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# THE BOSTON SUN

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FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER PROGRAM

*Friday Night Supper Program volunteers prepare meals for those in need.*

## Friday Night Supper Program receives Boston Resiliency Fund grant for meals

By Lauren Bennett

Since 1984, Friday Night Supper Program (FNSP) has been providing hot, three course meals every Friday to homeless and low income individuals and families out of the Arlington St. Church.

Having never missed a Friday, the COVID-19 crisis forced the three member staff, board, and group of volunteers to think quickly about how they were going to adapt operations to continue providing vital services to those in need. The organization was also in the latest pool of recipients for a grant from the Boston Resiliency Fund. FNSP received \$4300 from the fund.

The Sun spoke with FNSP's Development Director Jenny Lecoq about those adaptations as well as the grant, and how the money will be used during these still uncertain times.

Since the early 1990s, FNSP has been a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves between 120 and 150 people each Friday, and

typically has a volunteer group of about 40 people each week. FNSP also holds a "Clothing Closet" twice a month where guests are able to get clothing, toiletries, blankets, and other similar items.

Prior to COVID-19, the three course meal was served at tables on washable dishes, and a soup, entree, and dessert are offered along with coffee and water.

Lecoq said the focus is on "dignity, community, and bringing people together."

A sample menu on the FNSP website for a "Tiki Dinner" includes Hawaiian Chicken with Pineapple, Hawaiian Tofu with Pineapple as a vegetarian/vegan option, Rice and Broccoli, Ginger Carrot Soup, Green Salad, and Ben and Jerry's ice cream for dessert.

Much of the food for the meals comes from the Greater Boston Food Bank, but FNSP also has partnerships with Lovin' Spoonfuls, Iggy's Bakery, and Ben and Jerry's.

Around March 15, the organization had to switch to a to-go

model to comply with restrictions put in place by the virus. The hot meals are still freshly prepared by Kitchen Manager Eddie Garcia, who is a trained chef and comes up with the menus himself. Lecoq said he tries to include as much seasonal produce into meals as possible so they are fresh and healthy. Every meal has a vegetarian option, and at least one fresh vegetable.

Lecoq said that individuals are lined up outside of the church (at a safe social distance), and then meals are being distributed in to-go boxes in the foyer of the church.

Recently, FNSP has been distributing a lot of non-perishable items, as well as emergency items like masks, hand sanitizer, toiletry items, and soap, so everyone has supplies to keep themselves healthy during the pandemic.

She added that the number of volunteers has dropped from 40 to around 10 to 15 a week "for the safety of everyone" as well as the fact that not as many volunteers

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## Police reduction outlined in plan raises concerns

By Seth Daniel

It is the first summer the Boston Police and all City departments have entered warmer weather with coordination and a defined plan on how to handle drug abuse, homelessness and quality of life issues on the Mass/Cass corridor – an area that has been at the epicenter of the opiate epidemic for years.

Now, just as the summer months get rolling, there are reports that key pieces of police resources dedicated to that Mass/Cass 2.0 plan have been withdrawn due to budget cuts brought on by City Council and City government debates over defunding the police.

That specifically came in a push by advocates and the City Council to reduce overtime at the Boston Police by 20 percent, reallocating it to social services. Whether the pulling of resources is a reality of budget cuts, or whether the South End is being placed as a pawn in a larger political debate is the

question ruminating in everyone's mind.

With that thought, neighborhood leaders this week said they were informed that due to budget cuts, all specifically designated police resources in the Mass/Cass 2.0 plan – such as citywide bike patrols, directed police patrols, fixed posts and overtime shifts – on the corridor have been withdrawn by Boston Police Department headquarters. Likewise, D-4 precinct resources like the local bike patrols of seven officers were cut, as they were paid for by overtime, and the community services officers that frequent community meetings and help out on the Mass/Cass plan were cut by 33 percent.

A Boston Police spokesman did not respond to requests for comment on the matter.

The Mayor's Office did say the plan is being contemplated – as is everything citywide with police coverage – but nothing is final. A

(POLICE REDUCTION, Pg. 5)

## Keeping the tradition going, Festival Betances moves online

By Seth Daniel

Festival Betances is the jewel of July in the South End on most summers, but COVID-19 threatened its very existence this year, and now organizers are trying to keep the tradition alive by moving it online this year.

IBA Executive Director Vanessa Calderon-Rosado said they will be doing the festival and the music online this July 18, at 7 p.m., in order not to break their long-time tradition.

"We knew we wanted to do this now more than ever, but also adapt and shift to do it in a virtual format," she said. "We are going to livestream it on Facebook and YouTube. Now, not only will the

public that usually gets to enjoy the Festival will be able to enjoy it, but it will transcend the physical space. It will move from the Plaza in the South End to the world."

The Festival attracts more than 3,000 people over a weekend each July to celebrate Puerto Rican heritage, and this year's theme will 'Reconnecting with Our Mainland.' Having that many people in one place wasn't going to work out in a COVID-19 world, but also they didn't want to break the string of the longest-running Latin festival in New England.

"We realize this is not going to be the usual festival with the greased pole and children's activ-

(FESTIVAL, Pg. 3)



# EDITORIAL

## THE STOCK MARKET DOES NOT REPRESENT THE U.S. ECONOMY

We don't pretend to be experts either in the stock market or the economy in general.

However, as Bob Dylan put it, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows," and similarly, the average American doesn't need a Ph.D. in economics to understand that the recent record height of the stock market indices -- the S&P 500, the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, and the Nasdaq -- does not reflect the health of the U.S. economy.

Increasing economic inequality -- what has become known as the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. -- has been the broad trend of American life for the past 40 years.

Ever since Ronald Reagan (aided and abetted by the Democrats, by the way) deregulated the banking and other industries, gutted the labor unions, reduced tax rates for the rich, and abrogated the antitrust laws, America's immense wealth has become concentrated in the hands of the very few to an extent never before seen in the modern world.

Consider that the top 1% of American households now control more than half of the equity in U.S. public and private companies, according to data from the Federal Reserve. In relative terms, the top 1% now has more wealth than the entire middle class and as much wealth as 90% of all Americans.

The ratio of the salary of a CEO vs. the salary of the typical worker of a publicly-traded company in 1965 was about 20-1. That ratio today is about 350-1.

This is only part of the story, however. The real reason for the increase in the disparity between the top 1% and everyone else is that middle-class jobs in America have disappeared at an alarming rate to the benefit of the top 1%.

According to a Brookings Institution report, the two most highly-valued companies in the country in 1962 -- AT&T and General Motors -- employed nearly 1.2 million people combined.

Last year, the two largest companies in the S&P 500 -- Microsoft and Apple -- employed just 280,000 persons. Apple puts together almost all of its products in China, using third-party manufacturing companies that operate the modern-day equivalent of sweatshops.

Further, consider that the wealthiest top 10 percent of Americans own about 84 percent of U.S. stocks, with the top 1 percent owning 40 percent.

So put those two trends together -- fewer middle class jobs and stock ownership of American companies concentrated in the hands of a few -- and the result simply is this: Income that formerly went to the American middle-class has shifted to countries with low-wage workers, with the wealthy netting the difference.

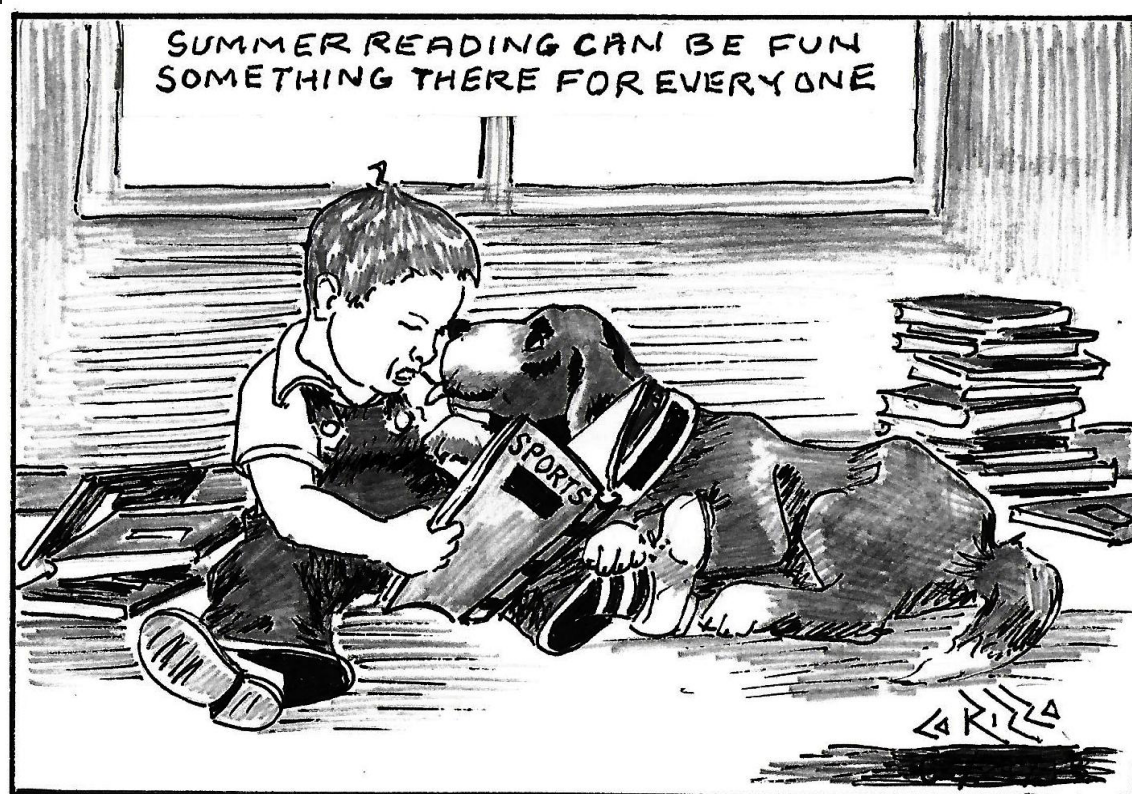
There also is another factor at play. The health of the U.S. stock market not only does not represent the U.S. economy, it also does not even represent the stock market itself.

The five largest listed companies -- Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook -- have continued to climb this year. Through the end of April, these companies were up roughly 10 percent, while the 495 other companies in the S&P were down 13 percent. These highly valued firms -- Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are each worth more than \$1 trillion -- now account for about one-fifth of the market value of the entire index, the highest level in 30 years.

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the trend of the past 40 years: The rich are getting richer, while everybody else is getting poorer and deeper into debt.

Without government policies -- higher tax rates on the wealthy, vigorous antitrust enforcement, and support of labor unions -- that will bring back into alignment the economic forces that created the great American middle-class of the 1950s and 60s, America is destined to become an oligarchy, otherwise known as a banana republic, with grave consequences for our democracy.

A phrase attributed to Louis Brandeis succinctly put it this way, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."



THE BEST THING NEXT TO A YOUNG READER IS A GOOD LISTENER

GUEST OP-ED

## Life is a puzzle

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Don't give in that you cannot do any better. You can do better if you put your mind to doing better. If you give up then you don't have a chance. The only people who do better and go forward are those who try. Everyone has the freedom to try.

Think about what you would like for your life to look like. Get a clear picture in your mind. What would it take to achieve that life? Somethings are difficult to achieve but most situations can be made better.

What will it take to make your life a little better? Could changing your daily eating just a little make a significant difference in how you feel? Could it make a difference in how your clothes fit? Are you willing to try?

Most people need a little more money. How will you obtain it? Chances are it won't just appear. Utilize what you know and your skills to work for you. Everyone has gifts and abilities that can be useful if channeled properly. Often it may be what you know or what you can do that will work for you to develop more income. Keep in mind that this may take some time. What you are thinking about today could take weeks or months to see results. Therefore, start now. We often give up. We try and

work hard and seldom see much results and then stop. Often, we get close to being where we want to be and then quit. We lose 20 pounds but put it right back on. We give up a habit but go back to it. We start a project and then quit. So often, a great idea is like a puzzle with so many pieces that have to fall into place. Once you find all the pieces the puzzle is a beautiful picture that you put together with patience and trying and trying again to fit the right pieces where they belong.

Our lives are like puzzles. We must have a picture in our minds of what we would like to look like if we are going to put that kind of life together. We try different pieces and often they don't fit. Too often we try to make the pieces fit where they don't belong and that never works for a picture. So, you have to keep trying. I've seen people with puzzles out on a table for weeks trying to figure out which

piece goes where. This is where most of our lives are much of the time. Trying to find the right piece of the puzzle.

Making the picture of our lives the way we want it to be is often changing. What we may want today has probably changed from what we wanted even ten years ago. The dynamics are still the same though. Whatever you are working on still requires patience, effort, faith and most importantly a clear picture in your mind of what you are trying to put together.

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# Councilors introduce motions on new approaches to budget

Staff Report

Exactly six months into their first term on the Boston City Council, new Councilors Kenzie Bok, Julia Mejia, Ricardo Arroyo, and Liz Breadon filed two hearing orders this week to explore more inclusive and imaginative approaches to Boston’s budgeting process.

“As a new Ways and Means Chair for the Council, I made numerous changes this year to increase the quality of participation in the City’s budget process, including by adding staff clinics and working sessions, posting

responses to information requests online, and scheduling dedicated public testimony hearings. Over our first six months on the job, however, we first-year Councilors have learned that we need a deeper shift,” said Councilor Bok. “We need space for earlier budget conversations that can move from shifting marginal dollars to envisioning whole new programs, and we need a more robust role for the public beyond offering testimony on a mayoral proposal.”

The “Order for a hearing regarding participatory budgeting in Boston”, introduced by Councilors Bok, Mejia, and Breadon,

will explore models of participatory budgeting that could enable members of the public to take a more active and decisive role earlier in Boston’s budgeting process.

“I am proud to be working with my colleagues to make the budget process more accessible to everyone — because this isn’t the mayor’s budget, this is the people’s budget. The budget is the Council’s most important responsibility, and it is our job to bring the people to the table,” Councilor Mejia said. “Because if we’re not at the table, we’re on the menu. We ran on a campaign of government accountability and civic engagement, and even filed a hearing on public hearings. We have always said that in order to realize community-driven goals, we need to involve the community. During the last few weeks of the budget process, we saw

passion and activism that motivated and uplifted us, and we want to continue that through to next year’s budget.”

Breadon agreed, adding, “So many people feel excluded from the budget making process. Participatory budgeting is a positive way to directly engage with residents in order to bring more voices to the table when deciding how resources are allocated.”

Accompanying this will be an “Order for a hearing regarding zero-based budget visions for alternative community investment”, sponsored by Councilors Bok, Mejia, and Arroyo, which will adopt a “zero-based budgeting” approach and invite community visions of new programs and departments to tackle issues like racial equity, shared prosperity, public health, and public safety.

“Our budget is a reflection of our values,” said Councilor Arroyo. ““Zero-based budgeting” allows Boston to create a budget in partnership with our communities, ensuring our budgets better reflect our shared values and that addressing racial and socioeconomic inequities are at the forefront of our budgeting process and the allocation of our tax dollars.”

Added Bok, “Creating space for community creativity and wisdom to feed into budget creation is the only way to enable a real transformation of how the City does its business and whom it serves. I’m very proud to have entered the Council alongside Councilors Mejia, Arroyo, and Breadon, and I’m excited about how we can shake up the budget process going forward.”

## Rep. Tyler endorses Kennedy in bid for US Senate seat

On Wednesday, Massachusetts State Representative Chynah Tyler (7th -- Suffolk) endorsed Congressman Joe Kennedy III for U.S. Senate. Representative Tyler formally endorsed Kennedy on Wednesday in the center of the hub of her district, Nubian Square of Roxbury, where the two visited local businesses and met residents in the area.

Rep. Tyler also represents the Fenway area as well.

“I’m endorsing Joe Kennedy III for U.S. Senate because we share a vision of providing access to opportunity for young professionals. Just today, Joe joined me to visit the heart of Black Boston, Nubian Station, to spend time listening to local Boston residents and visit minority owned small businesses. We spent time with the owners, employees, and customers that make Roxbury more than just a place to live,” said State Representative Chynah Tyler. “Massachusetts needs a Senator who will

use their platform in D.C. and here at home to uplift voices in neighborhoods like Roxbury — neighborhoods that are all too often forgotten and left behind. Joe shows up to march with us, eat with us, and most importantly listen to us. He’s determined to uplift people, and that’s the type of leadership this moment requires.”

“State Representative Tyler represents the kind of energetic, fully-engaged leadership we need more of right now. She’s dedicated her career to advancing communities of color, fighting for schools, small businesses, and opportunity for all,” said Congressman Joe Kennedy. “It’s an honor to have Chynah’s vote and her confidence: her leadership on Beacon Hill has been critical to moving this Commonwealth forward. I’m lucky to have her walk beside me, both in this race and on the ground in the communities we serve.”

## FESTIVAL (from pg. 1)

ities, but we have a few surprises still,” she said.

The two musical acts, she said, will hearken back to tradition and will celebrate the African roots in Puerto Rican music and culture.

The first musical act online will be Los Pleneros de Severo, who play traditional Afro-Puerto Rican rhythms.

“This music is lively and fun,” she said. “Hopefully, people will dance in their living rooms and maybe even on their couches.”

The second act is a legend in

Puerto Rican traditional music, Andres ‘El Jibaro’ Jimenez. The music gives credit to the traditional folkloric music of Puerto Rico, with ‘jibaro’ being one of the mountain people from Puerto Rico.

“No matter where people are, we hope this year’s Festival brings some joy, hope and fun to everyone’s homes,” she said.

The fun starts at 7 p.m. and can be viewed on IBA’s Facebook page, or on IBA’s YouTube Channel.

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# SELDC discussion on 566 Columbus continues; full Commission hearing rescheduled

By Lauren Bennett

A subcommittee of the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) met via Zoom two more times in June on the 25th and the 30th to discuss details regarding the proposed building at 566 Columbus Ave.

New Boston Ventures and architect Jonathan Garland have proposed a six-story, mixed use residential building with community space and a cafe space on the ground floor, and 17 percent of the units will be affordable artist live/work spaces.

On May 18, the full SELDC approved the building in concept, but sent it to subcommittee to work out some of the details. In 2019, The existing Harriet Tubman House building was approved to be demolished.

On June 30, the subcommittee decided to bring this back to the full Commission at the July 7 public hearing “without a fully endorsed scheme,” but said that the bowfront scheme is preferred. The Commissioners wanted Garland to have all options readily available to show the full Commission for a discussion focused on the W. Springfield facade, as well as the issue of height and what the Commission’s responsibilities are with respect to the guidelines and precedent in the neighborhood.

However, on July 7, after Commissioner John Amodeo recused himself because he’s the landscape architect for the project and two other Commissioners were not present at the hearing, only the three Commissioners who sit on the subcommittee remained.

“We decided that we could not change hats and say that we are the Commission and the only thing we could do is continue this to a special hearing,” Commissioner John Freeman said.

The Commission voted to continue this application to a special hearing of the full Commission, and decided not to take public comment at the July 7 hearing, as several hours of comment had already been heard at previous hearings.

“This is unusual,” he continued, adding that this is the first time in his time on the Commission (about 20 years) where such a thing has happened.

## SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The main focus of the subcommittee has been the facade on West Springfield St., as it seems to be the most controversial portion of the proposal because of the shorter townhouses on the street. Many neighbors are concerned about the

height on that side of the building, and there has been back and forth between the public and the commissioners about how much say the Commission has regarding height for new buildings.

The building is just below the height limit of 70 feet, but several neighbors have expressed their desire for the building to go down to four stories on the W. Springfield side because they believe it would fit better within the context of the street.

After around two hours of discussion at each of the two hearings in June, the subcommittee ultimately decided on June 30 afternoon to bring a specific scheme for West Springfield back to the full Commission to discuss, as well as talk about the issue of height.

At the June 25 subcommittee hearing, Garland proposed a new facade for W. Springfield St. that included a one story mansard roof all the way across, a total of six faux windows to engage the party wall, and a non-operational chimney that he said was there for purely aesthetic purposes. Below the oriel window, Garland proposed an entry door that he said “helps to reinforce the vertical rather than just a horizontal structure.”

He also showed the overhang proposed for the building in the corner of Mass. Ave. and Columbus Ave., showing curved wood on the underside of the overhang. Additionally, Garland presented a roof plan on SketchUp, a 3D modeling program, showing 30 inch high condenser units, screening for the units, and a number of headhouses.

He said these items “can’t really” be seen from the street, and after moving the model around a little, Commissioner Freeman said “I think that looks pretty good to me.” The other two subcommittee members, Commissioners Catherine Hunt and David Shepperd, did not comment on the roof plan.

After being asked at that hearing to further look into changing the W. Springfield facade, Garland brought three different proposals to the June 30 subcommittee hearing.

Garland said on June 30 that he had “looked at the broader nature of W. Springfield and how this particular building condition ties into the rest of” the street. He likened Washington St. to Columbus Ave., and said that at 68 W. Springfield St., there is a seven story building that abuts a four story building to the left, and “the layers start to step back, getting you up to the seven stories” abutting the rowhouses.

Option One shows a three story “residential look and feel

townhouse building with a clean break between the brick and upper floors,” Garland said. There would be two flat-front brick townhouses with oriole windows, and a picket rail at the same datum point that had been discussed. At the upper level, the massing steps back five feet and would be a metal material, making it read as though the facade is “scaling back” as your eyes go up. This, Garland said, “establishes clear termination of the corner building,” which is still a part of the project and not actually a separate building.

Option Two “establishes townhouse modularity,” and showed a wider townhouse with the same clear termination of the corner building. The upper levels of gray metal would come down the side, framing the townhouse building and creating an element of separation between the townhouse building and the corner building.

Option Three was described by Garland as “a little more progressively modern,” and consists of two bowfront townhouses, “establishing a strong datum at that level between the brick and what is happening above,” he said. Again, there is a clear break between the townhouse and the corner building. He also said he believes the bay fronts “animate the street a little more.”

These three options plus the one presented on June 25 are all on the table for discussion, and the team said that combining elements from any of them is also a possibility.

Commissioner David Shepperd said he prefers the bowfront design of Option Three, but he said several of the options looked like “an addition that was put onto an existing townhouse,” and added that he doesn’t believe the examples of other buildings on W. Springfield St. are relevant to this building.

Commissioner John Freeman said that there were elements he liked about each option, but he was against the lead coated copper proposed in the first scheme, saying it’s not allowed in the South End.

“I really liked the scheme we saw last week with more brick at the top,” said Commissioner Catherine Hunt.

Hunt’s other main comment was that the fourth floor (and possibly the one above) on the W. Springfield facade should be a different material “to make it relatable to the rest of the building. “It’s too top heavy” with so much metal on the top, she said.

This discussion led Garland to make the adjustment on the spot, and showed the fourth and fifth stories in brick instead of

the metal, which the Commission seemed to like.

“My concern is that all three options are starting to result in a building that lacks overall cohesiveness,” said Alexa Pinard, an Urban Designer at the Boston Planning and Development Agency, said. “I just hope that whatever we end up with we can still make it work with the rest of the building.”

Resident Chris Dearbeck, who lives at the abutting 220 W. Springfield, said he likes the roof of Option One, but Option Three’s bowfront works better in terms of not cutting off the view out the windows at 220 W. Springfield.

Resident Charles Denison also liked Option One for the upper floors, and agreed that the changing of color on these floors would be beneficial. He said that the “overall height is still an issue,” and suggested taking even one story off to lessen the massing.

The discussion of height was a big one once it was time for public comment.

“The height and setback, especially on this street, continues to come up in public comment,” Shepperd said. “I still think it’s a concern and if we don’t address those issues head-on we will end up with additional comments... in a much larger forum by going back to the main committee.” He said he does believe the SELDC has purview over height based on a recent SELDC business meeting that took place on June 22, where the SELDC standards and criteria were discussed. He said that the height should be taken into consideration and a solution “that will be widely accepted by the community” should be found.

Commissioner John Freeman replied that the building “meets Landmarks and Boston Zoning. I don’t think that we necessarily have the ability to restrict the height of the building or to change it.” He said that he believes “there was a lot of misunderstanding in that [business] meeting and things that got taken out of context.”

He did, however, bring up the fact that Garland had previously been asked if height could be taken off, but no later proposals had taken off any height. “You are within the 70 foot requirement,” he said.

Boston Landmarks Commission Preservation Planner Mary Cirbus spoke up and said that many neighbors had written to the Commission about this issue. “A lot of letters noted the guidelines say that the height and setback has to match adjacent buildings,” she said. She added that “there is some room there for the Commis-

sion to make that determination” as to whether or not they feel the new building is in context, even if the height and setback of adjacent buildings is not matched exactly.

The SELDC guidelines state that “the maximum height of any new construction shall be seventy feet...”

They go on to say that “the new building shall have the same height and cornice line as adjacent existing buildings having common property lines...in the event the height of the adjacent existing building is greater or smaller than the overall limitation, or is radically different from the remainder of the block, the Commission may set the height for the new building.”

Cirbus said that ahead of this particular hearing, she had received 17 letters of support and 10 letters of opposition, mainly focused on the height and setback of W. Springfield St.

“The fact that Jonathan [Garland] had to look all the way to Washington St., to find references for such a tall building shows that this building’s height clearly does not fit into the immediate neighborhood, where houses appear relatively uniform in size and style and individual buildings are subordinate to the harmony of the block,” resident Marvin Klein wrote on the Zoom chat.

Resident Mike Reinders, who lives on Wellington St. and has been very involved in this design process, said he supports what Commissioner Shepperd said about height and setback of the building, and he wanted to know Commissioner Hunt’s opinion on the matter.

“I think we’ve talked a great deal about the height and requirements and our regulations and the Zoning Board,” Hunt replied. “I don’t really have anything to add to what’s been said.”

Reinders told the Sun that he believes the fifth and sixth stories on the W. Springfield facade should be removed to bring it to a four story building, and that he believes the building should only be 50 feet tall overall, “based on the SELDC standards and criteria.” Several other neighbors made comments regarding the height and setback of the project, but many also liked Options One and Three that were presented, and said they were an improvement upon what had previously been proposed. Others were completely in favor of the whole project and praised Garland for his design work.

No further design discussion has taken place since June 30, and no date has been set for the special full Commission hearing for this project.

# JVS/BCAE merger looking at two options for Bay Village facility

By Seth Daniel

Following the announcement of the merger between the Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) and Boston Center for Adult Education (BCAE), JVS said this week it is looking at two options for how to use the former BCAE facility on Arlington Street in Bay Village.

JVS Chief Operating Office Kira Khazatsky said the BCAE sought

them out for a merger, and in initial talks they realized they have a lot in common – one focusing on job training skills and the other in focusing on self-improvement skills for adults. Once they worked out the details, the BCAE was happy to merge into JVS – with the name still to be worked out at the Arlington Street building.

A key piece of the new organization, and for the Bay Village

neighborhood, is just how the new building will be used. At the JVS headquarters downtown on Federal Street, Khazatsky said they house two different, but critical, pathway programs and they’d like to move one of them to the Bay Village educational building that housed BCAE.

Both plans would fulfill a major hole in the educational network for adults in Boston, and Khazatsky said to be a world-class city, there has to be programs to help adults get into the working world and improve themselves in the working world.

“For many adults trying to get into these jobs we train for, there isn’t one place to go,” she said. “With this, either plan, Boston can point to this on the map and say, ‘We have that.’ Having that speaks to having a world-class city and not having something like that to point at is disappointing and I think we have an opportunity to turn that around right here.”

The first option is to expand on their simulation lab training program that exists on Federal Street. Those programs allow for specific skills training in the classroom, and in a hands on setting for careers in Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN), Pharmacy Technician, Bank Teller/Retail, Culinary Arts, and hospitality. Right now, Khaz-

atsky said they have a mock-CVS store built out at their downtown facility that helps job-seekers train for retail and management in a real environment.

One option for JVS is to build out more simulation labs at the Arlington Street building.

“What we have always dreamed of being able to build out is a state-of-the-art series of simulation labs,” she said. “While many of the jobs we train for require classroom time, many of those jobs also require you to do a lot of practice – physical work and practice in moving a patient to the bathroom, training in a kitchen, or interacting with customers. We’re not leaving 75 Federal St., but what we would do is building that idea into the skills training program we have. So it would become a state-of-the-art job training center with a mock hospital, a mock bank, a mock restaurant kitchen, and a mock hotel. That’s one way we are thinking about utilizing that building.”

The second choice is their academic training program that includes English as a Second Language and a Boston Public Schools diploma program for adults. The program takes everyone from those just arriving in the U.S. and not speaking the language, to those who are looking for pre-col-

lege training and job placement. It’s a program that can take an individual from basic literacy, to high school diploma, to college and to job resources.

“There is not a place on the Boston map where you could get from A to B in this process,” she said. “That would be the place on the map where such a place would be.”

Khazatsky said each pathway has about 500 participants each and that all of their services are free of charge to those in them. They pay for their programming by having businesses invest in the training, or by raising money. She said in a world focused on equity right now, either proposal moves the needle in the right direction.

“Our mission is about access,” she said. “We believe in equal access. There are lots of Ivy League schools with significant lab training facilities. A lot of our aren’t ever going to set foot into an \$80,000 lab. We are about finding those resources, building it out and making it available to these folks to get in or move up in the job market.”

JVS expects to make their programming decision in the next couple of months, and build out the space within one year’s time.

## Police investigating shooting

By Seth Daniel

Detectives at the D-4 Station are still investigating a brazen shooting on East Newton Street and Harrison Avenue just after midnight on July 5 – adding to the incredible drama that unfolded with fireworks, lawlessness and noise throughout the city on Independence Day.

Boston Police said they got a call around 12:17 a.m. on July 5 for shots fired in the area of 45 East Newton St. near Franklin Square. Upon arrival, police immediately located ballistics (shell casings) in the middle of the road and two parked cars that had been hit with bullets.

They also found a trail of blood on parked cars and on the side-

walk going down Father Gilday Street and onto Harrison Avenue.

Dispatch then informed police that two individuals had reported to Boston Medical Center with gunshot wounds that were non-life threatening.

Witnesses on the scene told police they had observed a male in the street pull out a firearm and begin shooting towards the group near Harrison Avenue. The male was described as wearing a white shirt and black shorts.

The shooter fled inbound on St. George Street.

After a search, police located two firearms discarded, one on Harrison Avenue and one at 10 St. George St.

The matter is under investigation.

## POLICE REDUCTION *(from pg. 1)*

spokesperson for the mayor said they are committed to the Mass/Cass 2.0 plan. “While the Boston Police Department has been having conversations district wide on how to reduce overtime costs to honor the reallocation of 20 percent of their FY21 overtime budget to social services programs, no final decisions have been made on how this will impact police coverage at Newmarket Square and the surrounding neighborhoods,” said Spokesperson Samantha Ormsby. “Addressing quality of life concerns is an integral part of the Mass & Cass 2.0 plan, and we remain committed to working in partnership with the community towards a collective solution so every resident can live a healthy and safe life.”

Most troubling in the community are the bike patrols, which were fought hard for by members of the Worcester Square neighborhood and by members of the South End Forum Opiate Working Group. Those groups have often

said when the bikes disappear, the issues with drug abuse and homelessness intensify on the corridor. Last summer, when the bike officers were pulled from the area, the situation became bad quickly, with encampments springing up in the neighborhood and the assault of a corrections officer headed to work at the South Bay House of Corrections. That, in fact, is what led to the overarching 2.0 plan, and this year was the first summer such a coordinated effort – led by the City’s Kim Thai – was in place.

South End Forum Moderator Steve Fox said the potential loss of the police for the plan cuts out the legs from under it. While all departments were contributing greatly to the effort, it was the police that were cross-training as social workers and making a difference in quality of life for residents and those immersed in the challenges of Mass/Cass.

“I believe Mass and Cass is one of the most critical areas for the City and the Police Department to

keep their resources deployed and to keep their commitment to both neighbors and businesses,” he said this week. “I challenge anyone to tell me there is a more needy environment that requires police come through on their commitment.”

George Stergios, president of the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA), said their Association has great concerns about a setback on the plan if police presence is lessened.

“We have heard and we are certainly worried about it,” he said. “The officers at D-4 have put a lot of time and effort into maintaining a presence in our neighborhood and bringing some order and civility to the Mass/Cass area. They have also shown some willingness to depart from the cops and robbers paradigm and work with the social service providers to try to help those struggling with homelessness and/or addiction to get off the street and into treatment.”

He said WSANA and others in the South End have been pushing

for some sort of supplement to the Police that could respond to quality of life issues. That kind of unarmed community response team has been proposed recently by Councilors Michelle Wu and Lydia Edwards. He said the neighborhood has always preferred to have some sort of outreach worker rather than an armed police response. However, he said he isn’t sure how long that will take to be implemented or agreed to.

“Even if the Mayor is willing to do so, there will a long gap between the pull-back of the police and the implementation of a new, non-police group, which on the most optimistic prognoses, will leave the neighborhood and those on the street in the lurch,” he said. “I think it is the Mayor who tells the BPD what to do and not the other way around, and so I, we, expect the Mayor to step in and restore the police presence until he has a substitute for it.”

WSANA Vice President Desi Murphy said he is very concerned

due to the fact that the City actually has a great handle on the issues now, and a good plan to mitigate it. He said the Mass/Cass 2.0 leader, Kim Thai, has been doing a great job in coordinating and understanding the issues. Without police resources, that could be severely challenged.

“The biggest thing about this is the City has to know this will impact the area,” he said. “I’m a big fan of Kim Thai. It’s surprising they would let this funding get cut when they know exactly what’s going on here. If they think this won’t be a problem, I’d like to have them say that on the record.”

He added that with the new-found collaboration, it feels like such a letdown to see things potentially disintegrate in this fashion.

“Everyone is on the same page,” he said. “City leaders were at that the level of coordination in this plan is unprecedented. That’s a reason to be concerned – that by pulling resources it could harm all of this coordination.”



# Baker, MBTA and Community Partners highlight food security partnership with the RIDE

Governor Charles Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito last week joined MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak and officials from the City of Boston, Greater Boston YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank to highlight an innovative partnership to help provide Boston's most vulnerable residents with access to food by utilizing RIDE paratransit service.

"Our administration is committed to addressing food security concerns created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and this partnership between the MBTA, City of Boston, YMCA and Greater Boston Food Bank is an innovative way we can support our most vulnerable residents during these unprecedented times," said Baker. "We are glad this initiative is making a difference, and appreciate the work of so many partners to make it happen."

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak added, "I want to express my sincere gratitude to the operators of our RIDE vehicles who have stepped up to help our most vulnerable neighbors access food. This partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, the City of Boston and the YMCA has been a tremendous success, resulting in the delivery of tens of thousands of bags of groceries to citizens in need."

"We acknowledge the strong leadership of Governor Baker during the pandemic and relish this opportunity to partner with the MBTA, Mayor Walsh and City

of Boston officials to deliver food to our most vulnerable children, families and seniors. It is a blessing to coalesce our organizational skills, infrastructures and 'people power' in the spirit of serving others," said James Morton, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston. "We thank the MBTA and City of Boston for allowing the YMCA of Greater Boston to participate in this important partnership, as we are universally committed to mitigating hunger for all Bostonians during this crisis and beyond. We appreciate the recognition of our work from our partners, Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh."

As ridership on the MBTA's RIDE service has significantly declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, available RIDE vehicles are currently being utilized to pick up and deliver food items and school meals to residents. Collaborating with GBFB and the YMCA, RIDE drivers arrive at the YMCA location on Huntington Avenue daily to pick up an assortment of grocery bags and shelf stable school meals. Groceries are delivered by RIDE vehicles to designated homes, the amount based on the size of the household and whether or not the family is enrolled in the Boston Public School partnership. As of the end of June, the RIDE has completed over 8,000 deliveries, totaling more than 12,000 grocery bags and nearly 60,000 school meals to over 1,200 BPS children.



Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito tour the YMCA of Greater Boston headquarters last week.

## Friends of the South End Library expand ranks for branch renovation

By Dan Murphy

The Friends of the South End Library has expanded its ranks in anticipation of plans to transform the neighborhood branch library into a state-of-the-art facility.

"The South End library is on track for a big renovation expansion... and that renovation should involve entire community," said Marleen Nienhuis, president of the Friends group, during its annual meeting, which was held virtually July 2. "Seven board members is just not enough to engage with the larger community."

Besides Nienhuis; Barbara Sommerfeld, the group's treasurer; and Tracey Bolotnick, its clerk,

Yvette Jarreau is also now a voting board officer in the new role of vice-president. Other voting board members for 2020-21 include Gary Bailey, Lauren Begley, Marilyn Davillier, Nancy Downer, Michael Hinchcliffe, Derek P. Lessing, Fara Ramjane, Joe Rondinelli, Jason Sarno, Karen Teller and Jennifer Watson.

The new slate of officers and board members was approved during the Friends' May board meeting and confirmed at last week's annual meeting.

An advisory board consisting of 70 members will also provide input on the library's expansion, Nienhuis said.

In another matter, Bolotnick, a

public interest attorney by profession, has overhauled the organization's bylaws dating back to 2007.

"The most significant change is the elimination of the corporate membership," Nienhuis said. "There will still be that constituency and people who can call themselves members, but they can't vote as board members and on other issues."

As a result of the change to the bylaws, the Friends' governance will shift from the established membership-governance structure to a board-only governance structure.

"It's a nice clean-up of the bylaws that will serve us and the community well," Nienhuis added.

## BPL to extend To Go program to more locations

The Boston Public Library announced that it is extending the BPL To Go program to six additional library branches, including the South End and Mission Hill branches. As of July 13, patrons will be able to pick up books, DVDs, and CDs at the Connolly, Grove Hall, Honan-Allston, Parker Hill, South End, and West End branches, in addition to the branches that have already opened, including Brighton, Charlestown, Codman Square, East Boston, Jamaica Plain, Lower Mills, Mattapan, South Boston, West Roxbury and the Central Library in Copley Square.

In addition, BPL has announced "Printing To Go," a new print-on-demand service. Patrons can upload documents they need printed by filling out a form at [bpl.org/](http://bpl.org/)


printing-to-go, and can pick up their print jobs 24 hours later at the Central Library in Copley Square. The printing service, provided for free, is limited to 10 pages per patron per day. Documents will be printed in black and white, single-sided, on 8.5" x 11" paper, and should not include personal information, such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or other similar information. Print requests must comply with the Library's Internet Use Procedures and Guidelines.

With BPL To Go, library card and e-card holders can "order" items at [bpl.org](http://bpl.org/), by using the new BPL To Go iPhone app, or by calling the library's main number at 617-536-5400. Patrons will be able to make an appointment to

safely pick up their items — much like picking up takeout from a restaurant — and return items using designated bins. All patrons will be required to wear face coverings and maintain physical distancing at all times.

When their items are ready, patrons will be notified that they are ready for pickup, and will be asked to schedule a time to come to their pickup location. Once they have a time scheduled, patrons will be able to pick up their items from the branches from 2 - 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday; and from 1 - 4 p.m. Friday. At the Central Library, patrons can pick up their items from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday - Thursday, and from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday.

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# Bus and bike lanes established in Downtown Boston and Chinatown

This week, the MBTA and the City of Boston announced the completion of nearly a mile of new bus lanes and other multimodal improvements along Washington Street in Downtown Boston and Chinatown. These facilities will be open all-day and will be in effect immediately.

“These improvements on Washington Street are a critical part of our commitment to making our city streets safer and more equitable for everyone,” said City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. “Delivering on this project is a key part of Go Boston 2030, the City of Boston’s long-term, comprehensive transportation plan, and will help our residents more efficiently travel throughout our city.”

“Our partnership with Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston is critical for building a better T, and keeping our passengers, operators, and the region safe as Metro Boston recovers from the pandemic,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Pofatak. “These improvements mean that people riding buses and bikes from Roxbury can get to job opportunities and services faster, safer, and more reliably.”

Go Boston 2030, the City of Boston’s comprehensive transportation plan, highlighted the reliability of public transit – and bus service in particular – as a top priority. According to a Boston Transportation Department and MBTA analysis, the new Washington Street bus lane will save 24,000 weekday riders up to 12 minutes on trips from Nubian Square, through the South End and into downtown, offering commuters significantly more reliable transit service.

These new facilities were planned through a partnership with the City of Boston and the MBTA. The Silver Line 4 and Silver Line 5 routes connect Nubian Square with Downtown Boston, Chinatown, and the South End. Bus lanes were implemented along Washington Street throughout the South End as part of the launch of the Silver Line in 2002. This project closes the gap between original facilities while bringing benefits to other road users, including bicycle users.

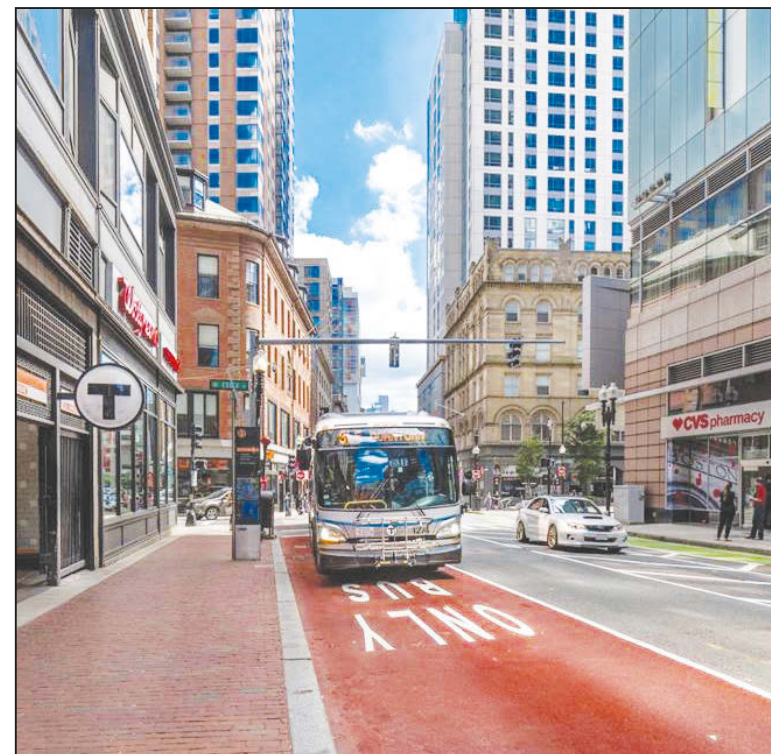
Transportation improvements along the corridor include:

Bus Improvements: Between Herald Street and the intersection

of Stuart and Kneeland Streets at Tufts, the right general traffic lane was replaced with a bus- and bike-only lane. All parking, pick-up and drop-off, and current curb uses will remain. North of Tufts Medical Center, the right curbside lane was turned into a bus-only lane.

Bicycle Improvements: The shared bus and bike lane along Washington Street in Roxbury and the South End was extended to the intersection of Stuart and Kneeland Streets at Tufts. North of this intersection, a bike lane has been installed along the left curb with the installation of protective flex posts taking place soon. Bike-only facilities will extend to the entrance into the pedestrian area of Downtown Crossing.

Safer, Concentrated Loading Zones: Much of the congestion on Washington Street is caused by disorganized loading. A new, block-long designated loading zone was installed along Washington between Boylston Street and Avery Street. It also clarifies pick-up and drop-off, valet, and commercial vehicle activity.



The new dedicated bus lane downtown will save South End and Lower Roxbury commuters up to 12 minutes on their rides.

## Wentworth site will host City Drive-In Movie

By Seth Daniel

If all one can do in public this summer is stay in their car, why not make a movie night out of it?

That’s exactly what the City has proposed, announcing a July series of Drive-in Movie events, with nearby Wentworth in Mission Hill being one of the two site locations for the event.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced this week the City of Boston July Drive-In Movie Series, organized by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Mayor’s Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment. This series is made possible by support from the Highland Street Foundation, in partnership with the Age Strong Commission, and host sites, South Boston Convention Center and Mission Hill’s Wentworth Institute of Technology.

This Drive-in Movie Series will include double-feature showings on select Wednesday nights in July, as well as a special matinee viewing with the Age Strong Commission. This series is free, family-friendly, and open to residents of Boston. All event attendees



must pre-register by car through an RSVP on Eventbrite which can be accessed through [boston.gov/drive-in-movies](http://boston.gov/drive-in-movies).

“We are proud to offer free, family-friendly entertainment for the people of Boston through the July Drive-in Movie Series,” said Mayor Walsh. “We are thankful for the Highland Street Foundation’s support to make this happen, and to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and Wentworth Institute of Technology for hosting. Our hope is that these movie nights can provide a safe, fun summer respite for Boston residents of all ages.”

Typically, the Highland Street Foundation sponsors scores of

in-person events throughout the summer all across Greater Boston. This summer, they moved their event into the car.

“Highland Street Foundation is pleased to partner with the City of Boston to provide the community with an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing, safe evening with loved ones,” said Executive Director Blake Jordan.

The City will be using an LED screen that is visible from afar during the day and at night for viewing pleasure.

For additional information about the drive-in movie series and our COVID-19 safety guidelines please visit [boston.gov/drive-in-movies](http://boston.gov/drive-in-movies).

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## FRESH AND LOCAL

## Dining al fresco

by Penny &amp; Ed Cherubino

This will be the summer of al fresco dining. We all understand that we are safer from any remaining virus outside than in a confined space. Pack up a cooler, blanket, hand sanitizer, and prepare for al fresco fun. For us, this will mean extending our food pickup orders from trusted places close to our home to longtime favorites close to outdoor recreation spots.

**Beach Fare & Clam Shacks**

One of our first al fresco adventures will be to one of the waterfront seafood shacks scattered around the Greater Boston area for our annual fried seafood splurge. Belle Isle Seafood in Winthrop and Kelly's Roast Beef on Revere Beach are nearby choices.

**Street Food Picnics**

We're fans of many menu items that would have been street food in their countries of origin. As picnic fare, these tidbits have the advantage of being easy to eat with your carefully sanitized hands. And,

since many of the places where we order these are small local businesses, we'll enjoy them more by supporting restaurants and bakeries we care about.

From your favorite Indian restaurant, you can order samosas, pakoras, and stuffed bread. Vietnamese and Thai restaurants offer fresh rolls, dumplings, crispy rolls, chicken or beef satay skewers, curry puffs, fried calamari or chicken wings. A sushi shop can prepare a lovely platter of bite-size seafood for you to tuck into your cooler and take to a scenic spot.

For a picnic on the Harbor Walk or Greenway, we would suggest a visit to the food trucks that returned in June. Or a stop at one of the bakeries in Chinatown like Great Taste to gather dim sum items to go. We love scallion pancakes, curry beef buns, pork roast buns, scallion/bacon buns, and even an occasional hot dog bun. Add a few custard tarts and you have a full meal.

**Stuffed Stuff**

Another of our summer take-

out favorites is an array of great food from Galleria Umberto in the North End. We confirmed that they have continued their annual tradition of closing for the month of July so we'll put this treat on our August calendar. Our order will include a slice of pizza, panzerotti, arancini, and a calzone.

In East Boston, you can find meat and veg stuffed into a crust at KO Pies at the Boston Harbor Shipyard. This is also a great neighborhood to explore for empanadas, pupusas, arepas, and other delicious Latin specialties in bakeries, bodegas, and restaurants.

**Sandwiches**

Ordered or homemade, big and sliced to share, individual choices or a just-for-fun array of three-bite tea sandwiches are all great choices for eating outdoors. Here again, you can support local, family businesses by ordering from them instead of national chains. What's more, you can enjoy some of the best, like the great deli selections at Sam LaGrassa's for a lunch on the Common or support small



*This large, airy patio is at Alcove Boston on Lovejoy Wharf. It has water and Zakim Bridge views.*

local chains with purchases from a Flour, Tatte, or Bon Me location.

**Patios and Sidewalk Dining**

Sitting at the bar has always been our preferred restaurant dining spot, but our return to the new normal dining-in will be dining-out at one of the patio or sidewalk tables outside a small local restaurant we know and trust.

These are the places where the owners and staff know and care about their customers. They are also the places that we could miss most if they don't survive.

*Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.*

# Several councilors seek to have reduction in police overtime

Staff Report

Councilor Kenzie Bok, chair of the Ways & Means Committee, and Councilor Andrea Campbell, chair of the Public Safety & Criminal Justice Committee, filed two hearing orders this week to focus Council oversight on two areas with major impacts on Boston's police budget: making planned cuts in police overtime spending a reality, and negotiating new police contracts consistent with good public policy. Councilor Lydia Edwards co-sponsored the hearing order on the police contracts, and Councilor Matt O'Malley co-sponsored the hearing order on controlling overtime spending.

The discussion of cutting the police overtime budget was one brought up by many residents during the Council's budget hearings prior to the vote to support the revised FY21 budget. The council was divided on the passage of the budget, as five councilors felt it did not do enough to address issues the City faces, especially when it comes to racial disparities and the police budget. Others, like Councilor Bok, agreed with the passage of the budget but felt that more discussion is needed to get to the goal of actually reallocating police funds to community programs and

services. These hearings will be the start to this discussion, which Bok stated at the Council hearing on June 24.

"Police accountability includes budget accountability -- which means the Council's Ways & Means Committee needs to see these overtime cuts be made real. In this first hearing we will demand a plan, and then we will institute quarterly hearings to hold the Administration to that plan," said Councilor Bok. "Yet to win the broader accountability our community is demanding, in terms of both disciplinary procedures and a reduction in the share of city funds dedicated to policing, we know we need change in the police contract. This is a contract that shapes the conditions for the use of deadly force, which makes it a public policy issue of the highest order. We are calling for this hearing to underscore that neither the Council nor the community can accept an extension of the status quo." "Transforming our policing system requires many reforms and the budget including our exorbitant overtime costs is one area in need of immediate reform," said Councilor Andrea Campbell. "Many of the reforms residents, activists, and I have been pushing for must be initiated in

collective bargaining discussions including disciplinary practices for officers, overtime minimums and regulations, and training requirements for officers within the police department. With thousands of Bostonians calling for change to our police union contracts the discussions cannot be done completely in private with no sense of the administration's positions at the bargaining table. I am proud to sponsor these hearing orders to ensure actual police overtime savings and increase the level of understanding and transparency with respect to our police union contracts."

The "Order for a hearing regarding police overtime" will ask the Walsh Administration and the Boston Police Department to present an active management plan for achieving the \$12 million reduction in police overtime promised in the FY21 budget. The Council will also look at the history of how police overtime was reduced in past administrations, and will investigate what procedural or programmatic changes could lead to less need for overtime overall -- including reducing or eliminating military exercises, halting the over-policing of black and brown men through disproportionate stops, and taking other

steps to respond to public distrust, especially in communities of color.

"Across the country and in Boston, we are calling for transparency, accountability, and justice in our public safety and criminal justice system," said Councilor Matt O'Malley. "Addressing the overtime budget is among the many systematic changes we must address, considering that its spending has drastically increased by 84 percent over the past decade. I look forward to taking a deeper review at the hearing including discussing removing any policies that encourage the use of overtime as a normal rather than an unusual practice, addressing the four-hour minimum for court details, and implementing an accountability mechanism for reviewing payroll data."

The "Order for a hearing regarding police contracts as policy documents" will focus on the public policy issues at stake in Boston's police contracts, which are all up for renegotiation this year. To secure police accountability and transparency will require changes to these contracts, as will efforts to achieve an overall shift in departmental resource allocations. From disciplinary procedures to overtime rates, many of the issues discussed in the press in recent

weeks are dictated by provisions of these police contracts, so Councilors will bring them under public scrutiny.

"I am so excited to help lead this conversation with Chairwoman Bok," said Councilor Lydia Edwards. "This is really the first time the City Council is approaching the police contract with a policy and best practices approach. When people talk about reforming and reimagining the police, we must start with the contracts."

Councilor Bok agreed that this is an important and appropriate way for the Council to weigh in on the new police contracts. "While the Council cannot sit at the negotiating table, we can inform the negotiation by hosting a public hearing to discuss and hear from advocates about the many critical issues at stake, and by broadcasting the Council's policy expectations about these contracts before they are agreed and sent to the Ways & Means Committee for funding. The demands for police accountability that we are hearing from black and brown activists are urgent but long-standing; we cannot and will not approach these contracts as business-as-usual."



# Markey and Kennedy answer questions posed by inmates

By Lauren Bennett

On July 7, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held a Senate Forum with Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy III, candidates for the US Senate in this year's election.

The forum, which was moderated by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins, was closed to the public, but was live streamed on Facebook and included questions from men and women in custody at the South Bay House of Correction. Each candidate had their own round of questions and were not in the room at the same time, and masks were worn by everyone and social distancing was observed.

Questions ranged from concerns about transportation access to ensuring support after prison to childcare and housing.

In his opening statement, Senator Markey said that the criminal justice system needs to be "overhauled," and that resources are not currently provided to people to make sure they get the help they need before, during, and after prison. "We have to change that," he said.

"You learn a lot about a country by who it imprisons," Markey said. "We imprison the black and the brown citizens in our country in disproportionate numbers."

When asked about the necessity for access to transportation, Markey said that he and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced legislation saying that public transportation should be free "so that you're able to go to your destination, to be where you have to be, to do what you have to do."

Congressman Kennedy agreed that "the obstacles that exist" for

people to be able to get to and from places like work, school, and the grocery store "are massive" and possibly expanding or rethinking programs like the MBTA's The Ride could be part of the solution.

Markey was also asked why prisons and jails are becoming "de facto mental health institutions," and he said that de-institutionalizing people about 35 years ago put people with mental illness out on the streets.

"What we did was we took one program and ended it," he said, adding that the government then did not provide funding to ensure that individuals received proper health care. He said that making access to treatment available "before they do something that results in the police taking them" is necessary, as are sufficient funds for the mental health system in general.

"We criminalize low level offenses rather than give resources," he said, saying that mental health issues should be treated like the diseases they are.

Markey was also asked why he is "interested in what we have to say if we are not able to vote as inmates?" In Massachusetts, those incarcerated for a felony are ineligible to vote, but are permitted to do so again once they are released.

Markey responded with "because you're citizens; because everyone should be treated with dignity." He said that one day, "you're going to go back out there," and after leaving prison, he wants to make sure they get the help and support they need to be successful. "We have to think of you as a part of a larger family," he said, and make sure that many issues are treated as health issues, not criminal ones.

"Our country in this moment is in the midst of a massive cry for change," Kennedy said in his opening statement.

Kennedy called for fewer people in jails, and "[making] sure we aren't incarcerating folks who are sick."

On police reform, Markey said that "every police officer should have to wear a camera. There should be no circumstances of where they aren't and there should be a full recording of what took place."

He added that "any police officer that engages in conduct that violates the constitutional rights of an individual should be held accountable...in the criminal justice system."

Markey also called for more social workers, mental health resources, drug rehabilitation workers, and employment opportunities to be funded with the reallocation of resources. He said doing so will help rid of the "school to prison pipeline" in America.

"This is the moment of reckoning," Markey said. "We need police accountability" and to deal with the "racial bias that is built into the system." He talked about sentencing guidelines and the discrepancy that exists between crack and powdered cocaine.

Markey was also asked about his initiatives against gun violence, and why there is a lot of housing for people dealing with substance abuse but not those involved in gun violence.

Markey said that despite the National Rifle Association (NRA) not wanting it, he succeeded in adding \$25 million to the federal budget for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct research on the causes of gun violence. He

also agreed that more assistance and funding for those involved in gun violence is necessary.

"A vision without funding is a hallucination," he said.

When asked about how he will help with racial disparities if elected to the Senate, Kennedy said "we need to be doing so much more. My efforts are obviously not enough. My commitment to you is to do everything I possibly can." He talked about filing legislation to address structural inequities, but he said showing up to communities "who have been screaming about this for longer than I've been alive" and "where people are unseen and unheard" is vital. "There is value in showing up," he said.

Kennedy said that "the way in which we approach the 'war on drugs' does not work," and it "has to change."

He said those in prison for a long period of time also need access to education and professional development programs to give them skill sets to be able to provide for their families once they are out of prison.

Markey also said he will advocate for change to the mandatory minimum sentencing system, which he said is "leading to over incarceration." Kennedy agreed that they system needs to change.

Housing was another issue brought up several times in different contexts. Markey said that making sure people do not get evicted from their homes and ensuring they have income coming in each month is important.

Kennedy said that "housing is one of the biggest roadblocks that we face here," and more money is needed for affordable housing as many people who are vital to run-

ning the city can't even afford to live in it. "100 percent, we have to do an awful lot more," Kennedy said.

One of the women said that many inmates do not trust elected officials like Kennedy because "you haven't had our background." She said that when she gets out, she wants to fight for women inmates, and suggested that hiring people like her would be a huge help to elected officials. "People that don't know what it's like to be arrested" shouldn't be the ones making decisions on related topics, she said, adding that she believes former inmates acting as consultants could be beneficial.

"I think it's a great idea," Kennedy said. "Government is the way we as a collective respond to challenges."

In closing, Markey reiterated his commitment to working on the lack of funding for substance abuse and mental health issues, which are "making it difficult for people to reincorporate into society," he said.

"I promise you that I will fight with every ounce of strength which I have to overhaul this criminal justice system; this policing system," he added. There are "too many people behind bars who shouldn't be there."

Kennedy said that "our normal...isn't good enough. We have a chance to actually reset the trajectory of our country." He called for "policies that meet people where they are and say 'let's do something about it.'"

The full Senate forum can be viewed on the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Facebook page.

## FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER (from pg. 1)

are needed for the to-go box distribution.

"Now we're just in the stage of just trying to see what our next steps are," Lecoq said. While more and more businesses and other places begin to open up across the city, she said that FNSP is still considering the safest way to do so and won't be switching back to a dine-in method any time soon.

Lecoq said that the Boston Resiliency Fund grant awarded to FNSP is especially appreciated this year, as traditional sources of funding were not available due to

the pandemic.

"About 30 percent of our funding comes from individuals," she said, a quarter comes from grants and annual funding, and another quarter from the annual gala.

This year, the annual gala was scheduled for May and had to be cancelled.

Instead, "We did a spring emergency appeal to individuals," she said, as well as received some government funding along with the grant from the Boston Resiliency Fund, which she said has "been able to make up that deficit."

She said that "this year, the grant funding and extra funding has been very, very important."

She called the Boston Resiliency Fund money "a significant grant," and will be used for FNSP's weekly operations and additional expenses due to the virus. She said that expenses for the organization have increased in recent months due to the need to provide take out containers and PPE, as well as additional security.

"The community has really come together," Lecoq said. "We're extremely grateful to the

City of Boston and the Boston Resiliency Fund and all of our supporters in Boston to keep us going,

and to help us to provide the critical services that we do for Boston's homeless population."



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# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

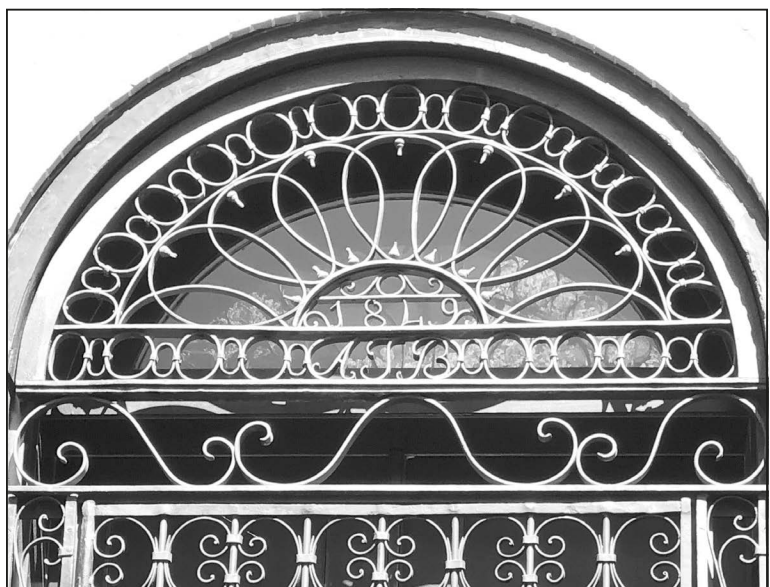


The face in the last clue is that of Mel Hugs King and is on the side of the former McKinley South End Academy at 90 Warren Street. The mural honors Melvin H. King, a community organizer, writer, and educator. It was created by the school's students and faculty in collaboration with the Scholar's Brigade.

The next clue will be found in the Back Bay.

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

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# Real Estate Transfers

## BUYER 1

## SELLER 1

## ADDRESS

## PRICE

### BACK BAY

Christopher D Macduff LT  
293 Commonwealth 5D LLC  
Katherine Grace Welch T  
203 Saint Botolph 3 LLC

Crellin, Jon  
Zimmerman, Rennell  
Dossayeva, Sauiya  
Kotlikoff, Laurence J

76 Marlborough St #3 \$1,225,000  
293-295 Commonwealth Ave #5D \$590,000  
360 Newbury St #411 \$2,000,000  
203 Saint Botolph St #3 \$1,310,000

### BEACON HILL

EB BH Holdings LLC  
Wang, Hsiumei  
41-43 RT  
Cheng, Chi-Wo J  
Ahmadi, Atosa  
J Brandt LT

Drummey, Charles F  
Ombhuh Hancock LLC  
Curran, Kathryn E  
Moore, Larry V  
Jbrandt LT  
Passacantilli FT

123 Charles St #1 \$1,300,000  
34 Hancock St #5A \$1,170,000  
41-43 Phillips St #11 \$2,695,000  
41-43 Phillips St #8 \$1,750,000  
6 Whittier Pl #12A \$599,000  
6 Whittier Pl #6R \$600,000

### BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Moin, Roya  
Reilly, Matthew  
Yang, Xin  
Bartucca, Michael A  
Spera, Thomas R  
Culiuc, Elena  
Fowler, Anne  
Davis, Ann M  
Whitney, Brittney A  
19 South Russell LLC  
Davis, Ann M

1 Charles 12H T  
Richards, Kristen M  
Brackley, Daniel A  
Ayers, Wayne M  
Johansson, Peter A  
Talbot, Leslie A  
Waterfall, David W  
Dragoon, John K  
Costantini, Julie  
19 South Russell T  
Dragoon, John K

1 Charles St S #12H \$1,810,000  
37 Bay State Rd #6 \$865,000  
4 Charlesgate E #503 \$788,000  
3 Durham St #4 \$1,200,000  
9 Hanson St #4 \$1,860,000  
535 Harrison Ave #A205 \$1,150,000  
12 Keswick St #2 \$749,000  
14 Milford St #2 \$1,995,000  
53 Rutland St #3 \$1,495,000  
19 S Russell St \$2,700,000  
1313 Washington St #U49 \$200,000

## Unemployment claims rise for public administration, education

Staff Report

From June 21 to June 27, Massachusetts had 29,072 individuals file an initial claim for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), a small decrease of 469 over the previous week, the third consecutive week of decline, but there were big movements for municipal workers and those in education as budget cuts played out statewide.

However, as the school systems closed for the summer, over-the-week increases in filings were seen in public administration and education. With layoffs and budget cuts in most school districts and in most municipal governments, claims increased tremendously in both sectors.

Public Administration claims were up 47 percent statewide, while Education was up almost

seven percent statewide.

Increases in initial claims filed were, also, posted in other sectors with the highest in manufacturing, at 22 percent.

From March 15 to June 27, a total of 1,057,496 have filed for regular UI. For the second week in a row, continued UI claims at 548,441 were down 9,828 or 1.8 percent over the previous week.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending June 27, at 14,154, were just slightly more than the previous week. Since April 20, some 638,245 claimants have filed an initial claim for the PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits was implemented on May 21. For the

week ending June 20, some 4,503 PEUC initial claims were filed bringing the total of PEUC filings to 59,144 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2,000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese – and have been attended by more than 350,000 constituents.

## SERVICES

### Refinished Furniture Sale

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## For the Record

### C O R O N A V I R U S

**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 1 p.m. July 9 CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH HEARING:

A hearing regarding the reopening of colleges and universities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, and the Sponsors are Councilors Liz Breadon, Kim Janey, and Kenzie Bok.

From the July 9 Boston Groundwater Trust meeting, 4 p.m., via Zoom:

#### Agenda

1. Adoption of Minutes and Executive Session notes from May 14th Meeting: 05
  2. VOTE REQUIRED
  3. Financial Report: 05
  4. Annual SEP-IRA Contribution - :05
  5. VOTE REQUIRED
  6. Update on Development of BGwT Operating Manual: 05
  7. Remote monitoring proposal update: 15
  8. Discussion on creation of the Trust and relationship with the City: 20
  9. Executive Director's Report: 10
  10. Other Business: 10
- Should you have any questions, please contact Christian Simonelli, Executive Director, at [csimonelli@bgwt.org](mailto:csimonelli@bgwt.org).

From the July 14 Zoning Board meeting, 10 a.m., via Webex online:

•75-77 Dartmouth St., South End. Applicant: Jacqueline Gannon

Purpose: Interior renovations to existing restaurant, Work includes interior finishes, new millwork and upgraded miscellaneous equipment. Add take out window (landmarks approval 12/3/19) The subject property has been previously been granted take out proviso and this application seeks to remove this proviso and maintain restaurant with take-out accessory use. Applicant provides a letter affidavit indicating that the take out use will not suppose more than a 75% of the business.

From the July 14 Bay Village Historic District Commission, 4 p.m., via Zoom online ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81601860508](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81601860508)):

Administrative Review/

### Approval

•46 Melrose St.: Re-point masonry, repair wooden entry steps, install slate at Mansard roof, and replace deteriorated wood window trim in-kind.

•31 Winchester St: At front façade replace two first-story six-over-six wood windows with six-over-six aluminum clad windows.

From the July 15 License Commission meeting, 10 a.m., via Zoom ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOU.S/J/87184178172?PWD=Y2ZZVU1LYXHO2JMS0JXK0TZWWDHUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87184178172?pwd=Y2ZZVU1LYXhOU2JMS0JXK0TZWWDHUT09)):

•Boston Pie, Inc. D/B/A: Domino's Pizza, 506-512A PARK Dr., Fenway. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - Customer area (12 seats), food prep area. oven, cooler, sinks, walk in cooler, managers office, basement for storage. Hours of Operation as follows: Sunday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - Midnight; Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. - 1 a.m. Delivery Monday - Sunday: 10 a.m. - 3 a.m. Manager: Rathana Noon

•Y & C GROUP, LLC D/B/A: MATCHA CAFE MAIKO, 115 JERSEY St., Fenway. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - Kitchen (no stove/oven), 1 bathroom, a bar high table top seating area, 6-8 small tables, a counter area for transactions and food pick up. Manager: Henry Yu. Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

•Tatte Holding, LLC D/B/A: Tatte Bakery and Café; 80 BOYLSTON St., Back Bay. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above - First floor; kitchen, restroom, and counter service with seating. Manager: Tzurit Or. Hours of Operation: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

•HIGHGATE HOTELS, L.P. D/B/A: TAJ BOSTON, 15 ARLINGTON St., Back Bay. Holder of a Innholder All Alcoholic Beverages license has petitioned to amend the description of the licensed business. From: Rear entrance on alley running from 15 Arlington St. in whole of said bldg. & roof; 210 Commonwealth Ave., in whole of floor 2 thru 7 inclusive & Condominium units in whole of floors 8 19 inclusive. To: In whole of 15 Arlington Street (17 story building, plus basement and roof); in whole of 210 Commonwealth Avenue (15 story building plus garage); Connection between two buildings via 7th floor corridors; Entrance/ Exits include to entrance/exit Newbury Street, 2 entrance/exits to Arlington Street, 2 emergency exits to Public Alley 437, rooftop with entrance/exit to Newbury Street and 2 emergency exits to Newbury Street; Restaurant/Lounge space inclusive

of Level 1 Newbury Bar (45 person seating capacity), Newbury Guest Lounge (18 person seating capacity), Commonwealth Petite Ballroom (212 person seating capacity) and Commonwealth Boardroom (18 person seating capacity; and Level 2 - Adams Room (110 person seating capacity), French Room (75 person seating capacity), Newbury Pre Function (6 person seating capacity), Newbury Function Room (240 person seating capacity), Commonwealth Pre Function (4 person seating capacity), Commonwealth Assembly Ballroom (500 person seating capacity) and Commonwealth Meeting Room (100 person seating capacity); and Level 17 - Restaurant (107 person seating capacity). Secondly, has petitioned for an approval of a Management Agreement between IREP Newbury Hotel, LLC and Newbury Rooftop, LLC. Lastly, has petitioned to change the d/b/a of the licensed business - From: Taj Boston To: The Newbury Boston.

•PADMA ENTERPRISES, INC. D/B/A: FOODBASKET, 563 COLUMBUS Ave., South End. Holder Retail Package Wines & Malt License has petitioned to transfer the license from the above To: Jwalaji Corp. d/b/a Get N Go (at the same location). Brijesh Kapadia, Manager. 11 p.m. Closing Hour.

•1260 BOYLSTON STREET, LLC D/B/A: SOJUBA, 1260 BOYLSTON St., Fenway. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license and location from the above - To: 175 Ipswich Street, LLC 175 Ipswich Street Boston, MA 02215. Level One: In one large room on ground floor with lobby, three bars and stage, kitchen and storage space, as well as office and staff rooms, and restrooms. Level Two: (Mezzanine): On mezzanine level, club lounge, lobby and walkways with kitchen and bar, restrooms, as well as backstage lounge, dressing rooms, and storage. Level 3A: On third floor, in one room with two bars, restrooms, as well as lobby/lounge area with additional bar. Level 3B: On third floor, concession area with bar, storage and restrooms. Level 4: On fourth floor, in one large room with two bars, restrooms, rooftop terrace with additional bar. Jonathan E. Gilula, Manager. 2 a.m. Closing Hour.

•Boston Diner Group, LLC D/B/A: Charlie's Sandwich Shoppe, 429 COLUMBUS Ave., South End. Has applied for a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcohol License to be exercised on the above - Kitchen, dining room with 1 entrance/exit on 1st floor basement with 1 entrance/exit. Approximately

2,267 sq. ft. total capacity 30. Manager: Damian Marciante. Closing Time: 2 a.m.

From the July 16, 10 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION: The Committee will hold a working session on a petition for a special law re: An Act Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal. The Chair of the Committee and sponsor of the docket is Councilor Lydia Edwards.

### 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.



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