CONCERT IN THE BACK BAY FENS



Students from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee studying music, dance and theatre performed an original piece, 'Rising,' outdoor on the Back Bay Fens last Friday, June 4, to the enjoyment of everyone nearby. The music, dance and theatre performance was in partnership with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, MF Dynamics and Silkroad. See more photos on Page 4.

WS Development, Red Sox unveil massive plans for Fenway

By Seth Daniel

A collaboration of development groups, including the Red Sox, have unveiled major details into the long-awaited plan to redevelop 5.3 acres of land abutting and near Fenway Park, filing a Project Notification Form (PNF) with the City on June 3.

The development includes 13 privately owned parcels and would re-develop four blocks including Jersey Street, Brookline Avenue, Van Ness Street and Lansdowne Street - providing a major upgrade to the area just around the historic ballpark. The project is led by WS Development in an LLC entitled WS-Fenway-Twins Realty Venture.

"The Project is a transforma-

tive initiative that will dramatically enhance the quality and character of the public realm and pedestrian experience in the area proximate to Fenway Park and in the Fenway neighborhood as a whole," wrote Yanni Tsipis, senior vice president of WS, which is based in Chestnut Hill. "Development of the Project will create places, experiences, and amenities that will become part of the day-to-day rhythm of those living and working in the surrounding community and improve the quality of life for all Fenway residents. The Proponent has been actively engaged in dozens of conversations with many community stakeholders

(FENWAY Pg. 12)

Crite Park restoration group readying to launch fundraising campaign

By Seth Daniel

The restoration of Crite Park is about to take another step this time a financial one.

The Friends group last week put new signage in the existing park with QR codes to explain their efforts and show the new design of the proposed park, and also to begin campaigning for more funds to fully implement the project.

"We are getting ready to

launch a fundraising campaign," said President Cheryl Dickinson. "We've been doing a soft opening now with donors that have come forward because they are so pleased with our efforts.'

The biggest piece of the fundraising campaign will be a matching donation for \$10,000 that has already been pledged by one donor. Dickinson said the press will be on to raise \$10,000 so that the match can be achieved.

"If we raise \$10,000, he will

match it with another \$10,000,' said Dickinson. "Unlike Crowdsourcing where you pay a fee and if you don't make the time limit, they money goes back, this gentleman said to take the time and when we get the \$10,000, he'll reciprocate. He couldn't be more pleased with what's happening."

Before things kick off in earnest, the Friends are looking to start a Fundraising Committee

(CRITE PARK. Pg. 9)



The Crite Park reconstruction effort is about to launch a fundraising effort to keep the momentum moving on rebuilding the park in tribute to South End painter Alan Rohan Crite. Here, last week, Ryan Gosser and Betsy Hall celebrate the placement of new signage that tells those passing by just what's happening.

Two School Committee members resign after racially charged texts come to light

By Seth Daniel

Two Boston School Committee members, including Chair Alexandra Oliver-Davila, have resigned this week suddenly amidst the unexpected release of text messages that were disparaging to white people - particularly to white parents from West

Chair Oliver-Davila resigned on Tuesday, and Member Lorna Rivera – a professor at UMass-Boston - resigned on June 4. The disparaging text messages were part of a group of messages that were exchanged between members of the Committee during a marathon October

2020 meeting where the Committee voted in a temporary process for admission to the City's three Exam Schools. It was a highly charged and controversial meeting, one where comments derogatory to Asian people were made in a "hot mic" moment by

(SCHOOL COMMITTEE. Pg. 6)

EDITORIAL

HAS AMERICA GONE FROM ON THE

BRINK TO OVER THE EDGE?

With Americans emerging cicada-like from the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, one would think that this would be a time of joy as we resume participating in all of the things that make life worth living.

But rather than embracing in a positive way our newly-rediscovered freedom after 15 months of restrictions, it would seem as though we have lost our collective minds.

Fights and other outbreaks of violence, once rare in our airports and on airplanes, have become so commonplace and dangerous that two airlines, American and Southwest, have decided to halt all sales of alcohol until September.

Mass shootings are more prevalent than ever all across the country thanks to the easy access to high-powered weaponry in many states.

Drug overdose deaths soared in 2020 to record heights and show no sign of abating.

Random hate crimes, especially toward the AAPI and Jewish communities, have soared in the past year.

Our political discourse has not been this divisive since 1861, when the Confederates fired on Ft. Sumter to start the Civil War.

We finally can travel, but who wants to venture to our usual getaway destinations (especially cruise ships with unvaccinated passengers) along with the hordes of other travelers who have the same idea? It's one thing for airports and flights to be jammed, but the crowds will be huge wherever we might want to go, which only will exacerbate the new epidemic of short-temperedness that seems to be infecting our present emotional state.

Here's our theory to explain the sudden surge in the general level of unruliness among our nation's population: After 15 months of being told what to do, some people feel as though they now are entitled to do as they please with no regard for the basic rules of civility that allow us to coexist peacefully.

It's as though some Americans, in their eagerness to make up for 15 months of lost time, have forgotten how to be polite and respectful of others.

The Orange County District Attorney, speaking at a press conference about the arrests of the two suspects accused in the tragic shooting death of the six year-old boy in a road rage incident on a California freeway, put it succinctly when he stated, "....how quickly we get out of control today and take actions against others....without assuming any personal responsibility."

We may be getting COVID-19 under control, but we are failing at being in control of ourselves.

CORRECTION: Due to a reporting error in Dan Murphy's story "BTD Rep Comes Before EBNA Without Harrison Ave Redesign Plan," published in the June 3 edition, statements regarding the poor conditions of Boston roads were mistakenly attributed to Frann Bilus, who didn't comment on the matter at that time.

THE BOSTON SUN

President/Editor: Stephen Quigley

Marketing Director: Debra DiGregorio

(DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

Lauren Bennett, Lauren@thebostonsun.com

GUEST OP-ED

Boston needs more affordable, affordable housing

By Councilor Annissa Essaibi George

Right now, Boston's residents are struggling to pay rent, our families can't find or afford stable housing, and too many individuals are experiencing chronic homelessness. The past year has only emphasized these realities and the effects will last long after the pandemic.

Affordability and accessibility of both rental units and homes for sale is key for a thriving city. We need to ensure that everyone who wants to call Boston home has the opportunity, option and a pathway to ownership to do so. We can start by building more housing and ensuring what we build is actually affordable for Boston's residents.

Our housing stock must also be a reflection of the needs of those who call this city home. That's why I've called for a hearing on our City's existing residential unit diversity, so we can understand what units we have and what units we need to equitably house our residents and more proactively shape an inclusive and thriving city. We need to see what's out there and then act accordingly. We need to plan, then build for the realities of our residents.

Much of our focus should be on creating housing for the many residents and families that don't qualify for subsidized housing, but still cannot afford to pay market rate. This large gap is causing low to middle income families to fall through the cracks. We need affordable, multi-bedroom housing for our families and we need to push developers to build it. We must also look into amending and updating HUD's Area Median Income (AMI) standard for the city. The formula does not reflect the income of the many residents who need more affordable housing.

For those who do qualify for subsidized housing, the housing voucher allocation processes are not consistent and the number of available vouchers varies dramatically year to year. As Mayor, I will push for dedicated investments in public housing and extremely low-income housing and improve measures to prevent race-based and income-based voucher discriminatory behavior.

Housing production should also provide our residents more opportunities for home ownership. In order to address the affordable housing crisis and the racial wealth gap, we need to make sure our investments in affordable rental units and homeownership units are aligned. Many of the residents in our City-funded rental units are paying about 70% of AMI, which equates to \$1,400 a month for a one bedroom unit. If they are able to pay that much in rent, they can also afford and sustain a monthly mortgage of the same amount—we just have to make home ownership accessible!

The City also has to invest more in our first time home-buyers program, which not only prepares first time home buyers looking to purchase their first homes, but also offers residents, many of whom would not be able to otherwise, the opportunity to purchase a home by qualifying to make a below average down payment upon purchase and lower monthly mortgage rates.

Finally, more must be done to encourage the creation of more senior-specific housing and ensure that those who have made Boston their home can stay here. We must support our seniors to age in the community they call home by creating more secure and accessible affordable housing options, including housing for older residents who identify as LGBTQIA+ or older residents with disabilities.

I was born and raised in Boston. I feel so fortunate that my parents were able to settle here and make this city my family's home. I'm proud to raise my children here. I want that for all of Boston's families and anyone else that loves Boston enough to choose it over any place else in this world. As Mayor, I'll work relentlessly to make this happen.

Annissa Essaibi George, is a City Councilor, At-Large and a candidate for mayor.

GUEST OP-ED

Why we all need expanded and improved Medicare for All

By Maria Termini

Plain and simple we need Improved Medicare for All now to make sure everyone has the health care they need. Currently many people can't afford health care and they suffer and die and this is wrong. Health care is a matter of life and death, a human need, and a human right. Every day people are denied that right because they can't afford it, even with insurance. Our profit-based health care industrial system is the most expensive and complicated in the world. In order to keep their profits high, insurance

companies are continually raising their premiums and increasing deductibles, copayments and out of pocket expenses.

Many people can't afford the co-payments. My friend Melinda is a single parent with a job that pays barely above minimum wage. She pays premiums for her health insurance. Each time she takes her son to a doctor, she must make a co-payment of \$70 which is a financial hardship. Melinda herself hasn't been to a doctor in many years because she can't afford the co-payment even though she has some medi-

cal problems. So, she suffers and

takes risks with her health. This is wrong.

We have about 1600 different insurance companies in the US and this results in high administrative costs, endless paper work and a very high overhead to pay for all their advertising and ways to deny care. This drives up the costs. The insurance companies pay their executives salaries of millions of dollars. When the former CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield, Clive Killingsworth left his job a few years ago, he walked away with a golden parachute of

(OP-ED, Pg. 3)

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

11.3 million dollars in compensation and he had only worked there six years. Because these executives are overpaid, the premiums and costs keep increasing. And more and more people can't afford to get the care they need.

Insurance companies have many complicated regulations and the fine print is often unintelligible and with horrible consequences. In New York City, a woman received an emergency heart transplant at a hospital in her health plan's network. However, no one bothered to tell her that the transplant surgeons didn't take her particular insurance. They billed her \$70,000 and sent collection agencies and lawyers after her while she was still home recuperating. She may have recovered but chances are good she has lost her home.

The cost of prescription drugs is soaring as the drug companies persist in making huge profits. Insulin is now so expensive some diabetics can't afford it. Some ration this most necessary drug, taking a dose every other day. Others have died. I was in Bolivia a few years ago and got bit by a dog and needed rabies shots. They were \$35 each there. I got my final shot in the US and it was \$1300.

Our health care costs have actually increased despite the complex legislation known as the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obama care.) This legislation was written by the insurance companies and with their own best interests in mind. The reality is that the Affordable Care Act is not going to make health care affordable, only more expensive as premiums, deductibles and out of pocket expenses get higher and higher each year, escalating beyond the current rates of inflation. The costs go higher because of our profit driven system.

We cannot let this system continue. Our health is very important. We cannot be complacent and accept the health care system we have as the way things are. We must do something now about changing our health care system for the better. We need to get corporate profits out of the health care equation.

The solution to our health care crisis is Medicare for All, a system of non-profit single payer health care, publicly funded and privately administered. Expanded and Improved Medicare for All will provide affordable health care for everyone, increased

access to prevention and early intervention, providing dental and vision care. Preventive care is critical. I know too many women who have died because of delayed cancer diagnoses. Dental care is critical. A mother could not afford to take her nine-year old son to the dentist when he complained of a severe toothache. Her health insurance did not cover visits to a dentist. That toothache became a brain abscess and the boy died.

Medicare for All is a simple system, just like the current Medicare for those over 65, with a very low overhead. It will reduce administrative waste and bargain for the best prices for drugs and medical services. Hospitals and physicians will no longer need huge billing departments to process tons of complicated insurance forms. There will be no need for private health insurance. Improved Medicare for All would be funded by a small tax and all premiums, deductibles, copayments would be eliminated. We would pay a lot less for Medicare for All than the current bloated system.

Canada has single-payer healthcare. In Canada no one dies because they are uninsured or can't afford health care. Canadians live longer and are healthier than us and spend about half per capita on health care costs than we do in the US. In Canada no one loses their home because they can't pay medical bills. Diabetics easily get the insulin they need.

We can only get Improved Medicare for All by passing legislation. There are bills in the Massachusetts Statehouse (House 1267 and Senate 766) and also the US Congress (HR 1976) for Expanded and Improved Medicare for All. I urge you to study these bills and insist your legislators support and pass them. It will not be easy but we must work for justice in health care and stop the suffering and dying when people can't get the care they need. We can make health care at last a truly enjoyed human right by creating Medicare for All, a health care system that put patients before profits, is comprehensive, covers every one, and is affordable.

Maria Termini is an artist and public speaker. She works with Mass Care and Healthcare Now. She welcomes your comments and can be contacted at: mariatermini2013@gmail.com.

Back Bay COVID update

By John Lynds

Last week, Back Bay's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate was still under 1- percent for a fourth week in a row according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the weekl;y report released last Friday 1,061 residents were tested and 0.04 percent were positive. This was a 90 percent drop from the 0.4 percent of residents that tested positive according to the BPHC.

Overall since the pandemic started 52,890 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.7 percent of

those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate continues to decrease. According to the BPHC 13,064 residents were tested and 1 percent were COVID positive-this was a 9 percent decrease from the 1 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 631.1 cases per 10,000 residents, up 0.08 percent from the 630.6 cases per 10,000 residents reported two weeks ago.

An additional three residents

became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 3,514 cases to 3,517 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 0.25 percent last week and went from 70,628 cases to 70,810 confirmed cases in a week. Three additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,386 total deaths in the city from COVID.







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DANCE, MUSIC AND THEATER STUDENTS PERFORM ORIGINAL PIECE IN BACK BAY FENS

Photo by Aram Bogohsian

In partnership with Emerald Necklace Conservancy, MF Dynamics, and Silkroad, Boston Conservatory at Berklee dance, music, and theater students present their original piece, "Rising", a 15-minute multidisciplinary experience about restoration and regrowth, performed out-

doors, in the Back Bay Fens last Friday, June 4. "Rising" draws inspiration from the restoration of the Muddy River to highlight the collective need to recover and regrow as a society after the COVID-19 pandemic. The performance explored the potential of renewal from the simplicity of nature through live music, dance, and poetry as performed

by a multidisciplinary ensemble. Each aspect of the performance was designed to sonically, visually, and verbally guide the audi-

ence through the cyclical nature of growth and restoration.



Student performers gather in the Back Bay Fens prior to the concert.



Members of the class moved in many different ways, drawing inspiration from the restoration of the Muddy River



The public enjoying Berklee students performing 'Rising' in the Back Bay Fens.



Movement was a key part of the 'Rising' performance, as it was a multidisciplinary experience.





Shown above, One of the students playing percussion.
Shown left, Boston Conservatory at Berklee students pause for a photo in the Back Bay Fens after their performance last Friday.

Arlington Street Church resumes tours of its Tiffany stained-glass windows; seeks guides for program

By Dan Murphy

With regular tours of its 16 Tiffany opalescent stained-glass windows – the largest Tiffany window collection of its kind in any one church - resuming July 1, Arlington Street Church is now seeking volunteer greeters for the program.

Self-guided tours with a smartphone (which guests must provide themselves) are offered Monday, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. (No



"John the Baptist," a Tiffany stained-glass window at Arlington Street Church.

tours are offered on Tuesdays.) Tours cost \$5 per person, and children 12 and under are admitted free

The church's first Tiffany window was installed in 1899 and the last one 30 years later in 1929, so as Sarah Netsky, a member of the congregation and the only remaining physical volunteer tour guide, points out for the first few decades after the building was completed in 1851, it had no Tiffany windows what

Arlington Street Church had also originally planned on installing 20 Tiffany windows, said Netsky, but when the Great Depression hit in the 1920s, plans for the remaining four windows were abandoned. Louis Comfort Tiffany then died in 1933, she added, and with his glass studio closing soon afterwards, the church's goal of installing a total of 20 Tiffany windows was permanently derailed.

Meanwhile, the church used to offer impromptu tours when visitors stopped by and asked to see the windows, but as demand grew, the church began offering them formally on a regular basis instead.

"We typically get people from all over the world, even as far away as New Zealand," said Netsky, who is fluent in Italian, as well as in English, and is expected to be on site for occasional tours in both languages once her schedule is finalized.

But not everyone who comes to see the windows, which were recently restored by the "country's preeminent restorer of Tiffany glass," according to the church, is from out of town either

"At east a few times a week, we get people from the neighborhood who've never seen them before even though they've passed by them countless times," said Netsky.

(Netsky is also a docent with the Church of the Covenant on Newbury Street, highlighting its collection of Tiffany windows.)

Gabey Whitehouse, a member of the congregation since 1967, said while the Tiffany windows typically attract a lot of international travelers, the church expect most people coming to see them this summer will reside in the U.S.

"We're a very welcoming community," Whitehouse said, "so we're happy when people visit us."

Arlington Street Church is also featured on the Boston Duck Tours, as well as on the Boston Trolley Tours, and also draws many spouses of people attending conventions in Boston. "Monday is a big day for that," added Whitehouse.

Money raised from the tour will help pay for a major renovation of the church, which, said Whitehouse, now needs a lot of work, especially to address its "crumbling" brownstone façade.

Joyce Kamau, church administrator, said Arlington Street Church is the first public building in the Back Bay, as well a "very important building in Boston." But despite its prestige, she said, many visitors to Boston are completely unaware of the church's existence until they visit the adjacent Public Garden.



"Madonna of the Flowers," a Tiffany stained-glass window installed in 1899 at Arlington Street Church.

"We look forward to welcoming visitors again and hope to have a pleasant and safe resurrection of our wonderful tour program," said Kamau.

To learn more about Arlington Street Church's "The Art of Tiffany Stained Glass" tours, visit https://www.asctiffany.org, or to volunteer as a tour guide with the program, contact Joyce Kamau at jkamau@acsboston. org or call 617-536-7050



Chester Square Neighbors support proposal for 603 Mass Ave. to convert retail space into apartment

By Lauren Bennet

The Chester Square Neighbors met virtually on June 2, where members heard a presentation regarding changes to the existing building at 603 Mass Ave.

Attorney Lorene Schettino explained that the proposal for the building is to change the ground floor space from retail to a three bedroom residential apartment, for a total of four residential units and an office space.

The existing office space on the first floor will remain, as will the existing apartments above that

Schettino said that the only zoning violation for this proposal would be insufficient street parking since one additional residential unit was being added. "Everything else we would be able to comply with," she said.

She said that the zoning relief

letter has be obtained, and the community process is "ongoing." An abutters meeting was held, where Chester Square Neighbors president Carol Blair was the only attendee. She said that the project is expected to go before the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) this summer, but no date has been set yet.

Schettino said that the renovations for the conversion would take about two months.

She also spoke about some of the concerns that Blair brought up during the abutters meeting.

"One of the main concerns Carol had was some security due to the way the front entrance is and then in the back of the property there's sort of a rear alleyway." She said that cameras have since been installed in both the front and the back of the building, and a motion sensor security light has also been installed in the back alley.

She also said that the team is considering installing a planter in the front of the house to try and keep people out of the area.

She also said that the owners discussed keeping the retail space, but she said that due to the pandemic, there were not many businesses interested in operating out of the space.

Blair said at this meeting that the building's tenants and neighbors are in need of some open space.

"We're always looking for an opportunity to meet that need," she said. "We appreciate your help with that...whatever you can do."

She also brought up the transportation issue since parking is not available for this building.

"We would hope that your tenants would be even more oriented toward non car alternatives than most people in the neighborhood," she said.

Chester Square Neighbors member Sara Mitchell asked who would be living in the building.

Attorney Anthony Rossi said that "currently, the building is fully occupied outside of the retail space." He said that the building caters to "the hospitals and young professionals, especially the medical professionals. That's our clientele."

He also said that all of the finishes in the apartments are high end, and "we want a high quality tenant...not someone who's going to abuse the space."

Rossi also said that none of the current tenants have cars.

"Because everything's pre-existing, they're pretty much food as far as continuing with the trend," Blair said. She said that if the building was to be built from

the ground up now, it would run into many issues because there is insufficient parking and open space.

She said that she "tried to encourage" the proponents to subsidize a T pass or a Zipcar membership, but "they didn't want to do that," she said.

The Chester Square Neighbors decided that they will support this proposal.

The neighbors also talked about their upcoming festival for the dedication of new historical signs for Chester Square that will be installed by the City's Parks Department. The event is set for 5:30-7:30pm on Wednesday, July 21, and will feature light refreshments and posters with historic photos. The neighbors also hope to have some sort of music and games for kids as part of the event.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (from pg. 1)

former Chair Michael Loconto. Those comments forced him to have to resign then, and other text messages were revealed also. However, the texts about "Westie Whites" between Oliver-Davila and Rivera weren't included in that batch, but seemingly were withheld by the City – something that is still being debated. When they were finally released on Sunday, it was a new revelation from a contentious meeting whose repercussions seemingly have no end.

Acting Mayor Kim Janey said she respected the decision of them to resign, but indicated it left a void of Latina leadership on the Committee.

"I respect and support the decisions of Alexandra Oliver-Davila and Dr. Lorna Rivera to resign as members of the Boston School Committee," she said. "Ms. Oliver-Davila and Dr. Rivera have been dedicated stewards of the committee and passionate advocates for Boston families. Their private remarks, which were recently made public, were unfortunate and unfairly disparaged members of the Boston Public Schools community. As women of color

who advocate for racial equity in our schools, I also understand their comments were made in the wake of death threats and unacceptable racist attacks that were frightening, offensive, and painful. As their time on the school committee ends, their work to lift up equity in Boston Public Schools must continue.

"The shared experience of Ms. Oliver-Davila and Dr. Rivera, and their decision to step down, amplifies the need for meaningful dialog and important work we must do as a city to address racism," she continued. "Sadly, their departure also leaves a void in Latina leadership on our school committee that I am determined to address."

Supt. Brenda Cassellius said the situation will require accountability and community.

"The challenges BPS face will require both district accountability and community healing," she said. "I will work alongside the School Committee to continue our work with our stakeholders as we dismantle systemic barriers to opportunity and open up access for all students. Creating a safe, welcoming, and culturally affirming environment for all

students is a core value that we seek to live out every day.

The information shared... is disappointing and hurtful to the Boston Public Schools community, and to our larger efforts to combat racism in all forms," she continued. "This is especially true after a year of racial reckoning and personal reflection unlike any other."

The departure of both came in a flurry, starting with Rivera on June 3, when she send an e-mail to City officials saying she needed to resign due to racist attacks on her that have continued since February. She said she has received racist e-mails and social media contacts from those that disagree with her position on the Exam Schools vote, and she said white supremacists are coordinating efforts to oppose programs like Ethnic Studies, diversity and inclusion activities.

"I am being targeted as a Latina gender studies professor who teaches about racism and patriarchy and oppression," read the June 3 e-mail provided by the City. "Because of the harassment and overwhelming stress from School Committee-related work, my mental and physical health has deteriorated, so I need to

resign and recuperate."

It was a few days later that her texts to Oliver-Davila were revealed in the Boston Globe, particularly the one about disliking "Westie Whites" as they were released to that newspaper over the weekend.

Oliver-Davila released a statement through the Mayor's Office earlier this week, after officially resigning on Tuesday. She said the meeting last October transported her back to when she was an immigrant youth, who was not worthy. She said the testimony on that night about the Exam School process pushed her over the edge to do something she now regrets.

"It was painful," she wrote.
"And in the heat of the moment it caused me to vent by sending inappropriate personal text messages to one of my colleagues," she wrote. "I regrettably allowed myself to do what others have done to me. I failed my own standards in this private exchange. These messages matched the sharpness of what was being delivered via public testimony that night."

delivered via public testimony that night."

She said she has also been subject to constant racial undertones and personal attacks at School

many dov did lose so they histor but West seats by the sea

Committee meetings and in regular e-mails received by herself and other members. However, she said she did not want her actions to distract the Committee from its important work, and thus decided to step down.

Oliver-Davila is the long-time director of the Sociedad Latina program in Mission Hill, and became the chair in January.

At the moment, Vice Chair Michael O'Neill confirmed that he would assume the role of chair for the time being. At the next meeting, he said, he would convene the assembly of remaining members and the first order of business would be to select a new chair.

The meeting this week had been cancelled in the wake of the scandal, and the next meeting has not yet been called.

In the Exam School admissions change for the incoming class, the entrance exam was waived and a new seating formula was used. In that formula, many downtown neighborhoods did lose some seats from what they historically have received, but West Roxbury lost the most seats by the numbers.

Janey announces termination of BPD Commissioner Dennis White following investigation

Acting Mayor Kim Janey held a press conference on June 7, where she announced the immediate termination of Dennis White as commissioner of the Boston Police Department (BPD).

"I reached this decision after carefully considering the results of an independent investigation into multiple allegations of domestic violence against Dennis White, along with testimony and information he provided during the hearing on June 1."

Domestic violence allegations against White were brought to light after his swearing in on February 1. On February 3, Mayor Marty Walsh placed White on administrative leave while an independent investigation was conducted.

Janey said that ""Dennis

White has repeatedly asserted that the domestic violence allegations against him are false, but he stated in his hearing and during the investigation that he has hit and pushed members of his household. The allegations and evidence of this behavior raised serious questions about his fitness to run the Boston Police Department, and Dennis White's actions in recent weeks have done even more to erode public trust in his judgement and ability to lead."

Janey added that "instead of expressing understanding, regret, growth, or contrition regarding his admitted actions about domestic violence, Dennis White instead has continued to campaign to vilify his former wife."

She added that White "describes his circumstances as part of a pattern of falsely accused Black men," The dispa-

rate treatment of Black people in our country is a genuine concern, but let's be clear: racism is a burden carried by both men and women of color and I will not turn a blind eye to domestic violence against black women or any woman for that matter in the Boston Police Department or anywhere else."

Janey also said that White refused to "fully cooperate" with the investigation, and that he was a "reoccurring presence" at BPD headquarters while he was

"As commissioner, he failed to lead by example," Janey said.

She continued, "As mayor I am committed to leading positive change and systemic reforms to bring overdue transparency and accountability to policing in Boston. The time has come for us to turn away from the mistakes of the past and move toward a

more just and equitable Boston.

"I am implementing several measures to reimagine the future of policing in our city and set the stage for a national search for a permanent commissioner to be named toward the end of the year," she said.

Janey talked about fully implementing the recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force, as well as the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT), which she said is currently actively investigating complaints.

Janey also said a mental health response pilot has been created with the city's office of Health and Human Services as well as the BPD.

"In the coming weeks, I will name a committee of community residents, public safety advocates, and law enforcement professionals who will lead a

community engagement process to define what Boston residents seek from leadership within our police force, " Janey said.

Additionally, Janey announced that moving forward, "all candidates for BPD leadership" will be "subject to vetting and background checks." She also said that the city will help to "strengthen" the BPD's policy for domestic violence, as the existing policy is more than 15 years old.

"For the first time, we will propose a sexual assault policy to govern our police force," Janey said. "The BPD will require steady leadership as we move forward."

Janey also expressed her gratitude for Chief Greg Long, who has been acting as both the Chief of Police and the Acting Com-

Downtown Neighborhoods Mayoral Candidates Forum to take place virtually June 22

By Dan Murphy

Boston Downtown Neighborhoods Mayoral Candidates Forum is scheduled to take place via Zoom on Tuesday, June 22, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The forum is sponsored by myriad downtown neighborhood organizations, including the Alliance of Downtown Civic Organizations, Bay Village Neighborhood Association, Beacon Hill Civic Association, Boston Chinatown Resident Association, Downtown Boston Residents' Association, Ellis South End Neighborhood Association, Fenway Civic Association, Neighborhood Association of Back Bay, Saint Botolph Neighborhood Association and the South End Forum, and West End Civic Association (WECA).

The event moderator will be Montez Haywood, WECA President, as well as a one-time Boston District 8 City Council candidate.

Rob Whitney, Chair of the Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA), stated: "Our orga-

nization is very excited to be co-sponsoring this event with other neighborhood associations. Over the years the BHCA has partnered with many of these organizations to hold candidate forums to help our respective neighborhood residents get to know the candidates better, and to encourage our neighborhoods to participate in the political process."

Elliot Laffer, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) board of directors, said, "We are proud to be one of the cosponsors of this event. The candidates have been given the questions in advance so they can provide thoughtful answers, and we forward to hearing their responses to questions affecting the downtown neighborhoods. This is probably one of the most important mayoral elections in decades and a very different field of candidates than we've historically had, and it will be very exciting to see how [the election moves forward] as the year goes on."

In anticipation of the upcom-

ing Mayoral Candidates Forum, Tom Perkins, president of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA), wrote: "Mayoral candidates haven't historically given a lot of time or attention to topics of particular concern to the downtown neighborhoods, and this year is no exception. I hope we'll have good attendance at the forum and that we'll hear

more about where candidates stand on issues like the loopholes in the AirBnB ordinance, the proliferation of electronic billboard proposals, the explosion of graffiti in both public and private spaces, and safety on the Common. Downtown neighborhoods will always be a gathering place for all city residents and the face of Boston to most visitors, we

need to ensure that these areas continue to be safe, attractive, and welcoming to everyone."

Boston Downtown Neighborhoods Mayoral Candidates Forum is free to attend but persons must register through EventBrite to get the Zoom link information.

The registration link can also be found at bhcivic.org.



Spda Virtual Public Meeting

Park Plaza Urban Renewal **Community Meeting**

Wednesday, June 30 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3gdpvLA Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 161 907 5257

Project Proponent:

Boston Planning and Development Agency

Project Description:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency invites the surrounding neighbors within Downtown Boston to a community meeting to discuss a proposal to allow the Park Plaza Urban Renewal Plan to sunset in 2022.

mail to: Christopher Breen

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4202

email: chris.breen@boston.gov

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Boston Latin senior sets out to 'revolutionize the sleep game' with his new invention, the MoonPillow

By Dan Murphy

While some of his peers might be enjoying a carefree summer before heading off to college, Ludovico Rollo, a graduating Boston Latin senior, plans to spend this time launching his latest invention, MoonPillow, which he describes as "an anti-wrinkle and acne-preventing pillow that revolutionizes the sleep game."

Rollo, who turns 18 on June 13 and is attending Harvard University as an incoming freshman this fall, was recently named one of the Bay State's 25 Under 25 rising innovators by BostInno, an online news outlet that covers innovation in tech and startups in Boston. Described by the Boston Business Journal as "already a serial entrepreneur," he co-founded Keep Up! Trivia, a company that manufactured a current event board game, and Filtair USA, which produced an air filter that attaches to the handlebars of a bicycle. Rollo is also the assignee and inventor of four patents, including two provisional patents that he wrote him-

But the impetus for MoonPillow, said Rollo, who currently

lives with his family on Exeter Street, was "genetics," since he and others in his family suffer from "bad acne." With this in mind, Rollo's brother once advised him to "watch for your pillow," he said, "because it's not great for your acne."

"So the wheels started turning, and I thought, 'why is the pillow bad for my acne?" Rollo said.

As he began to research the subject, Rollo said he learned that putting excessive pressure on one side of your face contributes to "permanent wrinkle formation, acne breakouts and hair breakage."

Rollo also said he soon came to the realization "that when you sleep on regular pillow, you put 11 pounds of pressure on one side of your face for an extended period of time." His first thought, he added, was this would inevitably cause "friction and irritation."

Subsequently, Rollo came to the conclusion that he's not the only one whose skin condition has been exasperated by what he calls a "bad pillow."

"Everyone needs a good pillow that's healthy for your skin," he said.

Rollo said he then "set out to

create a pillow that eliminates the irritation and pressure induced by regular pillows on skin, all while providing a comfortable night's sleep."

He crafted his first MoonPillow prototype from an old wooden box he found in his basement, which, he said, he made into the shape of the letter 'F' and rolled two T-shirts over "the perpendiculars." When Rollo tried sleeping on it, he said his Facial U-Zone (cheeks and upper jaw loner) was free from the pressure that an ordinary pillow would cause.

"Clearly, sleeping on wood and a T-shirt isn't too comfortable," added Rollo, "so I started experimenting with memory foam and satin pillow cases, and that's how I got the final product."

The final product, he said, ensures that your Facial U-Zone and Facial T-Zone (i.e. forehead, nose and chin) don't contact the pillow to avoid the likelihood of "pillow-induced acne."

MoonPillow also has a satin pillowcase, which as opposed to standard cotton pillowcases, said Rollo, doesn't absorb moisture (or facial creams), and feels smoother against your skin.



Ludovico Rollo, a Boston Latin senior and Exeter Street resident, with his latest invention, the MoonPillow.

"It also means that common pillow-induced problems like split ends, hair dryness, and 'bed head' are problems of the past," he added.

About two months ago, Rollo launched the MoonPillow website (www.moonpillow.shop) and began distributing the product to friends and family members to give it "initial public exposure," as well as to get their feedback.

"I'm hearing it's freeing up their ears when someone has a habit of listening to podcasts every night and can't use regular headphones on the pillow because the pressure kills their ear," he said.

Others have told him how

much they like the silky feel of the satin pillow cover, or how it frees up their nose to help them breathe at night (as well as it freeing up their Facial T- and U-Zones.)

"It's very interesting to see because everyone has something different to gain from the Moon-Pillow," Rollo said.

While MoonPillow typically retails for \$34.95, an additional \$5 savings is now being offered for a limited time as part of an ongoing spring promotion.

Visit www.moonpillow.shop to learn more, or follow MoonPillow on Instagram and Facebook at Moonpillow.shop.



CRITE PARK (from pg. 1)

that will talk about strategy, and not directly solicit funds.

Once that is in place, they will begin the community fundraising aspect, while the Friends also pursue other grant opportunities. That will secure what is needed for Phases 1 and 2.

One change to the plan is that the City would like Phases 1 and 2 completed at the same time, which would make the park usable right off the bat.

"The City does not want to see the project broken down into the five phases we had," she said. "They want us to do the first two phases together so the park will then become usable. That would include all the tangibles like the hardscape. It won't have all the extras, but it will be usable."

One of the initial strategies for

Phases 3, 4, and 5 is to potentially use community fundraising for bits and pieces of those amenities. Dickinson part of the fundraising strategy coming up could be to fund specific things like plantings or benches.

Dickinson said the project is very unique in that it has moved so fast under private effort. Because it is owned by Public Works and not Parks and Recreation, the group has had to spend its own money from fundraising and grants to do the engineering and design for the new park. To date, that has come to \$22,500.

"We really moved fast and got the work done," said Dickinson. "When we are done, this Committee will have created a community park with the City's guidance. That's pretty cool.



Ryan Gosser with the new signage, which includes a handy QR Code to give information online about the project.



Roger Dickinson with the new sign and the new Alan Rohan Crite Square sign.



Maryellen Hassell, Betsy Hall, Ryan Gosser, Roger Dickinson, and Cheryl Dickinson.

129 Pinckney Street 5 bedrooms I 3.5 bathrooms I \$4,250,000

A gracious example of fine period architecture in the most desirable part of Beacon Hill. This handsome brick and granite five-story, 4,188 sqft single-family townhouse is located on the most desirable "Flat of the Hill". Built in 1878 and beautifully maintained, it shows off the fine materials and craftsmanship of that time. 12-foot ceilings crown spacious rooms, 8 fireplaces of which many have their original white marble mantles. The property includes one of Beacon Hill's legendary hidden gardens and lower level living space with its own separate access. Within walking distance of Back Bay and downtown attractions, it is just around the corner from Charles St, the Charles River and The Esplanade. Garage parking available nearby.









Robb Cohen CRS, ASR, ABR, CNE, CLHMS Engel & Völkers Boston 46 Gloucester Street Mobile +1-617-962-0142 robbcohenteam.evusa.com

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The Boston Black Hospitality Coalition launches Boston Black Restaurant Month

By John Lynds

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted black communities at a disproportionate rate. During this devastating public health crisis, black business owners were forced to grapple with an economic crisis that disrupted their livelihoods and significantly undermined the financial security of the most vulnerable community members.

A recent H&R Block survey of small businesses found that 53% of Black business owners saw their revenue drop by half, compared to 37% of White owners, since the pandemic started.

"Black-owned businesses play such an important role in improving local economies and uplifting communities everywhere," H&R Block Vice President of Small Business Ian Hardman said in a statement. "Clearly there's a grave need to support small business owners, especially those hit hardest by the pandem-

It's no secret that the restaurant industry was one of the most heavily impacted industries during the pandemic with many owners forced to cut staff, reduce capacity and, in many cases, close indoor dining for long periods.

In order to start boosting a return to Black-owned small businesses the Boston Black Hospitality Coalition, founded by Nia Grace and Royal C. Smith, who owns District 7 Tavern in Roxbury, launched Boston Black Restaurant Month in honor of the Juneteenth Holiday.

The Juneteenth Holiday commemorates the ending of slavery in the U.S. and is celebrated each year on June 19. The holiday gives the community at large a chance to learn about the positive contributions African Americans have made to society and the

Coalition's event hopes to bring more people back to Black-owned restaurants throughout Boston.

Throughout the month of June Bostonians can celebrate food, culture, and community with Boston's Black-owned restaurants.

"Discover the traditional flavors that proudly showcase a rich and resourceful heritage," the Coalition said in a statement. "Experience the hospitality of over 70 eateries and cocktail bars while enjoying a variety of specials, promotions, and events throughout the month of June. Treat your taste buds and share in our history by planning a visit today."

Local restaurants featured throughout the month of June are Flames Caribbean Restaurant at 746-748 Huntington Avenue and Lucy Ethiopian Cafe at 334 Massachusetts Avenue.

You can check out the full dining guide of Black-owned restaurants across Boston at Boston-BlackRestaurants.com.

"Our businesses play a critical role in community and economic development," said the Coalition. "Highlighting this we seek to ensure a prolonged future for our Black-owned institutions.'

God's grace enables progress and joy, say Christian Scientists at annual meeting

By Kevin Ness

In a year often defined by uncertainty, Christian Scientists gathered at their online annual meeting, including from Boston and 41 congregations throughout Massachusetts to acknowledge the ways in which God's love and mercy have opened paths of progress and joy in individual lives and collective church experience.

The meeting was live-streamed to members around the globe on June 7 from The First Church of Christ, Scientist, the church's headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.

The theme of the meeting, 'Grace to go forward," is from a well-loved hymn, and was sung to one of H. Walford Davies' "Hymns of the Kingdom."

Acknowledging the challenges of the past year, Keith Wommack, a member of the Christian Science Board of Directors said, "Trials cause us to be transformed. As the New Testament teaches, it is Christ that does the transforming, and we gain each step forward through Christly self-surrender."

In video reports from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, members shared that for them the heart of church is about learning to respond more fully to God's love — a living faith that reaches beyond the walls of any brick and mortar

A congregation in Washington D.C. shared how they found new ways to carry out their activities and care for one another in the midst of lockdown restrictions. "I've appreciated that we've moved forward without outlining where the destination is," said an interviewed member. "We know we're moving forward with God and we can rest secure that He will take us where we need to go.... That sense of grace really filled each step with purpose."

A teen Sunday School class in Switzerland spoke about the value they found in continuing class online as they navigated changes to work and school life, and



© THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Christian Scientists gathered virtually at their annual meeting on June 7. The theme, "grace to go forward" was drawn from a hymn, and sung during the meeting. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston (pictured) is the headquarters for the denomination.

considered the role of faith as a practical help. A member from São Paulo, Brazil shared how his prayers for his church and the world brought him full healing in the face of severe COVID-19 symptoms. Christian Scientists typically endeavor to turn to God in prayer for healing, though the decision is always made by the individual, not the church.

Meeting participants also previewed a new exhibit titled "How do you see the world?" that is set to open at the church's headquarters in Boston in late summer. The exhibit will explore progress in the world and connect visitors with the vision and ideals of the church's founder, Mary Baker Eddy. Project Director Sarah Ingraham from Luci Creative said, "We were so moved

by how [Mary Baker Eddy] cares

for people. You see that in her letters — how she deeply cares for humanity. You see that she is looking at a deeper sense of love, a deeper understanding of love... [the exhibit invites] visitors to take that journey as far as they want."

The new president of the church, Mimi Oka from New York City, New York, was introduced, and new members were welcomed from 24 countries, including Canada, Columbia, Italy, Japan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the United States. Christian Science branch churches are active today in over 60 countries, spanning six continents, each of which is locally organized and democratically run.

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



Dpda Virtual Public Meeting

321 Harrison Avenue

Wednesday, June 23 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3vC5tAV Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 160 026 6803

Project Proponent:

Biomed Realty LLC.

Project Description:

This meeting will be held to discuss the proposed change to the Planned Development Area ("PDA") for this project. The proponent has proposed amending to the PDA to include restrictions for a laboratory tenant that wishes to operate above a Bio-Safety Level 3.

mail to: Nick Carter

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201 617.918.5303

nick.carter@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:

6/25/2021



Mt. Vernon Street resident's upcoming play explores Boston's love for baseball, as well as city's history of racial tension

By Dan Murphy

"Cursetown," an upcoming play written by Mt. Vernon Street resident David Beardsley that hits the stage next summer, will explore Boston's deep-seated love for the Red Sox and baseball, as well as the city's fraught history of racial tension, unfolding over the course of three decades.

"I really wanted to write a Boston play and something that explores what I love about the city and what sometimes disappoints me about the city," said Beardsley.

Each key scene in "Cursed" centers around a pivotal moment in Red Sox history, he said, beginning with Game 6 of 1975 Boston-Cincinnati World Series, when William, a community-minded black law student, has a heated exchange with Fitzy, a bigoted white man from Southie, in a Boston bar.

"It's mostly a white clientele, and William's in unfamiliar territory, and somewhere where he's not necessarily comfortable," Beardsley said of the unnamed establishment.

But after this awkward first encounter, William and Fitzy develop a "genuine friendship," added Beardsley, as Boston, as well as society in general, struggles with "systemic racism and inequity."

"Baseball serves as a common ground," said Beardsley. "Both guys really loves the game, and it allows them to set their differences aside and form a genuine friendship."

The two men meet again three years later when Bucky Dent's three-run home run over Fenway Park's left field helped the Yankees clinch a 5-4 victory over the Sox in the 1978 American League East tie-breaker game.

They subsequently unite in 1986 when the Red Sox fell to the New York Mets in the World Series that year, due in part to the infamous 'between the legs' blunder by Boston's Bill Buckner in Game 6.

William and Fitzy meet up later in 1999 as Sox legend Ted Williams is honored during the All-Star Game at Fenway Park, and again in 2003 when Aaron Boone's walk-off home run in the 11th inning gives the New York Yankees a 6-5 triumph over the Sox in Game 7 of the 2003 American League Championship Series.

"Cursetown" concludes with two men celebrating the Sox's 2004 World Series sweep over the St. Louis Cardinals, 4-0.

None of the play actually takes place inside Fenway Park, however, said Beardsley, but instead at other locations around Boston.

Beardsley began working on "Cursed," along with several other projects about a year ago. But he fully committed himself to writing it when he learned that Moonbox Productions, a nonprofit based in Cambridge's Harvard Square that supports local arts and local artists, had



PHOTO COURTESY EMMA BEARDSLEY David Beardsley, a Mt. Vernon Street resident and author of the upcoming play, "Cursetown."

issued a Call for Proposals for new plays.

"Cursetown" was eventually selected as one of nine plays to be featured in Moonbox Productions' first annual Boston New Works Festival, set to take place June 24-26, 2022, at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Artistic Director Sharman Altshuler, who founded Moonbox Productions (www.moonbox.org) in 2011, said in a press release: "New works have been on Moonbox's short list forever, but it wasn't until COVID – with all of its undeniably disastrous ramifications – that we suddenly found ourselves with the time and space to finally dive in. We have always sought to staff and cast our shows exclusively from

the local Boston community, and to be able to extend that commitment now to the support and showcasing of local playwrights and theater-creators is deeply exciting and gratifying. The Boston area is teeming with creative talent, and an annual Festival will create a fun, accessible, welcoming, and exciting event that all communities in the Greater Boston area and beyond can participate in and enjoy together."

Meanwhile, Beardsley, who has also penned two other fulllength plays, "Holy and Unruly" (Finalist, Ashland New Plays Festival; Semifinalist, Bay Area Playwrights Festival), and "Tiny Empty Nest," said: "I'm writing a story, but I don't necessarily have all the live experience to tell it well. So I really liked the idea of collaborating with the theatre and specifically asked to work with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) theatre professionals because I want it to be a genuine and authentic story."

Beardsley plans to rewrite "Cursetown" this summer, before it gets a table read in August or September. Depending on how that goes, he said he'll continue to rework the play. A workshop will follow, he added, as will more rewrites. The final production of "Cursetown" is then scheduled for next June.

"I have three sort of rewrite opportunities leading up to the final presentation of then play, and then I hope it's ready to go," said Beardsley, who is also a member of the Playwrights' Collective at New World Theatre in Londonderry, N.H., and Write On! (CentaStage, Boston), as well as of The Dramatists Guild of America. He also serves on the Board of Playwrights' Platform, a collaborative for Boston-area playwrights.

Beardsley, who also formerly served as executive director of Hill House, describes himself as a lifelong baseball fan who grew up playing the game and rooting for the Sox, so, he said, "reliving some moments, as painful as they were, has been a lot of fun."

He watched key moments of the featured games on YouTube and came up with his own playby-play accounts of the games, since he couldn't just transcribe the original commentary due to copyright restrictions.

Writing this play, he said, has also given Beardsley the "opportunity to also explore racism, especially at this time in our society when we're facing a reckoning."

"That has been really meaningful," he added.

As for affording him the chance to bring "Cursetown" to the stage, Beardsley extends his heartfelt gratitude to Moonbox Production, as well as to Altshuler.

"I want to express my gratitude to Moonbox Productions for not only including me," Beardsley said, "but also for working with local writers and producing new work by local playwrights."

Juneteenth wreath-laying ceremony set for morning of June 19 at Harriet Tubman Memorial

Staff report

In observance of Juneteenth, Consul General Rodger Cuzner and the Consulate General of Canada in Boston will hold its second Juneteenth Wreath-Laying Ceremony on Saturday, June 19, at 9:30am at the Harriet Tubman Memorial in the South End (Columbus and West Newton).

The Consulate will honor Harriett Tubman who helped free more than 300 Black slaves from 1850-1860, making 19 trips to the American South, leading many to freedom in Canada. Those she led to Canada created many of today's Black communities in Southern Ontario, notably St. Catharines, Ontario.

Tubman was a frequent visitor to Boston, often visiting the city to raise money and advance the cause of emancipation. The City erected a memorial to Tubman in 1999 in Boston's South End/Lower Roxbury, which had long been a center of African-American culture. This memorial represents the first statue of a woman, erected on publically-owned land in the City of Boston.

the City of Boston.

It is the Consulate's hope to continue the wreath-laying ceremony as a tradition and become more involved with the community in the South End. With the memorial itself making mention of Canada as the final destination for many escaped slaves and

the Consulate office only a 10-

minute walk away, it is a connection the Consulate would like to renew and embrace.

A short program will be held

SERVICE DIRECTORY

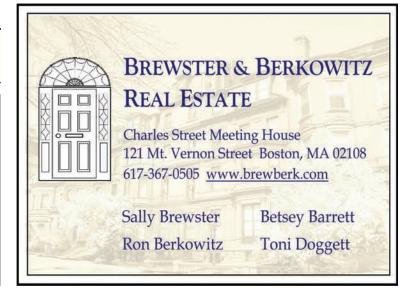
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with several speakers including Chairperson of the Friends of Harriet Tubman Park, Ms. Frieda Garcia who will be providing welcoming remarks.



State launches the "Let's Go Out" campaign

Staff Report

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the launch of the "Let's Go Out" campaign, an effort to raise public awareness of the importance of supporting local restaurants across the Commonwealth.

Baker joined Acting Mayor Kim Janey and Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy at MIDA restaurant in the South End, where owner and chef Douglass Williams also spoke.

The campaign is being led by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) in conjunction with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and industry partners. The launch of the \$1.9 million campaign is timed to coincide with the lifting of public health restrictions in Massachusetts and is scheduled to run



Governor Charlie Baker announced the state's new "Let's Go Out" campaign from MIDA restaurant in the South End on June 4.

throughout the summer, through September.

The mission of the campaign is to amplify the importance of restaurants as an integral part of daily life and a key driver of economic activity for the Commonwealth's downtowns and main streets. "Let's Go Out" is an extension of the Administration's "My Local MA" campaign that has been encouraging residents to shop, dine and stay local since last August.

"Our administration recognizes that the challenges created by the pandemic have made the last year tremendously difficult for the entire small business community, and especially for the restaurant industry," said Governor Charlie Baker. "We have been proud to provide more than \$688 million in grants to help restaurants and other hard-hit small businesses navigate these challenges, and look forward to building on that support through the 'Let's Go Out' campaign to ensure a strong recovery for restaurants across the Common-

Campaign ads will capture the meaningful moments that play out in restaurants, such as celebrating special occasions, reconnecting with friends, spending time with loved ones, or meeting someone new. Following the economic impact of COVID-19 on restaurants and the transition of many customers to delivery and takeout alone, this summer presents an opportunity for consumers to get out and reengage with

friends and family, around the food they love in an atmosphere that invites emotional connections.

"As our restaurants reopen to capacity, it's an exciting time for them to welcome back customers," said MOTT Executive Director Keiko Matsudo Orrall. "The aim of the 'Let's Go Out' campaign is to showcase the amazing diversity of restaurants we have across the state and encourage a return to in-person dining to support these businesses that are so critical to our economy. While there may be some changes at the restaurants, like new floor plans or contactless payment systems, the unparalleled experience of in-restaurant dining is essential to connection and community."

The campaign, which will run through September 2021, will feature statewide coverage including display ads, digital billboards, posters, and radio spots, as well as billboards at Fenway Park. Additional billboards and display ads will be featured on highways and at Logan Airport, in partnership with MassDOT and Massport. A TV spot will also air on broadcast TV, including on NESN during Red Sox games in late summer. The campaign's landing page, VisitMA. com/LetsGoOut, features campaign information and a growing restaurant directory.

The "Let's Go Out" campaign was developed in close collaboration with key industry stakeholders that offered their expertise



MIDA owner and chef Douglass Williams was all smiles as the new campaign was announced to encourage residents to patronize local restaurants.



Acting Mayor Kim Janey joined Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, and Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy at MIDA on June 4.

and support, including the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, Mass Restaurants United, and members of the Restaurant Promotion Commission.

"Over the last year, restaurant owners and their staffs have shown great resilience and creativity as they invented new ways to engage with customers while dealing with important but difficult safety restrictions. The fact is, however, that in-person

dining is critical to the health of the restaurant industry. With the 'Let's Go Out' campaign, Massachusetts is making it clear that they support restaurants, and are taking the issue seriously. The Massachusetts Restaurant Association is proud to be a part of this statewide effort," said Massachusetts Restaurant Association President and CEO Bob Luz.

For information, go to Visit-MA.com/LetsGoOut.

THE CITY OF BOSTON CAN HELP YOU

heat your home efficiently this winter.

You may be eligible for a grant to replace your old furnace or boiler through the Seniors Save Program. For more information about this and other resources you may qualify for, visit www.boston.gov/benefits or call 311.





FENWAY (from pg. 1)

as part of this planning process and will continue these ongoing conversations to gather feedback on how to improve the Project through the course of the Development Review process."

The nuts and bolts of the plan – whose specifics have not really been shared until now, despite many neighborhood discussions about overall concerns and desires - includes 2.1 million sq. ft. of building area for office/research, residential, and retail uses. It will also include the reconstruction and improvement of around 3.3 acres of public roadways, sidewalks, and other areas of public ownership. There will be 1,060 new parking spaces, and an extension of the Richard B. Ross Way from Van Ness Street to Brookline Avenue.

"(That achieves) one of the City of Boston's long-planned transportation goals for the neighborhood," read the letter.

The development plan for the four blocks includes the following:

• Jersey Street Block Parcels to be redeveloped with residential, commercial,

retail/restaurant, and other uses in the form of up to five buildings totaling

approximately 865,000 sq. ft.

•92-114 Brookline Avenue parcels to be redeveloped with commercial and

retail/restaurant uses totaling approximately 697,000 sq. ft.

- •70 Van Ness Street parcel to be redeveloped as commercial and retail/restaurant uses totaling approximately 327,300 sq.
- •45-67 Lansdowne Street parcels to be redeveloped with commercial and

retail/restaurant uses totaling approximately 202,300 sq. ft.

Overall, the uses weigh heavily toward office and research, making up 1.665 million sq. ft. of the overall building program, while only 213,500 sq. ft. is dedicated to residential development.

A significant change to the area would be the reconstruction of Jersey Street between Van Ness and Brookline Avenue, creating a permanent pedestrian-only open space that would no longer be open to vehicles. This new space would comprise 30,239 sq. ft. of publicly owned space.

Meanwhile, the extension of the Richard B. Ross Way would be a multi-mode connection that would cut through the center of the project. It would be a key vehicular and protected bicycle connection for the Fenway neighborhood.

"This section of Ross Way will also be programmed with several bike amenities including a Blue Bike station and a public Bike Hub, providing an area of respite and service for local cyclists and those passing through on their commute," read the filing.

There has yet to be any phasing plan of the project, but the developer indicated they would like to start construction in 2022 and have a five to seven-year buildout.

As a nod to the many meetings the Red Sox and other collaborators have had with the neighborhood, the PNF started off with six guiding principles for the development plan. Those principals, it said, came from "long-term relationships and many conversations with Fenway residents and other

Stakeholders..." Those guiding principles include:

•Put people and bicycles first. The city is for people and they must take priority in terms of experience, convenience, and



A marquee view at Brookline Avenue shows the new building and massing that would be part of the Fenway Development, whose detailed plans were filed by the City on June 3. The developers, led by WS Development, plan 2.1 million sq. ft. of development, with most of it being research and office space.

comfort.

•Respect and preserve history. This principle applies not only to the historic

ballpark itself, but also to several of the buildings and street networks that

surround it.

- •Celebrate and embrace the grit and grain of the area. The area around Fenway Park has a grit and authenticity of place, as well as a diverse hierarchy of streets, ways, and paths, all of which should be embraced rather than erased.
- •Focus on small, but character-defining, anchor uses. The identity and character of a neighborhood is not only set by its largest anchors (in this case, Fenway Park). Small, but mighty,

places and spaces play an equally important role in creating a neighborhood's identity and should be incorporated into the design and programming of the Project.

- •Give attention to small details that can make the place. The most beloved urban places are not necessarily forged by grand-scale and vast open spaces; they can and often are born of beautiful details an intricate brick pattern, a hand-carved café sign, well-maintained planter boxes and street trees, moments of artistic discovery folded into the public realm.
- •Avoid becoming a sports theme park. Many ballparks around the country are

surrounded by sports-focused developments, which is the opposite of what the Proponent envisions here, in the Fenway neighborhood. The Project should feel like the neighborhood is enveloping the ballpark, and not that the ballpark is spreading its influence into the neighborhood.

The Fenway Development kick-off public meeting with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is on June 22, at 6 p.m., in a virtual meeting. Other meetings will be on July 13 at 6 p.m. (virtual), and on July 19 at 6 p.m. (virtual). The Public Comment Period ends on July 23.



A fun view of the development area in the winter, with designers having fun by adding the famous "seated and masked" Bernie Sanders in front of the proposed ice cream shop.



A map of the parcels and the proposed development area that comprises 13 privately owned parcels around Fenway Park on 5.3 acres.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

By Penny Cherubino

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The sign in the last clue is on 258 West Newton Street built by contractor Thomas J. Whidden circa 1884. Widden was also president of the Boston Storage Warehouse, a massive storage complex that once stood at the corner of Westland Avenue and West Chester Park. The latter is called Massachusetts Avenue today. The next clue will be found in the Back Bay.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1

BACK BAY
Duplisea, William
P J&K W Weinstein T Kaufman, Benjamin J Werner, Álexandra E Grant, Laura Reynolds, Jon Q Xu, Junging Abate, Anthony M Yan, Zhen Zink, Joseph L 122 Comm Ave Unit PH NT Jariwala, Ekta 35 Comm Avenue PH RT Gorham, Dorothy L Mutlu, Cem Leifer, Samuel C 1035 Comm Avenue LLC Kachru, Monica **BEACON HILL**

Casey, Timothy Rekstsad, Natalie A Chen, Tian Fujii, Gregory

Linnolia, Jennifer Klein, Gregg R
BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END

Mcmanus, Ryan Stone, Jack Connors, James M Capen, Benjamin H

Murray, Kevin L Sina INT Napolitano, Angela Hughes, Percy

Short, Anne

Rebula, John Yau FT Haydon, C Patrick

Haydon, C Patrick Haydon, C Patrick Haydon, C Patrick

Haydon, C Patrick Schroeder, Jeanne M Oberoi, Arvinder

R A&S Shekou 2006 T Teofilovici, Florentina Trotter, Benjamin B

Wellman, Richard J Young, Stephanie Fang, Qing Aber, Alexander J Lin, Howard

Usvyat, Len Krasnow, Rachel Sayeed-Shah, Umer Mcleod, Andrew

Kim, Sean Sheahan, Timothy J Peltz, Alon

Wenners, Douglas J Johnson, Daniel A Palmieri, Amy R Sunna, Omar

Herman, Peter H

Crowson, Thomas D WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Gallagher, Kathleen Sorgi, Donna Bernstein, David P Haroutunian, Silva Hung, Pu F Warren, Caroline A Peschard, Cristianne Gomez-Casero, Javier R Yuching-Chou, Michelle Yuching-Chou, Michelle Wilcox, Susan R

SELLER 1

210 Beacon Street LLC Murray, Steven P N A Tranquillo 2012 Rosen, Arnold G Keithley FT 304 Bsc NT Ransohoff, Richard M 341 Beacon 6D LLC Kremer, William J 122 Commonwealth Ave LLC 122 Commonwealth Ave LLC Greene, Luke E Commonwealth Ave 3 NT Westwin RT David J Witham RET Preissig, Joseph S Commonwealth-Babcck Plunkett, G Kent

Eileen M Young RET Aggarwal, Sarika Paraubek, Edward James B Gribble Davis, Brian L

Adams Mitchell L Est
/KENMORE Shub, Mark G Krass, Benjamin A Morris, Joanne M Rathsburg, Rachel Hatfield, Jonathan C 15 Woodbriar LLC Liao, Chung L 81 Warren Avenue LLC 2451 Washington LLC Chan, Mark M 458 Éeacon St Unit 3 RT **Burdan RT Burdan RT Burdan RT** Burdan RT **Burdan RT** Cameron, Sean A Fong, Rachel Svanikier, Johanna 761 Harrison Church LLC 771 Harrison Church LLC Fees, Andrew Wong, Susan S Mehta, Meena Mohsin, Ali Altieri, Rafael A Div Shawmut LLC **Div Shawmut LLC Div Shawmut LLC Div Shawmut LLC** Lahout, Joseph H Hoopes, Lisa Witham, Jennifer L Hohneker, John Molson, Jessica Allied Residences LLC Miller Houston NT Daniel P Roy Jr 2017 Richman, Aaron P

Hennemuth, Robert G **Boulevard Broad St LLC Boulevard Broad St LLC** Ivanhoe, Janet C Chang, Lewis C Thomas C Valorie RET Goldstein, Jennifer R 151 Tremont Realty LLC Papadopoulos, Alexandros Papadopoulos, Alexandros Oglesby, Timothy

ADDRESS

210 Beacon St #3 216 Beacon St #3 236 Beacon St #2 236 Beacon St #3A 280 Beacon St #5 304 Beacon St #1 313 Beacon St #13 341 Beacon St #6D 383 Beacon St #B 122 Commonwealth Ave #1 122 Commonwealth Ave #PH 207 Commonwealth Ave #10 35 Commonwealth Ave #3 184 Marlborough St #7 298 Marlborough St #1 94 Saint Botolph St #5 1035-1037 Commonwealth Ave 382 Commonwealth Ave #13

105 Beacon St #2 121 Beacon St #5 31 Irving St #1 17 Joy St #3 36-C Joy St #F2 117 Pinckney St

11-A Appleton St #6 150 Chandler St #1 1 Charles St S #1005 408 Columbus Ave #1 24 Piedmont St #24 54 Robey St #54 110 Stuart St #19A 81 Warren Ave 2451 Washington St #303 21 Aberdeen St #E 458 Beacon St #3 54-56 Burbank St #1 54-56 Burbank St #12 54-56 Burbank St #17 54-56 Burbank St #23 54-56 Burbank St #6 75 Burbank St #302 390 Commonwealth Ave #713 111 Gainsborough St #208 711 Harrison Ave #408 771 Harrison Ave #107 662 Massachusetts Ave #5 678 Massachusetts Ave #2 100 Saint Marys St #5 100 Saint Marys St #9 15 Savoy St #D308 100 Shawmut Ave #1105 100 Shawmut Ave #408 100 Shawmut Ave #513 100 Shawmut Ave #905 266-268 Shawmut Ave #2 427 Shawmut Ave #1 143 W Brookline St #303 196 W Brookline St #1 42 W Newton St #2-14 88 Wareham St #203 1166 Washington St #601 1180-1200 Washington St #408 1721 Washington St #504

\$774,000 \$1,350,000 \$1,450,000 \$745,000

2 Battery Wharf #4601 \$1,250,000 110 Broad St #503 \$1,600,000 110 Broad St #503 \$1,600,000 \$675,000 65 E India Row #7D \$640,000 181 Essex St #E304 \$499,000 \$636,000 14 Hanover Ave #3 \$665,000 151 Tremont St #12U 151 Tremont St #9F \$1,625,000 151 Tremont St #9G \$1,625,000 449-463 Washington St #10A \$1,020,000

36 Fleet St #7

PRICE

\$1,500,000 \$2,900,000 \$1,250,000 \$800,000 \$875,000 \$2,800,000 \$840,000 \$3,675,000 \$961,000 \$5,200,000 \$12,500,00 \$600,000 \$14,500,000 \$2,950,000 \$725,000 \$1,695,000 \$3,250,000 \$899,000 \$465,000 \$1,300,000 \$347,000

\$2,500,000 \$380,000 \$2,685,000 \$915,000 \$1,075,000 \$1,200,000 \$612,000 \$1,610,000 \$729,000 \$821,500 \$4,600,000 \$288,700 \$347,500 \$1,260,000 \$2,850,000 \$2,850,000 \$2,850,000 \$2,850,000 \$2,850,000 \$525,000 \$699,000 \$827,330 \$825,000 \$765,000 \$590,000 \$895,000 \$560,000 \$630,000 \$1,750,000 \$1,067,900 \$610,000 \$968,900 \$945,000 \$690,000 \$819,000 \$2,975,000 \$990,000

BVHDC approves roof decks for condo units on Edgerly Place; understands neighbors' concerns

The Bay Village Historic District Commission (BVHDC) on June 8 voted to approve two amendments to previously approved projects on Edgerly Place. The first was at 1-17 Edgerly Place to construct roof decks on each of the nine previously approved condo units, and the second was to create a garage door opening instead of windows on the first floor of the proposed building at 10 Edgerly Place.

1-17 EDGERLY PL.

When this project was first approved by the Commission in June of last year, roof decks were not part of the proposal, but the team said at this meeting that people are seeking more outdoor space in the wake of the pandemic, so now they would like to include the decks as part of the proposal.

Architect Jonathan Garland explained that the proposed decks would "fit below the parapet line" proposed for the building, and have also been "strategically placed...along the rear of the building" and would not be visible from the street.

He called the decks "modest in scale and very minimal." Garland also said that the style of the railing would be a metal picket rail "with a warm toned wood handrail cap," and the railing would be three feet, six inches in height.

The team said that this proposal is compliant with zoning and installing the decks would not require any variances.

Joseph Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, said that staff should take a look at

a mockup of the roof decks once the building is constructed "to ensure it won't be visible from a public way. As long as it's not, it would be exempt from our

Garland responded, "we can work with our construction team to understand the best, most expedient time that we can do it. We would want to do the mockup and get the approval after seeing it as soon as possible."

Several neighbors expressed their concerns for this proposal, saying that they were not made aware that the roof decks were being added to the proposal.

"We received absolutely no notice that they were modifying the building," said resident Gina Bolvin Bernaduci, She said that she did not oppose the project when it was originally proposed because no roof decks were part of the plan. Bolvin Bernaduci added that there are terraces proposed for "each of the units," and she feels that it is "not necessary to have two outside spaces."

Bill Bernaduci added that he was also upset that he was informed of the change to the proposal the evening before this hearing, and he "barely had a chance to review the project."

He also said that screening may be required for the privacy of his and his neighbors' homes, which may end up going above the parapet line and would be visible. He made a "request that the approval of this project take into consideration abutters."

Tom Perkins, president of the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA), said he is in agreement that the "notice was somewhat short," but did mention that the change to the project was part of the agenda for the June 7 BVNA meeting as well as posted on Nextdoor.

Perkins added that the proposal "was a topic of discussion at the meeting last night. Your complaints were heard. I did not hear other complaints, honestly, from other abutters. This gets beyond the mandate of this Commission." He said that the question remains which entity or organization these complaints belong

"We did send out our usual postcard to abutters," Cornish said, as well as listed the meeting notice properly on the city website, as well as distributed the agenda to the "interested parties" email list. He reiterated that the Commission's purview is limited only to what can be viewed from a public way, and does not include things like noise.

"Our Commission is not the correct venue for that grievance to move forward," said Commissioner Steve Dunwell, adding that it "puts us in a slightly difficult position," as the Commission recognizes these issues are a concern for some neighbors, but the BVH-DC's purview only goes so far.

The Commission ultimately voted to approve the roof deck proposal with the proviso that nothing be seen from the street, and a mockup confirming that must be reviewed by staff. If the mockup is visible, the project proponents will have to come back before the Commission.

As for the neighbor concerns, the Commission suggested contacting the city's Inspectional Services Department as well as City Councilor Ed Flynn.

10 EDGERLY PL.

Jonathan Garland is also the architect for the proposed project at 10 Edgerly Pl., which was originally approved as two different residential units with a window on the first floor. The proposal is being amended to now be a single townhome with the window proposed as a garage door opening instead.

Garland explained that the garage would have "traditional carriage style doors" with a darker stain color. A previously approved planter in front of the old first floor window has been removed to make room for use of the the garage door.

"I don't have any trouble with it," said Commissioner Anne Kilguss. Other Commissioners agreed, saying there weren't any issues with the door.

Tom Perkins had some comments for the developer, Jonathan Lee, asking him to "make yourself available" for future BVNA meetings to discuss changes to proposals.

"I think it's in everyone;'s interest if there is an opportunity to resent and review this stuff at a neighborhood meeting," Per-

The BVHDC voted to approve the change in design to include a garage door instead of a window at the first floor, and added :final design details must be reviewed and approved by staff."

Santiago releases plan for LGBTQIA+ equity, empowerment, and inclusivity

Staff Report

Informed by community leaders, activists, and advocates, Jon Santiago released his policy platform focused on uplifting and empowering LGBTQIA+ community members across the city of Boston.

In this plan, Santiago affirms that LGBTQIA+ rights are human rights, and the ability to live and love authentically, openly, and proudly should not be limited to only those people who align with historically-accepted standards of gender identity and

"Today, as we begin our citywide celebration of Pride, I'm so glad to be releasing a full plan that I will put into action immediately as mayor," said Santiago. "I'm humbled to have the support of so many changemakers in our city who have been on the frontlines of this fight for so long to have helped inform these concepts. We're stronger as a city when we're together and I'm

excited to begin our celebrations this month and proudly offer this plan as we advance equity and opportunity for everyone in Boston."

Santiago has been a leader on LGBTQIA+ issues on Beacon Hill, representing a district with one of the largest and most active LGBTQIA+ communities in the country. One of his first votes on Beacon Hill was to prohibit the use of 'Gay Conversion Therapy', which prevents state-licensed therapists from attempting to change a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Santiago believes that the LGBTQIA+ community in Boston should be celebrated and welcomed. To that end, his plan will work to fight transphobia and homophobia, center BIPOC voices, invest in resources for the LGBTQIA+ community, and end violence towards LGBTQIA+ Bostonians.

Santiago's plan is available on his website at: https://www.jonsantiago.org/lgbtqia/

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 order of Gov. Charlie Baker. Some meetings, however, have been moved to an online or teleconference format under the emergency order on the Open Meeting Law issued by Gov. Baker.

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS FOR THE WEEK: From the Iune 8 Zoning Board of

Appeals meeting, online:

•149 Newbury St., Back Bay. Applicant: Regina Olivieri. Purpose: Erect 5 story structure of approximately 47,000 sq. ft. Retail use on level 1 and 2 and office space on upper floors. Also

combine three lots into one lot and the address to be known as 149 New-

•194-200 Shawmut Ave.,

South End. Applicant: Telephone Associates Robert J. Gottlieb, LLC (by The Druker Company, LTD). Purpose: The Applicant seeks to continue to use the Premises as a public parking lot for a fee capacity 89 vehicles beyond existing Permit, which expires July 1, 2021, under BOA Decision.

•661-661A Tremont St. Applicant: James Christopher. Purpose: To construct a rear addition, and head house as per the attached plans. No change to

From the June 10 MassDOT Office of Outdoor Advertising, 11 a.m., online:

The agenda includes application by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for two electronic billboard permits for an existing electronic billboard at the following location(s):

•274 Southampton Street, RearApplication 2021D015 (existing structure, permit # 2018132, facing north).

•274 Southampton Street, RearApplication 2021D016 (existing structure, permit # 2018131, facing south.

From the June 14, 3 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PILOT AGREEMENTS HEARING, Order for a hearing regarding increasing oversight, transparency, and coordination of PILOT community benefit offsets. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Kenzie Bok and Liz Breadon, and was referred to the Committee on February

From the June 15 South End Landmarks Commission meeting, on site West Rutland Sq., 5 p.m.:

•64 West Rutland Square. Previously reviewed at the 3/03/2020 SELDC Public Hearing. Proposed work: Construct a roof deck and modify the rear man-

From the June 17 South End Landmarks Commission meeting, on site Montgomery Street, 5 p.m.:

•69 Montgomery Street. Previously reviewed at the 3/02/2021 SELDC Public Hearing. Proposed work: Construct a roof deck and install HVAC equip-

Boston's Downtown Neighborhood Associations are sponsoring

a Mayoral Candidates Forum on June 22 at 6 p.m. online. Moderated by Montez Haywood, President of the West End Civic Association and former candidate for Boston City Council.

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









