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Essaibi-George announces campaign for Mayor of Boston

Says she brings the right skills for the City's "rebirth"

By Seth Daniel

At-large Councilor Annessa Essaibi George has announced that she will be a candidate for mayor this year, putting her city-wide political network in play and bringing more than a decade of experience in the classroom to the table.

George, who has been on the Council since being elected in 2015, and has focused on many issues – particularly education and homelessness/substance abuse/mental health issues. She is the chair of the Education Committee and the former chair of the Homelessness, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee.

She said she believes her record on the Council, her experience

running a small business in Dorchester (she owns the Stitch House on Dorchester Avenue) and having 13 years in the classroom at East Boston High give her a unique skill set that will help the City in its post-COVID rebirth.

"I am running for mayor," she said this week. "I spent the last few weeks talking with family, friends and supporters and pulling together what's good for the City and how can I contribute. This is the answer. I believe as mayor of Boston I have the experience and skill set to be the leader this moment needs. We think about this crisis and this pandemic, but we need to also think about getting to a period of recovery that can be a sustained period of recovery and growth for the City. I believe my skill set and work on the Council makes me the person to do the job of

(ESSAIBI-GEORGE, Pg. 9)

South End artist proposes monument to 'Star Trek' icon and native Bostonian Leonard Nimoy

By Dan Murphy

A South End resident is proposing to build a monument in the city's West End that would pay tribute to one of that neighborhood's favorite native sons, Leonard Nimoy, while also honoring Mr. Spock - the character he immortalized on "Star Trek" and whose signature Vulcan hand salutation (along with its accompanying spoken expression of well-wishing, "Live Long and Prosper") ranks among the most indelible and instantly recognizable images from the classic 1960s TV series.

Like many Bostonians, Tom Stocker, the artist and Northampton Street resident who is spearheading the effort,



A concept sketch by Boston-area artist David Phillips of the monument to Leonard Nimoy proposed for the West End.

was unaware of the actor's con-

(MONUMENT, Pg. 5)



With a member of the state VFW Color Guard by his side, South End resident Richard Cooke, 96, saluted as a City-sponsored Car Parade passed by his home on the corner of Columbus and Dartmouth last Saturday, Jan. 23. Cooke served in the Navy during World War II, and has lived in the South End for decades.

Southender Richard Cooke honored with car parade

By Seth Daniel

When Richard Cooke headed off to the Pacific Theatre to serve in the Navy during World War II, he wasn't looking for accolades or even a Car Parade, such as he got last Saturday, but rather to make an escape.

"Hey, it got me off the chicken farm," the 96-year-old South

End resident said with a laugh from his stoop at the corner of Dartmouth and Columbus Avenue last Saturday.

Veterans Commissioner Roberto Santiago led the charge with Councilor Ed Flynn – both who also served in the Navy – to honor Cooke with a Car Parade past his home full of police cars, fire apparatus, decorated cars

and family and neighbors ready to shower him with a much-belated thanks for his extraordinary service.

Cooke, with a member of the state VFW Color Guard beside him, took it all in from his stoop - stopping occasionally to wave or stand up and salute.

(RICHARD COOKE, Pg. 6)

City Council holds hearing on potential suspension of special election for mayor

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Councilor Lydia Edwards, held a hearing on January 26 regarding a home rule petition filed by Councilor Ricardo Arroyo "which will amend the city's charter" should there be a vacancy in the office of mayor, she said. In the case of this home rule petition, the Council chair

will become the mayor "for the remainder of the term," Edwards added.

Currently, the city charter says that if the mayor leaves before March 5, the City Council is "required to call for a special election to fill that vacancy," Edwards said at the hearing. Should there be a special election, there will be a primary and a general election, as well as a primary and a general election in

November as well, for a total of four elections.

Several councilors, elected officials, leaders of organizations, and members of the public called on the Council to pass this home rule petition, saying that the special election is unnecessary during the pandemic and will be risky to the health of Boston residents as well as an unnecessary

(SPECIAL ELECTION, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER

Amidst our winter of discontent, there is some good news on the horizon (literally): The days are getting longer.

As this is being written, we will have passed the first full month of the astronomical winter (which starts on December 21 and ends on March 21) and we will have completed almost two months of the meteorological winter season, which is defined as December, January, and February.

On December 14, the sun set at 4:13 in the afternoon and on December 21 (the start of astronomical winter) the total amount of daylight was just nine hours and eight minutes. But on this Friday, January 29, the sun will be setting at 4:56 in the afternoon and we will have nine hours and 56 minutes of daylight.

The longer days, combined with the positive news on COVID-19 vaccines, signal hope for the future that sunnier days lie ahead.

LAWSUITS WILL BRING OUT THE TRUTH

The announcement this past week that Dominion Voting Systems Inc., the company that manufactures voting machines that are used widely across the United States, has filed a \$1.3 billion lawsuit against Rudy Giuliani for his deliberately defamatory statements about the company, is the perfect antidote to the disinformation campaign that was spread by Donald Trump and his minions in their attempt to subvert the results of the November election.

It was one thing for Trump, Giuliani, and others to spout their ridiculous claims, in general terms, about a stolen election, but it is quite another when their patently-false statements negatively affect the reputation and business interests of individuals and companies.

Just as this newspaper cannot publish false and defamatory information, neither can major media outlets nor individuals such as Rudy Giuliani. We would note that an employee of Dominion has filed a separate suit against a number of media outlets, as well as the Trump campaign, for their defamatory and injurious statements about him.

A few years ago, a web site named Gawker Media posted a video of the former wrestling star Hulk Hogan that was the basis for an invasion of privacy suit filed by Hogan that ultimately resulted in a \$140 million judgment against Gawker, which put Gawker out of business.

We predict that the lawsuits filed by Dominion (they previously sued another of Trump's lawyers) will have far-reaching consequences, particularly if Dominion names others who, similar to Giuliani, have made defamatory statements about Dominion.

Rudy Giuliani now is facing financial ruin, all of which he brought on himself because of his antics, a very fitting and appropriate ending for a man who tried to subvert a free and fair election, the most basic element of our Constitution.

HANK AARON WAS A WONDERFUL MAN

Boston baseball fans never got to experience first-hand the greatness of Hank Aaron. The Boston Braves left for Milwaukee in 1953 and Aaron joined the Braves in 1954.

With Aaron leading the way, the Braves then embarked on a run of great seasons, culminating in the 1957 World Series championship.

Although the Braves descended into mediocrity in the 1960s, Hank Aaron continued to perform at a high level, year after year, for more than two decades. When all was said and done, Aaron not only had broken Babe Ruth's career home run record, but he also set career marks for RBI and total bases (the latter by a wide margin) that still stand today.

Hank Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but it was his achievements off the field that have earned him everlasting fame. He was a pioneer in the civil rights movement who was among a handful of Black athletes who helped to bring to an end the dark era of segregation and discrimination that existed in the 1950s and '60s.

On a personal level, Hank Aaron was admired and respected by all who knew him. He was one of those very few people who never had an unkind word to say about anybody, and vice-versa.

Hank Aaron was not the most-outspoken of persons, but he literally and figuratively epitomized the meaning of the phrase, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." He will be missed.



CELEBRATE GROUNDHOG DAY FEB. 2, 2021

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PROGRESSIVES DENOUNCE BAKER PLAN

Charlie Baker's gratitude toward frontline workers rings hollow in light of his failure to take meaningful action to protect them

No worker should have to choose between their health and their job, but Baker has failed to advocate for emergency paid sick

time. No one should go homeless during a pandemic, but Baker has let the eviction moratorium lapse and vetoed essential tenant protections. No one should have to breathe the polluted air that increases the likelihood of disease and death during a pandemic, but Baker has vetoed landmark climate legislation.

Rather than investing in communities so that we can have an equitable recovery from both

recession and pandemic, he believes that we should settle for short-changed services that leave us falling ever behind.

The 'good management' skills Baker touts have been nowhere on display during COVID, but management skills were never enough. We need good management and good values. Baker, sadly, has shown neither.

Jonathan Cohn
Progressive Massachusetts

Grass-roots company starts needle buy-back program in South End

By Seth Daniel

For more than two years, several South End and Newmarket leaders have asked for some sort of needle buy-back program, and that request has now been granted as a grass-roots company has begun buying back needles to be destroyed onsite at a location in the South End.

South End Forum moderator Steve Fox told the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) on Tuesday night that Addiction Disposal Resources LLC has begun a buy-back program on a pilot basis — working with the City and community to investigate how the effort will fare.

So far, so good, Fox said.

"I'm delighted to say this idea we've talked about for so long has been picked up by a start-up company called Addiction Disposal Resources," he said. "It is a pilot program to look at a bounty or buy-back program for needles and syringes."

Right now, he said they are offering 20 cents a syringe for a maximum payout per day of \$10. The company has purchased an incinerator that is located at their South End site, and they destroy all of the needles then and there. That, he said, is because there are complications involved when on starts to transport hazardous waste like needles and syringes.

"They began in late Decem-

ber and it's a three-month pilot," he said. "Thus far, they've managed to collect 30,000 needles to last few weeks. That's good news because it means the vehicle we've talked about for a long time to get rid of needles on our streets is now being put into action."

The company is currently fully funded by private donations, but the hope is that it can eventually become a public-private partnership with help from the City and private industry too. They operate from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. each morning, so as not to conflict with the Needle Exchange Program AHOPE on Albany Street.

"I'm glad someone is trying this," Fox said.

CORRECTION:

A letter appearing the Boston Sun last week indicated the mural at the former USES building was done by Jamal Parker. In fact, it was Jameel Parker.

South End Historical Society Virtual House Tour is scheduled for Feb. 8-14

Staff report

The South End Historical Society (SEHS) will hold its 52nd annual South End House Tour virtually from February 8-14.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic it will be pre-

sented virtually through an online video. Tickets for the House Tour are \$20 and are available at www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/housetour. This event is the South End Historical Society's single fundraising

event for the year and purchasing a ticket supports its mission to preserve and protect the South End's history and architectural heritage for current and future generations. Starting in the 1960s, founding member Doe Sprogis organized

the South End Historical Society's first four house tours. She continued to be a driving force behind every one of them until 2014, when she and her husband David opened up their own home at 184 West Brookline

Street for what turned out to be her last tour. Doe passed away in 2015, but the House Tour lives on and continues in her memory. For more information, please contact Jason Amos at admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org.

SPECIAL ELECTION (from pg. 1)

expenditure for the city.

The home rule petition was filed by Arroyo on January 13, following the news that Mayor Marty Walsh has been nominated as President Joe Biden's labor secretary. Walsh's position has not yet been confirmed by the Senate, and it is unclear when the mayor will leave for Washington.

"We have to do this now because we are not sure of when, or honestly if the mayor will leave before March 5," Edwards continued. "But what we can control is whether we as a community want to have a special election or not, and that is what this conversation is about."

Edwards said that she believes "this moment needed to be clear" and "transparent," and also said that "this legislation is not proposed to help or hurt anybody," nor is the process.

"Today's hearing is a result of questions being answered," she said.

Councilor Arroyo, the lead sponsor of the docket, said that "having multiple elections for the office of mayor" this year would pose a "serious threat to the health of our residents and communities."

He called it a "wasteful and costly expenditure for the city at a time when our revenues are down," and said that this home rule petition was "created to address a looming emergency."

Arroyo said that the charter says that there are two options: "Option A" says that if the mayor leaves before March 5, there needs to be a special election, and "Option B" says that if the mayor leaves after March 5, the acting city council president becomes mayor for the rest of the term.

This proposal says that the city should choose Option B, even if the mayor leaves before March 5, Arroyo said, adding that this would follow precedence set by the city of Lawrence. "We are not rewriting the charter," he said.

"We want to ensure the health of our residents," he said. "It's for equity on all bases..." as well as "the stability of the city

and ensuring that we're not doing multiple turnovers and multiple transitions in the middle of a state of emergency in the same year."

City Councilor Ed Flynn said he has heard from residents on both sides of the coin, and Councilor Michael Flaherty said that he wants to ensure that "our residents have a voice in this process," while still addressing the health of residents and the cost of the elections.

"The January 6 insurrection serves to remind us that our democracy is fragile and must be protected," said City Council President Kim Janey, who is poised to become Acting Mayor. She said she does not want multiple elections, and it is "rare that people in our city agree," but she listed a host of organizations who have come out in support of not holding a special election for mayor.

"A special election is at best, foolish, and at worst, dangerous," Janey said.

Councilor Julia Mejia said that holding multiple elections in the middle of a pandemic is "completely irresponsible."

Councilor Kenzie Bok said that "democracy isn't just about casting ballots." She said she supports the cancellation of the special election, as it will also help candidates who are trying to grow their campaigns. She said that she wants to focus on the voters of Boston, but doesn't agree that cost is a factor in the cancellation, as she believes that if residents really wanted the special election, money should not hold it back. She said her decision is based on what she has heard from her constituents.

Councilor Frank Baker said he is "totally undecided on where I'm going on this," and Councilor Andrea Campbell, who is a mayoral candidate, said that she also agrees with the cancellation of the special election.

"Does four elections in a pandemic make us more democratic?" Councilor Edwards asked. She said that "balancing democracy and safety in electing our next mayor" is what the focus should be.

Edwards allowed public com-

ment before panelists were invited to speak, as she said the public requested to be heard earlier in the hearing.

Numerous members of the public spoke out in favor of cancelling the special election, with many of them citing the health and safety of black and brown communities, who have already been hit disproportionately hard by the virus.

Dianne Wilkerson, who is a former State Senator, said that "Black communities in the city all have a positive [test] rate of over 11 percent," well over the citywide average of a little over seven percent. "I support the petition that would allow Boston to forego the special election..." she said.

"We need stable leadership during the pandemic," said Priscilla Fint-Banks, cofounder of the Black Economic Justice Institute, adding that she believes the special election "will create more havoc..." in the city. "Having four elections in five months during COVID-19 is insane," she said.

As a panelist, Eneida Tavares, Chair of the Board of Election Commissioners, said that "It is the role of the election department to ensure that elections are properly managed and conducted in accordance with city, state, and federal laws. Regardless of whether or not this petition is adopted, the Election Department will continue to administer lawful elections as they come, just as it has done since the incorporation of our city in a way that works towards ensuring equitable access to all registered voters so that they can fulfill their sacred right to the ballot box."

She said that the city's Election Department will continue to follow all guidance related to COVID-19 "for all upcoming elections," and cited that the department held three elections last year, two of which were in the midst of the pandemic.

Others, like Pam Kocher, President of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Beth Huang, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Voter

Table, and several others, said that a special election should not be held this year, and called for the speedy passage of the home rule petition.

"Today, we're taking the unusual step of trying to convince you that skipping a series of special elections would in fact be the most democratic decision you would make," said Cheryl Clyburn Crawford, Executive Director of MassVOTE. "It may be unusual, but these past 10 months have been the definition of unusual."

Tanisha Sullivan, president of the Boston Branch of the NAACP, said that "we consistently fight for citizens to be able to access the ballot box. We have consistently fought for more voice through the ballot box. For the NAACP Boston Branch to take a position that adding an additional voting cycle to this year's regular cycle is neither wise nor fiscally prudent is not a decision we take lightly, but hear me when I say this: it was not a hard decision to make."

Councilors asked questions of the various panelists, and Councilor Flaherty asked the Election commission how the process would work should there be a special election this year, including how poll workers would be protected, making sure registered voters could vote, how the polls would be staffed, and what the cost of the election would be.

Sabino Piemonte, Head Assistant Registrar of Voters for the Boston Election Department, said that running a citywide election costs between \$700,000 and \$750,000, before the extra precautions needed for COVID-19. He added that this is just for one

election, and would be doubled to have a primary and a final election.

Piemonte said that "everybody and anybody involved" in the election process would take precautions related to COVID-19, including special distancing precautions and PPE.

"In regards to absentees and vote by mail," Piemonte said that voting by absentee ballot "requires a special circumstance for you to receive a ballot." Residents must either: be absent from the city during the election, have a medical or religious belief that prevents them from going to the polls, or "anything that prohibits you from going to the polls to actually vote in person," he said.

The vote by mail extension expires on March 31, Piemonte said, so "we will need special legislation in order for that to carry in to a special election if it was to take place later on in the spring [or] early summer."

Flaherty also asked if signature collections required for candidates to be on the ballot could potentially be waived or reduced to protect both candidates and residents during the pandemic.

Piemonte said that there is "nothing in the city charter that would allow us to do anything of that magnitude, but we are working with our legal team to come up with a possible calendar in case there was a special election call in the near future."

Following this hearing, there will be a working session on Friday, January 29 at 2pm, where the council will discuss the language of the home rule petition in much more detail, followed by a council vote at its February 3 meeting at noon.

THE BOSTON SUN

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Cumulative test rates in Back Bay, neighbors continue to increase

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Back Bay and the surrounding neighborhoods increased while the weekly positive test rate decreased once again.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall since the pandemic started 41,684 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and

the data shows that 5.3 percent of those tested were COVID positive—a 3.9 percent increase from the 5.1 percent two weeks ago.

Last week 3,582 residents were tested and 3.5 were positive—a 2.8 percent decrease from the 3.6 reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 37,455 residents were tested this week and 7.2 percent were found to be COVID positive last week.

At a press briefing Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of 5,351 people

were tested each day. This number is down compared to the week before and does not include college testing.

The Mayor said positive test rates have gone down in every neighborhood, which is a good sign, but reported the numbers with caution.

“While there has been some improvement in recent weeks, it’s still vital that everyone remains vigilant,” said Walsh. “We should all continue to wear our masks, avoid gatherings, and

wash our hands and disinfect surfaces. We should think about the simple steps we can take on a daily basis to protect ourselves and our loved ones.”

The Mayor also gave an update on Boston’s reopening plans. In mid-December, he announced that Boston would temporarily pause our reopening, and move back into a modified Phase 2, Step 2. He said city officials anticipated an increase in cases around the holidays, so they took action to slow the

spread, protect hospital capacity, and avoid a more severe shutdown later on.

“This pause was set to expire tomorrow, January 27, and we are extending this pause through the end of this month,” said Walsh. “On Monday, February 1, Boston will move forward into Phase 3, Step 1. At that point, all businesses and activities that are allowed to operate in Phase 3, Step 1 can re-open, with capacity limits in place. Most businesses

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MONUMENT (from pg. 1)

nection to the city before viewing “Leonard Nimoy’s Boston” – a half-hour special that first aired on WGBH-TV in 2014 in which Nimoy, accompanied by his filmmaker son, Adam, returned to his native city to reminisce about growing up in the old West End as the son of Jewish immigrants from Ukraine.

In fact, his ties to the city ran so deep that Nimoy, who died in February of 2015 at age 83, revealed in his autobiography “I Am Not Spock,” that he based

the Vulcan salutation, which comprises a raised hand with the palm forward and thumb extended while the middle and ring fingers are parted, on a rabbinical blessing he saw performed during a religious service at an Orthodox synagogue he accompanied his grandfather to as a boy.

The name of the synagogue has unfortunately been lost to history, Stocker said, and while it was certainly located within the old West End, even its approx-

imate whereabouts remains murky, since at that time, the neighborhood extended beyond its current boundaries to include what is now the North Slope of Beacon Hill.

Stocker, meanwhile, began his effort to memorialize Nimoy in earnest in March of 2015 – one month after the actor’s death – and it was around this time he wrote a letter to Sebastian Smee, then with The Boston Globe. Smee reprinted Stocker’s letter in the Globe soon afterwards while further proclaiming that erecting a monument to Nimoy in Boston would be most “logical” in a nod to what is likely Mr. Spock’s best-remembered catchphrase.

Surprisingly, Stocker doesn’t consider himself a diehard “Trekkie,” although he regularly watched the series in reruns in the ‘70s and even saw “Star Trek: the Motion Picture” upon its theatrical release in 1979.

Instead, Stocker’s true appreciation for Nimoy came from learning of the former West End resident’s enduring love for Boston.

“I was very moved by his love for city, and that he always came back here...as well as his charitable work for the Boys & Girls Club he attended as a boy on Blossom Street,” Stocker said of Nimoy, who also received an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters degree from Boston University in 2012 – one day after he delivered a commencement speech to graduates of the school’s College of Fine Arts, which he concluded by saying “Live Long and Prosper.”

(Nimoy took summer classes at BU before relocating to Los Angeles to pursue his acting career.)

While Stocker settled on the West End as the most fitting loca-

tion for a monument to Nimoy in the city, he didn’t know what form it would take until he walked past the New England Conservatory in June and had what he described as a proverbial “Eureka” moment.

Situated on the lawn across from Jordan Hall was “Scrolls” – a 16-foot-high sculpture by Boston-area artist David Phillips” crafted from perforated stainless steel to resemble the form of a violin and illuminated from within via LED lighting.

Drawing inspiration from “Scrolls,” Stocker envisioned the memorial to Nimoy as a 20-foot sculpture depicting the Vulcan hand salutation crafted from stainless-metal lattice and similarly illuminated from within using LED lighting.

Stocker called Phillips out of the blue to pitch him the idea soon afterwards, and while Phillips was a fan of “Star Trek” who also regularly watched the series in reruns in the ‘70s, he was unaware of Nimoy’s connection to Boston and the West End until Stocker filled him in on that salient detail.

Phillips also enthusiastically embraced Stocker’s idea of the sculpture taking the form of the Vulcan hand salutation. “A symbol like that would resonate a lot with the public and the millions of ‘Star Trek’ fans out there,” he said.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok, whose district includes the West End, is also on board with the idea of memorializing Nimoy in the neighborhood he once called home.

“I’m always excited about ways that we can do more to acknowledge West End history, in partnership with current West Enders,” she told this reporter in October. “Obviously Leon-

ard Nimoy is a major cultural icon, and I think the fact that the famous Vulcan salute is based on a sign of blessing in the West End synagogue of Nimoy’s childhood is a lovely West End legacy. I’m looking forward to talking more with the proposer and with neighbors about the idea.”

Late last June, Stocker launched a grassroots fundraising campaign on Facebook to finance the cost of building the memorial to Nimoy, which exceeded its modest \$3,000 benchmark by more than \$1,700. As evidence of the image’s globe-spanning appeal, one woman from India donated \$5 to the cause, while Stocker gifted one of the small, original acrylics he painted to more than half of the campaign’s donors as tokens of his appreciation.

The estimated cost of the project now hinges on modifications of materials and the final design, but Stocker has been encouraged by the response the project has so far received.

And above all else, Stocker hopes that a monument to Nimoy in Boston would raise the iconic actor’s lifelong bond with the city in the public consciousness.

“While many people know, he’s from the Boston area, not many know he was from the West End so instead they’ll ask me: ‘was he from Somerville?’, ‘was he from Newtown?’, ‘was he from Brookline?’, ‘was he from the North End?’” Stocker said. “It’s amazing that people from Boston don’t know this, and for that reason alone, they need to be educated.”

To lend your support to this ongoing effort, contact Tom Stocker via email at stocker.tom77@gmail.com.

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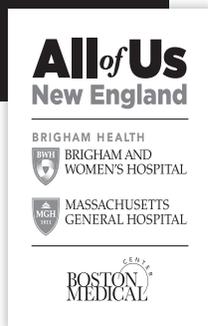
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ESSAIBI-GEORGE (from pg. 1)

mayor.”
 Again, she said her experiences will be key in the rollout of her administration, if elected, and her skill set as a teacher, mother, small business owner and elected official are just what the City will need.

“My experience and experiences as a teacher and small business owner and the City Councilor whose been able to get a lot of work done, those are the pieces I think will provide an opportunity to have a successful administration,” she said. “Having an Essaibi-George administration for me is one that will provide that opportunity for a sustained recovery. I hope for a rebirth on the other side of that recovery for the City of Boston. I think I can best position the city for that rebirth.”

One key piece of her campaign will not be about concentrating on the other candidates out there – two of which are currently her colleagues on the Council. Instead, she’ll focus on what she is bringing to the table. One thing she quickly brings as an attribute is a defined, citywide political network that she said she has worked hard to build as an at-large councilor. While others might not have that network, she said it will be something she leans on in the coming election.

“I’ve worked really hard as a city councilor to make sure every community feels my support and my presence and knows I’m responsible to the work that’s important to them,” she said. “That’s in every single neighborhood. There is no community that is not important enough to be paid attention to as part of my work.”

One strong issue for Essaibi George is her involvement in the homelessness and drug abuse issues over many years, a former chair of a former Committee

that addressed those issues. She said it is important to remember they are issues that affect the whole city and not just the South End and Mass/Cass. She said she would treat it as a citywide issues, including efforts at decentralization.

“Mass and Cass is central to that conversation although homelessness and addiction and those dealing with SUDs are felt across our city and not just Mass and Cass,” she said. “Mass and Cass is just a part of the city we focus on because of the large numbers of services available, which brings a lot of individuals there who are suffering from the area. It is a crisis of the whole city and certainly beyond... As an at-large councilor I’ve worked to respond to the needs of all of those communities whether it’s responding to the challenges of poverty, the need for higher-quality education, or the need to de-centralize (social) services because the impact of homelessness on a particular community.”

Another key issue for her is the public schools. While she is a former teacher and chair of the Education Committee, she is also a mother of children that attend BPS schools. With those three things in mind, she attends most every School Committee meeting – some of them going into the wee hours of the next day. It was in the wee hours of one of those School Committee meetings last fall when Essaibi George had a “moment.”

When the former chair of the Committee seemed to be mocking the names of some Asian American parents, it was Essaibi George that was the first to call it out, and push to hold the chair accountable. That has led to the resignation of the chair, and a sincere re-training by the Committee through anti-racist seminars. Essaibi George said

she hasn’t been afraid to call out such things, and if elected mayor, will continue to challenge those who show bad behavior.

“I am not afraid to hold people accountable for acting inappropriately or for being offensive and for not representing what we here as a city are all about,” she said. “As someone who has a different name; I have an ethnic name. I have an Arab name – Annissa Essaibi – I took great offense in that mocking of ethnic names by the former chair and called him out on it. I think that’s important. I think elected officials should call out bad behavior and hold others responsible for that bad behavior. That’s what I did in that case.”

Her forthright style is something that she believes will differentiate her from the supposed pack of candidates, and she believes it will be a breath of fresh air – something her supporters already know about and something she hopes others in the city will become more familiar with.

“Voters know my style,” she said. “I am very direct and very clear. I speak very simply and opening about my thoughts and hopes and desires for this city. The work that remains undone is so important and I look forward to doing it.”

But if she were mayor, would it end her reputation as a die-hard hockey mom – one who often posts videos of her kids playing sports at far-flung ice rinks or nearby baseball diamonds? That, she said, will never change.

“I will still be a hockey mother,” she laughed. “You will still find me banging on the ice and the glass on occasion as mayor of Boston and continuing to horrify my children when I do so. You’ll find me at the baseball field, the lacrosse field, the football field – there will be a sport underway



Councilor Annissa Essaibi George announced this week that she will be a candidate for mayor - bringing to the table 13 years of teaching experience, many years of being a small business owner and a proven record on the Council.

and I am proud of being my kids’ greatest cheerleader on the field of play and in the classroom.”

Councilor Essaibi George was set to announce her candidacy on Thursday morning, Jan. 28, in front of East Boston High School – where she spent 13 years as a teacher and coach.

STATE REP. SANTIAGO STILL CONSIDERING A RUN FOR MAYOR

As more candidates announce their intentions to run for mayor – some who are in and some who are out – this week South End State Rep. Jon Santiago said he is still in the “consideration” stages.

In a letter to his supporters on Tuesday, Jan. 26, he said he

is still considering running for mayor, and will decide based on conversations he has with constituents and residents of Boston in the coming days and weeks.

“While I am seriously considering running, I have not yet decided,” he wrote. “This is not a decision I will make lightly and it will be influenced by conversations with many of you over the coming days and weeks.”

He said that since he announced his interest, he has had an outpouring of support, with many long-time supporters urging him to run.

“I am humbled and honored that colleagues and friends throughout Boston believe that I have what it takes to lead our City,” he said.

COVID-19 (from pg. 4)

will still be subject to the 25% capacity limits the State extended through February 8. In addition, all gatherings and events remain subject to capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, which applies to public and private spaces.”

For a list of sectors subject to the extended capacity restrictions, visit [Mass.gov/Reopening](https://www.mass.gov/Reopening).

The infection rate in Back Bay and surrounding neighborhoods increased 9 percent in one week according to the latest city statis-

tics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 405.9 cases per 10,000 residents, up 6.6 percent from 380.8 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred forty additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 2,122 cases to 2,262 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by

the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 5.2 percent last week and went from 49,137 cases to 51,718 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-four Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,136 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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LAST SALUTE (from pg. 1)

"I've been all around the world, but Boston is the place for me," he said after the Parade. "I spent two years in the Pacific against the Japanese. I was in Guam, Saipan, all through the Philippines and the worst of all New Guinea. My last combat was in Iwo Jima. I went from there to a destroyer and they took me to Hawaii. They put me on a carrier and shot me over to San Francisco. Needless to say, I was happy to get home in one piece. I still think about all my buddies that didn't make it – still over there laying in the swamps where they fell. It was worth it. I look at all of you here and I see how happy everyone looks and you just can't beat that."

His daughter, Heather Cooke, said the occasion was a rather sad one. Last week, they found out Richard Cooke had terminal cancer and wasn't going to make it. She said he had never

been honored for his service, and agreed to let them do something for him.

"It was a lot today," she said. "I feel like we need to appreciate our veterans, our family members, while they are still here and before it's too late and they're gone. I'm so thankful."

Beyond his service in the war, Richard Cooke was also on the front lines of the fight against Urban Renewal, Heather Cooke said. The family lived at 116 Dartmouth St. and Cooke proclaimed he lived at his home in Tent City 50 years before it was built. Owning a plumbing and heating business, the family had their home taken during Urban Renewal and stood along-side Mel King in the fight for affordable housing at Tent City.

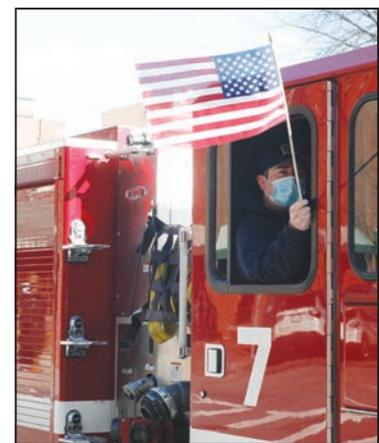
"We were the first family that came back to Tent City," Heather Cooke said.



Family members Derrick St. Hill, Heather Cooke, Jasmine St. Hill, Cameron Cooke and Richard Cooke gather before the Car Parade on Saturday.



The Police and Fire headed up the Car Parade on Saturday in honor of Richard Cooke.



Firefighters waved the American Flag as they passed by the home.



VFW Color Guard member Rene Fuentes salutes Richard Cooke.



Heather Cooke and Richard Cooke wave from their stoop as the Parade goes by.



Councilor Ed Flynn and Veterans Commissioner Roberto Santiago present a Navy flag to the family.



SMILES START HERE.

The South End Community Health Center provides high-quality health care to newborns, children, and teens through age 17. From annual check-ups and preventive care to treating children with more complex conditions, we've been caring for kids in the South End for 50 years. We'd like to care for yours, too! We offer both telehealth and in-person visits.

South End
Community Health Center

A Division of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center



Meet the newest member of our pediatric team: Dr. Riemer!



"I'm thrilled to join the Pediatric Department at the South End Community Health Center. As a pediatric doctor of osteopathic medicine, I practice a whole-child approach to care, supporting wellness in both mind and body. My goal is for your child to be truly healthy, inside and out, in addition to being symptom-free. I recently became a mom myself, so I can appreciate how it feels to want the best care for your child in challenging times. It would be my privilege to provide your child with the attention and care that your family deserves."

Dr. Jeretta LeighAnn Riemer, Pediatrician

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Campbell releases plan to address the public health crisis at Mass/Cass

Staff Report

Councilor Andrea Campbell released a new policy plan for her mayoral campaign on Worcester Square last Friday that includes short-term and long-term strategies to address the public health crisis at Mass/Cass, including a short-term plan to use a ferry service to access services on Long Island.

“The public health crisis at Mass & Cass has been building for years, but has been exacerbated by COVID-19, threatening the health and safety of everyone in the neighborhood. It demands immediate leadership and action,” said Councilor Campbell. “My approach will establish dedicated leadership by appointing a cabinet-level Mass & Cass Chief to drive a coordinated,

public health response and decentralization plan that will build sustainable paths to recovery citywide and ensure the health and safety of all who live, work, visit, and go to school in this neighborhood.”

Campbell’s plan includes the following key strategies:

- Appoint a Mass & Cass Chief. As mayor, Andrea will appoint a public health professional to her cabinet to drive a coordinated, public health response and service decentralization plan for the Mass & Cass area. Under Andrea’s leadership, the City will build a response team that coordinates resources and providers, streamlines service delivery, and creates sustainable pathways to care, health, and stability.

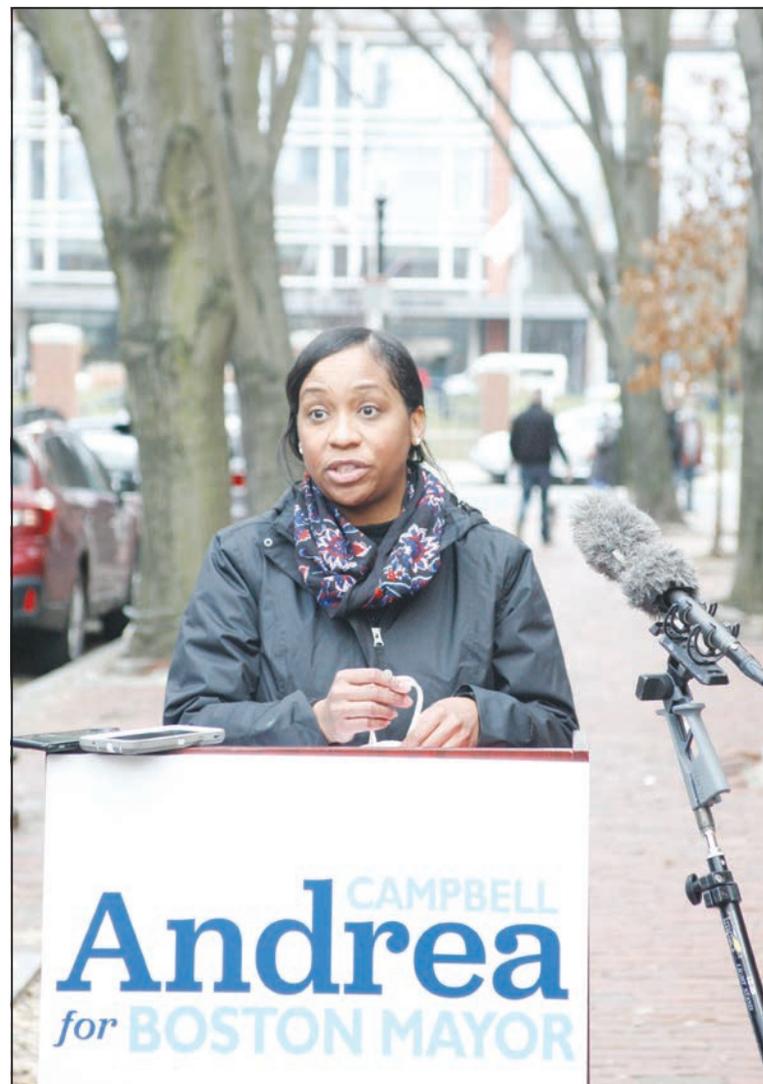
- Create a dedicated Mass &

Cass first responder unit. Andrea will create a dedicated first responder unit, comprised of public health and recovery service professionals as well as first responders, that will streamline response efforts and better protect people living and working in the neighborhood, service providers working in the area, and vulnerable residents spending time at the intersection.

- Decentralize treatment and recovery services from Mass & Cass and make them accessible citywide. Andrea will decentralize services by:

- *Providing more safe spaces, shelter, and supportive housing. Andrea will activate vacant and underutilized spaces currently available to the City of Boston to provide more safe spaces for residents, including shelter for people experiencing homelessness, permanent supportive housing, and other innovative treatment sites throughout the city and the region. Andrea’s plan involves expanding mobile treatment services, and converting structures such as underutilized hotels and the relocated Shattuck Hospital.

- *Reactivating Long Island, with ferry service from Boston. Andrea recognizes the need for short-term as well as long-term solutions to challenges of accessibility. As mayor, Andrea will not only support construction of a new bridge to Long Island, but more immediately accelerate construction to reactivate Long Island infrastructure for docks, roads, waste removal, and transportation capabilities. Andrea will also leverage transit partnerships to begin ferry service from Boston for residents seeking



Councilor Campbell said her plan does include a short-term ferry service to relieve issues on the corridor. She said she would strongly push back at any attempt by Quincy to use the ferry as an excuse to not re-build Long Island Bridge. The Bridge is part of the long-term plan for her Administration.



Councilor and mayoral candidate Andrea Campbell took a walkthrough of the Mass/Cass area before unveiling her plan at a press conference on Worcester Square last Friday. Here, Partnership activist Domingos Darosa speaks about what his group has been doing to raise awareness to the issue.

recovery services.

- *Partnering with the health-care community, including hospitals and community health centers, to further scale services outside of Mass & Cass. As mayor, Andrea will lead a person-centered approach, coordinated with input from institutions of public

health and recovery services, in order to provide feasible, accessible, and well-placed services to residents of Mass/Cass.

Campbell grew up in Roxbury and the South End and, for about 10 years, lived on Mass Ave just blocks from the intersection of Mass/Cass.

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

#BOSCanHelp

BOS:311

Back Bay restaurateur Jack Huang says the recipe for success is giving back to his employees

By Lauren Bennett

Throughout the pandemic, Jack Huang has thought of his employees as family. As the owner of Douzo Sushi and its sister restaurants Basho Japanese Brasserie, Shabu Maru, and Sushi Momento in Cleveland Circle, Huang said he realized that by putting his employees first, it has created a better experience for everyone.

Douzo Sushi is an upscale modern Japanese restaurant that opened in 2005 next to Back Bay station. Huang told the Sun that the restaurant is “accepted and loved by local and international communities,” and added that his restaurants sell sushi wholesale to places like Fenway Park, corporate offices, and places of higher education.

“When the lockdown started,” Huang said, “we wanted it to be as normal as possible.” He said all of his restaurants followed the state and local guide-

lines, and made adjustments to capacity as required, as well as offering PPE and temperature checks to its employees.

Many of Huang’s employees were understandably concerned about their health during the pandemic, especially regarding the use of public transportation, so he said he offered transportation allowances for his employees to take ride share services or a taxi to work for a period of time at the beginning of the pandemic.

Huang also said after an employee came up to him and said, “Jack, I don’t want to see you waste money on Uber,” he passed that message along to City Councilor Michelle Wu.

“Immediately, I see a response that she was sending to the MBTA to tell them that that’s the problem,” and that the issue needed to be addressed,” he said, and a hearing that included the subject followed.

“To me, that was a highlight,” Huang said. “She was very pro-

active and stepped up very greatly.”

Huang didn’t stop there. Even though business was down, “we kept all the management positions and full salaried employees,” he said. “We picked up their medical and dental insurance throughout the pandemic.” Between March and December of 2020, Huang was able to use \$270,000 from dining, takeout, and gift card sales from all of his restaurants to pay his 85 full time employees 100 percent of their salary as well as all of their medical and dental benefits. Huang also provided PPE, including masks, gloves, and sanitizer to his workers.

“They’re like a family to me,” Huang said, adding that some of them have been working for him for decades. “That’s the least I could do.”

He said that though he is “still struggling” and it has been “very difficult,” he said “I felt that this was something we can do,” and prioritized paying his employees with the money that was coming in.

Huang said that with the hope of more stimulus money on the way, he can continue to “help out our employees.” Over the next several months he will continue to pay health and dental benefits.

He also said that communicating with customers has been paramount over the last year. Douzo Sushi has placed small notes inside of each takeout bag that let customers know the restaurant cares about them. The notes feature a little picture of a mask and glove, Huang said, that sends the message that “we hope they stay healthy and hope to see them soon.”

Some featured messages for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day as well, in an effort to create



Restaurateur Jack Huang (center) and some of his employees at Douzo Sushi in the Back Bay.

a family-like feel between the restaurant and its customers, he added.

Huang said that since the dining rooms have been allowed to open back up, the restaurants have conducted temperature checks and contact tracing and employees are required to wear gloves to protect themselves and others.

Though restaurants can have no more than 25 percent capacity, Huang said he limits his even further to 20 percent capacity because “in the restaurant business, we never know what’s going to happen,” and the extra leeway helps protect both employees and customers.

He said that everyone coming into the restaurants, whether they are “regular people” or “celebrities,” have been willing to comply with all of the guidelines.

“We know this is a very difficult time,” Huang said. “Our goal really is to try to make this as normal as possible. Hopefully we can bring back new memories as well. We’re very grateful.”

Additionally, Huang said that lunch service started back up about a week ago, as offices begin to reopen and people need a place to go for lunch. He said that lunch business has been picking up, which is a positive thing for the restaurants, but

he always puts the needs of his employees first.

“Employees’ health and well-being is always in my priority and top of my agenda,” Huang said. “Besides, they’re just like my family.”

With reduced sales, “we have to pick and choose the battles. It’s not really about the profit; it’s about about to take care of the people and overcome.”

He said that he never imagined the pandemic would go on for this long, but “we just adapted to whatever comes along. The most important part is not just the physical health, but mental health” as well. “That’s why I wanted to be positive and be very grateful for the local community” which has “supported us in the past. We like to show them that they inspire us; put a roof over our heads,” he said.

Though the past year has been tough for so many, including Huang and his employees, Huang has found a way to make life a little brighter for those who work for him, and for those who enjoy his food.

With more vaccine coming in the near future, he has to “wait until the light at the end of the tunnel, but we’ve come so far,” he said. And “until then, I’d like everyone to stay healthy and happy and I’m looking forward to meeting each other again.”



A takeout meal from Douzo Sushi, complete with a little note thanking customers for their support during tough times.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Traveler St. located at 33 Traveler St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 2/10/2021 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated

otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Richard Marshall III unit #242; Kossi Bakuaya unit #249; Dallas Medlock unit #277. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
1/21/21, 1/27/21

BS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Prime Storage - Boston Southampton St. located at 100 Southampton St., Boston, MA 02118 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com

on 2/10/2021 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Ann Bresnahan unit #1127; Luther W Boyd Jr. unit #4161; Daryl Walpole unit #4211. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.
1/21/21, 1/27/21

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BOSTON - TOWER INTERIOR STABILIZATION AND RESTORATION
First Baptist Church of Boston, the Awarding Authority, requests bids for masonry, structural framing repairs, and waterproofing at the interior levels in the

BS tower of their church at 110 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, which is listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. All work must be performed in accordance with the documents prepared by and

available from Spencer, Sullivan & Vogt, 1 Thompson Square, Suite 504, Charlestown, Massachusetts 02129 (617-861-4291) and meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. State law prohibits discrimination. Awarding of this contract is subject to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity guidelines. Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of price, previous

experience with similar types of construction projects, ability to perform the work in a timely manner, and references. All bids must be delivered to the architect’s office at the above address no later than 5:00 PM, Thursday, February 18, 2021 to be eligible for consideration.

1/28/21

BS

City announces cancellation of current, controversial Melnea Cass design

By Seth Daniel

The City announced on Thursday (Jan. 21) they are cancelling the current design for the Melnea Cass reconstruction project - a project that had been funded and ready for construction but met stern opposition last summer from residents in South End and Roxbury who rallied around saving the trees.

The surprising announcement came in a letter signed by Chief of Environment Chris Cook, Chief of Equity Karlyn Crockett and Chief of Streets Chris Osgood, noting that over the last several months they had engaged in many conversations about the plans. Based on those conversations, they have decided to start over.

“Based on the concerns about the impact of those plans on our shared

environmental, social and transportation goals, the City of Boston is announcing the cancellation of the current design for the Boulevard’s reconstruction,” read the letter. “This is not the end but, instead, a new beginning for this project.”

The letter also indicated the City is committed to reconstructing the corridor and improving safety for all who use the road - as well as advancing goals for resilience, flooding and enhanced open space.

Above all, they said they would take a different tack with the trees.

“We know that we will only deliver a new plan we are all proud of through a process we are all engaged in. In the months ahead, we look forward to designing that process with you,” read the letter. “We are confident that this process will realize a final design that reflects the aspirations and needs of the communities abutting the corridor. And, while a primary goal of this

project will be to strengthen the urban forest in this area, we are also committed to a public tree hearing as part of the project, if that plan results in the removal of even a single healthy tree.”

Ken Kruckemeyer, who worked many years ago to get the trees and corridor in place, said it was a great victory for the City and its residents. He said it came as a surprise to organizers of ‘Save Melneas Trees’ and no one had expected such a reverse course of action.

“I think it is really a moment of great celebration,” he said. “It’s a time when it appears to me the City and neighborhood have the potential of working very effectively together around this specific topic.”

Councilor Michelle Wu said it showed that the community should have both safe transportation infrastructure and public health.

“The decision reflects the urgency of racial equity and climate justice, coming after nearly a decade of consistent activism from Roxbury residents fighting to protect the health of their community,” she said. “I’m hopeful and determined that the new plans will reject false choices between safe transportation infrastructure and public health - our communities can and should have both.”

For Kruckemeyer and other organizers, such as Yvonne Lalyre of Lower Roxbury, the switch will now be from protest mode to pushing for what appears to be a collaborative process.

Kruckemeyer said he believes it could be revolutionary for the way the City does business with

the neighborhoods on everything - including development. Crafting a plan with the neighborhood, then presenting it, would work much better and it’s what he believes will happen at Melnea on this second try.

“It’s a moment of considerable hope and it couldn’t have happened if things hadn’t gone so wrong. The fact is, the City acknowledges it needs to be done differently.”

The corridor had been in the planning process with the City and state for several years, going back to around 2017. Major pieces of that plan focused on the bicycle paths, the raised crosswalks and new signalization. There had been early clamoring about the removal of hundreds of trees on the corridor to make way for more bicycle and sidewalk accommodations. However, the City and state had made concessions at that time to plant nearly two times more trees than were taken down. That fact remained for some time.

Nevertheless, when a contract award hearing took place at the MassDOT Board meeting in March, the project was well over budget and people began to get wise to the tree removal plan.



On Monday, several residents of the South End and Lower Roxbury gathered to mark an anniversary, the day that the state began to reverse course on the highway project that would have torn through the South End and Jamaica Plain - among others. It was also a time to celebrate the saving of the trees on Melnea Cass Blvd. and the re-set of the entire project. Celebrating on Monday were Councilor Michelle Wu, Al Martin, Ken Kruckemeyer and Barbara Knecht.

That united a group that literally joined hands from the South End side of the Boulevard to the Roxbury side of the Boulevard and they began to advocate against the plan - which was seemingly well beyond the point of change or amendment. The calls, however, got stronger and stronger to ‘Save Melnea’s Trees’ and that culminated in a huge event last fall where advocates hugged the trees, did a dance and marched through the corridor.

That, apparently, got the City’s attention and led to the cancellation announced Thursday. The

letter called to note the fact that 52 years ago this week, residents worked together to stop the highway from marching along Cass Boulevard and destroying the City’s fabric (Crockett actually wrote a book on the subject).

“We are also mindful that the namesake for this Boulevard organized our city to fight against racism, to empower people to vote, and to expand opportunity for those most in need,” read the letter. “We appreciate all that you have done to honor that legacy, and we look forward to taking the next steps with you.”



Virtual Public Meeting

601 Newbury Street

Tuesday, February 9
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/2XZuaaY
Toll Free: (833) 568-8864
Meeting ID: 161 018 9112

Project Proponent:
601 Newbury Street, LLC

Project Description:

The Proposed Project will be constructed as a four-story addition atop the existing three-story structure, for a total of seven stories. The proposal includes both residential market rate units as well as commercial executive suites, catering to tourists and business travelers alike. The Development team is proposing a mixed-use project that will include thirty-six residential units and forty-nine executive suites. The residential units will comply with Boston’s Compact Living Program. The building will include ample community space and will include: a fitness room, remote workstation space, theatre/media room, and lounge. The Developer is proposing three parking spaces to serve as a pickup and drop off area to allow for access for small deliveries as well as ride sharing vehicles. The Proposed Project’s proximity to the Kenmore MBTA station and bus lines will minimize community impact from resident/patron parking from the Proposed Project.

mail to: **Michael Sinatra**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4280
email: michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
2/19/2021

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Please Recycle

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

By PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The carved horns of plenty and scrolls in the last clue are on 96 The Fenway also known as Kerr Hall. Northeastern's Huntington News reported that it was built, "... in 1914 and named Students House, the building was originally intended as a rooming house for young female college students." It is still used as student housing by the university. The next clue will be found in the South End. Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



BLC denies Fenway parking meter proposal without prejudice: residents upset with lack of inclusion in process

By Lauren Bennett

Following strong opposition from the community, the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) voted to deny without prejudice the proposal by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to install 15 multi-space electronic parking meter pay stations on Park Dr. and the Fenway.

Jeffrey Harris of the DCR's Office of Cultural Resources, and Mike Nelson, DCR's Director of Ranger Services and the project manager for this proposal, were on hand to make the presentation and take questions from Commissioners and the public.

Harris said that the DCR is proposing to install seven meters on Park Dr., and eight on the Fenway. He said that Park Dr. is currently only resident parking during the evening hours, and some sections allow two hour parking. He said that along the Fenway, there are currently no parking restrictions.

The proposed meters are one foot wide, one foot deep, and five feet tall, and have a stainless steel housing in a "neutral gray color" with a solar panel on the top, Harris said. They would

be mounted on concrete pads "directly adjacent to the existing sidewalks."

To use the pay stations, people enter their license plate number either on the meter itself, or via an app. This type of meter "allows DCR to use a single meter to cover a large number of parking spaces," Harris said, as one meter covers between 200 and 400 feet of parking.

"Unlike other meters, this one does not require physically marking the pavement," he added.

Harris said that on Park Dr. Parking on the lefthand side would be regulated by these meters, while parking on the righthand side would remain resident only parking.

He said that "similar parking meters have been approved" by Landmarks Commissions in the city on the Boylston St. side of the Boston Public Garden as well as on Newbury St.

Nelson said that currently, resident parking in the area is from 10pm to 6am, but DCR is working on changing resident permit parking hours to 8pm to 8am "for the sake of consistency with the meters and for the sake of preventing confusion."

The meters would be in oper-

ation from 8am to 8pm, excluding Sundays and holidays, where free public parking would still be offered.

BLC Commissioner Brad Walker confirmed that "the north side of the road will stay resident only" 24 hours a day, and the south side will be "resident only in the nighttime both currently and proposed," as it is "currently free in the daytime and proposed to be pay in the daytime."

The meters are proposed to be on the opposite side of the street, and Walker asked why this is the case.

Nelson said that on the side where people would have to pay, there is currently a grass strip with no curb cuts. He said that for accessibility purposes, curb cuts and a sidewalk would have to be installed to put the meters on that side. He also confirmed that no spaces were being taken away "in terms of designated resident parking," as would really be extended four hours a night on the south side."

The discussion got into some more logistical details regarding the use of the meters and the rules surrounding them, but Director

(BLC Pg. 11)

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
DGL Beacon Properties LLC	Brown, Douglas R	196 Beacon St #3	\$4,450,000
Steinway 162 LLC	B Minor LLC	162 Boylston St	\$18,350,000
232 Clarendon LLC	Hodgins William L Est	232 Clarendon St	\$3,969,000
Powley FT 2019	Webster, Clifford S	298 Marlborough St #6	\$1,155,000
Grimaldo, Alexandra C	Apostol, James F	52 Charlesgate E #169	\$470,000
Kau Charlesgate East LLC	377 Commonwealth LLC	377 Commonwealth Ave #P	\$200,000
BEACON HILL			
73 Beacon Street LLC	LGC RT	73 Beacon St #1	\$6,200,000
73 Beacon Street LLC	LGC RT	73 Beacon St #2	\$6,200,000
Song, Christian	William F Griffin Jr	10 Bowdoin St #14	\$1,299,450
Boiselle, Philip	3-5 Joy LLC	3 Joy St #2	\$2,500,000
Truedson, Tina	Kelleher, John J	145 Pinckney St #413	\$525,000
Nalini Sharma RET	Brummer, Michael G	15 River St #505	\$645,000
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE			
113 Appleton Street LLC	113 Appleton RT	113 Appleton St	\$2,500,000
Ledermann US RE Corp	527-529 Beacon Street	527 Beacon St	\$10,500,000
Gomez, Fermin M	Stoner, Amanda M	529 Columbus Ave #14	\$500,000
Scherer, Carl B	Jeffrey M Johnston LT	26 Hanson St #1	\$1,750,000
Willow, Lucia T	Cacase, Sharon L	62 Queensberry St #107	\$347,000
Daniels, Julian	Schwartz, Paul	12 Stoneholm St #332	\$440,000
Hunt, Kristin F	50 Symphony LLC	50 Symphony Rd #404	\$1,375,000
Dupre, Michael E	Orlove, Marni S	76-82 W Rutland Sq #402	\$1,165,000
Turner, Christine D	Hoover, Adam	141 Worcester St #1	\$1,490,000
NBMF LLC	Masse, Diana	17 Worcester St #5	\$945,000
WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN			
Davis, Landon	Bibikow, Walter	76 Battery March St #5	\$850,000
Ketabi, Amir A	Rana Assoc	386 Commercial St #2D	\$315,000
Ketabi, Amir A	Rana Assoc	65 E India Row #10E	\$615,000

BLC (from pg. 10)

of Design Review Joe Cornish reminded Commissioners that those types of things are outside of the Commission's purview and the decision should be "based on the location of the meters themselves."

Commissioner David Berarducci said that "personally, I don't find these stations to be that intrusive but it would certainly be better without them."

Berarducci also asked if this proposal was presented specifically to the Fenway community at any point for them to weigh in.

"We did two public meetings which addressed this area as well as other areas," Nelson said, including Revere Beach and Watertown, the purpose of which was to provide an overall introduction of this meter program. He said that there was "no special meeting for this Fenway neighborhood."

Many Fenway residents attended the hearing to speak out against the proposal, stating that they were upset that the commu-

nity had not been a part of this proposal and that they did not want to see these meters in the park area.

Kathleen McBride, a Fenway resident and a member of the Fenway Civic Association said that "the park space is the only relief we get. This neighborhood is 40,000 residents in under 1.4 square miles." She said it is "not appropriate" to have meters in this area. "The visual scene there is extraordinary and is being encroached upon minute by minute. We need the park to remain park-like."

Fenway resident Steve Wolf said that "my question in all of this is what would Olmsted do?" He said that there is a "long history of this area of the park being abused and adulterated."

John Bookston, Fenway resident and member of the Board of the Fenway Civic Association, said that "my disbelief is the DCR would have designed this proposal without consulting the Fenway Civic Association."

He added that "I don't know who you're trying to serve by this...the Fenway Civic Association would have been glad" to discuss this proposal "from the beginning. This is not the appropriate way to do it at the expense of Fenway residents."

City Councilor Kenzie Bok also submitted a statement in opposition of the proposal, which was read by Kennedy Avery from her office.

"I agree with the Fenway Civic Association that, to quote their communication with DCR, 'the visual intrusion of pay station meters on the parkway medians along an Olmsted-designed and historically landmarked parks system is visually inappropriate,'" Bok said. "I think the Landmarks Commission exists in large part to prevent short-term monetization of public space from infringing on historically valuable portions of the public realm, and unfortunately, this is such a case of DCR seeking to make a quick buck on

a shared community asset. The Fenway neighborhood has been intertwined with the Fens and the parkland along the Muddy River since both first came into existence, and this move treats the historic park not as the heartstring of a residential neighborhood — which is the context in which its adjacent parking on the parkways has been managed up until this point — but as a foothold for profit. I urge the Landmarks Commission to reject this proposal."

State Senator Will Brownsberger also submitted a letter in opposition of this proposal, Cornish said.

Dolores Boogdian, president of the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association also spoke out against the proposal, saying that the "meters look awful," and calling them "totally inappropriate for the historic area on which they are to be installed."

Tim Horn, president of the Fenway Civic Association, said

that "basically, it comes down to aesthetics on a historic parkway. Meters don't fit in with what we're trying to accomplish." He added that "this would be a terrible precedent for our parks."

Berarducci said that the public input was helpful to the Commission, and that he was "appalled at the fact that the DCR did not make a presentation to this neighborhood."

Walker agreed, and said that as Bookston said, it is "not clear who the beneficiary of this plan is. I find this proposal vastly undercooked in terms of its literal implementation in terms of dealing with your constituency."

Berarducci said that "if the DCR is still intent on moving forward with this, they absolutely have to include the neighborhood in a more direct way."

The DCR thanked the commission and the public for their feedback, and the BLC denied the proposal without prejudice, which allows the DCR to come back with a different proposal.

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 Jan. 26 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, online:

- 64 West Rutland Sq., South End. Applicant: Statires Realty, LLC. Purpose: Erect roof deck with hatch access and rear decks per plans filed herewith.
- 400-416 Commonwealth Ave., Back Bay. Applicant: Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, P.C. Purpose: Demolish and remove existing wooden wall, footer, and foundation wall. Construct and install a new reinforced footer, foundation wall, and wooden structural wall on the Charlesgate side of the Somerset.
- 829 Boylston St., Back Bay. Applicant: Sean O'Donovan. Purpose: Change occupancy to include retail sales of Cannabis 1st floor.
- 11 East Lenox St., South End. Applicant: Scott Kirkwood. Purpose: Erect 7 story (69') Type 4 multi-family residential building with 34 apartments, amenity space and enclosed parking on vacant lot.

From the Jan. 27 License Board meeting, 1 p.m., online:

- UNO RESTAURANTS, LLC D/B/A: Uno Pizzeria & Grill; 1 BROOKLINE Ave., Fenway. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the license and the location from the above - To: Rockwood Music Hall Boston, LLC. D/B/A Rockwood Music Hall; 88 Van Ness Street, Fenway. This is a music venue that has both a ground floor and mezzanine floor with both seating and standing options available. The seated option has a total occupancy of 95 persons with 43 total seats. The standing option has a total occupancy of 120 persons with 27 total seats. The venue has a total square footage of 1,847 square feet. Closing hour 2 a.m. Andrew Kaplan, Manager.

Secondly has petitioned to change the License Type-From: Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License -To: General On Premise All Alcoholic Beverages License. Lastly has petitioned to Pledge the License to Boylston West, LLC. Attorney: Nicholas Zozula.

SCHOOL RE-OPENING COMMUNITY MEETING

On Jan. 28, from 5:30 – 7 p.m., Supt. Brenda Cassellius will hold an online discussion for all Boston Public Schools families and the community regarding re-opening of schools. The meeting will be held on Zoom.

From the South End Landmarks Commission, noon, via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81306814250):

- Business Meeting - Historic Window Replacement. The purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss application/documentation requirements for historic window replacement applications during current Covid-19 restrictions that prevent the Commission or Commission staff from completing in-person site visits.

From the Feb. 1 Boston School Committee Nominating Panel meeting, 2:30 p.m., via Zoom:

- Interview applicants for the School Committee vacancy due to resignation. This term expires on 1/3/22.

From the Feb. 2 South End Landmarks Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83369095698):

- DESIGN REVIEW HEARING
- 34 East Springfield Street. Proposed work: At the front façade all levels, reconstruct brick façade. At the stoop and entry, construct new entry door, install new stoop handrail, and install new fire alarm beacon/ bell. At the garden level, install new entry door. At the front façade mansard level, replace wood shingles at dormer with new asphalt shingles. At the rear façade mansard level, remove existing dormer and construct a new wood dormer. At the roof level, install new HVAC equipment and mechanical screening/ railing.
- 543 Massachusetts Avenue. At

the second level of the front façade and rear façade which faces a public street, replace four (4) historic segmental-arched-headed, two-over-two, wood windows in kind.

- 541 Massachusetts Avenue. Proposed work: At the front façade parlor level, replace two non-historic stained glass windows with two-over-two windows with transoms. At the front façade second, third, and mansard levels replace six (6) historic two-over-two wood windows. Continued from 1/5/2021 Public Hearing: At the rear façade which faces a public street, construct a metal spiral staircase; create two (2) new window openings at the rear ell; replace a door with a glass door.
- 23 Upton Street. Continued from 1/5/2021 SELDC Public Hearing. Proposed work: At the front façade parlor and second levels, replace five (5) historic windows. At the front garden/ areaway, replace the garden entry door.
- 27 Gray Street. Proposed work: Reconfigure the front recessed entrance. Relocate existing entry doors at outside entrance of front elevation and install in new frame with transom.
- 2 Clarendon Square. Proposed work: At the roof, replace slate shingles with composite shingles.
- 551 Columbus Avenue. Proposed work: At the front stoop and garden, replace existing non-historic railings and historic fence. At the garden level windows, excavate area for egress and install a cistern. Remove three (3) windows and modify the openings for egress.
- 130 Pembroke Street. Proposed work: At the front façade third level (below the mansard) replace three (3) historic two-over-two wood windows in kind. At the mansard level, replace two (2) one-over-one and one (1) two-over-two historic wood windows in kind.
- 23 Dartmouth Street. Proposed work: At the existing stoop railings, install a new railing cap.
- 194-200 Shawmut Avenue. Proposed work: Install granite curbing at select planting beds along East Berkeley Street and Shawmut Avenue.
- 209 West Springfield Street. Proposed work: Construct a roof deck with spiral staircase.
- 599 Columbus Avenue. Proposed work: At the roof level, install a radio/

antennae on mount with mast.

- 609-627 Columbus Avenue. Proposed work: At the roof level, install a radio/ antennae on mount with mast.
- 310-348 Harrison Avenue. Proposed work: At the rear yard/ loading dock area, construct a one-story addition.
- 599-627 Columbus Avenue. Proposed work: At the courtyard and building facades install pole mounted light fixtures and building-mounted light fixtures. At the rear, install temporary environmental remediation sheds. Paint existing iron gate at courtyard bronze.

From the Feb. 5, 9 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Order for a hearing to discuss property taxes and assistance programs for seniors & long-term residents facing difficulties during COVID-19.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Ed Flynn and was referred to the Committee on January 13, 2021.

SCHOOLS INFO

- School Return Timetables – Monday, Feb. 1 – Students with high in-person priority; March 1-4 – Students in K0-Grade 3 (Groups A and B); March 15-18 – Students in Grades 4-8 (Groups A & B); and March 29-April 1 – Students in grades 9-12 (Groups A & B).
- BPS Priority Registration – Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. Priority Registration for those grades ends on Jan. 29. Assignment notifications are on March 31. Students entering K2 and all other grades have priority registration on Feb. 8 and ends on April 5. Assignment notifications for those grades is on May 28. There are informational Zoom sessions about registration on Weds. Jan 20, 4 p.m.; and Sat., Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. BPS Welcome Centers are temporarily closed to the public, but registration can be done online and via phone. Call (617) 635-9010 to schedule a phone appointment with a specialist.
- P-EBT Cards - All BPS students will have more P-EBT funds for this school year. If you received P-EBT funds in the past, look for funds to be allocated the last week of December. New to P-EBT?

You will get a P-EBT card in January or check your existing EBT card for funds. Learn more at www.MAP-EBT.org or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

FREE BPS BREAKFAST IN SOUTH END/FENWAY

Students who wish to get a free breakfast Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 am., have three sites to choose from in the South End and Fenway. This is the BPS initiative, but other organizations are also serving meals in the area as well.

- Blackstone Elementary School – 380 Shawmut Ave. (South End).
- Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, 120 Shawmut Ave. (Monday, Weds., and Friday only – South End).
- Boston Latin School – 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur (Fenway).

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.

THE SUDBURY CONDOMINIUMS



110 SUDBURY STREET #3703
2 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 1,738 SQFT
\$3,500,000



8 ROLLING LANE
6 BEDS | 8F 2H BATHS | 10,000 SQFT
\$8,900,000



401 BEACON STREET #4
3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,877 SQFT
\$5,990,000



380 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #4
3 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 3,704 SQFT
\$6,490,000



400 STUART STREET #15C
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 1,213 SQFT
\$2,050,000

