

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

# THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Time for Mass/Cass 3.0? WSANA neighbors say 2.0 plan is failing

By Seth Daniel

Prior to COVID-19, many residents of the Worcester Square area were upbeat about last summer's rollout of the City's Mass/Cass 2.0 plan to address homelessness, drug addiction and quality of life on the corridor, but now neighbors

are calling the program a complete failure.

In the wake of several unmet deadlines for the promised six-month report on 2.0, a public dashboard that would give detailed metrics of the plan, and the recent new homeless shelter

(WSANA, Pg. 8)

## BPS looks to hybrid, in-person model for fall

By Seth Daniel

The Boston School Committee heard a plan from the administration of Boston Public Schools (BPS) for its proposed plans to re-open all schools this fall in a hybrid, in-person model where students would attend two days a week in groups.

Supt. Brenda Cassellius told the Committee and also in a letter to parents that surveys and community meetings have revealed most

parents are comfortable sending their children back to school in some fashion.

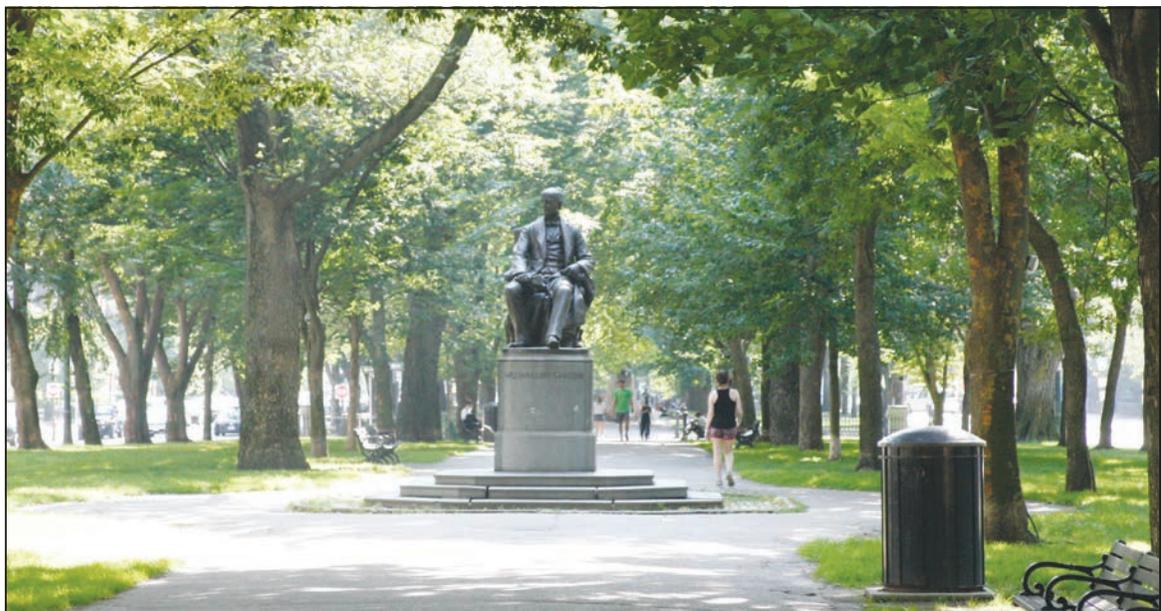
"We've learned that many parents/guardians wish for their students to return to school this fall in some capacity," she wrote in the letter. "Under current guidelines, BPS will not be able to transport the number of students we have traditionally brought to and from school on our school buses each day. Because of the transportation

(BPS RE-OPENING, Pg. 4)



Lisa Jones, a union official with the school bus drivers' union, spoke on Wednesday at a rally in front of City Hall that challenged the BPS Re-Opening Plan and called for more safeguards.

## STAYING COOL ON COMM AVE.



It's been hot outside, but staying cool on the Comm Ave Mall is old William Lloyd Garrison, who is commemorated as one of many statues on the Mall. With temperatures in the 90s for several days this week, residents have flocked outside in the mornings and evenings to enjoy such scenes.

## City Council holds hearing on police overtime

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Ways and Means held a lengthy hearing on July 28 regarding Boston Police Department (BPD) overtime, after which many councilors still had many questions regarding different aspects of the BPD struc-

ture and overtime.

Committee Chair Kenzie Bok assured the councilors and the public that these questions will be part of an extensive follow-up with the appropriate departments.

The City Council voted to pass the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021 in June, which calls

for the reallocation of \$12 million in police overtime. Bok said she believes it's the Council's "responsibility" to ensure that the administration follows through and realizes this savings.

Councilor Andrea Campbell

(POLICE OVERTIME, Pg. 9)

## Haddon Hall construction work violates zoning permit; raises concerns in the Back Bay

By Lauren Bennett

The renovation work at 29 Commonwealth in the Back Bay, known as Haddon Hall, has been underway for some time now, but the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) has raised

some concerns about recent violations at the site, which is in a Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD).

In 2017, the property was sold to developer Hexagon Properties, who wanted to convert it to a private club. NABB and many other

community members were against this proposal as they did not feel this location was the best one for such a use.

The proposal was eventually changed into one for luxury con-

(HADDON HALL, Pg. 3)

## Family history becoming a very popular 'Quarantine Project'

Digging out old pics and making family trees eats up extra time

By Seth Daniel

With ample time in the present, many have found themselves delving deep into the past.

Family history and genealogy have become one of the most popular "Quarantine Projects" over the last several months as people of all ages found themselves with more time and the ability to pick up unfinished projects or start new "past" times.

That's exactly what happened

for Etta Rosen of the South End, who had always promised her late mother she would catalog and label the more than 100 photos they had of relatives they had visited after World War II. There, however, had never seemed to be enough time to do it just how she

(GENEALOGY, Pg. 6)

# EDITORIAL

## MORE THAN \$1 TRILLION IS NEEDED

We're all familiar with the phrase, "A day late and a dollar short."

What brought that to mind this week was the announcement by the Republicans in Washington of their \$1 trillion economic pandemic plan that would supplement the \$3 trillion bill that Congress passed last spring.

The original bill did a number of things, most notably increasing unemployment benefits by \$600 per week for the millions of Americans who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic.

That original plan also was notable for what it did NOT include, namely, funding for state and local governments whose tax revenues have all but evaporated thanks to the pandemic.

The new GOP plan reduces the unemployment benefit from \$600 per week to \$200 per week and provides little funding for cash-strapped state and local governments that already have been laying off their employees, with more to come.

By contrast, the Democratic plan -- which was passed by the House of Representatives fully two months ago -- calls for another \$3 trillion that would continue the \$600 weekly payments for the unemployed and provide much-needed funding to state and local governments.

There are two things that are undeniably clear as the pandemic rages in the months ahead: First, the national unemployment rate will remain in the range of Great Depression levels for the foreseeable future and second, state and local governments will be required to implement massive cutbacks in the months ahead without substantial financial assistance from the federal government.

The Republican plan significantly fails to address both of these looming crises. By contrast, the Democratic plan, which the Republicans have failed to discuss for two months, will alleviate the worst of the pandemic's effects on the everyday lives of every American.

Or to put it another way, the Republicans are, "A month late and at least a trillion short," and their inaction of the past two months is threatening both the economic and social stability of the country.

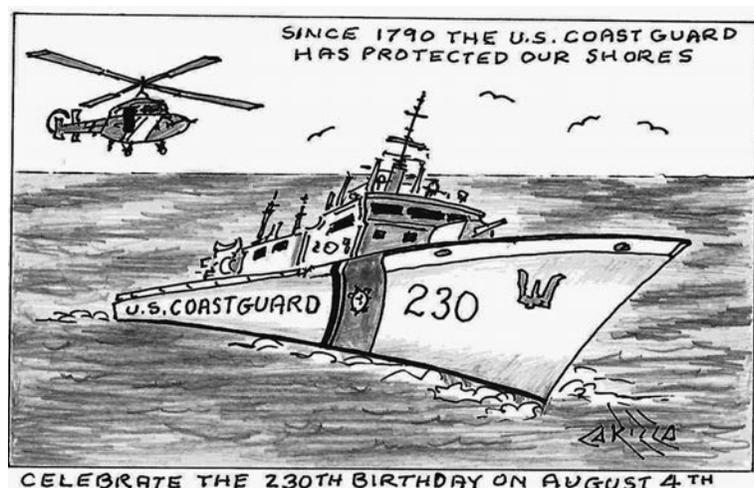
## SCHOOLS MUST BE SAFE TO REOPEN

We will be the first to concede that we do not know what exactly must be done in order to reopen our state's public schools safely in the face of the pandemic.

However, what we do know is that a large study in South Korea (which, by the way, has been a world model for suppressing the pandemic) has shown that children ages 10-19 are highly-efficient at transmitting the coronavirus to others, particularly the adults with whom they have contact.

As much as we would like to see our schools reopen for many reasons, it just does not seem possible to do so in a manner that safeguards not only the children, but also school personnel and the family members of the children.

Kids bring home plenty of germs and bugs from school even in the best of circumstances. It is inconceivable that we will be able to stop them from transmitting this highly-contagious virus if they return to school as usual in the fall. Maybe the experts have it all figured out -- we can only pray that they do.



## ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE STATE

Dear Editor, President Spilka and Speaker DeLeo:

As a diverse group of city and town elected officials representing hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents, we write in support of environmental justice (EJ) legislation for our communities -- specifically H. 4264, S. 464, and S. 453. We thank the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Committee for reporting these bills favorably to the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees back in December 2019.

These environmental justice bills are a necessary resolution to decades of disparate environmental impacts on low-income, English-isolated communities, and communities of color in Massachusetts. Inequalities in the Commonwealth continue to worsen--our zip code often influences how clean our air is, how much open space we have access to, and generally how healthy our communities are. Too often trash burning incinerators, landfills, and polluting power plants are placed in low-income and communities of color without enough transparency and a lack of resident engagement in decision-making processes. We can and must do better.

The legislation we are supporting will:

1. PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM MORE POLLUTION by expanding the requirements for state environmental review to include the potential for equitable outcomes when deciding whether to prohibit polluting projects and approve benefits, such as expanded green space and resources. The legislation would add a definition of EJ population to state law.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2. REDUCE PUBLIC HEALTH INEQUITIES IN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES by requiring identification of adverse short- and long-term health consequences of a proposed project and measures to minimize public health damage. The Act further requires analysis of cumulative impact and effects of climate change on EJ populations.

3. INCREASE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT AND INFORMATION by asking polluters to pay for translation of written information into languages spoken by nearby residents and interpretation at public meetings so that everyone can learn about a project and share their opinion with decision makers. The Act also requires public meetings to be held in convenient locations at times when people are able to attend.

All people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution, to live and work in a healthy environment, and to enjoy parks and nature. The communities we represent can't wait any longer for protections, especially during this public health crisis we all face.

We look forward to working with you to address environmental justice this session. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Tom Ambrosino, Chelsea City Manager

Martin Walsh, Boston Mayor  
Roy Avellaneda, Chelsea Council President

Judith Garcia, Chelsea Council Vice President

Damali Vidot, Chelsea City Councillor

Kenzie Bok, Boston City Councilor  
Andrea Campbell, Boston City Councilor

Michelle Wu, Boston City Councilor

## TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER MISSES MARK IN A BIG WAY

Dear Editor,

Last month, the Trump Administration issued an executive order suspending several categories of work visas through the end of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Trump's order stands to have a negative impact on the American life science industry's ability to continue to respond holistically to the crisis.

The most immediate issue that must be addressed is that the order does not specify that engineers, scientists and others with expertise in testing and manufacturing are exempt and able to travel to United States. Instead, the order only specifically exempts medical researchers and scientists involved in research to "directly" combat COVID-19.

In the 21st century, our pharmaceutical and medical communities are global. Research and development programs, partner alliances and manufacturing operations are coordinated across borders which means we need flexibility to safely move workers where they can be most effective, especially now.

COVID-19 will not be over for me until there is an effective vaccine distributed at scale, as I live with several chronic conditions. This is my reality and the reality for millions of other patients across the United States. Which is why the administration, at a bare minimum, must expand the order to allow for all necessary members of our medical community to be allowed to come to the United States.

There is simply no excuse to slow down medical progress during a global pandemic where science is our best hope to return to normalcy.

Lynn Julian

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# Fenway CDC working to aid community, preserve affordable housing in midst of pandemic

By Lauren Bennett

The Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC) recently shared the news that, along with the Schochet Companies, they have closed on a \$53 million Tax Credit Equity and construction financing for the Newcastle Saranac Apartments in the South End/Lower Roxbury.

The CDC purchased the property last year in hopes of preserving the 97 units of affordable housing. “This has been a long time coming,” said Richard Giordano, Director of Policy and Community Planning for the Fenway CDC.

“Constructed in the late 1890s and rehabilitated into Section 13A family housing in the 1970s, the Newcastle Saranac Apartments had recently reached the maturity of the Section 13A mortgage,” a press release from the Fenway CDC states. “The expiration of these affordability restrictions put the building at risk of being converted to market rate units and threatened to displace many families who have called this property their home for generations.”

Giordano pointed out that these units are about a block away from Northeastern University, so the Fenway CDC was worried that “either the school or some investor

would want to school that up.”

Some of the families who live in the units have done so for decades, and many of the units offer multiple bedrooms to accommodate families, so the Fenway CDC felt it was extremely important to preserve these units.

“It took a whole year to put the multi-facet funding together,” Giordano explained, with funds coming from multiple sources as well as low income housing tax credits from investors.

Now that the construction financing has been secured, the rehabilitation of the units will commence. Giordano said that some of the apartments have not been updated in 20 or 30 years, so now is the time to make investments in these properties to give people the best quality of life.

There are currently some vacant units, which Giordano said is a plus—at least for right now—so families can be moved into those units while their apartment is being renovated with a new kitchen, new bathrooms, and ADA compliance.

“It’s going to be a big deal,” Giordano said. “This is disruptive, but at the end of the day it will be fantastic when it’s done.”

Over the past few months, the Fenway CDC has been “plugging

along” in its efforts to acquire more buildings to preserve affordable housing, as well as make sure residents and businesses in the Fenway neighborhood are supported during the COVID-19 crisis, Giordano said.

“We’re all Zooming away,” he said, referring to the videoconferencing platform, “running all over the Fenway trying to keep tabs on properties for sale, opportunities to partner with people.”

“We just hired a new real estate project manager,” Giordano said, and “we’re continuing to talk to big developers, everybody all around to see if there’s ways to partner on things.”

He also spoke of a new City program to help CDCs make offers on properties like Newcastle Saranac to ensure that as much affordable housing is preserved as possible.

“The need for affordable housing is just getting bigger and bigger,” he said. “We’re trying to do everything remotely.” He said the switch from in-person meetings to virtual ones has been a challenge, as issues like people talking over one another can make it harder than an in-person meeting.

He also said that the Fenway CDC is making a “big effort” to work with its management compa-

ny to help people get their incomes adjusted if their income has gone down or if they’ve lost a job due to the pandemic. For those living in subsidized homes, they are still only supposed to pay a specific percentage of their income each month.

“We have to help them put in the paperwork to adjust their incomes,” Giordano said. “Our management company’s been working to do that like crazy.”

The Fenway CDC has also been working with coalitions on budgets and legislation, including trying to include the City’s Inclusionary Development Policy in the zoning code.

With the Fenway CDC’s annual gala and the Taste of the Fenway cancelled, Giordano said that the organization has still been working with its usual sponsors to get donations despite the cancellation of these events, which he said has been going well.

Giordano added that the Fenway CDC has also been helping local businesses who would have participated in the Taste of the Fenway by giving them information, pointing them in the direction of city and state programs, and asking if they need any help.

Fenway Fair Foods is also back

up and running after having to stop due to health concerns. “Now more than ever we need that,” Giordano said of the program.

He added that the Fenway CDC is also continuing to work with Fenway Cares on the Fresh Truck and Katsiroubas Bros. program that was started by City Councilor Kenzie Bok. He said that while Fenway Fair Foods offers excess food for a low cost, the Fresh Truck program also includes dry goods and costs more, which will be subsidized with a recent grant from the Mission Hill Fenway Trust.

Additionally, the Fenway CDC is helping to get people to respond to the US Census by distributing fliers in food bags, buildings, and on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

“We’re making headway with getting stuff done,” Giordano said. He said that more people have been working on issues like budgeting, legislation, and social services than before COVID-19. Though the technology has its challenges, he said it’s also been able to bring organizations, the government, and residents together to work towards a common cause in a way that has not been really seen before.

## HADDON HALL (from pg. 1)

dos, which are now under construction. The plan includes the installation of a basement garage with a scissor lift.

On June 12, 2018, the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) approved the proposal for the work, including the 1” capture requirement, which was “contingent upon the architect stating that there was no work that was going to be done below...the no harm threshold for GCOD,” according to Christian Simonelli, Executive Director of the Boston Groundwater Trust.

Simonelli told the Sun that he happened to walk by the construction site “by chance” one day several weeks ago, and noticed that something didn’t look right.

“I reached out to them,” he said, referring to the project team, and discovered that there was a design change from the 2018 approved plans, but “[the Inspection Services Department (ISD)] had no notification of that design change. I’m not sure how this slipped through the cracks.”

The proponent needed to dig deeper than originally anticipated to install the scissor lift, which required them to dewater, Simonelli said, and was beginning to

do so without the proper approval.

“It was a clear indication that their requirement was not met and needed to be met,” Simonelli told the Sun. “At that time, we coordinated with ISD. They issued a stop work order for the below grade work” in early July, which he said has been followed. NABB also reached out to the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, as well as the City Council, for intervention, according to NABB chair Martyn Roetter.

“If you start pumping out water from one building, that can potentially have a very dangerous impact upon neighboring buildings,” Roetter said. “If the groundwater sinks low enough, the wooden pilings on many buildings and in the district will start rotting. It’s not a trivial concern.”

Luckily, that was not the case with this project. “This could have been a lot worse than it was,” Simonelli said. He said that he hasn’t seen issues with the piles, and the work went on for “such a short duration that hopefully we don’t.”

However, there was a complication of the work done in violation that that led to the breaking of a

sewer pipe in the alley.

“We (NABB) heard about it from some neighbors who were complaining because there was a lot of night work going on...and the alley was blocked off.”

Elliott Laffer, also of NABB and the former Executive Director of the Boston Groundwater Trust, said that removing soil from under the building, causing a void, can lead to pipes breaking.

Roetter said that there is a concern of contamination from raw sewage, as it drained under the building.

“These two events coming close together raised a question: how vigilant do we have to be about what’s going on there?” Roetter asked.

“If you don’t file the appropriate application, then there’s no record of the work being done, and no one to stop by and look at it to see if it’s done right,” Laffer said. “It’s critically important that all of these standards are upheld.”

The project came before the ZBA on July 28 for Board Final Arbiter, where Simonelli explained how the construction was in violation of the conditional use permit.

“They moved very quickly,”

Simonelli said of the proponents, who were able to produce a no-harm letter from an engineer at the hearing stating that there will be no negative impact on the groundwater once the project is complete.

“In addition, the project engineer...is also monitoring the water levels in the area throughout the work,” Simonelli said. “In a nutshell, we’re really comfortable moving forward. The proponent has been very responsible and acted quickly...to remedy this violation.” The ZBA approved the project and allowed the below grade work to continue now that it is documented and there is proof that no harm will be caused.

“Once the work is completed, it should have nothing but a positive impact on the ground water levels,” Simonelli told the Sun.

Although the situation did not end up causing drastic issues, it still raises questions from the Back Bay community about construction standards and safety.

“Our concern is about the procedure that led up to the dewatering taking place in the first place,” Roetter said. “Why was this excavation not implemented in a safe

way?” He said that NABB also has concerns about the developer making changes to the permit without first informing the City.

Hexagon Properties did not respond to the Sun’s request for comment by press time.

Roetter said that with many people still working from home and not being able to hold in-person meetings, there are “fewer eyes and ears on the street. Are there more activities going on getting approved without proper review and input simply because of the situation we find ourselves in?” He said that NABB would like to “support ongoing economic activity,” but incidences like this raise serious concerns in the neighborhood.

“If this team, which includes an experienced architect who’s done a lot of work in Back Bay groundwater areas and a knowledgeable and well funded building owner, does this stuff wrong,” Laffer said, then concerns can arise about others with less experience or financial means doing work in the neighborhood.

“That’s when standards collapse,” he said, “and that would be tragic.”

# Wu holds panel discussion on safe and equitable BPS reopening

By Lauren Bennett

With conversations around reopening schools in the fall, many parents and community members have questions and concerns around what is best for students, but many have stated that the conversation needs to go beyond just safe reopening, and when looking at recovery, equity should also be at the top of the list.

BPS recently released a draft plan for reopening schools in the fall, which consists of a hybrid model of in-person and remote learning, and would have students rotating between the two.

City Councilor Michelle Wu held a panel discussion on July 27, as “there is a need to hear from those most immediately impacted by this reality for schools—our students, families and educators,” she wrote on her Facebook page for the event, which was livestreamed on the social media site.

The panel consisted of Educators for Excellence Executive Director Sarah Idrissu, Boston Public Schools (BPS) Educator Jose Valenzuela, BPS Parent and Educator Alicia Wedderburn, and BPS student Miggy Antonio.

Wu said that the conversation was intended to be “about recovery for BPS and not just for reopening. We need our educators involved...students, youth from all backgrounds. As we’re moving towards reopening, it has to be a conversation in partnership.”

She said that over 160 people

signed up to be a part of this conversation, which included breakout sessions for the community to brainstorm topics and ideas and discuss concerns.

In a survey to participants when they signed up for the event, people were asked how they felt about the level of communication and conversation that has been had with the community regarding BPS and its plan, with which the “majority of folks said they were not satisfied,” Wu said.

Antonio, who is a rising senior at Boston Latin School, said he does not believe there has been enough conversation around reopening school in the fall, and is grateful for this conversation. He said he believes a safe reopening needs to be “flexible” and easily allow for a transition to online learning “on short notice.”

He also said that more resources will be necessary, as space is an issue within the BPS system and there are not enough classrooms to properly distance all students.

He also said there “needs to be processes to monitor health outcomes as well,” and referenced the plan that BPS recently released regarding reopening, which relies on self-reporting of symptoms from families. Antonio said he “doesn’t think this is sustainable,” and believes that reopening process for schools is being rushed.

“Given the uncertainty, we know so little about the virus,” said Wedderburn, who is also

the parent of three BPS students. “Currently, we are not sure if people can get reinfected.” She said that “to take an in-person approach at this point would not be responsible.”

**Wu said that the conversation was intended to be “about recovery for BPS and not just for reopening...”**

She added that the mindset in the spring for remote learning was that it would be “temporary,” but knowing what we know now, a more robust online learning plan is needed.

“We need to be shifting this to a full year plan at minimum,” she said.

Returning to “normal,” she added, “from a racial equity standpoint, we can’t go back to that.” She said that some instruction practices prior to the pandemic “were definitely not equitable from a racial standpoint.” She said it’s important that those practices are reexamined and not included moving forward.

She said that if there’s “any benefit to COVID,” it’s “allowing us an opportunity to reimagine education and allowing us an opportunity to really think about particularly racial equity as it relates to our school system that we haven’t really ever addressed in a substantial way.”

Valenzuela, a 12 year teacher who currently teaches at Boston Latin Academy and has a son in BPS, said that he would like to see a phased in approach to reopening schools, beginning with online moving and moving into a hybrid model later on.

“We might be having the wrong conversation as it’s been framed by BPS so far,” he said, adding that the time could be used “to think about a better online learning experience from the jump.”

Sarah Idrissu said she has a young son, and as a prospective BPS parent, she’s waiting to see if BPS will be her choice for him “and I really want it to be,” adding that she has worked within the BPS system.

She said that parents and teachers were stressed about the remote learning environment this spring, and many issues such as how attendance was taken as well as how to engage students with all learning styles in this fashion.

She said that a return to in-person will create paranoia in students, who would be required to wear masks all day and constantly sanitize. She said this will lead to more school fights and “negative interactions with educators” because of increased anxiety.

“The brain doesn’t open up for learning in fight or flight mode,” she continued, adding that the perception that in person learning is better may not be so true if the environment will be so anxiety-inducing.

Similar to Wedderburn’s point

about remote learning feeling “temporary,” as a student, Antonio said it was difficult for him to adjust to the online environment that was thrown at students so quickly. He said it was difficult to hold himself accountable for paying attention and getting his work done, as being at home offers many distractions.

He felt that he and his peers “could goof off and still pass.”

He also spoke about many students who did not have adequate internet connections and BPS should focus more tightly on getting them the resources they need to succeed.

While he believes that “the number one priority” should be saving the lives of students and staff, he also understands the importance of in person learning to many students in the city.

Instances of child abuse have gone up over the past few months, he said, due to children staying home. “School can be an escape, a safe space” for these students. “Kids who absolutely need to go to school should and everyone else should stay home,” Antonio said.

He said that while Boston is “starting to return to a sense of normalcy,” he doesn’t feel that the educational outcomes going into this school year should be the same as last year. “The pandemic’s unprecedented,” he said, and calls for the need to adapt to a new way of doing things rather than “pushing away” the fact that the virus is still here. “This is how it’s going to be for a while.”

## BPS RE-OPENING (from pg. 1)

limitations, and because we cannot safely fit all students in their classrooms at the same time, all in-person learning is currently not an option for BPS. Due to these reasons, we are currently exploring a ‘hybrid’ model of instruction, in which students would be assigned into groups.”

That hybrid model would have

students in each school assigned to Group A or Group B. Students in Group A would go to school in-person on Monday and Tuesday, then have remote learning on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Students in Group B would attend school in-person on Thursday and Friday, and learn remotely on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

All students would learn remotely on Wednesdays so that schools could have a deep cleaning and sanitization. Buildings would also be deep cleaned and sanitized on the weekends as well.

“BPS is proposing this model because it allows us to meet the public health guidelines and safety measures needed, but also allows students to benefit from being in classrooms with their teachers and classmates,” wrote Cassellius. “How our hybrid model will work is still being developed with our teachers and school leaders. Each school’s specific schedule will be determined based on the building, student needs, and other factors. We anticipate that schedules, and even the days of the week assigned to various groups of students, may be different in high schools and perhaps in K-8 schools as well.”

Already, the Boston Teacher’s Union and School Nurses are slamming the plan, and more than 100 educators and nurses sat in protest of that plan at City Hall on Wednesday.

“No students or staff should be

asked to risk their lives or their loved ones by going back in person not even under a hybrid plan until all possible health and safety precautions are addressed and verified,” said BTU President Jessica Tang. “The District should work with educators, especially our school nurses, to plan and prepare for a reopening that is safe, equitable and healthy for everyone.” The BTU said the draft reopening plans provided by BPS do not meet the standards necessary to ensure the safety of Boston school facilities, adequate staffing and supplies, and comprehensive guidance for families and school personnel regarding COVID-19. They unveiled a list of five demands.

•Policies consistent with Safe Nursing Practice must be reviewed and approved by our nurses.

•Rapid testing must be in place for quick identification of COVID-19 in our school communities.

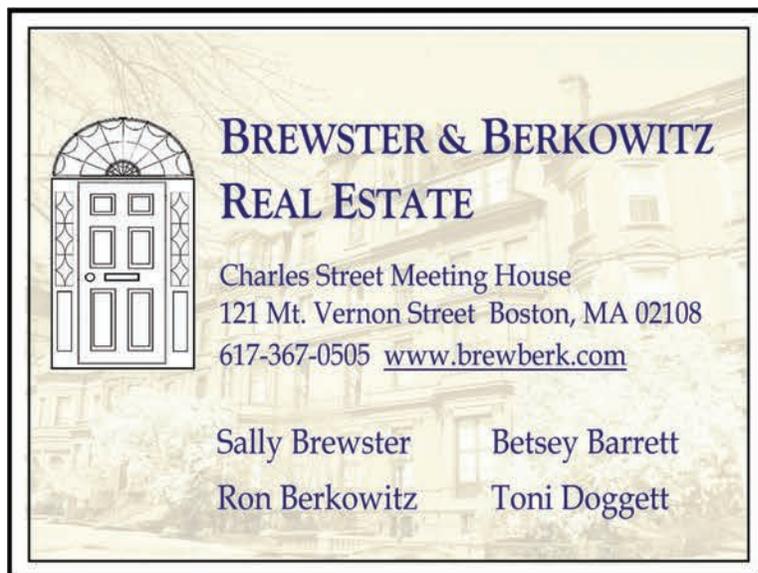
•Sufficient PPE supplies, including fitted N95 masks for nurses and appropriate protective gear for all educators who need them must be obtained and supplied in adequate quantities by the district.

•There should be adequate ventilation in all areas; cleaning and sanitizing policies must be strictly enforced; there must be isolation rooms and safe waiting areas near health offices, working sinks in all health offices, soap and paper towels in all bathrooms, working windows, and safe drinking water. Air quality and ventilation assessments must be done and the results must be made public.

•Increase the number of substitute nurses and teachers, hire more psychologists, social workers, custodians, and other staff in order to support all students and to implement all safety protocols.

Today, July 30, there will be an online meeting for all BPS parents at 5 p.m. to learn more about these plans, to give input and to hear of any updates. Last Saturday, an online meeting on the re-opening plans drew 400 parents.

Initial re-opening plans from most school districts are due to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by July 31.



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# Inaction is not an option.

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# Walsh discusses schools, small businesses, Census in latest updates

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh continues to provide updates to the community regarding COVID-19 and new information for Boston Public Schools (BPS), small businesses, and the Census.

On July 23, Walsh announced that BPS Superintendent Brenda

Cassellius and her team presented a draft plan for schools at the Boston Public School Committee meeting that combines in-person with remote learning.

"A great deal of research, dialogue, thought, and care went into this draft," Walsh said. "But it is a draft, and the process of getting input and feedback will continue."

He said that while he understands that "families want to see a concrete plan" for the fall, the decisions being made in the City and state are based on public health data which is monitored on both a daily and a weekly basis.

He said that ensuring the "health and safety of children, teachers, and staff" is important,

and "equity is a major concern."

Walsh said that come September, kids will have been out of school buildings for almost six months.

"We have worked to get food, technology, and mental health supports to every student and family who needs it," he said. "We have to consider what remote learning means for low income students

and students of color who have fewer resources at home."

He said that the City is "committed to meeting all of the needs," and asks for "continued input and patience from families."

Walsh said that if the proposed hybrid model is implemented in the fall, parents will have the

(WALSH UPDATES, Pg. 7)

## GENEALOGY (from pg. 1)

wanted. When COVID-19 hit in March, suddenly she was looking for something to do, and the pictures and family history beckoned.

"I inherited photos from my parents, my in-laws, my grandparents and great aunts," she said. "They had cartons full of photos. After my brother and I are gone, I realized no one would recognize

any of the people in the pictures from my family. I had the distinct advantage of having gone to Europe and Israel after World War II and meeting eight brothers and sisters of my grandfather. He had come to America before the war, but the rest stayed in Europe. We went in the 1950s, and it wasn't so impressive to a 7-year-old, but in

retrospect it was great."

Rosen said her mother immersed her in family history in the 1980s, making elaborate family trees and always schooling her on who was in the photos she eventually inherited. It was something that, with time now, she wanted to complete. She decided she would not go on Ancestry.com to uncover any new information so as to not make it more complicated – keeping things simple and working only with what she already had and knew. So, she clearly labeled all of the photos, placed them in archival boxes and scanned some of them to be included in a detailed family tree. She said she put them in binders so her four children's spouses could add their family stories as well. When COVID-19 restrictions relax, she said she will make nine copies of her project for her kids, her grandkids.

"It makes me sad because these were full lives and real people," she said. "Somehow, keeping that a preserving it is worthwhile. I think in this day and age, even before the pandemic, people are disconnected. We rely so much on electronics. It's a way of feeling more connected I think. Conversely, it's also a way of looking into the future. They won't forget me either. That was important to my mother, so in a way, I was honoring her too."

Jim Power at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in the Back Bay said they have had a noticeable uptick in interest for their programming and services in the last four months. That corresponds with national online services like Ancestry.com, who report a 37 percent increase in subscriptions since COVID-19 began.

"We have seen an uptick in interest," he said. "We've had the program growth that has happened online virtually. We've seen a growth in subscriptions and memberships and that's nothing to sneeze at. That's important to us... We have a captive audience right now. There are a lot of people who have a lot more time looking to us and that result is certainly in our favor."

Power said the pandemic has taught their organization that their



Southender Etta Rosen joined legions of Americans over the last several months to complete or start family history projects during the quarantine for COVID-19. Genealogical services report major upticks in interest, and more people are tuning into genealogical programs too. Rosen decided to finish a project that included labeling a carton of hundreds of pictures she inherited of her family. Here, her great grandmother and two of her great aunts are pictured in Belgium after they fled Poland. The woman standing eventually came to the U.S.

programming – which primarily has been in their Back Bay events room that holds 90 people – can be hugely successful online to their greater, international membership. He said while their events are mostly for locals, some 90 percent of their members are from out of state. When they began producing programming online as the pandemic worsened, they were surprised to see record numbers.

"That was an unexpected result because we are a national organization and 90 percent of our members are way beyond Massachusetts," he said. "Some 95 percent of our relationships were already virtual... Even so, we still had a big investment in the live, in-person programs with big celebrities. We were limited to a 90-person capacity. Now, we're able to market that to a much bigger audience and we're seeing 2,000 reservations for a 90-minute online program. It showed us what is possible."

Like Rosen, Power suggested anyone biting off a piece of the

family history project should start now with those living – or those who have the memory of people in the family tree or in family photos.

"Do it now and talk to the living," he said. "Get the stories from them. You may not be interested. Your children may not be interested, but in 20 years everyone will be."

Rosen said there is a silver lining to COVID-19 in that it did provide a lot of people a lot of time to do 'Quarantine Projects' like family history that they could never seem to finish in regular times.

"That's the silver lining I suppose to COVID-19," she said. "Now they will know Cousin Judith isn't just Cousin Judith. They'll know where she fits in the family... For me, it wasn't so much about the why, but I didn't want these being thrown away."

The NEHGS is located on Newbury Street in the Back Bay, and has a website of AmericanAncestors.org.



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# At long-last, southbound on Washington Street is possible

By Seth Daniel

It has taken much longer than expected, but ultimately the job got done and two-way Washington Street and Traveler Street in the New York Streets area of the South End debuted last week.

Heretofore, only buses could go southbound on Washington between Herald and East Berkeley Street, and vehicles had to make the long loop to Harrison or Albany and then head south. Vehicles were able to go northbound.

That strange configuration – along with making Traveler two way for its entirety between Washington and Albany – disappeared last week when workers opened up the street all ways.

“We’re excited about the two-way work being in place as it is an important transportation step

for the neighborhood,” said Ted Tye of National Development, which brought Ink Block to the market. “The complete rebuilding of Harrison Avenue is in the City’s budget this fiscal year and has been delayed by construction of 321 Harrison and the Quinn. We hope to see that much needed, long anticipated project start soon.”

The two-way project is in partnership with the Boston Transportation Department (BTD), the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and the Public Works Department. The idea came out of the Harrison/Albany Corridor Study several years ago, said BTD’s Bill Conroy and BPDA’s Jim Fitzgerald. The idea was making Washington a two-way was to improve circulation in this section of the South End as it was developed more intensely, and

to preserve regional bus and bike connections.

Fitzgerald and Conroy both said the project was long-anticipated and the design was considered for some time. That was in connection also with the rapid development of New York Streets after the area started slowly.

Both said they did understand the frustration with the slowness, as it was a priority, but that it took more than just painting new traffic lines on the streets. The streetscape change involved modifications to traffic signals at the intersections, sidewalk reconstruction, road resurfacing, ADA compliant ramp installation, and updates to pavement markings.

The completion of two-way Washington now allows BTD and BPDA to begin thinking about companion projects, such as



After years of waiting, two-way Washington Street opened to the public last week in the New York Streets area – allowing drivers to go southbound between Herald and East Berkeley. Traveler Street was also converted to a two-way street as well. Both were a priority of the Harrison Albany Corridor Study several years ago.

working with MassDOT to make the Harrison Avenue Bridge off of Herald Street also a two-way roadway. Additionally, the massive Harrison Avenue redesign in New

York Streets is also on the docket, and is only awaiting the completion of projects on the street before starting.

## WALSH UPDATES (from pg. 6)

choice to opt out of the in person portion and have their children learn completely remotely.

“We’ll talk more about this as we move forward,” Walsh said. “There’s about seven weeks until opening day of school, and that’s a lot of time as we’ve seen with COVID-19.”

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Walsh on Tuesday expressed his concern about the “thousands of young people” coming back to Boston for the fall semester, especially from areas that have experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases.

He said that the city has been “working closely with institutions” on a plan to create safe housing for students, especially should anyone become COVID positive.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) are working on reviewing applications for spaces like hotels to be used for temporary student housing,” Walsh said.

He also said that there will be plans for the surrounding community to communicate with universities if issues arise with this temporary housing.

Walsh also said that he is meeting this week with college presidents to continue their discussion regarding reopening plans, and said that the City is prepared to assist colleges and universities in any ways that they need.

### STREET SWEEPING TO RESUME

Walsh also announced on July 23 that street sweeping will resume on August 10. Cars will once again be ticketed if they are not moved out of the way, but the City will not be towing “until further notice,” he said.

“As summer progresses, we don’t want to see dirt and trash build up on our streets and we received several complaints from that,” he said. Flyers will be placed on cars starting on July 27 for a full two weeks to remind people who are “out of the habit of moving their cars.”

Walsh advised residents to sign up for the street cleaning cell phone alert so they can be reminded when street cleaning will happen in their area.

### SMALL BUSINESS UPDATE

Walsh provided an update on small business assistance, and said that the moratorium on evictions that has been extended by Governor Baker until October 17 also applies to small businesses.

“We have dedicated over \$13.5 million to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19,” Walsh said, and the Small Business Relief Fund has distributed almost \$6.5 million to nearly 1900 small businesses, 50 percent of which are owned by people of color, and 47 percent immigrant-owned.

Additionally, the Reopen Boston Fund has distributed more than \$1.7 million to over 1000 businesses for things like PPE, outdoor spaces, and partitions to help keep people safe.

Walsh said that last week, more businesses will be able to receive funds, as they were previously limited to businesses with 15 or fewer employees. Now, businesses with up to 25 employees, as well as those who do not have brick and mortar locations “but still have direct contact with customers and clients who do business here in the City of Boston” are also eligible.

“We’re also continuing our work to increase visibility for businesses impacted by the COVID-19 crisis,” Walsh said, including updating directories of open busi-

nesses on boston.gov, providing free posters for small businesses in both print and digital formats, and hosting workshops to “help businesses understand the [Request for Proposal] and bidding process in the City of Boston,” he said.

### CENSUS

Walsh has spoken several times now about the importance of filling out this year’s US Census. He stressed that filling out the Census ensures that the City will “get our fair share of federal resources.” He also pointed out that filling it out is required by the US Constitution.

“This week, the president released a memo seeking to cut some immigrants out of the census population numbers for redistricting purposes,” Walsh said, adding that the US Constitution requires “every person in the US to be counted. This proposal is unlikely to hold up in court.”

He continued, “All of us in Boston want everyone living in the City of Boston to be counted because it makes a difference. There’s no exceptions for immigration status.”

Walsh said that “Boston is a city of immigrants,” and 28 percent of residents were born in another country.

He called the president’s move a “political move to undercount and undermine communities that have large amounts of immigrants and also hurting urban areas like Boston.”

The past three Censuses have resulted in a member of Congress lost each time, which puts Boston down three members in the past 30 years, Walsh said.

“If we count our population and get every single person it will help us get our fair share of federal dollars here to Boston to help us with whatever we need it for,” Walsh said.

Walsh added that since unemployment benefits from the Federal CARES act will expire at the end of this week, “we’re going to see a struggle in Boston as people reach

out for help.” He said that it is necessary to “continue to advocate on behalf of Boston.”

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# Related Beal envisions senior care facility, retail and affordable housing for BFIT

By Seth Daniel

The Related Beal company has filed a Letter of Intent with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to redevelop the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) campus in the South End to a large senior care

facility, affordable housing, offices and retail concepts.

The letter of intent was filed in mid-July, and the company indicated it would like file a Planned Development Area (PDA) plan and a Project Notification Form in the next 60 days – or by mid-September.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) on the process of developing such a significant site in Boston’s South End,” said Kimberly Sherman Stampler, President, Related Beal. “Our goal is to introduce a meaningful and diverse mix of uses to this vibrant and historic

neighborhood, anchored by public realm improvements and activation, and look forward to further public conversations as we continue to shape this development plan.”

BFIT has already made an exit plan earlier this year to relocate to Harrison Avenue in Roxbury,

and to continue their training programs and educational mission there for the foreseeable future. They had been in the South End in the same location since 1908. However, as their student population moved further from the South End, they saw an opportunity to

(BFIT, Pg. 9)

## WSANA (from pg. 1)

added at the Roundhouse Hotel without anyone’s knowledge, members of the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) on Tuesday summed up the once-hopeful plan as having taken a nosedive into the crowded sidewalk.

“There’s no progress being made between meetings of the Task Force,” said Mike Nelson, a WSANA resident and member of the City’s 2.0 Task Force. “The current situation is not progress, not even some, but it represents failure in every sense. We might be working as hard as we can, but it isn’t working. Go to the intersection of Mass and Cass and that’s what failure looks like...I speak for residents of WSANA. This intersection is a major gateway to the City for people coming from the south and this is what greets them. It doesn’t look like a world-class city.”

Nelson was joined in unison by many in the online meeting saying

the plan isn’t working, and though COVID-19 has taken the attention and resources that were devoted to the 2.0 plan, most said it was time to move forward and focus back on Mass/Cass. The pinch point for WSANA was the recent one-year lease by Pine Street Inn of the Roundhouse Hotel for a 180-person homeless shelter. No one was notified in WSANA, nor was anyone on the Task Force, and it came only a few weeks after Pine Street had appeared to talk about their work at the June WSANA meeting. Nothing about the lease was mentioned at that meeting.

Fernando Requena said it’s time for WSANA to fight back or lose the gains they’ve made.

“This whole Pine Street Inn situation is disgraceful in my opinion,” he said. “We have been talking about decentralization of services here for years...It always ends up the South End is a dumping ground. If we don’t fight, we’ll lose all the progress we’ve made to make the South End a livable

place.”

Bob Minnocci of WSANA echoed those sentiments.

“We have to stay on these (City) people 24/7,” said Minnocci. “Otherwise they slip into lethargy and jobs that aren’t accountable. The fact that 2.0 is where it is today is a disgrace and Pine Street Inn pulled a fast one on us, the mayor and everyone is a disgrace. How do you stop them? They’re in their legal right to do it.”

That hardened to greater issues with the 2.0 plan, the Task Force and all of the stakeholders that were supposed to be on the same page. Nelson said Pine Street Inn is a member of the Task Force, and it was clear at the last meeting that no one on the Task Force, at City Hall – including Mayor Martin Walsh – was told of this major deviation from the 2.0 plan.

“Pine Street is focused on their mission,” said Nelson. “They’re not focused on our position or our problems...(How to stop them) is the question at hand. It has highlighted we’re not all rowing in the

same direction.”

Other leaders in WSANA and attendees of the meeting also voiced frustration with the overall 2.0 plan, including the fact that it hasn’t produced valuable information promised long ago.

Nelson responded by saying that is another reason he counts the plan as a failure at the moment. The six-month report is four months overdue, and the dashboard of metrics and public information doesn’t exist yet after one year.

“The six-month report is going to be a 10-month report,” he said. “It was due in March and it’s July...They say it’s being reviewed and they don’t want to present anything that’s unrealistic because of COVID-19.”

The dashboard was perhaps the most anticipated feature of the plan for residents, as it was to be a vacuum for information on the corridor, such as how many people had been referred to treatment on a daily basis, how many 9-1-1 calls had been made for issues in the area, and how many needles had been picked up by City services on a weekly basis. So far, Nelson said, there are no plans to release it any time soon.

Another major piece – perhaps the most important piece – was the decentralization of services from the South End to other parts of the City and state. Most in WSANA believed the Roundhouse represented a backslide on that, and rather than progress, they said that point has gotten worse since 2.0.

Pine Street told the Sun their goal is to be a good neighbor, and they will do everything they can to fulfill that obligation and get those in the temporary shelter into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

“Our goal is to be a good neighbor and work cooperatively with residents and businesses in the area,” read a statement. “Pine Street Inn has been doing this work for over 50 years, and we will do everything we can to make this go well, and to place each of these individuals into permanent housing as quickly as possible.

“While we are aware that this is not an ideal situation, what has gotten lost in this is that we could not bring this group of medically vulnerable, at-risk individuals back to our main shelter, where

they would be unable to social distance,” they continued. “Our COVID test numbers went from a positive rate of 36% early on to under 2% currently, with the social distancing and other protocols we have been able to put in place.”

•CONCERT IN AUGUST OR SEPT.

Craig Hughes typically puts together fantastic concerts on Worcester Square every summer, but COVID-19 has made that challenging. On Tuesday, he took the temperature of WSANA to figure out if maybe the neighborhood would want to do a socially distant concert later in the summer. The consensus was ‘yes.’

For those living in the Square, they could simply open their windows or sit on the stoop. The band would be in the park, but no one would be allowed inside the fence. Traffic would be closed off on the street, and that would allow people to listen and be socially distant from everyone else. Stay tuned for more details.

•34 EAST SPRINGFIELD

Matt Zahler of MPZ Development was on hand again to announce he is putting together his capitalization team now to begin the long process of getting funding to restore and bring to market five affordable housing units at 34 E. Springfield St. The property is owned by the Boston Housing Authority, but is derelict and has been vacant 11 years. They are now looking at possibilities with their architects and came to ask for a letter of support to add a fifth unit to the building – which only has four now.

The one-bedroom units would be affordable up to 80 percent of the median income, which works out to \$63,500 for one person and \$72,550 for two people. The average rent at that level would be around \$1,517 per month, with market-rate one-bedrooms going for more than \$2,000 a month in the South End.

Vice President Desi Murphy asked the BHA to make some upgrades to the property and clean it up while the neighborhood waits for Zahler to take possession of the property. BHA said they would have their maintenance crews focus on the property throughout the next several months.

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**BFIT** (from pg. 8)

sell their campus and find a more convenient location.

Related Beal quickly seized the opportunity, but for more than a year many have wondered what they would do with it. The LOI filed gives the first specifics of that intended plan. The uses include:

- A Senior Care Facility building of 210,000 sq. ft. with ground floor retail.

- An adaptive re-use of the

Franklin Union building for 80,000 sq. ft. of commercial use and ground floor retail.

- A 20,000 sq. ft. affordable housing building with a 4,500 sq. ft. community room on the ground floor.

- An active campus made possible by considerable dedicated open spaces and significant ground floor retail.

The LOI also detailed a signifi-

cant change to the way the campus looks, including access and open space and curb appeal.

“It will include a landscape design that will afford a positive impact to the South End through place-making,” read the letter. “New passages will connect the formerly inaccessible interior of the Project Site to surrounding routes and venues. The ground floor will include a continuous net-

work of indoor and outdoor spaces, designed as both a destination and a pedestrian boulevard. This diverse, mixed-use Project will complement and enrich the historic urban fabric of the South End, preserving much of the existing structures on the Project Site while introducing new, contemporary and contextual design and extensive landscape and public realm improvements.”

The LOI also indicated the proposed development would not lose track of the historic nature and mission of the campus on Berkeley Street, which is within the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association. They are likely to have a major hand in the public review of the project after the documents are filed and the Article 80 process begins.

**POLICE OVERTIME** (from pg. 1)

started by saying she would have liked to see even more money removed from the police budget, and stated that she has seen an “uptick in homicides and stabbings” in her district of Dorchester and Mattapan. She said that she has heard conversations in the community that the lowering of the overtime budget is leading to less police officers out in the community.

“I’m not going to buy into that narrative,” she said.

BPD director of finance Lisa O’Brien, Superintendent Jim Hasson, and the City’s Budget Director, Justin Sterritt, were on hand to provide a brief presentation as well as answer questions from the Council.

O’Brien explained that replacement and extended tours comprise 67.6 percent of the total overtime costs for FY2020, and using overtime for replacement personnel is non-discretionary as minimum staffing levels need to be maintained in the district. She said that this year they had thought overtime costs would be lower due to the cancellation of so many public events, but due to the pandemic and the recent demonstrations it ended up being higher.

Hasson said that the number of calls to service, the population of an area, and land mass is used to determine how many officers are needed in a particular area at minimum to provide “adequate” services.

According to a slide presented by the BPD, reforms that are under review to reduce replacement costs for overtime include “evaluate staffing levels in all units to determine if resources need to be redirected; tighter controls on Work In/Work Out, body for body policy implementation; and long term: civilians to replace administrative positions currently being filled by 80 to 100 sworn personnel.”

Other reform measures include reducing extended tours and more support for injured officers so they can get the help they need while still returning to work in a timely manner.

Hasson said negotiations will need to be had with unions to determine which roles could be transferred over to civilians in

order to direct officers towards other duties that don’t necessarily require police intervention.

“We should be able to know what reassignments the Commissioner has the right to do without further bargaining,” Bok said.

Councilor Campbell called the fact that officers have said in communities that there are less officers due to budget reductions “extremely troubling.”

Hasson said that officers need to fill cars that are assigned to specific districts and make sure each shift is balanced.

When questioned about a central plan versus a district plan for reducing the overtime budget, Hassan said the two are working together. “They’ve been told there’s a reduction in overtime,” Hassan said of the districts,” but “right now, they’re struggling to maintain the minimum Manning.” O’Brien said that she prepares an overtime report every other week in collaboration with police chiefs. “Every district, every specialized unit has an allotment for budgetary hours, for overtime,” she said. The goal is to figure out what that looks like with the reduction implemented.

Aside from figuring out which positions could be filled by civilians without collective bargaining, Councilor Campbell said she wants to see which ones would require collective bargaining, but could still be attainable. She said this would free up some officers to offer more coverage to districts that may need it.

Hasson said that 90 hours is the maximum number of hours with overtime, details, and working hours that officers can work. He said the midnight shift tends to have fewer service calls and therefore fewer officers, but other shifts have higher demand at certain times of the day. For example, the 4pm to midnight shift has the highest demand in some districts versus after midnight, while the A1 district downtown has the highest demand during the day.

Councilor Ed Flynn mentioned that many community and neighborhood organizations in the City like to hear updates from Community Service Officers about crime and happenings in the neighbor-

hood and to voice their concerns about certain issues.

“They ask for police presence in certain areas,” Flynn said. “I think we need to make sure we have enough money in the budget to address overtime issues.” He said he would support finding “different revenue options,” as he feels the police “play a critical role” in “working with residents on public safety and quality of life issues.”

Councilor Ricardo Arroyo asked whether the decentralization of officers from specialized units like the bike or fugitive units could happen, as it would provide more officers for the regular community beats and cut down on overtime costs.

Councilor Michael Flaherty said that chiropractic services need to be put on the “formulary” to get officers back on the job more quickly. Hasson said that approximately three officers per shift from every district every day are out sick or injured.

“Between demonstrations and COVID,” Hasson said, the department has “seen a huge increase in absences.” Pam Kocher, president of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, said that the \$12 million shifted away from the police department towards other investments in the community “reduces demands on BPS to address non-public safety issues.”

She said that people will continue to rely on the police and call them for non-police needs for some time, but she said that those needs should be shifted “as quickly as possible to other departments. Residents need help to make that shift, and it will take some time” to help them understand where they need to direct requests for resources depending on the situation.

Councilor Bok said that her “biggest concern about the conversation today” is that “we are really not looking at a plan yet about ‘this is what we’re saving.’ What is the plan for monitoring benchmarks and making sure that we’re kind of making progress towards saving this nearly \$25 million?”

Budget Director Justin Sterritt said that the budget department is “working with the BPD constant-

ly to track the hours versus what we have planned for.” He said that moving forward, tracking will require “constant adjustment on a weekly basis” to adapt to the lower overtime budget.

He also said that a lot of the calls that BPD receives, such as calls related to parks, towing cars, transportation, and more, can be directed to other agencies and the City can work with partners to address this.

The need for more officers may be helped through a police class that will be offered this fall, and another in the spring, which could “bolster the number of officers sooner rather than later” which could help with the overtime costs, he said.

He also said that the City working with BPD through health insurance and human resources departments on officers returning to work is “one of the ways to make the soonest impact.”

Councilor Campbell said she was “frustrated” during the hearing, adding that she wants to ensure the reduction in the police budget is sustainable year after year.

“Right now, it’s important that we have specifics,” she said. “We have listed a whole bunch of strategies to realize this \$25 million. The question remains is ‘which strategy are we going to adopt?’”

She said that some of the solutions could take years to implement, and she looks forward to “continued conversations” on this topic as well as getting more specifics from follow up with the BPD.

“I do really appreciate all the

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work that’s gone into this, and I think to Superintendent Hasson’s point, I do see a lot of strategies here on the table,” Bok said. “I just think that the Council and this committee specifically is going to continue to be really focused on the question of ‘how do those things come together to actually result in these savings?’...what are the broader questions about how we police?”

She continued, “The more that we can focus our law enforcement resources on the really critical law enforcement priorities, and away from some of the stuff that undermines trust in our community. I think there’s an opportunity here that’s driven by a fiscal question but can also turn into more of a policy question.”

**Product Evaluation Engineer, Teradiode Inc. (Wilmington, MA): Support the testing, evaluation, & quality assurance of our high power, high brightness, direct-diode lasers. Involves daily work with optical alignment of the laser resonators, beam combining & measurement of the laser beam quality & manage the long term reliability systems. Min Req: MS in Optics, Lasers, or a closely rel field; & 2 years’ exp in laser science, laser manufacturing, or optical design. Must also have any dem working kldge of: Optical laboratory skills including optical handling, assembly, and alignment; Optical and electrical test equipment for high-power semiconductor lasers; Optical design, micron level tolerances, solid state lasers, mounting of optical components, and optical alignment; and LEAN concept and Six Sigma methodology. To apply, send a CV and cover letter to careers@terdiode.com with reference to job code RH20.**

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The face in the last clue is on 36 Union Park built circa 1854-1859. When strolling Boston's historic districts, pay attention to the faces that appear as part of a building's decorative elements. Union Park's row houses are a good place to start your own photo album of faces on Boston architecture.

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



# Illustrated timeline chronicles Old South Church's 350-year history

By Dan Murphy

An illustrated timeline on display at Old South Church chronicles its 350-year history to date while shedding new light on the role the church and its congregation have played in shaping the annals of both Boston and the nation.

"Our hope is that it tells the story not only of the church, but also of Boston," said Rev. Nancy S. Taylor, the church's senior minister and CEO, as well as a resident of Back Bay, in describing the installation that adorns the church's sanctuary. "I think that it's really surprising to a lot of people that the church and its congregation have had such a huge influence on

American history."

The timeline is broken down into 30-year increments, with a single panel dedicated to each of the church's 12 eras, beginning with "Born in a Storm (1669-1699)" and ending with "A New Millennium (1999-2019)," and it incorporates Ben Franklin, who worshipped and was educated there as a child, as well as Phillis Wheatley, who would become the first published African American author, among the historical figures who were at one time members of the congregation.

Elizabeth Morgan, chair of the church's Tell the Story Task Force of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and a South End resident, said the origins of the timeline

date back about three years as part of a larger commemorative project, which also includes the recent publication of "Old South Church in Boston: 1669-2019, A Concise Theological, Historical, and Whimsical Encyclopedia by its Members, Ministers, and Friends" — an illustrated, 696-page book that culls 400 essays on the noteworthy events and individuals that collectively tell the church's story. (The book is available for purchase at <https://tinyurl.com/OSC-Encyclopedia>.)

Assembling the timeline proved to be a particularly daunting task, however, Morgan said, because limited space meant that the story

(OLD SOUTH CHURCH, Pg. 6)

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Wennes FT	Beacon Mainsail 4 LLC	142 Beacon St #1	\$4,650,000
Brash LLC	Ilichev, Alexander	492 Beacon St #82	\$1,465,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Tang, Jason	Yoon, Andrew J	45 Province St #910	\$1,080,000
Nobre, Carolina	Lin, Gen-Shiang	70 Revere St #8	\$570,000
Hesslein, Robert W	10 Walnut LLC	10 Walnut St #2	\$5,200,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Gryp LLC	Goldfarb, Jared	5 Appleton St #6C	\$1,199,000
1 Charles 7A RT	Wildwood T	1 Charles St S #7A	\$1,170,000
Gianguasso, Lucia	Charles Acquisition T	1 Charles St S #810	\$1,277,500
Boyd, Samuel C	Fang, Angela	187 Warren Ave #2	\$1,050,000
Loonzolo, William L	Williams, Robert M	75 Burbank St #301	\$480,000
Pan, Yue	Meidi-Zhen, Tracey	507-507A Columbus Ave #2	\$1,054,000
Cordes, Mark D	28 Concord Square Dev	28 Concord Sq #2	\$2,620,000
Kunstler, Chloe	Dolan, James M	7 Concord Sq #4	\$1,350,000
Doheny, Victoria V	Ziggy RT	111 Gainsborough St #203	\$552,000
Hayden, Lystra	Marques, Luana	485-495 Harrison Ave #209	\$1,353,000
Zhang, Alicia	Beattie Warren A Est	82 Jersey St #6-33	\$555,000
Choi, Jundong	Rafferty, John M	608 Massachusetts Ave #6	\$779,000
Hwang, Shao-Shan	Ema Group LLC	360 Newbury St #802	\$1,299,000
Reynolds, Jane G	StLaurent, Robert A	51 Park Dr #9	\$509,900
StLaurent, Robert A	Eovine, Steve P	65 Park Dr #19	\$735,000
Schneider Heirs T	Chen, Tiffany E	24 Peterborough St #12A	\$479,000
Fabrice Cancre LT	Abeles, Michael	22 Union Park #4	\$1,005,000
Childs, Trevor	Lavina Lim T	43 Union Park #2	\$1,825,000
Kirwan, Kyle	Miller, R Aaron	82 Worcester St #1	\$1,925,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Vitorovic, Stefan	Agarwal, Parakh K	42-48 Chauncy St #9A	\$1,330,000
Mccann, Brian P	Krejci, David	343 Commercial St #304	\$2,350,000
Katz, Ariella H	Nguyen, Anh	70 Lincoln St #L410	\$253,409
Ho, Justin	Devarajan, Raj	1 Nassau St #1501	\$870,000
Tao, Jenhan	Goldman Sara S Est	151 Tremont St #11S	\$632,000

## OLD SOUTH CHURCH (from pg. 1)

told in the exhaustive book needed to be drastically reduced in scope.

“It was challenge deciding which stories to tell and what ones would be of the most interest,” Morgan said. “Then we had to find a way to visually show the stories and condense [each one] into a couple of sentences. We sometimes spent hours debating [the language] – that was really challenging.”

A family tree inside the timeline also traces the myriad other churches and organizations that

Old South Church has helped father, including the African American, the YMCA and City Mission, among others.

The Anniversary Committee settled on the timeline concept after rejecting an earlier proposal to tell the church’s story via larger-size murals in the upstairs meeting rooms.

“We didn’t want the church to end up looking like a museum,” Morgan said, “but we wanted to share some of this information with the public.”

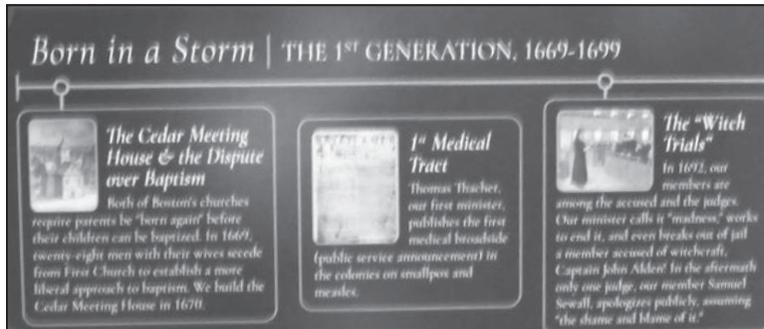
The Anniversary Committee then commissioned Joshua Cleaver, a Connecticut-based graphic designer and artist, to develop the timeline, as well two other on-site installations - a mural in the alcove that weaves together images of significant figures and events from the church’s history in chronological order, as well as “wallpaper” in the lobby waiting-area that arbitrarily assembles some of the most striking images from the church’s collection against a background that simulates the appearance of stained glass.

Moreover, Cleaver deigned two decals emblazoned with quotes from Rev. George A. Gordon, a former minister at Old South Church, and Ola Elizabeth Winslow, the historian who penned the book commemorating the church’s 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, that decorate the alcove near the entrance while a third quote above an ascending staircase near the front door from 19<sup>th</sup> century American poet John Greenleaf Whittier declares: “So long as Boston shall Boston be,



The “wallpaper” found in the lobby waiting area of Old South Church that assembles some of the best images from the church’s collection.

And her bay-tides rise and fall, South Church, And plead for the rights of all.”



“Born in a Storm (1669-1699)” – the first of 12 panels that together chronologically recount the history of Old South Church.

## For the Record

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

From the July 30, 10 a.m., (Online), **THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION HEARING:** Order for a hearing identifying restorative justice practices and the role of the police in our schools. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Essaibi-George and the sponsors are Councilors Mejia and Janey.

From the July 30 South End Landmarks Commission, 5 p.m., **Online via Zoom** (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86755512013):

**DESIGN REVIEW HEARING**  
 •566 Columbus Avenue. Construct a new building  
 •566 Columbus Avenue/ 450 Massachusetts Avenue. Proposed Work: Modifications to sidewalk including utilities, light poles, sidewalk material and blue bike stations; installation of bike racks and street trees; removal of bus stop on Massachusetts Avenue.

**BOSTON POLICE TASK FORCE LISTENING SESSIONS**  
 The City is also providing opportunities for robust public input and community

leadership in our work to advance racial justice in Boston. Starting next week, the Boston Police Task Force will be holding online listening sessions on key issues, where residents will have the opportunity to share their experiences and beliefs.

•Reviewing the use of force policies: Thursday, July 30, 3 - 5 p.m.  
 Anyone can join the WebEx meeting on the date and time as an attendee to view and listen to the listening session. Testimony will be accepted in any language (written or spoken via WebEx listening sessions). It will be translated and shared with the Task Force after the sessions. Written testimony will be accepted until August 7. This testimony will be compiled and shared with the Task Force, and will be translated as needed. All attendees who wish to provide spoken testimony during one or more of the listening sessions must indicate this using the same Google Form, no later than 24-hours in advance of a session. Their name will be added to a list of those wishing to speak, and they will be called on, in turn, during the session.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING FOR RECREATIONAL CANNABIS DELIVERY SERVICE:** A virtual Community Outreach Meeting for a Recreational Cannabis Delivery Service, named “Zip Run”, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, at 6 p.m. (virtual registration from 5:30 p.m.). The Proposed Delivery Service business address is identified as: 160 Orlando St., Mattapan.

From the Aug. 4 South End Landmarks meeting, 5:30 p.m., **Online**

via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87527179884):

- DESIGN REVIEW HEARING**  
 •85 West Newton St. Continued from 11/05/2020, 12/03/2020, and 12/17/2020 Public Hearings. Proposed Work: Obtain a Certificate of Exemption to demolish the existing former church and parish house (Villa Victoria Center for the Arts).  
 •54-102 West Newton St. Proposed Work: Replace aluminum storefront systems at 25 rowhouses with wood doors, transoms, and sidelights; and replace handrails (modify Certificate of Design Approval).  
 •62-64 Rutland St. Proposed Work: Replace entry doors with new wood doors, sidelights, and transoms; and replace handrails (modify Certificate of Design Approval).  
 •456 Shawmut Ave. Proposed Work: Replace slate shingles at the mansard level with architectural asphalt shingles.  
 •56 Clarendon St. Proposed work: At the Chandler Street facade mansard level, replace French door and sidelight system.  
 •52 Dwight St. Proposed Work: At the front yard and garden level, install a fence and replace entry door under the stoop; at the roof, construct a roof deck.  
 •48 Union Park. Proposed Work: Replace stoop pipe railing with decorative metal handrail.  
 •49 East Concord St. Proposed Work: Rebuild a roof deck.  
 •11 East Newton St. Proposed Work: Install solar collectors (solar panels) at the roof; at the side elevation install associated piping.  
 •116 Chandler St. Proposed Work: Construct new entry hood.

- 145 Worcester St. Proposed Work: Construct a roof deck with hatch access.  
**ADVISORY REVIEW**  
 •Crite Park. Proposed Work: Installation of hardscaping, fence, and trellis in redesigned park space.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING:**

The Committee will hold a 10 a.m. online hearing on Aug. 6 for an amendment to the Boston City Charter. The Chair of the Committee and sponsor of the docket is Councilor Lydia Edwards.

From a Tree Removal Hearing in Fenway, noon, on Aug. 6 (online): The hearing will be held at 11:30 a.m. on a request to remove one little leaf linden tree measuring 3 inches dbh (diameter at breast height) at 465 Huntington Ave.

From a Tree Removal Hearing in Bay Village, 1 p.m., Aug. 6 (online): The request is for the removal of one little leaf linden tree measuring 18 inches dbh (diameter at breast height).

**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.

# SOUTH END ROOF DECK



**26 HOLYOKE STREET**  
 5 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 5,090 SQFT  
 \$6,990,000



**8 BYRON STREET**  
 4 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 2,720 SQFT  
 \$4,500,000



**54 PINCKNEY STREET**  
 5 BEDS | 4F 2H BATHS | 3,825 SQFT  
 \$5,995,000



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



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

