3%) jobs.
- Financial Activities gained 1,400 (+0.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 2,500 (-1.1%) jobs.
- Information lost 300 (-3.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information lost 1,400 (-1.5%) jobs.
- Government lost 7,100 (-1.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government lost 34,900 (-7.6%) jobs.

BUDGET *(from pg. 1)*

District Eight City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who is also the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, explained that Mayor Walsh resubmitted the operating budget on June 15 after an initial rejection without prejudice by the Council, and that there is a legal requirement that the capital budget be approved twice with a 2/3 vote by the City Council with votes at least two weeks apart.

"This budget comes before us at a very hard time," Bok said. Over the past few months, she said the Committee on Ways and Means has held 28 hearings and 9 working sessions on the budget, where "scores of the public have testified" on many issues, especially on those surrounding racial injustice, police brutality, and public health as the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing racial disparities and inequities in the City.

Bok recommended the passage of all budget dockets, including the capital budget, operating budget, education budget, and funds from the Parking Meter Fund and the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund to be used for capital projects. She personally voted in favor of all.

The overall budget is up less than four percent, Bok said, but the affordable housing budget is up 40 percent. The Budget increases funds for schools by $80 million and by $14 million for public health. It also includes more funds for food and language access, and well as more money for seniors.

If the budget was not passed, it would have gone to a 1/12 budget until a new one can be passed. Bok said that if this were to happen, "we lose these gains" and go back to previous budget allocations.

Bok said that if her colleagues "had a viable plan, I would be with them on this." She said that some of them have said that "a 1/12 budget for a couple weeks is a small price to pay," but she does not feel there is a "viable counter-proposal" and that "time is actually against us."

She said that she agrees with the many people who have called for a 10 percent cut in the police budget for reallocation to community services and programs, and said that the Committee on Ways and Means will "pursue that goal" by holding a series of hearings in the near future discussing practices and institutions that could receive reallocated funds out of the police budget.

Councilor Ricardo Arroyo voted against the budget, and listed several important departments whose budgets were still lower than the Boston Police Department (BPD) overtime budget.

"This budget does not go nearly far enough in meeting needs," Arroyo said. "Imagine waiting for decades for funding in your communities and being told to wait with an impending recession."

He said that the "realities in Boston are stark. Does this budget reflect the love that I have for my communities? Does it create enough opportunities for those that seek them?…Is this operations budget just? Is it equitable? The answer is no and so is my vote."

Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George voted in favor of the budget and said that "we know this process is one of our most critical responsibilities. My vote today does not mean that this is a perfect budget." Councilor Flynn also said he was in favor, and said he worried about the job losses that could occur for city employees if the budget didn't pass.

She said that "this is the foundation for the real work that happens after the budget process to build lasting change."

In response to claims that there is no counter proposal, Councilor Andrea Campbell said that there are "no shortage of actionable steps the mayor could take," including reviewing budgets of every department to "be sure it's evaluated through a racial equity lens."

She said that "delaying and resubmitting" the budget "in a timely manner should not be unreasonable" and could be done in a way where City employees do not lose their jobs.

"We need a budget that residents in every single neighborhood in the City of Boston feel is working for them," Campbell said. "We are all feeling and seeing the cost of inaction." Campbell voted against the operating budget and the BPS budget/

City Councilor Lydia Edwards voted in favor of the school budget and the capital budget, and although she did also vote in favor of the operations budget, "I'm not going to cheerlead this budget like some of my colleagues did," she said.

"Voting no on this is not going to bring about systemic change we need at this time," Edwards said.

She said that this year she will pass the home rule petition reforming the Zoning Board of Appeal and including seats for an environmentalist and and urban planner, as well as "change the standard for which we grant various exceptions to the rule."

She said she will also "thoroughly examine and cut back on the police overtime budget," as well as overhaul the Council charter that "structurally changes how we allocate funds and changes our budgetary powers as a City Council," she said in a statement.

Councilor Flaherty voted in favor of the entire budget, and said that this budget is "responsible, it's sensible, and it's workable. We need financial predictability and stability now more than ever." He added that the police "do tremendous work for our city," and said he would be voting in favor of all three budgets. Councilor Frank Baker agreed that the "responsible thing to do is to pass this budget," and also voted in favor.

O'Malley also voted in favor of the entire budget. He said that if the budget passes, the City would "start July 1 with new investments funded in part by cuts to the police overtime budget. A vote against this means a return to the old budget without these changes."

Councilor Michelle Wu voted against the operating and the BPS budgets. and said she believes that more time is needed to discuss and push for more change.

She said she is concerned about the education budget as well as the police overtime budget, saying in a statement that "this proposal makes insufficient progress in creating accountability,, appropriately funding public health, and making investments in housing stability, education equity, and economic access, particularly for communities of color."

Councilor Julia Mejia, who pointed out the fact that she won her seat by one vote, said she wanted to make sure she represents the "people who put me in this seat…"

She said that "enough is enough," and if the Council is "serious about change" then it has to "change the way we do business." She voted against the operating budget and for the BPS and capital budgets.

Councilor Breadon voted in favor of the entire budget and said that "this is a momentous moment for me as a new councilor," and praised the way the budget process went "in the middle of a huge public health crisis."

Council President Kim Janey voted against the operating budget and said she supports the investments in BPS and the capital budget, "but I have deep concerns about our operating budget and the work that remains." She said that regardless of how the vote turned out, more work needs to be done and change will continue.

"Now is the time for us to take bold action," she said.

SIMPLY FREE CHECKING
MAKES LIFE SIMPLE

OPEN ANY NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT AND YOU'LL RECEIVE FREE:

Instant Issue ATM/VISA® check card with access to Allpoint® network

Online Banking, Bill Pay and e-Statements

Mobile Banking, People Pay and Check Deposit

Plus, get your **FREE GIFT** when you open any new checking account!

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS # 457291
Member FDIC | Member DIF

East Boston Savings Bank™

800.657.3272 EBSB.com

$50 minimum deposit required to open any checking account. Other fees may apply, see schedule of fees for details. Free gift is awarded when account is opened. EBSB reserves the right to substitute a gift of similar value. Please note, in the event the value of the free gift exceeds $10, the bank is required to report the gift value on form 1099-INT. The recipient is responsible for all applicable taxes. Bank rules and regulations apply. Ask a representative for details.

Facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank

Phase Two, Step two of state's reopening plan underway

By Lauren Bennett

Phase Two, Step Two is officially underway in Massachusetts as of Monday, June 22. At a press conference on June 19, Governor Charlie Baker announced that as part of Step Two of Phase Two of the state's reopening plan, things like indoor dining, close contact personal services, and dressing rooms by appointment only would be allowed to open. Offices would also be allowed to operate at 50 percent capacity, an increase from the previously allowed 25 percent.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito also announced a new funding round for MassDevelopment's Commonwealth Places program totaling $225,000, and said that the COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places program will allow groups to apply for grants of up to $25,000 for materials for outside dining and retail spaces.

The industries that are allowed to reopen as part of Step Two will have to follow sector sector-specific guidelines and mandatory safety standards in order to reopen.

"Key public health data, such as new cases and hospitalizations, has been closely monitored and seen a significant decline allowing for Step Two of Phase II to begin on June 22," the state said in a recent release.

Patrons will be required to dine six feet apart indoors, and close contact personal services like hair removal, nail care, massage therapy, tanning salons, and tattoo and piercing shops will be required to operate in accordance with specific guidance from the state as well as create a COVID-19 control plan and complete a self-certification. The full list of safety protocols and guidelines can be found at mass.gov/reopening.

On June 23, Baker said that he is "encouraged by the continued progress" regarding the positive test rate in the Commonwealth. He said that the average positive test rate is down to 1.9 percent.

Recently, 17,617 tests were performed for people who have recently been to a large gathering, and 3.5 percent came back positive, which Baker said is "consistent" with the daily positive rate. He said that while he is "pleased to see the percentage of tests was quite low," he added that "COVID-19 will not take a summer vacation."

On June 19, the Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Health Equality Advisory Group released new data and recommendations regarding the response to the pandemic.

"The advisory group recommendations were released with new data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) that highlight marked differences in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths for different races and ethnicities," the state said in a release. "Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics have a 3x higher positive COVID-19 case rate than White non-Hispanics. Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics also have higher rates of hospitalizations. Age-adjusted mortality rates show these groups are bearing a higher burden of COVID deaths compared to the White or Asian populations. Nine of the ten cities and towns with the highest rates of COVID infection are also communities where more than half the residents identify as people of color."

The Advisory Group consists of 26 community leaders, health and racial equity experts, as well as members of communities who are impacted disproportionately by the virus, the release states. "The advisory group's mission was to inform the state's COVID response by recommending actions aimed at equitable access to health care resources and services, and prevention of inequities and disproportionate negative outcomes," it said.

"We have long understood that racism is a public health issue that demands action, and the disproportionate impacts of this new disease on communities of color and other priority populations is the latest indicator change is necessary," Commissioner Bharel, who chaired the advisory group, said in a statement. "At the Department of Public Health, our mission is to eliminate health inequities and we place equity at the core of all that we do."

Some of the recommendations of the group include increasing equitable distribution of PPE, increase housing stability for those disproportionately affected by the pandemic, investing in outreach in multiple languages for testing, access to state assistance programs, and more.

COVID-19 STATISTICS FOR BOSTON

Citywide Cases as of June 24: **13,353**
Citywide Deaths as of June 24: **900**

NUMBERS OF BACK BAY/ BEACON HILL CASES:

•As of June 18: 470 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 84.3 per 10,000.
•As of June 11: 463 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 83.1 per 10,000.
•As of June 4: 459 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 82.4 per 10,000.

NUMBERS OF SOUTH END CASES:

•As of June 18: 878 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 245.6 per 10,000.

TESTING STATS IN BACK BAY/BEACON HILL: (AS OF JUNE 18)

•Number of residents tested: 4,629
•Testing Rate per 10,000 people: 830.7
•Percent Positive in testing (cumulative): 9.6%
•Percent Positive in testing (current week: 1.5%

TESTING STATS IN THE SOUTH END: (AS OF JUNE 18)

•Number of residents tested: 5,264
•As of June 11: 868 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 242.8 per 10,000.
•As of June 4: 836 confirmed positive cases in with an infection rate of 233.8 per 10,000.

NUMBERS OF FENWAY CASES:

•As of June 18: 283 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 51.7 per 10,000.
•As of June 11: 282 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 51.5 per 10,000.
•As of June 4: 282 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 51.5 per 10,000.

•Testing Rate per 10,000 people: 1472.2
•Percent Positive in testing (cumulative): 16.8%
•Percent Positive in testing (current week: 3.5%

TESTING STATS IN FENWAY: (AS OF JUNE 18)

•Number of residents tested: 2,644
•Testing Rate per 10,000 people: 483.1
•Percent Positive in testing (cumulative): 11.3%
•Percent Positive in testing (current week: Less than 1%

WALSH UPDATE *(from pg. 1)*

"Any time that I see a protest, I've seen a high rate of face covering," Walsh said. He also thanked the Boston Public Health Commission for handing out masks and sanitizer at many of the protests.

He said that while these positive numbers are encouraging, he still "encourages everyone to continue being safe as you make your voices heard," and more test sites will continue to open, including at Brookside Community Health Center in Jamaica Plain for those who have attended large gatherings.

Walsh also said that the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021 includes an additional $13 million for the Boston Public Health Commission to fight COVID-19, health inequalities, and mental health issues throughout the city. "That focus on public health is essential in Phase Two of the reopening plan," Walsh said.

"I want to urge everyone to remain cautious," he said. "If you don't take this virus seriously enough, we can and will get spikes." He said that this means to continue wearing face coverings, washing your hands, and cleaning surfaces.

Walsh also recently announced a $41.million increase in funding to provide 8,000 youth jobs and other opportunities this summer, and the jobs have been modified to fit the guidelines set forth for the virus to ensure that teens are able to gain experience safely.

The Boston Public Library (BPL) is now offering "BPL to Go" at select locations, which began on June 22. BPL cardholders, including e-card holders, will be allowed to pick up physical materials that are reserved ahead of time online. There will be return bins outside of the libraries where the materials can be returned. The program will first be offered at the Copley branch, the Codman Square Branch, the East Boston Branch, the Jamaica Plain Branch, and the Mattapan Branch, and will slowly roll out at other locations.

Walsh also said that more than $13.5 million has been provided to small businesses during the pandemic, and $5.9 million has been distributed by the Small Business Relief Fund to more than 1600 businesses such as restaurants, retail stores, hair and nail salons, gyms, childcare providers, home health aids, and more. The Reopening Boston Fund has also provided money for things like PPE, partitions, and cleaning supplies for businesses, he said.

Walsh also said that there is a list of resources at boston.gov/reopneing such as a directory of open businesses and restaurants as well as guidance for different types of businesses.

The City Council has introduced a home rule petition for 184 new liquor licenses for restaurants across the city, as well as 15 set aside exclusively for minority owned businesses. The state must approve the introduction of new liquor licenses.

"We need to continue to give our restaurants every opportunity to recover and succeed," Walsh said.

On the housing front, Walsh said that the Boston Housing Authority is "working with hundreds of families of children on permanent rental vouchers to lift them out of homelessness."

He said that construction has resumed on 3,000 affordable homes and last week launched the ONE+ Boston Mortgage Fund using CPA funds. The fund offers low interest rates and helps families buy their first home to build their own wealth.

Walsh also said that several public art projects are moving forward, including 24 new projects which have received grants. He said that 61 artists will be painting utility boxes as part of the PaintBox program. New murals will also be worked on this summer.

"When you see the artists, please be respectful," Walsh said, and "maintain physical distance."

He added that "we look forward to seeing these projects… revitalize our neighborhoods."

Walsh also said that the Boston Resiliency Fund "continues to get resources to communities in need." More than $32 million has be raised, and a little over $20 million has been distributed into the communities in the form of COVID-19 testing expansion, meals to Greater Boston Food Bank and Lovin' Spoonfuls, gift cards for families to buy groceries, 20 minority owned restaurants paid to cook meals for distribution, and various nonprofits.

RUSHING *(from pg. 1)*

Washington, D.C., and was paid for in the 1870s by freed slaves.

Rushing said it isn't the first time the statue has been controversial and won't be the last time, but should be left up because of the conversation it evokes and the intention of its creators – both black and white.

"The bottom line about the Emancipation Group is this has been controversial since the beginning," he said. "If you add up all the years it's been up, black people have liked it longer than they have disliked it. It was an act to honor emancipation and Lincoln and black and white people."

Rushing said the story of the statue is important because it was originally paid for by freed men who raised money on their own and, relying on their white abolitionist friends to help them find a sculptor, were able to make it happen only a few years after being freed.

"We're in the period where everyone doesn't like it," he said. "The question for me is if it is an important story to talk about. If the controversy is important to talk about, then talk about it and tell the story around it. Tell the story of the controversy. It doesn't matter what it looks like. I'd keep it up with the understanding that African Americans who had been freed only a few years before were able to raise $16,000. What do you do with that part of the story? Should that be thrown away? No. I don't think that can be told when it is in any other place. It would be a disgrace to put it in storage."

Rushing said the story of it in Boston is also quite significant because the whole square with the granite curbs and an iron fence were created just for the statue. It meant a great deal to black people and white people at the time. He said despite the poor imagery, and the racist views of its creator Thomas Ball (who in his diary did not want a black model to come into his studio), it is the intention of the piece that matters – and Rushing believes the intention was good.

"It's not like a Confederate monument put up in the 1930s to reinforce racism," he said. "Can a totally dispised statue have a good intention? I think one should focus on intention and it's a wonderful story. It's the story of many freed Africans and their allies…It is complicated. No doubt about it, it is controversial."

It isn't the first time, either, that Rushing said he has come to the aid of the Emancipation statue in the Back Bay. Many years ago, the late Bruce Bolling was on the City Council and he and a group of constituents called for it to be taken down. After a long talk with Bolling, Rushing said he was able to calm things down, and the statue was left in place.

What needs to be done better, he said, is to interpret it better. He said other cities, like Atlanta, take advantage of technology to interpret some of their monuments and statues – and it is quite helpful. The Emancipation Statue in Boston could likely use the same treatment, he said. Few know the story of it being about the history of white and black people.

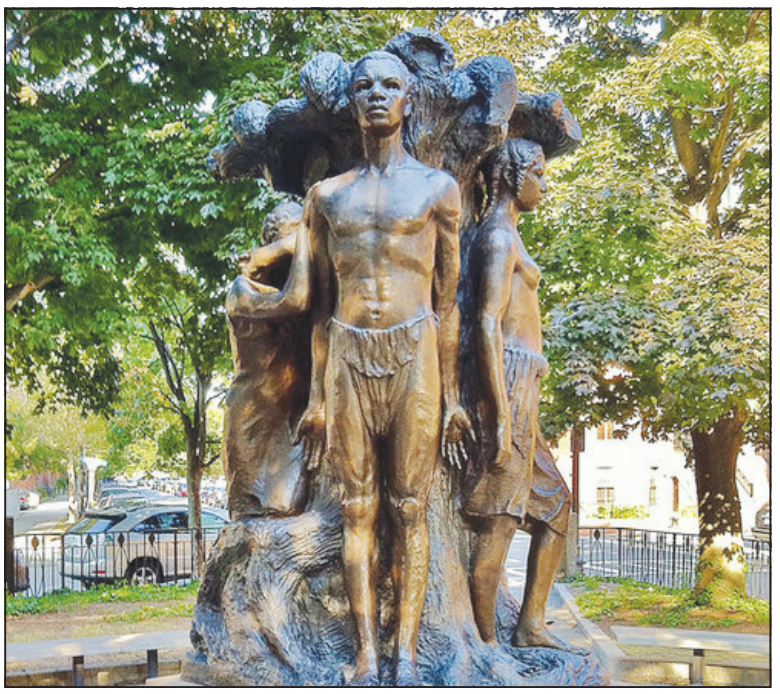
That could be explained.

Meanwhile, those who are interested could be directed to another view of Emancipation through the eyes of a black female sculptor only a few blocks away in the South End. There, the statue 'Spirit of Emancipation' by Meta Warwick Fuller is on display in Tubman Park. Created in 1913 by the artist for the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, it was only a plaster piece until friends of the park were able to cast it in bronze and display it.

Side by side, the pieces tell two very different stories about the freedom of Africans from slavery – one by a white man celebrating the history of blacks and whites and Lincoln's role, and another by a black woman celebrating the release of her people and all those that came before.

"With a lot of these statues you tell the whole story and then decide, but you don't act on one person or 100 people who don't like the design," he said.

Much will be said about the Emancipation Group statue in the Back Bay over the coming weeks at the Boston Arts Commission, and perhaps the long complicated history of it will also be part of that.



'Spirit of Emancipation' is another view of the freedom of Africans from slavery by black female artist Meta Warwick Fuller in 1913. Some, like Byron Rushing, believe this statue and the controversial Emancipation Group statue with Lincoln deserve to have their stories told side by side.

WINGATE RESIDENCES
AT BOYLSTON PLACE

As the community opens around us, Wingate Residences at Boylston Place will as well.

As you consider senior living for you or your loved one, our leadership team continuously works to stay informed, while instilling measures that support our highest standard of service and care. Our communities continue to provide precautions and support such as:

- Re-opening our community as the community around us safely opens
- Our clinical and professional team continue to monitor CDC, local government and EOEA guidelines. For your ease of reference, we have included the current guidelines on our website at www.wingatehealthcare.com
- Continued on-site screening process for all visitors
- Our Wellness Team and leadership is available to support families and residents around the clock
- Creative small group social programs to keep our residents engaged and maintain social distance for safety

If you would like to be more informed, please call us at 617.244.6400. We are here for you.

PROTEST *(from pg. 1)*

However, the moment at hand, according to protest organizer Monica Cannon-Grant of Violence in Boston Inc., was to draw attention to portions of Gov. Charlie Baker's police accountability bill now being debated on Beacon Hill. That bill contains many new initiatives for policing, including a new police training certification system. Within that system, municipalities would be authorized to pay officers $5,000 bonuses for going above and beyond the new training mandates – an incentive to take further coursework.

One South End woman on a bike stopped to see the unexpected rally go by. Many people in the South End were not aware the procession was coming up Tremont Street, but few were bothered by it.

Hundreds of protestors marched up Tremont Street in the South End.

"We don't need to pay you not to be racists," said Cannon-Grant later at the State House. It was also a theme of the marchers as they proceeded through the South End on Monday as well, having started the journey from the Reggie Lewis Center.

Many chanted anti-police messages, called for defunding the police, but far more carried the names and photographs of black men who have been killed in recent years by police, including Eric Garner in New York City several years ago.

His son, Eric Garner Jr., was in attendance on Monday at the procession.

The protest was also in great anticipation of the City's Budgeting Debate and vote that took place on Wednesday afternoon – a debate that has been completely framed around policing and police budgets.

Many, including Councilor Michelle Wu, are calling for a melding of the Boston Police and the Boston Public Health Commission.

Appearing at the online Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) on Tuesday, Wu said she would be voting against the City Budget Wednesday so that the Council could take a few breaths and focus on what residents and protestors want to see in what will arguably be the most important budget document in decades.

"I don't believe this budget reflects transformation in the sense that it would bring about changes in Public Safety and Public Health infrastructure that we want to see in the city," she said. "I say Public Health and Public Safety in the same sentence because we need to see it that way."

'Hand's up, don't shoot' was one of the phrases uttered during the march.

Eagle Restoration & Contracting, Inc.

"We'll Take You Through Landmark Approval to Curb Appeal"

Roofing & Roof Decks
Masonry Restoration
Sealants & Coatings
Skylights & Windows
Carpentry & Painting
Sheet Metal

STRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE TO PROTECT OUR CLIENTS & WORKERS.

Est. 1997

888-DRY-NEST

www.eaglerestoration.com

Fully Insured and Licensed CS# 77808 HIC#138620

PROTESTS FOR RACIAL EQUALITY CONVERGE IN THE SOUTH END

Many protestors called out ending racism and for equal justice.

With the Back Bay in the background, marchers held home-made signs and headed to the State House.

One protestor carried an inverted American flag.

Shown above, one protestor held a home-made sign calling for justice for Rayshard Brooks, whose funeral was held on Tuesday in Atlanta. Shown to the left: at the BCA Complex, the crowds began to grow.

One protestor advocated Pride Month, and called out police violence.

Robert 'Problak' Gibbs and MFA partner on mural at Madison Park

Staff report

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), announced Monday the launch of a multipart community mural project co-led by artists-in-residence Rob "Problak" Gibbs and Rob Stull—a key initiative of the MFA's 150th anniversary that draws inspiration from *Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation*.

Gibbs has been instrumental in several murals across the South End, and is also a leader in Artists for Humanity.

In collaboration with the City of Boston, Gibbs has begun painting a new outdoor mural—the next production in his *Breathe Life* series—on the exterior of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, after engaging teen collaborators in the work's conception and art direction. Stull has served as creative director and illustrator for a comic book-style brochure that chronicles the project and maps out other murals within walking distance of the MFA—offering readers a path to rich artistic encounters in the Museum's surrounding neighborhoods. The publication, available for free on mfa.org, is accompanied by *Co-Sign*, a documentary video created by Beyond MEASURE Productions that explores Gibbs' and Stull's influences and considers the core mission of graffiti art and its essential relationship to hip-hop culture.

"We're honored to welcome Rob and Rob as artists-in-residence and to have them lead the way on a cornerstone project of the MFA's 150th anniversary, one that is truly of and for Boston. They continue the legacy of Jean-Michel Basquiat and his fellow revolutionary artists featured in *Writing the Future*, and join us in celebrating hip-hop culture in all its forms," said Matthew Teitelbaum, Ann and Graham Gund Director.

Located a mile from the MFA on the side of Gibbs' alma mater Madison Park High School, the new mural is expected to be completed over the next month, weather dependent. Gibbs has been a fixture of Boston's street art scene for more than 20 years, and this new work joins two earlier *Breathe Life* murals located in Roxbury, the South End and Dorchester.

A new mural in the 'Breathe Life' series will be painted on Madison Park High School via a new collaboration between the MFA and Rob 'Problak' Gibbs and Rob Stull – who are now MFA artists-in-residence.

"Growing up during the golden age of hip-hop, I spent a lot of time venturing between the Lenox Street apartments and the Orchard Park projects of Roxbury. I came across graffiti, which was often labeled as 'vandalism.' To me, it was clear that graffiti was an art form, one that had the power to convey culture, history and knowledge," said Gibbs. "It became my mission to transform the streets of Boston with graffiti art—an art form that is frequently criminalized, undervalued and maligned in mainstream culture. I hope to continue to find new ways to innovate my craft and to mentor others in the art form that changed my life."

Stull, a comic book and graphic design professional who has worked for Marvel and DC Comics, has created a new series of black-and-white drawings as his own visual response to *Writing the Future*. Honoring four of the featured artists—Jean-Michel Basquiat, Futura, Lady Pink and Rammellzee—as well as Gibbs, his fellow "Boston writer," Stull's original works will go on view alongside the exhibition when it opens at the MFA in fall 2020, at a to-be-announced date following the Museum's ongoing temporary closure.

"Basquiat, Futura, Rammellzee, Lady Pink and others of their era are the catalysts. We recognize them as architects and pioneers of a movement," said Stull. "As a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts, I'm honored to be an artist-in-residence at the MFA and to participate in the *Writing the Future* exhibition."

BLC seeks more info from DCR about Fenway lighting plans

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) met virtually on June 23, where Paul Costa presented a proposal for communications infrastructure provider Crown Castle to replace an existing concrete street light with a metal one and a small cell wireless infrastructure, including a radio cabinet and an antenna at 31 Park Drive.

Several of these types of applications have popped up all over the city in recent months and years, and the BLC hopes that there will be some sort of consistency throughout the districts for these poles to have similar designs.

"A small cell is a low powered antenna that sits on existing infrastructure…" Costa said. The purpose of the small cell is to "boost capacity and coverage" as well as speed for cellular service.

"Given the crisis with more people at home, [there is] greater demand on carrier's networks," he said. "Small cell is a solution…" The proposed small cell would provide more capacity for AT&T.

Costa said the proposal is to build a small cell facility on Park Drive between Queensberry and Peterborough Streets. The street light is an existing state Department of Conservation (DCR) concrete light, and will be replaced with a new metal street light similar to other metal ones along Park Drive. He also said the equipment is similar to what Crown Castle has installed in other parts of the city.

The pole will include a gray shroud, and further up the pole is where the 10 inch antenna will be located. An LED street light will also be located at the top of the pole, and the other equipment will be attached to the side of the pole. To provide power and fiber to the pole, the street mist be dug into, and Costa showed the dig plan for the area.

"I like the simplicity of it," said Commissioner David Berarducci, but added that it "might be odd having it be the one and only out here."

Costa said that "this is our design and what has been agreed upon with DCR." This pole is not under the jurisdiction of the City of Boston, but the City does have a license agreement with Crown Castle and has approved this antenna design in other locations, he said.

"The concern is we see a fair number of these in different parts of town," Commissioner Brad Walker said, adding that different vendors propose different designs. "We want to maintain some sort of consistency in the public realm," he said. "Is another vendor representing Verizon going to want to put one 500 feet away with a different design?"

Costa said that Crown Castle is also guided by DCR's design guidelines and had submitted four different designs to DCR. "They liked three and nixed one of them," Costa said.

"I would like to know that this is what's going to be replacing all the other lights eventually so we don't keep having these anomalies all over the place," Berarducci said. "If it's going to be a precedent, would we not want to choose a color that would be the precedent for all the other lights? The point is to try and blend these in with the other light poles on the street."

The Commissioners agreed that they would like to know if DCR has plans for the region, or more specifically, for the Fens. Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said he would he happy to check with the DCR on this.

Cornish did add that for the City owned light poles, only replacement in-kind is allowed. The Commissioners said they also hope to get more information about whether the DCR has a "consistent plan" for other vendors coming in and asking to replace light poles with this equipment.

There was no vote to approve or deny this project. It is continued to next month's meeting, where the Commissioners hope to have more information from DCR about their future plans for lighting in the area.

BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ
REAL ESTATE
Charles Street Meeting House
121 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108
617-367-0505 www.brewberk.com
Sally Brewster Betsey Barrett
Ron Berkowitz Toni Doggett

Silver linings for services begin to show through the COVID-19 fog

Several emergency initiatives could help South End opioid issues long-term

By Seth Daniel

Whether it's tele-medicine, moving some shelter beds elsewhere, or delivering Methadone to the home of patients, several emergency initiatives instituted for the opioid recovery community seems like they could have a long-term effect on changing the optics and issues on the Mass/Cass corridor.

The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) held its third monthly online meeting Tuesday, and within their discussion of treatment initiatives and changes through COVID-19, several new pieces were unveiled that could reduce the numbers of people coming to the neighborhood for services – and sometimes staying afterward for mischief.

Colleen Labelle, the director of the office-based Addiction Treatment program at Boston Medical Center (BMC), told WSANA they are working a lot differently to help treat patients during COVID-19.

That includes using many more tele-medicine visits with recovery patients, who are now able to get medications delivered to them, refills approved online and – perhaps in the future – not have to come to BMC and walk the gauntlet of drug activities leading up to the hospital.

"One silver lining of COVID-19 is our patients are doing better because they aren't making that walk and aren't coming into the neighborhood now," she said. "It's a trigger and a temptation for folks. We see patients at home because of this. We're all operating with tele-health. We can see more patients now and we don't have to make them come here and walk through that to BMC's walls. It makes no sense to make people do that."

There is a lot of debate over tele-medicine within the recovery community, and particularly with the services offered at BMC and in the Mass/Cass corridor where very visible temptations can overcome some fighting relapse. So far, Labelle said there has been great success and they have gathered an increase in patients going from about 800 to 950 patients at the program – some of that due to the population that has been released from the Suffolk County House of Corrections. There are other patients who have found tele-medicine more accessible and a way to avoid the stigma of coming to BMC for in-person help.

"I think it will last because they have been moving on this at the federal level," she said. "This is bringing more patients into care that would not have gone. There is a stigma still to getting help and they won't come in here."

State Rep. Jon Santiago said this very debate is unfolding right now at the State House in regards to the future of tele-medicine for recovery post-COVID.

"This is an active debate going on in the Legislature now and I hope we can get something on the ground soon."

Said Labelle in response, "You shouldn't be dragging patients on three buses and a train to get here so we can tell them they're ok and then take their blood pressure. That's crazy."

On another matter that was closely related to the same conversation, Steve Fox – a guest of the meeting who runs the South End Forum – said the Mass/Cass Task Force has been discussing an emergency measure approved by the federal government to allow Methadone to be delivered to the homes of patients.

He said that would eliminate hundreds of people having to come to the South End and Newmarket to get treatment each day, with some staying around afterwards to linger and loiter. It is a change that he said could transform the tenor of the opioid discussion in the South End.

"During the pandemic, Methadone has been allowed to be delivered to homes as a result of a federal regulatory decision to allow people to receive their prescriptions at home," he said. "For WSANA and the South End, this is an incredibly important decision…If we can do home delivery of Methadone because of the pandemic and it's working well, there should be no reason why we can't do it post-pandemic. It eliminates the need to come here day-to-day. We've opened the door now to treating with Methadone differently than we did before."

That was a major piece of food for thought.

Meanwhile, Mike Nelson – WSANA's representative on the Mass/Cass Task Force – added that the pandemic has featured the relocation of 350 homeless shelter beds out of the South End and to other neighborhoods. In this case, it involves college dorms that are empty, but he said there is no reason other areas cannot be sought to permanently relocate those beds after the pandemic.

"There have been 350 shelter beds moved out of the South End for social distancing and spacing," he said. "That aligns with what we've been calling for. It's come in a different way, but it's the result we have wanted."

MFA Boston's Juneteenth panel discussion contemplates meaning of day in current landscape

By Dan Murphy

As part of Museum of Fine Arts Boston's eighth annual Juneteenth celebration, which was held virtually for the first time this year on Friday, June 19, a visual artist, a female entrepreneur and a Boston Globe columnist convened for a panel discussion to contemplate what the day means to them as black individuals, especially in light of recent events.

"Juneteenth is like a check-in because we wake up black every day," said Rob "Problak" Gibbs, a Roxbury-reared painter, muralist and graffiti artist, as well as co-founder of Artists for Humanity, a Boston nonprofit that provides paid employment opportunities for inner-city youth in the arts. "How long and why did it take these issues so long to be addressed? I have to think about how I'm going to teach it to my daughter."

Joining Gibbs for the discussion were Globe columnist Adrian Walker and Heather White, CFO and founder of Trillfit, a Mission Hill hip-hop fitness studio, while Makeeba McCreary, MFA Boston's chief of learning and community engagement, served as moderator.

"The story of Juneteenth is a day of reflection to think about what freedom really means and the gap between the stories we tell ourselves and what happens every day," Walker said.

MFA Boston came under fire itself, Walker reminded the panel, after a group of black seventh-graders were allegedly subjected to racism by staff and some patrons during a field trip to the museum in May of 2019.

"We need to think about the ways we kick in the doors that make people feel exploited," Walker said.

Growing up in a family of immigrants in the Bronx, N.Y., White said she was taught to "keep [head] head down" and "assimilate," so Juneteenth was a completely foreign concept to her before she moved to Boston.

"I didn't learn about it or identify with it until I got to Boston," she recalled, "which is ironic [that I'd first learn of Juneteenth] in a city with such a history of racism."

As White sees it, Juneteenth is now an opportunity to both reconsider history and help shape the future.

"Educate yourselves," she said. "Yes, you're now woken up and are a part of this revolution. Showing up matters. Get involved in local politics as well. Use your voice and your vote to change things."

As one of MFA Boston's artists-in-residence, Gibbs discussed how an outdoor mural he is creating on the exterior of Madison Park High School in Roxbury would "reflect the education through the arts from the eyes of a young black man growing up in this city."

The mural, called "Breathe Life 2," will show all of Boston from the perspective of Roxbury, Gibbs said, while depicting children of color and attempting to capture the neighborhood's vibrant sense of community.

"All I want is for black and brown little boys and girls to simply see themselves in my murals," he said. "I would want other kids and children of other ethnicities to just see how we're celebrating and how we're here to take care of each other."

In launching Trillfit, White said she encountered many racial obstacles as she moved into an industry where black people are often made to feel excluded.

"I want to decolonize wellness to make pricing accessible so that black people feel comfortable walking in the door," she said. "Part of my job in the existing industry is to decolonize and desegregate wellness, and we do that simply by existing and offering our current program."

Besides making Trillfit more accessible to black people by offering affordable prices and an inclusive environment, White said she also hopes to "decolonize" wellness as an industry that has traditionally discouraged black ownership, even though yoga, dance and other methods commonly used in practicing wellness originate in black culture.

"Trillfit started as a boutique studio in an industry that co-opts practices used by blacks and pushes them out," White said. "We need to hold every other studio partner in Boston and globally accountable to actually do the work…and provide access and equity to improve quality to life for black people."

As a journalist, Walker said during these extraordinary times, he feels a heightened obligation to ensure that voices too often ignored now get heard.

"There's an awareness that we're living in a historical moment…that will bring about historical change," Walker said. "My industry has a huge responsibility in amplifying [people's voices] and making sure this moment doesn't get lost.

"The most heartbreaking thing about the George Floyd incident, besides the murder itself, is we know this isn't an isolated incident," he added. "My industry needs to lead that."

In response to McCreary's query as to whether whites should consider stepping aside to allow new opportunities for blacks, Gibbs said, "Give us the ball and let us run. There are a lot of people who have the talent and people who have the abilities, but you'd never know because we need allies or ways to get in to be seen and heard."

Gibbs added, "I'm not going to step aside after the noise dies down, there's some longevity to this. Give us time and space to make sure we do something that counts."

Meanwhile, despite the currents sense of uncertainty and discontent evident in Boston and throughout the U.S., Walker remains optimistic about the future.

"I'm very hopeful at the moment; there's more momentum for change that I ever remember seeing - it's real, and it's substantive," Walker said. "It's a moment of incredible unrest and inequity, but we have an opportunity to build something out of this. I hope that we don't squander it, and I know we won't."

Attention to Detail

By Penny Cherubino

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

The balcony railing in the last clue is on 138 Newbury Street built as a single-family home in 1883 and designed by Avery and Page for the owner Alden Avery. Newbury was originally a residential street that was converted to commercial use over the years.

The next clue will be found in the Fenway.

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	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Corey, Donald J	Adato, Ronen	234 Beacon St #5B	$685,000
Mccreary, Daniel	8 Gloucester Street RT	8 Gloucester St #2	$848,000
Jarraya, Mohamed	Price FT	8 Gloucester St #9	$1,150,000
BEACON HILL			
Jahandarie, Darius	32 Grove Street RT	30-32 Grove St #10	$435,000
4 Joy Street LLC	4 Beacon H LLC	4 Joy St #1	$4,300,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Nelson, Nicholas	King, Kevin P	246 W Newton St #2	$2,140,000
Face Off Properties Inc	Zahka, James G	234 Causeway St #1004	$1,125,000
Wei, Xiao	Gregory Reynolds RET	40 Fay St	$120,000
Sheffield-Lyman, Oliver	Phillips, Earl W	1 Goodwin Pl #3	$590,000
Holman, Jeffrey T	New House South End LLC	692 Massachusetts Ave	$17,000
Hopkins-Moseley, Suzanne	Alland, David	1 Saint George St #2C	$1,065,000
Mu, Henry	Nowinski, Christopher J	90 W Springfield St #1	$1,125,000
Bailey, Janet M	Tisserand, Alex	1180-1200 Washington St #414	$1,170,000
Petrillo, Marco	Keirstead, Steven D	148 Worcester St #5	$859,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Stewart, Elizabeth C	Trojan, Brian	45-63 Atlantic Ave #5D	$890,000
3 Avery LLC	Ming, Gerald	3 Avery St #904	$750,000
Leslie B Stearns FT	Anastasio, Andrea L	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4602	$1,625,000
Garry, Eliza J	Devos, Adam S	27 Clark St #3	$606,000
Ghaly, Magdy	Vitiello, Ralph	65 E India Row #24C	$1,155,000
Ghaly, Magdy	Sonnenschein, Carlos	65 E India Row #7E	$735,000
Stettler, Ronald R	Wu, Jason	210 South St #2-5	$952,000
Punjabi, Tony T	Farhangmehr, Farbod	151 Tremont St #12T	$664,700

Baker files Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Investment Plan

Staff report

Gov. Charlie Baker and his administration released its Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Capital Investment Plan on June 17.

The spending blueprint maintains existing investments and enables the Administration to continue working with stakeholders across the Commonwealth to support ongoing capital projects. The plan will ensure Massachusetts is well-positioned for short, medium and long-term COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

The capital plan also provides future flexibility by holding on pursuing new programs or funding sources due to the COVID-19 public health crisis and the related uncertainty. This purposeful investment strategy will also afford the Administration the flexibility to revisit the capital plan as the full economic and fiscal impacts of the public health and economic crisis become clear.

The FY21 plan provides capital investments in all regions throughout Massachusetts in critical areas such as transportation, housing, support for cities and towns, health and human services, higher education, and public safety. The plan also continues the administration's commitment to integrating climate change preparedness into its capital program and it considers the environmental impact and resiliency of all investments.

"During the unprecedented COVID-19 public health crisis and the resulting economic uncertainty, our administration is sustaining support for existing projects and investments while maintaining flexibility in our capital program," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This responsible strategy will allow us to maximize response and recovery efforts, and continue working towards key priorities in transportation, housing, health and human services, and climate change."

The $2.46 billion capital plan is fiscally responsible and demonstrates careful long-term planning, and is informed by numerous factors including the Debt Affordability Committee.

As with previous plans, the FY21 plan focuses on six major themes: asset stewardship, supporting local communities, economic opportunity, value optimization, customer orientation, and climate resiliency.

These six priorities continue to be important in the era of COVID-19 amid the response to the public health crisis. By maintaining parks and green spaces, increasing access to broadband internet, promoting economic opportunity and job creation, and investing in health and human services infrastructure, the Commonwealth is continuing to provide resources and accommodations that ensure the health and safety of the people of Massachusetts.

Responsible Asset Stewardship

Since taking office, the Baker-Polito Administration has prioritized the maintenance of the Commonwealth's existing assets and the prudent investment of capital funds, investing billions to upgrade and modernize existing infrastructure. From road and bridge maintenance to the renovation of aging court facilities to the repair of dams and seawalls, investing in maintenance allows the state to tackle infrastructure repairs in accordance with best practices, system-wide prioritization, and a comprehensive plan before they become costly emergencies.

The plan funds:

•More than $3.7 billion in investments in the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure

•Six major higher education projects authorized through the

(FY2021, *Pg. 15)*

District 4 sees 7-percent reduction in Part One crime from last year

By Dan Murphy

As the first half of 2020 was drawing to a close, District 4 had seen a 7-percent reduction in incidents of violent and property crime from last year.

According to Boston Police, 1,218 incidents of Part One crime were reported between Jan. 1 and June 14 of this year in the district that includes the Back Bay, South End, Lower Roxbury and the Fenway, down from 1,313 during the same timeframe last year.

No homicides have been reported this year, compared to two in 2019, while rapes and attempted rapes were down around 46 percent as the number fell to seven from 13 last year.

In contrast, the rate of robberies and attempted robberies spiked more than 44 percent, with 62 incidents this year as opposed to 43 in 2019.

Domestic aggravated assaults were down around 23 percent as the number fell to 23 from 30 last year, while conversely, non-domestic aggravated assaults were up about 40 percent as the number climbed to 115 from 82 last year.

Commercial burglaries increased more than threefold, with 95 incidents this year as opposed to only 31 in 2019, but in contrast, residential burglaries were down about 17 percent as the number fell to 48 from 58 in 2019.

Other burglaries also plunged from nine last year to none in 2020.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle saw an approximately 23-percent increase as the number climbed to 222 from 180 last year while conversely, incidents of other larceny dropped about 26 percent as the number fell to 599 from 814 in 2019.

Auto theft was also down nearly 8 percent, with 47 incidents in 2020 as opposed to 51 last year.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 1 percent as the number of incidents fell to 7,029 from 7,079 in 2019.

FY2021 *(from pg. 1)*

DCAMM higher education capital plan in FY19

•$95 million to support maintenance and improvements at local housing authorities

•The new, state-of-the-art long-term care facility for veterans at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea

Supporting Local Communities

The Baker-Polito Administration continues its strong partnerships with the Commonwealth's cities and towns through the capital program. More than 20 programs funded in the plan provide grants to municipalities to support important local infrastructure including roads and bridges, parks, economic development initiatives, and environmental improvements. The FY21 plan continues funding for the Body Armor Replacement program, which provides a state match to federal funding and helping cities and towns purchase bulletproof vests for police officers at no cost to the community.

The plan also funds:

•$200 million in Chapter 90 funding for local road and bridge repairs

•$10 million for the Municipal Small Bridge Program

•$10 million for the Complete Streets Program

•$3 million in Community Compact information technology grants

•$2 million for the Municipal ADA grant program, which enables cities and towns to improve accessibility to municipal facilities for people with disabilities

Economic Opportunities for All

The plan provides critical investments that help encourage economic growth across Massachusetts, including:

•$100 million for the MassWorks program, which funds local infrastructure improvements that pave the way for major economic development projects

•$40 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center capital program

•$11.3 million for the final phase of a major harbor dredging project in New Bedford

•$9.7 million for the Broadband Last Mile infrastructure program, for Western Massachusetts towns that lack residential broadband service

Customer Orientation

Through capital investments in MBTA infrastructure, affordable housing, recreational trails, public parks, rinks and playgrounds, the Baker-Polito Administration has worked to prioritize projects that provide direct, tangible value to people across Massachusetts. The Commonwealth also continues to make significant technology investments to improve the customer experience at various agencies such as the Registry of Motor Vehicles, where technology improvements are helping optimize appointment-based operations.

The plan funds:

•$42.5 million for infrastructure transformation and modernization, in order to transform and improve IT networks and better deliver government services

•$27.6 million to improve and maintain Department of Conservation and Recreation facilities

•$6.7 million to continue implementing a new technology platform at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, improving customer service for residents and businesses across Massachusetts

Value Optimization

The FY21 plan supports construction and maintenance across various infrastructure, grants and programs that impact every municipality. Throughout all of these initiatives, the Administration remains committed to investing strategically and sustainably, using data, collaboration, leverage from additional funding resources, and planning to provide a holistic approach to solving problems and preparing for the future in partnership with cities and towns.

The plan funds:

•$16.3 million for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative, a matching federal grant program that supports research centers around emerging manufacturing technology

•$15 million in Workforce Skills Capital Grants, awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses and align their curriculum with industry demand

•$1 million for the Massachusetts Food Trust program, which leverages private funding to expand healthy food access in underserved communities

Preparing for a Changing Climate

The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to carefully addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency throughout its capital planning program. The FY21 plan makes considerable investments in Commonwealth-owned assets to ensure they are more resilient to climate change. As our local cities and towns are on the front lines in the fight against climate change, the Administration is continuing to take a communities-first approach. The capital plan continues to make state-owned facilities more efficient by supporting energy projects at hospitals, public colleges and universities, public safety facilities, and office buildings. These investments will help to put the state's assets on a path to meet the Governor's newly announced goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

The plan funds:

•$12 million for the repair of Inland Dams and Seawalls

•$11 million for grants to cities and towns to help plan for climate change resiliency and implement priority projects through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program

•$5 million for sustainability and resiliency improvements in public housing

•$3.3 million for the Greening the Gateway Cities tree-planting program

To view the full FY21 Capital Investment Plan, visit: www.mass.gov/capital.

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.

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

From the June 25 South End Landmarks meeting, 5 p.m., via online (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89121967036):

•566 Columbus Avenue

Previously reviewed at the 5/05/2020 and 5/18/2020 SELDC Public Hearings; 6/15/2020 SELDC Subcommittee Public Meeting. Proposed Work: Construct a new building

From the June 25 and June 30 Boston Art Commission meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86126961971):

Staff Report for Discussion

•Director's Report Karin Goodfellow

*The Emancipation Group, a copy of a sculpture in Washington D.C. by Thomas Ball

*Monument Report: An Opportunity for Change: Discussing Monuments in Boston (& Beyond)

*Online survey to invite public input on range of possible actions and considerations

•Public Testimony

*Public Testimony on The Emancipation Group, a copy of a sculpture in Washington D.C. by Thomas Ball

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 automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in mid-August, and the permitting cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

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

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

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

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED IN BEACON HILL

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

2 BATTERY WHARF #3311
2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS |2,039 SQFT
$3,990,000

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

136 BEACON STREET #9
3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,210 SQFT
$3,299,000

73 MOUNT VERNON STREET #1
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,082 SQFT
$4,295,000

CAMPION AND COMPANY

172 NEWBURY STREET • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS • 02116 • WWW.CAMPIONRE.COM • 617.236.0711

MURAL AT MADISON PARK
READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 8

If you are looking to get in contact with our staff or any info related to the Boston Sun please call 781-485-0588 or contact us via email. Email addresses are listed on the editorial page.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Council passes FY2021 Budget

By Lauren Bennett

After more than two hours of discussion, the Boston City Council voted virtually via Zoom on Wednesday to pass the FY21 operating budget, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) budget, and the capital budget.

The operating budget was passed 8-5, the BPS budget was passed 11-2, and the capital budget was passed unanimously. The Council also voted to transfer funds from the Parking Meter Fund and the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund into the Capital Grant Fund, as well as to approve an appropriation of forty million dollars to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OEPB) Liability Trust Fund.

Many Bostonians have participated in this year's budget process from all districts in the midst of a civil rights movement and a worldwide pandemic, and have spoken out on issues that are important to them and where they would like to see change. Councilors were not in compete agreement about whether or not to pass the operating budget, as some felt the proposed budget does not do enough, while others were afraid of what would happen if it did not pass and suggested that more work can be done after it is passed.

(BUDGET, *Pg. 3)*

PLANTING AT HAYES PARK

PHOTO BY MARYELLEN HASSELL

Christie Gibson and her daughter, Renée, joined the Friends of Hayes Park in planting the summer geraniums in the center bed last week. The beautiful spring tulips will now give way to the wonderful red of the geraniums through the heart of the summer.

Protestors marching up Tremont Street on Monday called for changes to Gov. Charlie Baker's police accountability bill – specifically bonuses for officers who engage in extra training. Protestors also called to defund the police, but more simply wanted to publicly memorialize the black men and women recently killed by police actions.

Protests through the South End continue, funding changes sought

By Seth Daniel

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of the South End on Monday – heading up Tremont Street to the State House – to protest a controversial portion of Gov. Charlie Baker's police accountability bill, a portion of the bill that would pay officers a $5,000 bonus for going beyond the standards training procedures.

Monday's protest was in part to memorialize Rayshard Brooks, who was shot in the back and killed by police in Atlanta on June 12 while running away from them. His funeral was Tuesday in Atlanta.

(PROTEST, *Pg. 6)*

Rushing: Keep 'Emancipation' statue with Lincoln in Back Bay

By Seth Daniel

A Back Bay statue from the late 1800s celebrating Emancipation is on the hot seat once again in its long history, with hundreds calling for its removal immediately due to the awkward imagery, but former state representative and long-time historian Byron Rushing is calling for the statue to remain.

The statue issue came to light this time when activist and educator Tory Bullock put up an online petition to call for it to be removed. The statue, done by famous sculptor Thomas Ball, shows a freed slave kneeling and appearing subservient to Lincoln rather than free.

The issue has garnered a great deal of attention lately, and Mayor Martin Walsh has suggested it be recommissioned and a new statue put up that has more appropriate imagery. Meetings are now scheduled at the Boston Arts Commission on June 25 and 30 to discuss the statue.

The statue is actually a copy of the original, which is housed in

(RUSHING, *Pg. 5)*

Walsh gives COVID-19 update on BPL, testing, biz. assistance

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh held a press conference on June 18, where he gave an update on COVID-19 as well as the reopening plan.

He said that as of last week, the overall positive test rate is down 19.6 percent, the "first time our positive test rate in the city has fallen below 20 percent."

Last week, pop up testing sites were opened for those who attended large gatherings such as recent protests. Walsh said that nearly 1300 people were tested, and the positive test rate was one percent.

(WALSH UPDATE, *Pg. 4)*

EDITORIAL

COVID-19 IS A PREDATOR -- AND WE ARE ITS PREY

The media, politicians, and others have likened our ongoing battle with the corona virus as the equivalent of "going to war."

The doctors and nurses in the overburdened ERs in New York City, when its hospitals were being overwhelmed with corona patients in March, put it this way in discussing the stresses and challenges they were facing when they lacked personal protection equipment, ventilators, and other essential medical needs: "It's like going to war, but without being given guns and ammunition."

But as we enter the fourth month since the start of the lock-downs in many of our states, the "going to war" metaphor does not seem entirely appropriate.

Rather, the corona virus, which is stealthy and unseen except under a microscope (it is 1/1000th the width of a hair on our heads), is more like a hunter seeking its prey -- and its main prey is the human race.

We like to think of ourselves as kings of the world, sitting atop the food chain. Even if we cannot match a shark in the water or a lion in the jungle, we have weapons readily at our disposal to cope with any threats we may face from the natural world.

But the corona virus has humbled us. We as a species have proven no match for this pandemic that Mother Nature has thrust into our midst.

As with any predator in the wild, the corona virus seeks out the easy targets, the old and the weak. Per Darwin's theory of evolution, only the strongest survive.

But intelligence also is a key to the survival of members of a species. The pandemic has proven that point as well, also taking as its victims those whose arrogance exceeds their common-sense, and whose folly makes them an easy target for a hunter that fears nothing and that will take advantage of any lapse in judgment.

The early openings in the Southern states, where people have refused to wear masks and do not practice physical-distancing, and where infections now are predictably skyrocketing, have shown the folly of underestimating the power of the virus.

We think a more accurate way for us to view the corona virus is that it has reduced the human race to the equivalent of meerkats. (Timon in the Lion King is a meerkat.) Meerkats, small mongooses, live constantly on alert and retreat to their underground network of burrows upon sensing the slightest threat of danger. If they let their guard down for an instant when above-ground, they can become easy targets for predators.

We too, now find ourselves in a state of existence in which our movement is restricted. We must remain ever-vigilant and be aware that the corona virus is everywhere. As with any predator, the corona virus always is on the prowl and stalking, just waiting for any one of us -- its prey -- to make that one, fatal mistake.

As is becoming clear in the Southern states, we are fooling ourselves if we think that we have outwitted this virus and that three months of lockdown were sufficient to save us from its grip. The reality is that the corona virus never will cease hunting us and that we must devise a new normal if we wish to regain a semblance of our former lives.

Hopefully, our new way of life, whatever that will look like, will be something better than our present meerkat-like circumstances.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY, STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

Massachusetts adds jobs in May as unemployment stagnates

Staff report

The state's May total unemployment rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point at 16.3 percent following a revision to the April rate of 16.2 percent, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts added 58,600 jobs in May. This follows last month's revised loss of 646,700 jobs. Over the month, the private sector added 65,700 jobs as gains occurred in Construction; Leisure and Hospitality; Education and Health Services; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Other Services; Manufacturing; and Financial Activities. Information and Government lost jobs over the month.

From May 2019 to May 2020, BLS estimates Massachusetts lost 605,000 jobs.

Losses occurred in each of the private sectors, with the largest percentage losses in Leisure and Hospitality; Other Services; Construction; and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities.

The May unemployment rate was three percentage point above the national rate of 13.3 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force increased by 123,200 from 3,406,900 in April, as 100,000 more residents were employed and 23,200 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 13.4 percentage points.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – increased to 62.4 percent. Compared to May 2019, the labor force participation rate is down by 5.1 percentage points.

May 2020 Employment Overview

- Construction added 17,400 (+16.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has lost 39,200 (-24.2%) jobs.
- Leisure and Hospitality gained 12,400 (+9.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 225,200 (-59.9%) jobs.
- Education and Health Services added 11,100 (+1.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services lost 83,100 (-10.2%) jobs.
- Professional, Scientific and Business Services gained 8,000 (+1.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 37,900 (-6.3%) jobs.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 6,700 (+1.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 113,200 (-19.6%) jobs.
- Other Services gained 6,600 (+7.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are down -47,100 (-33.8%) jobs.
- Manufacturing added 5,100 (+2.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 20,200 (-8.3%) jobs.
- Financial Activities gained 1,400 (+0.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 2,500 (-1.1%) jobs.
- Information lost 300 (-3.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information lost 1,400 (-1.5%) jobs.
- Government lost 7,100 (-1.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government lost 34,900 (-7.6%) jobs.

BUDGET *(from pg. 1)*

District Eight City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who is also the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, explained that Mayor Walsh resubmitted the operating budget on June 15 after an initial rejection without prejudice by the Council, and that there is a legal requirement that the capital budget be approved twice with a 2/3 vote by the City Council with votes at least two weeks apart.

"This budget comes before us at a very hard time," Bok said. Over the past few months, she said the Committee on Ways and Means has held 28 hearings and 9 working sessions on the budget, where "scores of the public have testified" on many issues, especially on those surrounding racial injustice, police brutality, and public health as the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing racial disparities and inequities in the City.

Bok recommended the passage of all budget dockets, including the capital budget, operating budget, education budget, and funds from the Parking Meter Fund and the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund to be used for capital projects. She personally voted in favor of all.

The overall budget is up less than four percent, Bok said, but the affordable housing budget is up 40 percent. The Budget increases funds for schools by $80 million and by $14 million for public health. It also includes more funds for food and language access, and well as more money for seniors.

If the budget was not passed, it would have gone to a 1/12 budget until a new one can be passed. Bok said that if this were to happen, "we lose these gains" and go back to previous budget allocations.

Bok said that if her colleagues "had a viable plan, I would be with them on this." She said that some of them have said that "a 1/12 budget for a couple weeks is a small price to pay," but she does not feel there is a "viable counter-proposal" and that "time is actually against us."

She said that she agrees with the many people who have called for a 10 percent cut in the police budget for reallocation to community services and programs, and said that the Committee on Ways and Means will "pursue that goal" by holding a series of hearings in the near future discussing practices and institutions that could receive reallocated funds out of the police budget.

Councilor Ricardo Arroyo voted against the budget, and listed several important departments whose budgets were still lower than the Boston Police Department (BPD) overtime budget.

"This budget does not go nearly far enough in meeting needs," Arroyo said. "Imagine waiting for decades for funding in your communities and being told to wait with an impending recession."

He said that the "realities in Boston are stark. Does this budget reflect the love that I have for my communities? Does it create enough opportunities for those that seek them?…Is this operations budget just? Is it equitable? The answer is no and so is my vote."

Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George voted in favor of the budget and said that "we know this process is one of our most critical responsibilities. My vote today does not mean that this is a perfect budget." Councilor Flynn also said he was in favor, and said he worried about the job losses that could occur for city employees if the budget didn't pass.

She said that "this is the foundation for the real work that happens after the budget process to build lasting change."

In response to claims that there is no counter proposal, Councilor Andrea Campbell said that there are "no shortage of actionable steps the mayor could take," including reviewing budgets of every department to "be sure it's evaluated through a racial equity lens."

She said that "delaying and resubmitting" the budget "in a timely manner should not be unreasonable" and could be done in a way where City employees do not lose their jobs.

"We need a budget that residents in every single neighborhood in the City of Boston feel is working for them," Campbell said. "We are all feeling and seeing the cost of inaction." Campbell voted against the operating budget and the BPS budget/

City Councilor Lydia Edwards voted in favor of the school budget and the capital budget, and although she did also vote in favor of the operations budget, "I'm not going to cheerlead this budget like some of my colleagues did," she said.

"Voting no on this is not going to bring about systemic change we need at this time," Edwards said.

She said that this year she will pass the home rule petition reforming the Zoning Board of Appeal and including seats for an environmentalist and and urban planner, as well as "change the standard for which we grant various exceptions to the rule."

She said she will also "thoroughly examine and cut back on the police overtime budget," as well as overhaul the Council charter that "structurally changes how we allocate funds and changes our budgetary powers as a City Council," she said in a statement.

Councilor Flaherty voted in favor of the entire budget, and said that this budget is "responsible, it's sensible, and it's workable. We need financial predictability and stability now more than ever." He added that the police "do tremendous work for our city," and said he would be voting in favor of all three budgets. Councilor Frank Baker agreed that the "responsible thing to do is to pass this budget," and also voted in favor.

O'Malley also voted in favor of the entire budget. He said that if the budget passes, the City would "start July 1 with new investments funded in part by cuts to the police overtime budget. A vote against this means a return to the old budget without these changes."

Councilor Michelle Wu voted against the operating and the BPS budgets. and said she believes that more time is needed to discuss and push for more change.

She said she is concerned about the education budget as well as the police overtime budget, saying in a statement that "this proposal makes insufficient progress in creating accountability,, appropriately funding public health, and making investments in housing stability, education equity, and economic access, particularly for communities of color."

Councilor Julia Mejia, who pointed out the fact that she won her seat by one vote, said she wanted to make sure she represents the "people who put me in this seat…"

She said that "enough is enough," and if the Council is "serious about change" then it has to "change the way we do business." She voted against the operating budget and for the BPS and capital budgets.

Councilor Breadon voted in favor of the entire budget and said that "this is a momentous moment for me as a new councilor," and praised the way the budget process went "in the middle of a huge public health crisis."

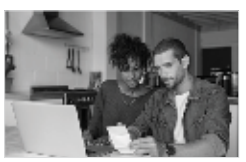
Council President Kim Janey voted against the operating budget and said she supports the investments in BPS and the capital budget, "but I have deep concerns about our operating budget and the work that remains." She said that regardless of how the vote turned out, more work needs to be done and change will continue.

"Now is the time for us to take bold action," she said.

SIMPLY FREE CHECKING
MAKES LIFE SIMPLE

OPEN ANY NEW CHECKING ACCOUNT AND YOU'LL RECEIVE FREE:

Instant Issue ATM/VISA® check card with access to Allpoint® network



Online Banking, Bill Pay and e-Statements

Mobile Banking, People Pay and Check Deposit

Plus, get your **FREE GIFT** when you open any new checking account!

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS # 457291
Member FDIC | Member DIF

East Boston Savings Bank™

800.657.3272 EBSB.com

$50 minimum deposit required to open any checking account. Other fees may apply, see schedule of fees for details. Free gift is awarded when account is opened. EBSB reserves the right to substitute a gift of similar value. Please note, in the event the value of the free gift exceeds $10, the bank is required to report the gift value on form 1099-INT. The recipient is responsible for all applicable taxes. Bank rules and regulations apply. Ask a representative for details.

Facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank

Phase Two, Step two of state's reopening plan underway

By Lauren Bennett

Phase Two, Step Two is officially underway in Massachusetts as of Monday, June 22. At a press conference on June 19, Governor Charlie Baker announced that as part of Step Two of Phase Two of the state's reopening plan, things like indoor dining, close contact personal services, and dressing rooms by appointment only would be allowed to open. Offices would also be allowed to operate at 50 percent capacity, an increase from the previously allowed 25 percent.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito also announced a new funding round for MassDevelopment's Commonwealth Places program totaling $225,000, and said that the COVID-19 Response Round: Resurgent Places program will allow groups to apply for grants of up to $25,000 for materials for outside dining and retail spaces.

The industries that are allowed to reopen as part of Step Two will have to follow sector sector-specific guidelines and mandatory safety standards in order to reopen.

"Key public health data, such as new cases and hospitalizations, has been closely monitored and seen a significant decline allowing for Step Two of Phase II to begin on June 22," the state said in a recent release.

Patrons will be required to dine six feet apart indoors, and close contact personal services like hair removal, nail care, massage therapy, tanning salons, and tattoo and piercing shops will be required to operate in accordance with specific guidance from the state as well as create a COVID-19 control plan and complete a self-certification. The full list of safety protocols and guidelines can be found at mass.gov/reopening.

On June 23, Baker said that he is "encouraged by the continued progress" regarding the positive test rate in the Commonwealth. He said that the average positive test rate is down to 1.9 percent.

Recently, 17,617 tests were performed for people who have recently been to a large gathering, and 3.5 percent came back positive, which Baker said is "consistent" with the daily positive rate. He said that while he is "pleased to see the percentage of tests was quite low," he added that "COVID-19 will not take a summer vacation."

On June 19, the Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Health Equality Advisory Group released new data and recommendations regarding the response to the pandemic.

"The advisory group recommendations were released with new data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) that highlight marked differences in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths for different races and ethnicities," the state said in a release. "Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics have a 3x higher positive COVID-19 case rate than White non-Hispanics. Black non-Hispanics and Hispanics also have higher rates of hospitalizations. Age-adjusted mortality rates show these groups are bearing a higher burden of COVID deaths compared to the White or Asian populations. Nine of the ten cities and towns with the highest rates of COVID infection are also communities where more than half the residents identify as people of color."

The Advisory Group consists of 26 community leaders, health and racial equity experts, as well as members of communities who are impacted disproportionately by the virus, the release states. "The advisory group's mission was to inform the state's COVID response by recommending actions aimed at equitable access to health care resources and services, and prevention of inequities and disproportionate negative outcomes," it said.

"We have long understood that racism is a public health issue that demands action, and the disproportionate impacts of this new disease on communities of color and other priority populations is the latest indicator change is necessary," Commissioner Bharel, who chaired the advisory group, said in a statement. "At the Department of Public Health, our mission is to eliminate health inequities and we place equity at the core of all that we do."

Some of the recommendations of the group include increasing equitable distribution of PPE, increase housing stability for those disproportionately affected by the pandemic, investing in outreach in multiple languages for testing, access to state assistance programs, and more.

COVID-19 STATISTICS FOR BOSTON

Citywide Cases as of June 24: **13,353**
Citywide Deaths as of June 24: **900**

NUMBERS OF BACK BAY/ BEACON HILL CASES:

•As of June 18: 470 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 84.3 per 10,000.
•As of June 11: 463 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 83.1 per 10,000.
•As of June 4: 459 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 82.4 per 10,000.

NUMBERS OF SOUTH END CASES:

•As of June 18: 878 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 245.6 per 10,000.

TESTING STATS IN BACK BAY/BEACON HILL: (AS OF JUNE 18)

•Number of residents tested: 4,629
•Testing Rate per 10,000 people: 830.7
•Percent Positive in testing (cumulative): 9.6%
•Percent Positive in testing (current week: 1.5%

TESTING STATS IN THE SOUTH END: (AS OF JUNE 18)

•Number of residents tested: 5,264
•As of June 11: 868 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 242.8 per 10,000.
•As of June 4: 836 confirmed positive cases in with an infection rate of 233.8 per 10,000.

NUMBERS OF FENWAY CASES:

•As of June 18: 283 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 51.7 per 10,000.
•As of June 11: 282 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 51.5 per 10,000.
•As of June 4: 282 confirmed positive cases with an infection rate of 51.5 per 10,000.

•Testing Rate per 10,000 people: 1472.2
•Percent Positive in testing (cumulative): 16.8%
•Percent Positive in testing (current week: 3.5%

TESTING STATS IN FENWAY: (AS OF JUNE 18)

•Number of residents tested: 2,644
•Testing Rate per 10,000 people: 483.1
•Percent Positive in testing (cumulative): 11.3%
•Percent Positive in testing (current week: Less than 1%

WALSH UPDATE *(from pg. 1)*

"Any time that I see a protest, I've seen a high rate of face covering," Walsh said. He also thanked the Boston Public Health Commission for handing out masks and sanitizer at many of the protests.

He said that while these positive numbers are encouraging, he still "encourages everyone to continue being safe as you make your voices heard," and more test sites will continue to open, including at Brookside Community Health Center in Jamaica Plain for those who have attended large gatherings.

Walsh also said that the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021 includes an additional $13 million for the Boston Public Health Commission to fight COVID-19, health inequalities, and mental health issues throughout the city. "That focus on public health is essential in Phase Two of the reopening plan," Walsh said.

"I want to urge everyone to remain cautious," he said. "If you don't take this virus seriously enough, we can and will get spikes." He said that this means to continue wearing face coverings, washing your hands, and cleaning surfaces.

Walsh also recently announced a $41.million increase in funding to provide 8,000 youth jobs and other opportunities this summer, and the jobs have been modified to fit the guidelines set forth for the virus to ensure that teens are able to gain experience safely.

The Boston Public Library (BPL) is now offering "BPL to Go" at select locations, which began on June 22. BPL cardholders, including e-card holders, will be allowed to pick up physical materials that are reserved ahead of time online. There will be return bins outside of the libraries where the materials can be returned. The program will first be offered at the Copley branch, the Codman Square Branch, the East Boston Branch, the Jamaica Plain Branch, and the Mattapan Branch, and will slowly roll out at other locations.

Walsh also said that more than $13.5 million has been provided to small businesses during the pandemic, and $5.9 million has been distributed by the Small Business Relief Fund to more than 1600 businesses such as restaurants, retail stores, hair and nail salons, gyms, childcare providers, home health aids, and more. The Reopening Boston Fund has also provided money for things like PPE, partitions, and cleaning supplies for businesses, he said.

Walsh also said that there is a list of resources at boston.gov/reopneing such as a directory of open businesses and restaurants as well as guidance for different types of businesses.

The City Council has introduced a home rule petition for 184 new liquor licenses for restaurants across the city, as well as 15 set aside exclusively for minority owned businesses. The state must approve the introduction of new liquor licenses.

"We need to continue to give our restaurants every opportunity to recover and succeed," Walsh said.

On the housing front, Walsh said that the Boston Housing Authority is "working with hundreds of families of children on permanent rental vouchers to lift them out of homelessness."

He said that construction has resumed on 3,000 affordable homes and last week launched the ONE+ Boston Mortgage Fund using CPA funds. The fund offers low interest rates and helps families buy their first home to build their own wealth.

Walsh also said that several public art projects are moving forward, including 24 new projects which have received grants. He said that 61 artists will be painting utility boxes as part of the PaintBox program. New murals will also be worked on this summer.

"When you see the artists, please be respectful," Walsh said, and "maintain physical distance."

He added that "we look forward to seeing these projects… revitalize our neighborhoods."

Walsh also said that the Boston Resiliency Fund "continues to get resources to communities in need." More than $32 million has be raised, and a little over $20 million has been distributed into the communities in the form of COVID-19 testing expansion, meals to Greater Boston Food Bank and Lovin' Spoonfuls, gift cards for families to buy groceries, 20 minority owned restaurants paid to cook meals for distribution, and various nonprofits.

RUSHING *(from pg. 1)*

Washington, D.C., and was paid for in the 1870s by freed slaves.

Rushing said it isn't the first time the statue has been controversial and won't be the last time, but should be left up because of the conversation it evokes and the intention of its creators – both black and white.

"The bottom line about the Emancipation Group is this has been controversial since the beginning," he said. "If you add up all the years it's been up, black people have liked it longer than they have disliked it. It was an act to honor emancipation and Lincoln and black and white people."

Rushing said the story of the statue is important because it was originally paid for by freed men who raised money on their own and, relying on their white abolitionist friends to help them find a sculptor, were able to make it happen only a few years after being freed.

"We're in the period where everyone doesn't like it," he said. "The question for me is if it is an important story to talk about. If the controversy is important to talk about, then talk about it and tell the story around it. Tell the story of the controversy. It doesn't matter what it looks like. I'd keep it up with the understanding that African Americans who had been freed only a few years before were able to raise $16,000. What do you do with that part of the story? Should that be thrown away? No. I don't think that can be told when it is in any other place. It would be a disgrace to put it in storage."

Rushing said the story of it in Boston is also quite significant because the whole square with the granite curbs and an iron fence were created just for the statue. It meant a great deal to black people and white people at the time. He said despite the poor imagery, and the racist views of its creator Thomas Ball (who in his diary did not want a black model to come into his studio), it is the intention of the piece that matters – and Rushing believes the intention was good.

"It's not like a Confederate monument put up in the 1930s to reinforce racism," he said. "Can a totally dispised statue have a good intention? I think one should focus on intention and it's a wonderful story. It's the story of many freed Africans and their allies…It is complicated. No doubt about it, it is controversial."

It isn't the first time, either, that Rushing said he has come to the aid of the Emancipation statue in the Back Bay. Many years ago, the late Bruce Bolling was on the City Council and he and a group of constituents called for it to be taken down. After a long talk with Bolling, Rushing said he was able to calm things down, and the statue was left in place.

What needs to be done better, he said, is to interpret it better. He said other cities, like Atlanta, take advantage of technology to interpret some of their monuments and statues – and it is quite helpful. The Emancipation Statue in Boston could likely use the same treatment, he said. Few know the story of it being about the history of white and black people.

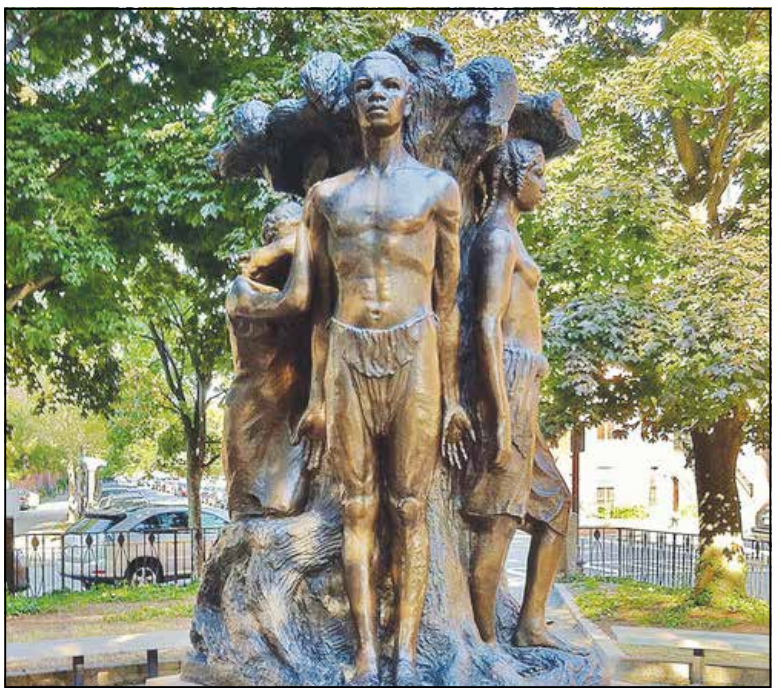
That could be explained.

Meanwhile, those who are interested could be directed to another view of Emancipation through the eyes of a black female sculptor only a few blocks away in the South End. There, the statue 'Spirit of Emancipation' by Meta Warwick Fuller is on display in Tubman Park. Created in 1913 by the artist for the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, it was only a plaster piece until friends of the park were able to cast it in bronze and display it.

Side by side, the pieces tell two very different stories about the freedom of Africans from slavery – one by a white man celebrating the history of blacks and whites and Lincoln's role, and another by a black woman celebrating the release of her people and all those that came before.

"With a lot of these statues you tell the whole story and then decide, but you don't act on one person or 100 people who don't like the design," he said.

Much will be said about the Emancipation Group statue in the Back Bay over the coming weeks at the Boston Arts Commission, and perhaps the long complicated history of it will also be part of that.



'Spirit of Emancipation' is another view of the freedom of Africans from slavery by black female artist Meta Warwick Fuller in 1913. Some, like Byron Rushing, believe this statue and the controversial Emancipation Group statue with Lincoln deserve to have their stories told side by side.

WINGATE RESIDENCES
AT BOYLSTON PLACE

As the community opens around us, Wingate Residences at Boylston Place will as well.

As you consider senior living for you or your loved one, our leadership team continuously works to stay informed, while instilling measures that support our highest standard of service and care. Our communities continue to provide precautions and support such as:

- Re-opening our community as the community around us safely opens
- Our clinical and professional team continue to monitor CDC, local government and EOEA guidelines. For your ease of reference, we have included the current guidelines on our website at www.wingatehealthcare.com
- Continued on-site screening process for all visitors
- Our Wellness Team and leadership is available to support families and residents around the clock
- Creative small group social programs to keep our residents engaged and maintain social distance for safety

If you would like to be more informed, please call us at 617.244.6400. We are here for you.

PROTEST *(from pg. 1)*

However, the moment at hand, according to protest organizer Monica Cannon-Grant of Violence in Boston Inc., was to draw attention to portions of Gov. Charlie Baker's police accountability bill now being debated on Beacon Hill. That bill contains many new initiatives for policing, including a new police training certification system. Within that system, municipalities would be authorized to pay officers $5,000 bonuses for going above and beyond the new training mandates – an incentive to take further coursework.

One South End woman on a bike stopped to see the unexpected rally go by. Many people in the South End were not aware the procession was coming up Tremont Street, but few were bothered by it.

Hundreds of protestors marched up Tremont Street in the South End.

"We don't need to pay you not to be racists," said Cannon-Grant later at the State House. It was also a theme of the marchers as they proceeded through the South End on Monday as well, having started the journey from the Reggie Lewis Center.

Many chanted anti-police messages, called for defunding the police, but far more carried the names and photographs of black men who have been killed in recent years by police, including Eric Garner in New York City several years ago.

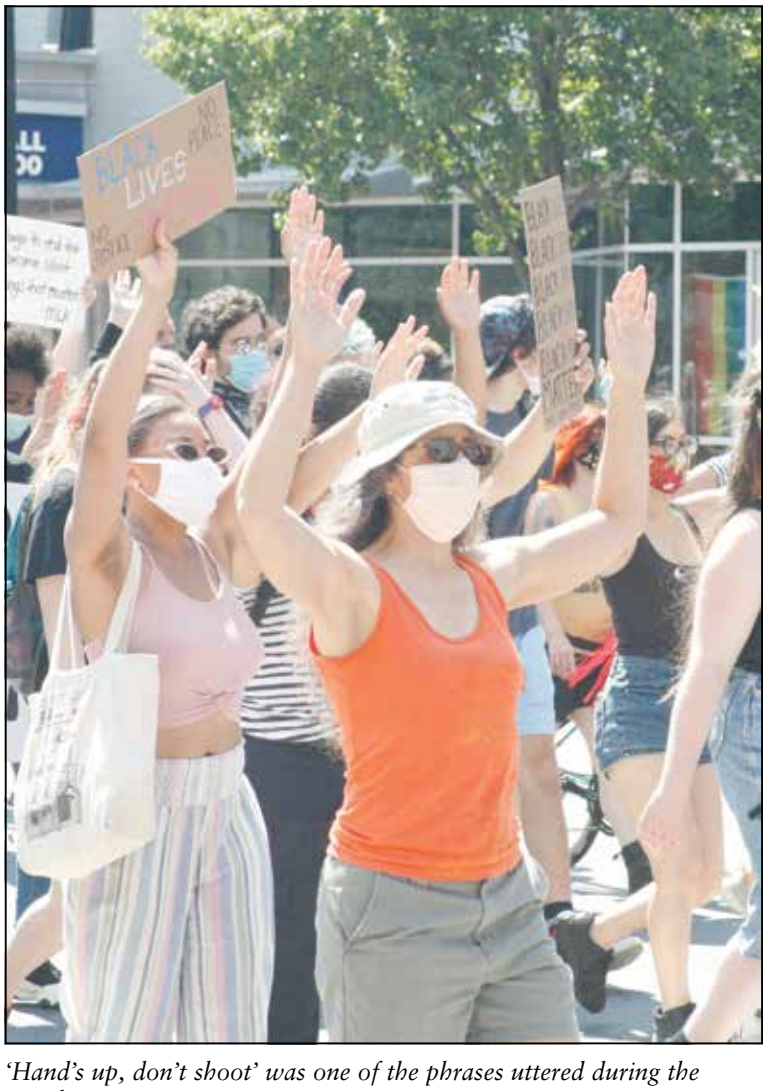
His son, Eric Garner Jr., was in attendance on Monday at the procession.

The protest was also in great anticipation of the City's Budgeting Debate and vote that took place on Wednesday afternoon – a debate that has been completely framed around policing and police budgets.

Many, including Councilor Michelle Wu, are calling for a melding of the Boston Police and the Boston Public Health Commission.

Appearing at the online Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) on Tuesday, Wu said she would be voting against the City Budget Wednesday so that the Council could take a few breaths and focus on what residents and protestors want to see in what will arguably be the most important budget document in decades.

"I don't believe this budget reflects transformation in the sense that it would bring about changes in Public Safety and Public Health infrastructure that we want to see in the city," she said. "I say Public Health and Public Safety in the same sentence because we need to see it that way."



'Hand's up, don't shoot' was one of the phrases uttered during the march.

Eagle Restoration & Contracting, Inc.

"We'll Take You Through Landmark Approval to Curb Appeal"

Roofing & Roof Decks
Masonry Restoration
Sealants & Coatings
Skylights & Windows
Carpentry & Painting
Sheet Metal

STRICT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE TO PROTECT OUR CLIENTS & WORKERS.

Est. 1997

888-DRY-NEST

www.eaglerestoration.com

Fully Insured and Licensed CS# 77808 HIC#138620

PROTESTS FOR RACIAL EQUALITY CONVERGE IN THE SOUTH END

Many protestors called out ending racism and for equal justice.

With the Back Bay in the background, marchers held home-made signs and headed to the State House.

One protestor carried an inverted American flag.

Shown above, one protestor held a home-made sign calling for justice for Rayshard Brooks, whose funeral was held on Tuesday in Atlanta. Shown to the left: at the BCA Complex, the crowds began to grow.

One protestor advocated Pride Month, and called out police violence.

Robert 'Problak' Gibbs and MFA partner on mural at Madison Park

Staff report

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), announced Monday the launch of a multipart community mural project co-led by artists-in-residence Rob "Problak" Gibbs and Rob Stull—a key initiative of the MFA's 150th anniversary that draws inspiration from *Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation*.

Gibbs has been instrumental in several murals across the South End, and is also a leader in Artists for Humanity.

In collaboration with the City of Boston, Gibbs has begun painting a new outdoor mural—the next production in his *Breathe Life* series—on the exterior of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, after engaging teen collaborators in the work's conception and art direction. Stull has served as creative director and illustrator for a comic book-style brochure that chronicles the project and maps out other murals within walking distance of the MFA—offering readers a path to rich artistic encounters in the Museum's surrounding neighborhoods. The publication, available for free on mfa.org, is accompanied by *Co-Sign*, a documentary video created by Beyond MEASURE Productions that explores Gibbs' and Stull's influences and considers the core mission of graffiti art and its essential relationship to hip-hop culture.

"We're honored to welcome Rob and Rob as artists-in-residence and to have them lead the way on a cornerstone project of the MFA's 150th anniversary, one that is truly of and for Boston. They continue the legacy of Jean-Michel Basquiat and his fellow revolutionary artists featured in *Writing the Future*, and join us in celebrating hip-hop culture in all its forms," said Matthew Teitelbaum, Ann and Graham Gund Director.

Located a mile from the MFA on the side of Gibbs' alma mater Madison Park High School, the new mural is expected to be completed over the next month, weather dependent. Gibbs has been a fixture of Boston's street art scene for more than 20 years, and this new work joins two earlier *Breathe Life* murals located in Roxbury, the South End and Dorchester.

A new mural in the 'Breathe Life' series will be painted on Madison Park High School via a new collaboration between the MFA and Rob 'Problak' Gibbs and Rob Stull – who are now MFA artists-in-residence.

"Growing up during the golden age of hip-hop, I spent a lot of time venturing between the Lenox Street apartments and the Orchard Park projects of Roxbury. I came across graffiti, which was often labeled as 'vandalism.' To me, it was clear that graffiti was an art form, one that had the power to convey culture, history and knowledge," said Gibbs. "It became my mission to transform the streets of Boston with graffiti art—an art form that is frequently criminalized, undervalued and maligned in mainstream culture. I hope to continue to find new ways to innovate my craft and to mentor others in the art form that changed my life."

Stull, a comic book and graphic design professional who has worked for Marvel and DC Comics, has created a new series of black-and-white drawings as his own visual response to *Writing the Future*. Honoring four of the featured artists—Jean-Michel Basquiat, Futura, Lady Pink and Rammellzee—as well as Gibbs, his fellow "Boston writer," Stull's original works will go on view alongside the exhibition when it opens at the MFA in fall 2020, at a to-be-announced date following the Museum's ongoing temporary closure.

"Basquiat, Futura, Rammellzee, Lady Pink and others of their era are the catalysts. We recognize them as architects and pioneers of a movement," said Stull. "As a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts, I'm honored to be an artist-in-residence at the MFA and to participate in the *Writing the Future* exhibition."

BLC seeks more info from DCR about Fenway lighting plans

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) met virtually on June 23, where Paul Costa presented a proposal for communications infrastructure provider Crown Castle to replace an existing concrete street light with a metal one and a small cell wireless infrastructure, including a radio cabinet and an antenna at 31 Park Drive.

Several of these types of applications have popped up all over the city in recent months and years, and the BLC hopes that there will be some sort of consistency throughout the districts for these poles to have similar designs.

"A small cell is a low powered antenna that sits on existing infrastructure…" Costa said. The purpose of the small cell is to "boost capacity and coverage" as well as speed for cellular service.

"Given the crisis with more people at home, [there is] greater demand on carrier's networks," he said. "Small cell is a solution…" The proposed small cell would provide more capacity for AT&T.

Costa said the proposal is to build a small cell facility on Park Drive between Queensberry and Peterborough Streets. The street light is an existing state Department of Conservation (DCR) concrete light, and will be replaced with a new metal street light similar to other metal ones along Park Drive. He also said the equipment is similar to what Crown Castle has installed in other parts of the city.

The pole will include a gray shroud, and further up the pole is where the 10 inch antenna will be located. An LED street light will also be located at the top of the pole, and the other equipment will be attached to the side of the pole. To provide power and fiber to the pole, the street mist be dug into, and Costa showed the dig plan for the area.

"I like the simplicity of it," said Commissioner David Berarducci, but added that it "might be odd having it be the one and only out here."

Costa said that "this is our design and what has been agreed upon with DCR." This pole is not under the jurisdiction of the City of Boston, but the City does have a license agreement with Crown Castle and has approved this antenna design in other locations, he said.

"The concern is we see a fair number of these in different parts of town," Commissioner Brad Walker said, adding that different vendors propose different designs. "We want to maintain some sort of consistency in the public realm," he said. "Is another vendor representing Verizon going to want to put one 500 feet away with a different design?"

Costa said that Crown Castle is also guided by DCR's design guidelines and had submitted four different designs to DCR. "They liked three and nixed one of them," Costa said.

"I would like to know that this is what's going to be replacing all the other lights eventually so we don't keep having these anomalies all over the place," Berarducci said. "If it's going to be a precedent, would we not want to choose a color that would be the precedent for all the other lights? The point is to try and blend these in with the other light poles on the street."

The Commissioners agreed that they would like to know if DCR has plans for the region, or more specifically, for the Fens. Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said he would he happy to check with the DCR on this.

Cornish did add that for the City owned light poles, only replacement in-kind is allowed. The Commissioners said they also hope to get more information about whether the DCR has a "consistent plan" for other vendors coming in and asking to replace light poles with this equipment.

There was no vote to approve or deny this project. It is continued to next month's meeting, where the Commissioners hope to have more information from DCR about their future plans for lighting in the area.

BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ
REAL ESTATE
Charles Street Meeting House
121 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108
617-367-0505 www.brewberk.com
Sally Brewster Betsey Barrett
Ron Berkowitz Toni Doggett

Silver linings for services begin to show through the COVID-19 fog

Several emergency initiatives could help South End opioid issues long-term

By Seth Daniel

Whether it's tele-medicine, moving some shelter beds elsewhere, or delivering Methadone to the home of patients, several emergency initiatives instituted for the opioid recovery community seems like they could have a long-term effect on changing the optics and issues on the Mass/Cass corridor.

The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) held its third monthly online meeting Tuesday, and within their discussion of treatment initiatives and changes through COVID-19, several new pieces were unveiled that could reduce the numbers of people coming to the neighborhood for services – and sometimes staying afterward for mischief.

Colleen Labelle, the director of the office-based Addiction Treatment program at Boston Medical Center (BMC), told WSANA they are working a lot differently to help treat patients during COVID-19.

That includes using many more tele-medicine visits with recovery patients, who are now able to get medications delivered to them, refills approved online and – perhaps in the future – not have to come to BMC and walk the gauntlet of drug activities leading up to the hospital.

"One silver lining of COVID-19 is our patients are doing better because they aren't making that walk and aren't coming into the neighborhood now," she said. "It's a trigger and a temptation for folks. We see patients at home because of this. We're all operating with tele-health. We can see more patients now and we don't have to make them come here and walk through that to BMC's walls. It makes no sense to make people do that."

There is a lot of debate over tele-medicine within the recovery community, and particularly with the services offered at BMC and in the Mass/Cass corridor where very visible temptations can overcome some fighting relapse. So far, Labelle said there has been great success and they have gathered an increase in patients going from about 800 to 950 patients at the program – some of that due to the population that has been released from the Suffolk County House of Corrections. There are other patients who have found tele-medicine more accessible and a way to avoid the stigma of coming to BMC for in-person help.

"I think it will last because they have been moving on this at the federal level," she said. "This is bringing more patients into care that would not have gone. There is a stigma still to getting help and they won't come in here."

State Rep. Jon Santiago said this very debate is unfolding right now at the State House in regards to the future of tele-medicine for recovery post-COVID.

"This is an active debate going on in the Legislature now and I hope we can get something on the ground soon."

Said Labelle in response, "You shouldn't be dragging patients on three buses and a train to get here so we can tell them they're ok and then take their blood pressure. That's crazy."

On another matter that was closely related to the same conversation, Steve Fox – a guest of the meeting who runs the South End Forum – said the Mass/Cass Task Force has been discussing an emergency measure approved by the federal government to allow Methadone to be delivered to the homes of patients.

He said that would eliminate hundreds of people having to come to the South End and Newmarket to get treatment each day, with some staying around afterwards to linger and loiter. It is a change that he said could transform the tenor of the opioid discussion in the South End.

"During the pandemic, Methadone has been allowed to be delivered to homes as a result of a federal regulatory decision to allow people to receive their prescriptions at home," he said. "For WSANA and the South End, this is an incredibly important decision…If we can do home delivery of Methadone because of the pandemic and it's working well, there should be no reason why we can't do it post-pandemic. It eliminates the need to come here day-to-day. We've opened the door now to treating with Methadone differently than we did before."

That was a major piece of food for thought.

Meanwhile, Mike Nelson – WSANA's representative on the Mass/Cass Task Force – added that the pandemic has featured the relocation of 350 homeless shelter beds out of the South End and to other neighborhoods. In this case, it involves college dorms that are empty, but he said there is no reason other areas cannot be sought to permanently relocate those beds after the pandemic.

"There have been 350 shelter beds moved out of the South End for social distancing and spacing," he said. "That aligns with what we've been calling for. It's come in a different way, but it's the result we have wanted."

MFA Boston's Juneteenth panel discussion contemplates meaning of day in current landscape

By Dan Murphy

As part of Museum of Fine Arts Boston's eighth annual Juneteenth celebration, which was held virtually for the first time this year on Friday, June 19, a visual artist, a female entrepreneur and a Boston Globe columnist convened for a panel discussion to contemplate what the day means to them as black individuals, especially in light of recent events.

"Juneteenth is like a check-in because we wake up black every day," said Rob "Problak" Gibbs, a Roxbury-reared painter, muralist and graffiti artist, as well as co-founder of Artists for Humanity, a Boston nonprofit that provides paid employment opportunities for inner-city youth in the arts. "How long and why did it take these issues so long to be addressed? I have to think about how I'm going to teach it to my daughter."

Joining Gibbs for the discussion were Globe columnist Adrian Walker and Heather White, CFO and founder of Trillfit, a Mission Hill hip-hop fitness studio, while Makeeba McCreary, MFA Boston's chief of learning and community engagement, served as moderator.

"The story of Juneteenth is a day of reflection to think about what freedom really means and the gap between the stories we tell ourselves and what happens every day," Walker said.

MFA Boston came under fire itself, Walker reminded the panel, after a group of black seventh-graders were allegedly subjected to racism by staff and some patrons during a field trip to the museum in May of 2019.

"We need to think about the ways we kick in the doors that make people feel exploited," Walker said.

Growing up in a family of immigrants in the Bronx, N.Y., White said she was taught to "keep [head] head down" and "assimilate," so Juneteenth was a completely foreign concept to her before she moved to Boston.

"I didn't learn about it or identify with it until I got to Boston," she recalled, "which is ironic [that I'd first learn of Juneteenth] in a city with such a history of racism."

As White sees it, Juneteenth is now an opportunity to both reconsider history and help shape the future.

"Educate yourselves," she said. "Yes, you're now woken up and are a part of this revolution. Showing up matters. Get involved in local politics as well. Use your voice and your vote to change things."

As one of MFA Boston's artists-in-residence, Gibbs discussed how an outdoor mural he is creating on the exterior of Madison Park High School in Roxbury would "reflect the education through the arts from the eyes of a young black man growing up in this city."

The mural, called "Breathe Life 2," will show all of Boston from the perspective of Roxbury, Gibbs said, while depicting children of color and attempting to capture the neighborhood's vibrant sense of community.

"All I want is for black and brown little boys and girls to simply see themselves in my murals," he said. "I would want other kids and children of other ethnicities to just see how we're celebrating and how we're here to take care of each other."

In launching Trillfit, White said she encountered many racial obstacles as she moved into an industry where black people are often made to feel excluded.

"I want to decolonize wellness to make pricing accessible so that black people feel comfortable walking in the door," she said. "Part of my job in the existing industry is to decolonize and desegregate wellness, and we do that simply by existing and offering our current program."

Besides making Trillfit more accessible to black people by offering affordable prices and an inclusive environment, White said she also hopes to "decolonize" wellness as an industry that has traditionally discouraged black ownership, even though yoga, dance and other methods commonly used in practicing wellness originate in black culture.

"Trillfit started as a boutique studio in an industry that co-opts practices used by blacks and pushes them out," White said. "We need to hold every other studio partner in Boston and globally accountable to actually do the work…and provide access and equity to improve quality to life for black people."

As a journalist, Walker said during these extraordinary times, he feels a heightened obligation to ensure that voices too often ignored now get heard.

"There's an awareness that we're living in a historical moment…that will bring about historical change," Walker said. "My industry has a huge responsibility in amplifying [people's voices] and making sure this moment doesn't get lost.

"The most heartbreaking thing about the George Floyd incident, besides the murder itself, is we know this isn't an isolated incident," he added. "My industry needs to lead that."

In response to McCreary's query as to whether whites should consider stepping aside to allow new opportunities for blacks, Gibbs said, "Give us the ball and let us run. There are a lot of people who have the talent and people who have the abilities, but you'd never know because we need allies or ways to get in to be seen and heard."

Gibbs added, "I'm not going to step aside after the noise dies down, there's some longevity to this. Give us time and space to make sure we do something that counts."

Meanwhile, despite the currents sense of uncertainty and discontent evident in Boston and throughout the U.S., Walker remains optimistic about the future.

"I'm very hopeful at the moment; there's more momentum for change that I ever remember seeing - it's real, and it's substantive," Walker said. "It's a moment of incredible unrest and inequity, but we have an opportunity to build something out of this. I hope that we don't squander it, and I know we won't."

Attention to Detail

By Penny Cherubino

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

The balcony railing in the last clue is on 138 Newbury Street built as a single-family home in 1883 and designed by Avery and Page for the owner Alden Avery. Newbury was originally a residential street that was converted to commercial use over the years.

The next clue will be found in the Fenway.

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	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Corey, Donald J	Adato, Ronen	234 Beacon St #5B	$685,000
Mccreary, Daniel	8 Gloucester Street RT	8 Gloucester St #2	$848,000
Jarraya, Mohamed	Price FT	8 Gloucester St #9	$1,150,000
BEACON HILL			
Jahandarie, Darius	32 Grove Street RT	30-32 Grove St #10	$435,000
4 Joy Street LLC	4 Beacon H LLC	4 Joy St #1	$4,300,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
Nelson, Nicholas	King, Kevin P	246 W Newton St #2	$2,140,000
Face Off Properties Inc	Zahka, James G	234 Causeway St #1004	$1,125,000
Wei, Xiao	Gregory Reynolds RET	40 Fay St	$120,000
Sheffield-Lyman, Oliver	Phillips, Earl W	1 Goodwin Pl #3	$590,000
Holman, Jeffrey T	New House South End LLC	692 Massachusetts Ave	$17,000
Hopkins-Moseley, Suzanne	Alland, David	1 Saint George St #2C	$1,065,000
Mu, Henry	Nowinski, Christopher J	90 W Springfield St #1	$1,125,000
Bailey, Janet M	Tisserand, Alex	1180-1200 Washington St #414	$1,170,000
Petrillo, Marco	Keirstead, Steven D	148 Worcester St #5	$859,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Stewart, Elizabeth C	Trojan, Brian	45-63 Atlantic Ave #5D	$890,000
3 Avery LLC	Ming, Gerald	3 Avery St #904	$750,000
Leslie B Stearns FT	Anastasio, Andrea L	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #4602	$1,625,000
Garry, Eliza J	Devos, Adam S	27 Clark St #3	$606,000
Ghaly, Magdy	Vitiello, Ralph	65 E India Row #24C	$1,155,000
Ghaly, Magdy	Sonnenschein, Carlos	65 E India Row #7E	$735,000
Stettler, Ronald R	Wu, Jason	210 South St #2-5	$952,000
Punjabi, Tony T	Farhangmehr, Farbod	151 Tremont St #12T	$664,700

Baker files Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Investment Plan

Staff report

Gov. Charlie Baker and his administration released its Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Capital Investment Plan on June 17.

The spending blueprint maintains existing investments and enables the Administration to continue working with stakeholders across the Commonwealth to support ongoing capital projects. The plan will ensure Massachusetts is well-positioned for short, medium and long-term COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

The capital plan also provides future flexibility by holding on pursuing new programs or funding sources due to the COVID-19 public health crisis and the related uncertainty. This purposeful investment strategy will also afford the Administration the flexibility to revisit the capital plan as the full economic and fiscal impacts of the public health and economic crisis become clear.

The FY21 plan provides capital investments in all regions throughout Massachusetts in critical areas such as transportation, housing, support for cities and towns, health and human services, higher education, and public safety. The plan also continues the administration's commitment to integrating climate change preparedness into its capital program and it considers the environmental impact and resiliency of all investments.

"During the unprecedented COVID-19 public health crisis and the resulting economic uncertainty, our administration is sustaining support for existing projects and investments while maintaining flexibility in our capital program," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This responsible strategy will allow us to maximize response and recovery efforts, and continue working towards key priorities in transportation, housing, health and human services, and climate change."

The $2.46 billion capital plan is fiscally responsible and demonstrates careful long-term planning, and is informed by numerous factors including the Debt Affordability Committee.

As with previous plans, the FY21 plan focuses on six major themes: asset stewardship, supporting local communities, economic opportunity, value optimization, customer orientation, and climate resiliency.

These six priorities continue to be important in the era of COVID-19 amid the response to the public health crisis. By maintaining parks and green spaces, increasing access to broadband internet, promoting economic opportunity and job creation, and investing in health and human services infrastructure, the Commonwealth is continuing to provide resources and accommodations that ensure the health and safety of the people of Massachusetts.

Responsible Asset Stewardship

Since taking office, the Baker-Polito Administration has prioritized the maintenance of the Commonwealth's existing assets and the prudent investment of capital funds, investing billions to upgrade and modernize existing infrastructure. From road and bridge maintenance to the renovation of aging court facilities to the repair of dams and seawalls, investing in maintenance allows the state to tackle infrastructure repairs in accordance with best practices, system-wide prioritization, and a comprehensive plan before they become costly emergencies.

The plan funds:

•More than $3.7 billion in investments in the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure

•Six major higher education projects authorized through the

(FY2021, *Pg. 15)*

District 4 sees 7-percent reduction in Part One crime from last year

By Dan Murphy

As the first half of 2020 was drawing to a close, District 4 had seen a 7-percent reduction in incidents of violent and property crime from last year.

According to Boston Police, 1,218 incidents of Part One crime were reported between Jan. 1 and June 14 of this year in the district that includes the Back Bay, South End, Lower Roxbury and the Fenway, down from 1,313 during the same timeframe last year.

No homicides have been reported this year, compared to two in 2019, while rapes and attempted rapes were down around 46 percent as the number fell to seven from 13 last year.

In contrast, the rate of robberies and attempted robberies spiked more than 44 percent, with 62 incidents this year as opposed to 43 in 2019.

Domestic aggravated assaults were down around 23 percent as the number fell to 23 from 30 last year, while conversely, non-domestic aggravated assaults were up about 40 percent as the number climbed to 115 from 82 last year.

Commercial burglaries increased more than threefold, with 95 incidents this year as opposed to only 31 in 2019, but in contrast, residential burglaries were down about 17 percent as the number fell to 48 from 58 in 2019.

Other burglaries also plunged from nine last year to none in 2020.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle saw an approximately 23-percent increase as the number climbed to 222 from 180 last year while conversely, incidents of other larceny dropped about 26 percent as the number fell to 599 from 814 in 2019.

Auto theft was also down nearly 8 percent, with 47 incidents in 2020 as opposed to 51 last year.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 1 percent as the number of incidents fell to 7,029 from 7,079 in 2019.

FY2021 *(from pg. 1)*

DCAMM higher education capital plan in FY19

•$95 million to support maintenance and improvements at local housing authorities

•The new, state-of-the-art long-term care facility for veterans at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea

Supporting Local Communities

The Baker-Polito Administration continues its strong partnerships with the Commonwealth's cities and towns through the capital program. More than 20 programs funded in the plan provide grants to municipalities to support important local infrastructure including roads and bridges, parks, economic development initiatives, and environmental improvements. The FY21 plan continues funding for the Body Armor Replacement program, which provides a state match to federal funding and helping cities and towns purchase bulletproof vests for police officers at no cost to the community.

The plan also funds:

•$200 million in Chapter 90 funding for local road and bridge repairs

•$10 million for the Municipal Small Bridge Program

•$10 million for the Complete Streets Program

•$3 million in Community Compact information technology grants

•$2 million for the Municipal ADA grant program, which enables cities and towns to improve accessibility to municipal facilities for people with disabilities

Economic Opportunities for All

The plan provides critical investments that help encourage economic growth across Massachusetts, including:

•$100 million for the MassWorks program, which funds local infrastructure improvements that pave the way for major economic development projects

•$40 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center capital program

•$11.3 million for the final phase of a major harbor dredging project in New Bedford

•$9.7 million for the Broadband Last Mile infrastructure program, for Western Massachusetts towns that lack residential broadband service

Customer Orientation

Through capital investments in MBTA infrastructure, affordable housing, recreational trails, public parks, rinks and playgrounds, the Baker-Polito Administration has worked to prioritize projects that provide direct, tangible value to people across Massachusetts. The Commonwealth also continues to make significant technology investments to improve the customer experience at various agencies such as the Registry of Motor Vehicles, where technology improvements are helping optimize appointment-based operations.

The plan funds:

•$42.5 million for infrastructure transformation and modernization, in order to transform and improve IT networks and better deliver government services

•$27.6 million to improve and maintain Department of Conservation and Recreation facilities

•$6.7 million to continue implementing a new technology platform at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, improving customer service for residents and businesses across Massachusetts

Value Optimization

The FY21 plan supports construction and maintenance across various infrastructure, grants and programs that impact every municipality. Throughout all of these initiatives, the Administration remains committed to investing strategically and sustainably, using data, collaboration, leverage from additional funding resources, and planning to provide a holistic approach to solving problems and preparing for the future in partnership with cities and towns.

The plan funds:

•$16.3 million for the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative, a matching federal grant program that supports research centers around emerging manufacturing technology

•$15 million in Workforce Skills Capital Grants, awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses and align their curriculum with industry demand

•$1 million for the Massachusetts Food Trust program, which leverages private funding to expand healthy food access in underserved communities

Preparing for a Changing Climate

The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to carefully addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency throughout its capital planning program. The FY21 plan makes considerable investments in Commonwealth-owned assets to ensure they are more resilient to climate change. As our local cities and towns are on the front lines in the fight against climate change, the Administration is continuing to take a communities-first approach. The capital plan continues to make state-owned facilities more efficient by supporting energy projects at hospitals, public colleges and universities, public safety facilities, and office buildings. These investments will help to put the state's assets on a path to meet the Governor's newly announced goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

The plan funds:

•$12 million for the repair of Inland Dams and Seawalls

•$11 million for grants to cities and towns to help plan for climate change resiliency and implement priority projects through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program

•$5 million for sustainability and resiliency improvements in public housing

•$3.3 million for the Greening the Gateway Cities tree-planting program

To view the full FY21 Capital Investment Plan, visit: www.mass.gov/capital.

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.

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

From the June 25 South End Landmarks meeting, 5 p.m., via online (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89121967036):

•566 Columbus Avenue

Previously reviewed at the 5/05/2020 and 5/18/2020 SELDC Public Hearings; 6/15/2020 SELDC Subcommittee Public Meeting. Proposed Work: Construct a new building

From the June 25 and June 30 Boston Art Commission meeting, 6 p.m., via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86126961971):

Staff Report for Discussion

•Director's Report Karin Goodfellow

*The Emancipation Group, a copy of a sculpture in Washington D.C. by Thomas Ball

*Monument Report: An Opportunity for Change: Discussing Monuments in Boston (& Beyond)

*Online survey to invite public input on range of possible actions and considerations

•Public Testimony

*Public Testimony on The Emancipation Group, a copy of a sculpture in Washington D.C. by Thomas Ball

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 automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in mid-August, and the permitting cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

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

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

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

Newly Constructed in Beacon Hill

20 Chestnut Street #1
4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,640 SQFT
$7,995,000

2 Battery Wharf #3311
2 Beds | 2.5 Baths |2,039 SQFT
$3,990,000

180 Beacon Street #16E
2 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,409 SQFT
$1,999,000

136 Beacon Street #9
3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,210 SQFT
$3,299,000

73 Mount Vernon Street #1
3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,082 SQFT
$4,295,000

CAMPION AND COMPANY

172 Newbury Street • Boston, Massachusetts • 02116 • www.CampionRE.com • 617.236.0711