

# THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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## BABY'S FIRST JAZZ AT WSANA CONCERT



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

*Baby's First Jazz Concert...There's a lot of firsts in a baby's life, but for those little ones reared in the South End, there's always a first jazz concert. That was the case for little Miles here at the July 22 Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) Concert in the Park – the first concert of the season and only the second over the last two years. Miles and his parents, Biyi Animashaun and Sarah Catano, enjoyed the sounds of Penni Layne and the Wonder Boys from their Worcester Square stoop. See more photos on Pages 4 and 5.*

## Exchange South End IAG meets

By Seth Daniel

It's been so long since the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) for the massive Exchange South End project has met, that many members haven't lived in the area for some time and others didn't remember they were members.

So it is, though, the process jump-started out of the blue this

week when members of the IAG – which is tasked with mitigating a two-phase project looking to build 1.5 million square feet of lab and office space on the former Flower Exchange – received a long-anticipated Cooperation Agreement. The Agreement is the last step in the community

(EXCHANGE SOUTH END, Pg. 10)

## ZBA approves recreational cannabis dispensary

By Lauren Bennett

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) approved a recreational cannabis establishment at 331-335A Newbury St. at its July 27 hearing.

Attorney Kevin Joyce said that the proponents of Rooted in Roxbury are seeking a conditional use permit for the dispensary, as well as a variance for the half-

mile buffer zone, as this proposal is located within a half mile of another establishment.

He said that the dispensary will feature 1500 square feet of retail space, and will operate from 10am-10pm Monday through Saturday, and on Sundays from 11am-8pm.

ZBA Chair Christine Aruajo

(NEWBURY DISPENSARY Pg. 6)

# South End neighbors call out the cavalry to stop Roundhouse shelter lease

## Janey holds private meeting of elected officials to introduce idea

By Seth Daniel

Several members of the South End are calling on neighbors to pick up their pens – or their computer keyboards – and flood City Hall and elected officials with opposition to a plan being pushed that would partially lease out the Roundhouse at Mass/Cass for low-threshold shelter space – a plan that some in the

neighborhood believe is the first volley in transforming the former Best Western Hotel into another full-time homeless shelter in the troubled area.

The details of the plan, which the City won't yet fully disclose, include the non-profit Victory Programs leasing 15 to 30 units in the former hotel for low-threshold housing space under a state grant. That would

leave a lot of open units in the Roundhouse, and some worry the City's health officials want to use the rest of the building as a third full-on shelter (in addition to Woods-Mullen and South-ampton, but not counting nearby Pine Street Inn and Rosie's Place).

The matter has been the subject of several inside discussions throughout the community, and even "stakeholder" meetings amongst those in leadership positions within the neighborhood,

(ROUNDHOUSE Pg. 7)

## City names Molly Griffin new neighborhood liaison for Back Bay, Fenway-Kenmore

By Dan Murphy

A lifelong Bostonian, Molly Griffin has come on board as the city's neighborhood liaison for Back Bay and Fenway-Kenmore, as well as for Beacon Hill and Mission Hill.

Griffin, who was born, grew up, and currently lives in Dorchester, earned an undergraduate degree in communications from Boston University in May and began working for the city on July 12.

"I was really only really familiar with Fenway and Back Bay from going to Boston University and during high school [while attending Boston Latin]," she said, "but not Beacon Hill or Mission Hill, so I'm trying to get out into those neighborhoods to meet people and understand more about them."

Griffin, who previously spent her summers working at the Leahy Holloran Community Center in Dorchester and also interned at the Massachusetts State House as a Ward Fellow, now hopes to connect with as

many people as she can in the neighborhoods she covers on behalf of the city.

"I think it's really exciting

(MOLLY GRIFFIN Pg. 3)

## SMOKE FROM FARAWAY FIRES CAST HAZE OVER CITY



PHOTO BY SETH DANIEL

*The view was tremendous, the air not so much. On Monday and into Tuesday, smoky conditions from wildfires in the western United States settled upon Boston, causing the state to issue an air quality alert for groups with sensitive breathing problems, an alert that was in effect until Wednesday morning. The conditions led to a dramatic sunset, shown here, over the City on Monday night.*

# EDITORIAL

## YES, MISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA IS KILLING AMERICANS

Let's suppose that someone walked into our newspaper office and told us that he had a "big story," the gist of which is that COVID-19 is a hoax.

Or that vaccines for the coronavirus are part of a plan by Bill Gates to inject Americans with microchips.

Or...insert any number of the other conspiracy theories about the virus and vaccinations that have been floating on social media platforms since the pandemic began.

The first thing we would do, as would any other responsible media organization, is to ask the person, "Where's your proof?"

And if -- and when -- the person invariably would be unable to produce the evidence for his claims, we would politely show him the door.

That's how journalism works. We try as best we can to provide facts and information to our readers, who then can make their own judgment about the issue at hand.

We don't always get it right, but we try our best.

That is not the case however, with social media platforms. They do not even attempt to determine whether the information that gets distributed on their platforms is accurate.

The result is that the millions of Americans who have social media accounts are barraged daily with all kinds of misinformation on a host of subjects, of which the outright and preposterous lies about COVID-19 vaccines are only the latest example.

A private investigative group recently reported that 65% of the misinformation about the vaccines is attributable to just 12 individuals. The reason for that is simple: Thanks to the algorithms of social media platforms, the statements of these 12 persons literally can go viral (no pun intended) along the misinformation electronic superhighway.

To put it another way, the old adage often used by Winston Churchill, "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on," today is an understatement.

When President Joe Biden, speaking off-the-cuff in response to a reporter's question last week, suggested that the lies about vaccines on social media platforms are killing Americans, he was not wrong.

Yes, the problem of vaccine misinformation is bigger than social media companies, but they unquestionably are responsible for spreading more misinformation to ordinary Americans about the vaccines than any other source.

Our country is divided enough without the amplification of lies and misinformation that is being spread on the internet by social media. The virus, thanks to the Delta variant, tragically is spreading like wildfire across the country -- and the social media platforms, which make billions of dollars thanks to their algorithms, are throwing gasoline on the flames.

## CONGRATULATIONS, RACHAEL ROLLINS

The announcement this week that President Joe Biden has nominated Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins to be the next United States Attorney for Massachusetts is welcome news for those who believe that our criminal justice system at all levels of government is poorly serving our nation.

Beyond the achievement of becoming the first Black woman to serve in that post, Rachael Rollins will bring a perspective of racial, social, and economic justice that has been lacking in the office of the U.S. Attorney.

We applaud President Biden's nomination of Ms. Rollins to this high post. We join with all of our fellow Massachusetts residents in offering our congratulations not only to Ms. Rollins personally, but also in her capacity as a trailblazer for Black women and others who for too long have been underrepresented in important offices such as this.

## GUEST OP-ED

### City employees deserve our gratitude and respect

By John Barros

Public service is a calling, a passion for serving your neighbors, and a drive to create a better community now and for future generations. Almost all of the 18,000 women and men who work for the City of Boston share these values. Teachers, public works hokies, park designers, public safety officials, planners, tellers, parking enforcement attendants, schedulers, building inspectors, and more -- they love their city and take pride in their work. While some distrust government and think the worst of public employees, I know how hard they work, what they are up against, and that many of them are underpaid, overworked, and unappreciated.

When I left City Hall in March, I worried that I was leaving my colleagues just as they would be starting to struggle through a transition with an interim mayor, against the backdrop of an election. All after a 15-month period in which City employees continued working and serving residents during a pandemic in which we lost 1,400 lives,

thousands of jobs, and hundreds of small businesses. Employees worked through emotional and mental stress while juggling childcare, at-home learning, and family responsibilities. These same people worked around the clock to permit outdoor dining, distribute food and relief grants, and help keep residents as safe as possible. In those 15 months, I saw the true character of our city's workforce.

I had conversations with many anxious employees before leaving. I told them to continue working hard and delay any decisions until the long-term trajectory of the City, under the leadership of a duly elected mayor, became clearer. Four months later, hundreds of people have left and are leaving City Hall -- a drain of talent and institutional knowledge that will have a grim impact on city services. Some were nervous about what was coming, and sought security in an environment where they wouldn't be subject to political whim. Some subscribe to the old wisdom that it's easier to find a job when you have a job. Some moved to the private sector, mak-

ing more money working fewer hours and with less stress. Many spoke of an environment inside City Hall where they felt they were not part of the team anymore.

So, I want to address City employees who are still there. I see you. I know and appreciate you. I know how much you sacrificed throughout the pandemic, and I am proud of the work we did together. I ask you to stay in place if you can, for the good of the city. If I am able to earn the honor of being your next Mayor, I pledge to listen and explore options for increased flexibility and childcare resources. I pledge to invest in the technology and tools you need to do your jobs successfully. And I promise to invest in your well-being, professional development, and your family's future. Lastly, I pledge to work with you to unify the workforce, the city, and move us all forward to Boston's full potential.

*John Barros is a candidate for Mayor of Boston and the former Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A GROUP OF CANDIDATES READY TO MEET THE CITY'S CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES HEAD ON

Dear Editor,

When Boston voters go to the polls on September 14, many issues will be on their minds. How can we ensure that our recovery from the recession and the pandemic leaves us with a more equitable and sustainable city than we were before? How can we ensure that our students, who have had a chaotic year and a half in and outside of the classroom, have the support they need to succeed? How do we rethink public safety in a way that reduces violence while investing in and empowering communities that have been overpoliced? How do we prepare our coastal city for the threat of climate change,

with a rapidly closing window for action? How can we prevent people from being priced out of the city they love and guarantee that Boston is a place where people can afford to live—and to thrive—at any stage of life? The questions abound.

Fortunately, Boston voters are blessed with candidates who are ready to meet these challenges head on, which is why the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee is proud to endorse Michelle Wu for mayor; Councilor Julia Mejia, David Halbert, and Ruth-

zee Louijeune for City Councilor At Large; and Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok for re-election for Districts 2 and 8, respectively.

Since being elected in 2013—when she was a Ward 4 resident, I might add—Councilor Michelle Wu has helped to redefine the role of the City Council, making it a proactive body that leads on policy. She spearheaded successful ordinances to guarantee paid leave for city workers—a model for the Commonwealth; increase renewable energy purchasing

(Op-Ed, Pg. 3)

## THE BOSTON SUN

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## LETTER (from pg. 2)

in the city and protect our wetlands; ban the racist practice of facial surveillance in the Boston Police Department; more strongly regulate short-term rentals so our neighborhood housing stock isn't turned into mini-corporate hotels; and leverage city dollars to provide locally sourced, sustainable, and nutritious food for the Boston Public Schools. And the list goes on. Wu has also helped us reimagine the possible, whether setting the agenda on fare-free public transit, on envisioning a municipal Green New Deal, or on abolishing the BPDA in favor of a planning process that prioritizes community, equity, and sustainability. She is uniquely ready to lead our city through both the challenges and opportunities we face.

Although we have a strong-mayor system, Councilor Wu has shown herself to have a collaborative style of leadership. And a Council ready to collaborate and innovate will be key.

Every election, we hear that every vote matters, and two years ago, Councilor Julia Mejia proved it by winning by one vote. She deserves to be re-elected by more. With a background as a community organizer, Mejia has been a powerful voice for language access and youth empowerment. Her advocacy secured a youth seat on Boston's new Civilian Review board, and the budget town halls she organized with Councilor Kenzie Bok—as well as impromptu ones in barber shops—brought more people into a process often viewed as arcane. Creative and responsive to the community, she spearheaded the ordinance to allow for residential kitchens, make it legal for people to prepare foods in their homes for retail profit—a move especially potent for women of color in the city.

With four councilors running for mayor and one more retiring, the Council will be experiencing quite the turnover. Dave Halbert, fortunately, brings fifteen years of experience in public service, including as a legislative aide in the Boston City Council. He understands how city government can advance equity-focused solutions that make Boston a better place for all of its residents. Currently working for an initiative at MIT that uses higher education and technology to

empower incarcerated individuals, he sees clearly how we need to expand who has access to the opportunities Boston can offer. As a BPS parent who would be the first Black man elected city-wide since the 1980s if elected this fall, he would bring an important lens to policymaking.

Few first-time candidates are as impressive as Ruthzee Louijeune. A Harvard-trained attorney and the daughter of Haitian immigrants, Louijeune has represented tenants and homeowners facing displacement, running a weekly eviction clinic to ensure that Boston residents know their rights, and has advocated to address the systemic barriers to affordable housing and home ownership with the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance—experiences that are vital amidst a burgeoning affordable housing crisis. As an attorney, she has also worked on racial gerrymandering and voting rights cases before the Supreme Court to protect and expand the right to vote. She has a persistence reminiscent of our Senator Elizabeth Warren, for whom she served as Senior Counsel (and who has endorsed her campaign, as well as that of Councilor Wu).

Councilors Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok are running uncontested, but they have more than earned our endorsement for their re-election. Flynn is a reliable attendee and participant in community meetings in the South End, has a strong constituent services program, and—in recognition of the diversity of the district—has taken the lead on issues of language access and immigrants' rights. A deep and creative thinker, Bok has been a leading voice for affordable housing on the Council, proposing ideas for how to use public land and reform the zoning process to make a more equitable and sustainable city. She has also been a key proponent of PILOT reform, working to ensure that the universities and other major institutions largely concentrated in her district pay their fair share.

With a date of September 14, the preliminary election is just around the corner, and the summer will go by fast. But it is worth paying attention early, especially with impressive candidates like these.

Ward 4 Democratic Committee

## Boston Community Pediatrics named Mass. winner in Red Sox grants addressing mental health in New England

Staff report

Boston Community Pediatrics (BCP) in the South End on Thursday night, July 22, received the \$10,000 first-place award in Massachusetts as part of the 7th Annual IMPACT Awards, a joint initiative of the Red Sox Foundation and the Ruderman Family Foundation which this year focused on supporting organizations whose mission includes raising awareness on the issue of mental health and improving mental health outcomes of young adults in their community.

One of 18 winners across six states in New England, Boston Community Pediatrics' mission is to bring equity to pediatric healthcare by giving all patients direct access to their primary

care provider, as well as to comprehensive prevention-oriented medical care, case management services, and integrated behavioral health services.

The IMPACT Awards give Red Sox fans the opportunity to nominate their favorite non-profits to receive support and funding. Through a \$125,000 grant from the Ruderman Family Foundation, the awards provide the winning non-profits with either a first-place \$10,000 grant, second-place \$3,000 grant, or a third-place \$2,000 grant. Eligible organizations with the most online votes from fans were the designated winners, with three non-profits selected from each New England state. The second-place winner in Massachusetts is *Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth*, which provides

training, fosters collaboration, and develops programming to increase the health and safety of students, and the third-place winner is SHINE Initiative, which works to combat discrimination and destigmatizes mental health conditions in youth.

"We are so honored to be recognized by the Red Sox Foundation and grateful for all the community support Boston Community Pediatrics received in order to win this award. BCP's mission is to provide the highest quality healthcare, including integrated mental health services, to all children — regardless of what kind of insurance they have — and this grant helps to make that possible," said Robyn Riseberg, MD, Founder of Boston Community Pediatrics.

### MOLLY GRIFFIN (from pg. 1)

so many people and help them in way I can, and at the same time, learn about city government and processes," she said.

So far, most of the events Griffin has been hand on for have taken place virtually, although on July 21, she visited the Beacon Hill Civic Association's office for an introductory meeting with that group's executive director, Patricia Tully.

Griffin was also in attendance for a virtual meeting of the Community Alliance of Mission Hill on July 21 and had a walk-through of that neighborhood scheduled for the following day. She said she is also hoping to take a walk-through of the Fenway this week.

"I hope to really be a

helpful intermediary to make residents lives easier in dealing with different issues with the city, and also to bring information to them about different services they can access [through the city]," said

Griffin. "I'm really looking forward to meeting a lot of people, especially people who work within and for their communities and are really passionate about them."

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Molly Griffin, the city's new neighborhood liaison for Beacon Hill, as well as for Back Bay, Fenway and Mission Hill.

# WSANA KICKS OFF THEIR ANNUAL SUMMER CONCERT SERIES WITH JAZZ

Photos by Seth Daniel

The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) held its first edition of the annual Summer Concert Series in the Square on Thursday, July 22, with Penni Layne and the Wonder Boys. The Concert Series was mostly cancelled last year due to COVID-19, but

WSANA was able to squeeze in one show late in the summer. This year, the group kicked off the fun in July and hopes to have other concerts in the coming months as well.

The music brought out a healthy audience to the lawn in the Square, around the fountain and those sitting on their stoops.



Josh M. and Alex P. had the perfect picnic planned to go with the music.



Singer Penni Layne and bassist Larry Jackson were excited to return to the Square, as they have played the concert series for many years.



It was an enjoyable night of music and relaxation on the stoop for Matthew and Jamie Keith.



The best seats in the house were secured by Brian and Lynette Quinn, Karen Murphy and Christine Hanley.



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Evan Picciriello and Brooke Donovan cooled off by the fountain.

# WSANA KICKS OFF THEIR ANNUAL SUMMER CONCERT SERIES WITH JAZZ



*Shown to the left, Antonio, Noa and Adriana Alvarez, with Teo, getting their spot ready for Thursday's concert.*

*Shown to the right, Concert Coordinator Craig Hughes with James Ford.*



*Shown to the left, Brannon McBride, Kendra Lujan and Carly Merritt got a choice spot by the fence in the Square.*

*Shown to the right, WSANA President George Stergios with Mike Nelson and Fernando Requena.*



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# ZBA approves conversion of church on Isabella St. into 18 residential units

By Lauren Bennett

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on Tuesday approved the conversion of the existing church building at 25 Isabella St. in Bay Village into 18 residential condo units.

Attorney Joe Hanley told the ZBA that the project had been reduced from 26 units to 18, and consists of restoring the facade of the existing church building that was built in the late 1800s for the Our Lady of Victories parish, as well as adding an addition on top of it.

“The parish has long since vacated,” Hanley said, and “we have been a part of an extensive process with the community.”

He said that the unit count

was lowered as a result of feedback from the community and from the ZBA on other projects, and now includes more larger units for families. There will be 11 three bedroom units, six two bedroom units, and one one bedroom unit. Two units will be affordable as part of the city’s Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), including one two bedroom unit and one three bedroom unit.

The building will have an elevator, as well as four private roof decks for the duplex units on levels six and seven. Hanley said that 18 parking spaces are proposed as part of a stacker system.

The building is in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD), and Christian

Simonelli of the Boston Groundwater Trust said that an approval letter from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission as well as a no-harm letter from an engineer have been received as required.

Architect Rebecca Berry said that the building will be all-electric, and primary pedestrian access will be off of Isabella Street.

She said that the “existing masonry will be completely cleaned and restored,” and “all existing windows will be replaced” with aluminum clad wood windows “that mimic the existing patterns.” This project has been “reviewed a couple of times” with the Bay Village Landmark District Commission, and the team plans on returning

before the Commission, she said.

Kim Crucioli of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that the Mayor’s Office was in support of the proposal, adding that the “[Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)] did an extensive community outreach” for the project, and support has also been received from abutters and the Bay Village Neighborhood Association (BVNA).

City Councilors Ed Flynn and Annissa Essaibi George were also in support, as was the Carpenters Union.

Sarah Herlihy, co-chair of the Planning Committee for the BVNA, said that “this is the third developer we’ve worked with,” and “we believe that this

developer was very sensitive to the concerns raised by the neighbors...we appreciate this developer is going to be transforming what is currently an abandoned and decaying building into a place for new residents...”

William Bernarducci, an abutter on Arlington St., spoke in opposition of the project. He said that he believes the proposal “detracts from the design and scale of the Bay Village historic district,” adding that he believes views from his building will be “negatively and detrimentally impacted.” He also had concerns about height, density, traffic, and parking.

The ZBA voted to approve the project with BPDA design review.

## NEWBURY DISPENSARY (from pg. 1)

asked the proponents what their “compelling reason” is to be in this specific location, since the proposed location is within a half mile of another dispensary.

Joyce said that the applicants are equity applicants, and Brian Keith, one of the owners of Rooted in Roxbury, said that “first and foremost, we believe that we are bringing forward a unique retail concept and business model that differentiates us from any of the other proponents in the area and customers will want to shop with us because of our core values.”

Araujo said that the ZBA “pretty much” goes along with the zoning requirements for buffer zones, though it’s not always the case.

Keith said that two dispensa-

ries have been approved within the half mile buffer zone, both located on Boylston St. “We would be located on Newbury St.,” he said. This location had been previously approved for medical marijuana under a different company, and now Rooted in Roxbury is proposing to change the approval from medical to recreational. Other applicants have withdrawn their proposals for this location, Joyce said.

Araujo asked if any other establishments have been approved within the half mile buffer zone on Newbury St.

Keith said Ember Gardens, which was proposed to be located on Newbury St., had recently been denied by the ZBA.

The closest cannabis establishment will be located between

Gloucester and Fairfield St. on Boylston St., and another location will be located between Mass. Ave. and Ipswich St.

The team said that at this establishment, customers would have their IDs checked at the door, and then would be allowed into a holding area, where their IDs would be scanned. They would then enter the retail portion of the store, and decide what they would like to buy. The rear of the store will feature the cash register, and customers would leave the same way they entered.

They said that around 30 staff members would be hired for the store, as well as six security individuals who would work both inside and outside of the store.

Online ordering will be available to customers, and no one will be allowed to double park on Newbury St. All new custom-

ers would be required to sign a “First Time Purchaser Pledge to be a good neighbor,” and anyone who violates the agreement for things like double parking, public consumption, and littering will not be allowed back inside the store.

Elliott Laffer, Chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, said that “this is a much better location” than the one proposed for Ember Gardens that was denied. He said that it is a positive that no deliveries or pickups will happen in the alley, which “will minimize impact on residents.” He said, “we look forward to seeing this true equity applicant open on Newbury St.”

Meg Mainzer-Cohen of the Back Bay Association said that “We think it’s an ideal location,” adding that “this is a very well-vetted proposal...we are absolutely thrilled with this application and his business moving into the Back Bay and we would love and appreciate your support.”

Molly Griffin of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that a community meeting was held in February, and “we understand that residents appreciate the proposed location.” She said that the applicant is a “strong equity applicant committed to creating jobs within the community,” and the mayor’s office “would like to defer to the

board’s judgement regarding this application.”

Kennedy Avery from Councilor Kenzie Bok’s office said that the councilor is “in non-opposition of the applicant.”

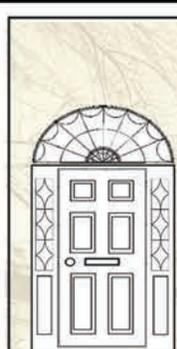
She said that Bok has “concerns about a fourth dispensary in the Back Bay that violates the half-mile buffer zone. Due to this policy objection, Bok is in non-opposition, but she does want to highlight the superior qualifications and commitments of Rooted in Roxbury as an equity proprietor...”

Jonathan Napoli, owner and president of The Hempest on Newbury St. said he was in support of the proposal.

ZBA member Mark Erlich said he had some concerns about the buffer zone, but he did recognize the community support for the proposal. “I feel like we don’t have much clear direction about how to follow city policy,” he said.

“I feel comfortable, Mr. Erlich, in that they’re not like on the same street in proximity, that in fact, it’s a line back towards Boylston that’s triggering this versus a person’s walking path or something,” Araujo responded.

The ZBA voted to approve this proposal with design review for signage and noted that the approval is for this applicant only.



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## ROUNDHOUSE (from pg. 1)

but it got its first public airing on Tuesday night at the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) meeting and the message was – get ready for a neighborhood battle.

“It appears to us the City is behind this, but we don’t exactly know who started it,” said WSANA President George Stergios, who has attended several stakeholder meetings over the last three weeks. “For a lot of us, this represents a violation. We have been talking for the last five or six years about a moratorium on new social services. We have 55 percent of the shelter beds, and 70 percent of the Methadone clinic traffic and the only brick and mortar needle exchange. We believe it’s time for other areas of the City, and especially the state, to step up...They aren’t going to be using the whole building under this lease, and many think they may be looking at using the whole building as a shelter... We believe everyone needs to get very active and let all of the reps and councilors and officials know that we believe this is the absolute wrong place for such a facility.

“It’s hard for me to believe that people would get better (in recovery) if you provide them a bed...only a block from their friends and where they’ve been shooting drugs openly for the last few years,” he continued.

The plan is being pushed by Victory Programs, a recovery services non-profit, and it’s leader Sarah Porter has been talking with many neighborhood officials about the plan. She did not return a phone call from the Sun, but many in the neighborhood have said the attitude is one that suggests this is already a done deal.

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) told the Sun last week that they were not yet ready to speak publicly about the plan, but did confirm the City is not purchasing the building – which had been a rumor circulating. The building is still owned by the hotel, but had been controversially leased last year during the COVID-19 emergencies to the Pine Street Inn for emergency overflow shelter space for unhoused people. That ended July 1 and all Pine Street guests have vacated into better housing situations.

South End Forum Moderator Steve Fox said on Wednesday, he received an invitation to a follow-up July 30 meeting

of “stakeholders” from Victory Programs, which stated that there will be no discussion about finding alternative sites. He said the messaging consistently from Victory Programs is there will be no process with the community and that the die is cast. The e-mail indicated the program has City and state support and will not be looking at other locations, but will be moving forward at the Roundhouse.

“They are telling all neighborhoods that the die is already cast and you are welcome to talk to us about what we plan but we’ve already decided,” he said. “Among the most insulting and arrogant messaging I have seen in 30 years and a complete surprise coming from a respected organization like Victory Programs.

“I am working with colleagues and neighborhoods, but it’s now clear that the South End Forum, Newmarket Business Association, Roxbury and South Boston neighborhood groups and business associations will need to call a public meeting - together with members of the Mass/Cass Task Force who have not been included in any discussion of this proposal - to talk about this plan and the complete lack of any kind of serious and respectful community engagement.”

Fox, like others, has been very vocal in his concern that the additional unused units in the former hotel could eventually be used by the City for a traditional shelter situation – and that being just a few short steps from the Atkinson Street “Comfort Station” where intravenous drugs are openly used and sold since at least last summer.

State Rep. Jon Santiago told WSANA that the plan had been floated to him about two weeks ago, and he said it has all happened so fast. He said Acting Mayor Kim Janey has approached him on it, and she was to have a private meeting with elected City and state officials Wednesday afternoon, he said.

He said he has clear concerns because this would certainly violate the promise of de-centralization of services in the South End and Mass/Cass, but he is also going to find out more information.

“We’ll see what she has to say,” he told WSANA. “I live one block from Mass Ave. I’m a long-time advocate of de-centralization of services here. I don’t think this project adds to that promise...The thing that also concerns me is the lack of com-

munication.”

The news hasn’t been a secret to those in and around WSANA or Mass/Cass, but many on the meeting were stunned that the plan was being presented so resolutely by officials.

“The situation is not manageable now,” said neighbor Fernando Requena. “It’s not helping the people they want to help. It seems to clear to me, but it doesn’t seem clear to Kim Janey...It seems she’s trying to play all sides. That’s really unfortunate to me. We need to let Kim Janey know that once and for all, we are not going to take this.”

Andy Brand said maybe it might be wise to reach out to the many mayoral candidates and see if this cannot be stopped within the context of the upcoming election.

“They all have de-centralization on their website platforms, other than Kim Janey because she doesn’t have a position,” he said. “We need to be helping people get clean and this isn’t. One fear I have is the Roundhouse will become another shelter...That would just make it harder for places like the Hello House to survive and help people get clean.”

Stergios said he and other South End leaders are encouraging residents to flood City Hall and the State House with letters of opposition to the matter.

“While we all believe in and

## MORE THAN WORDS BOOKSTORE RE-OPENS THIS MONTH



PHOTO BY DYLAN LANDRY AND COURTESY OF MORE THAN WORDS

*More Than Words (MTW), a youth-run bookstore on East Berkeley Street that empowers and trains system involved young people, has re-opened its bookstore to the Boston community after 16 months. The nonprofit employs and supports 300 youth annually who are in the foster care system, court-involved, homeless, and out of school across locations in Waltham and the South End.*

*Youth work a business job learning workplace skills while also attending life skills curriculum and making plans for their education, work, and life. Their store features new and used books and gift items sourced from other mission-driven businesses around the country.*

<https://mtwyouth.org/>

*Nadia, a MTW Graduate, shares a book recommendation at More Than Words in Boston after the store opened this month after a 16-month closure.*

support Housing First models, we believe this is the worst possible place to put this,” he said.

“It’s been presented to us as a

done deal and there’s nothing we can do to stop it,” he continued. “I don’t think that is true and I don’t think it’s too late.”



## Virtual Public Meeting

### Simmons Residential Campus Redevelopment

**Thursday, August 12**  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/3eOmIID](https://bit.ly/3eOmIID)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 160 902 1480

#### Project Description:

The purpose of this meeting is to explain the proposed Zoning Amendment for the Simmons University Residential Campus and invite public feedback. The Zoning Amendment seeks to change the underlying zoning on these parcels from an “Apartments” subdistrict to a “Local Business” subdistrict, in order to enable the filing of a PDA Master Plan, a regulatory tool used to review and plan for development that covers several acres of land. Please note: this is not an Article 80 project review meeting.

mail to: **Edward Carmody**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4422  
email: [edward.carmody@boston.gov](mailto:edward.carmody@boston.gov)

# New signs unveiled in Chester Park with community celebration

By Lauren Bennett

Chester Square Neighbors (CSN) held a celebratory festival on July 22, where neighbors gathered at Chester Park to unveil and dedicate the park's new signs, as well as mingle with one another. Several candidates for City Council were in attendance to speak with residents about their campaigns, and Acting Mayor Kim Janey attended and spoke as well.

The festival featured light refreshments, as well as games and activities for kids and architectural sketches of potential future plans for the park.

CSN President Carol Blair thanked Kevin Jacobs and John Burns, who are redeveloping the Mount Calvary Baptist Church on Mass Ave., as they contributed funds for the new signs that were dedicated at the celebration.

She also thanked the Parks Department for their work on cleaning up the park prior to the celebration, and for making the fountain operational, as well as Mayor Janey for "paying attention to our neighborhood."

Blair said that the signs "indicate that this was once the largest square in the South End." It had once been one large park prior to the installation of six lanes of traffic down the middle in 1952.

"There was once a huge fountain right in the middle of the park where the road is," Blair said. "So today we celebrate, but also we grieve what was, and consider possibilities for the

future." Blair said that aside from the architectural sketches people could look at, residents were also encourage to sketch their own "dreams for the park," she said. "Again, I say it wasn't always this way and it won't always be this way."

Acting Mayor Kim Janey said she was "grateful" to be able to join folks in Chester Park for this event.

"As a kid growing up in Roxbury and the South End, I am someone who does bring these two neighborhoods together," she said, "and I think we have a lot more work to do to bring residents together across our city to make sure that we are creating a better Boston for all of us."

She continued, "I'm really so pleased to see so many residents of this community who care so deeply; who every single day care for this broader neighborhood and certainly for this park."

Janey said that next year marks the 50th anniversary of the park being split in half, and she said that would be an "appropriate time to bring us back together." She suggested having an "open street" celebration, as she is a big proponent of those. Janey does not own a car, and often travels on the MBTA.

"I think it is important that we have roads in our city that work for all of us," Janey said. "It would be wonderful to have an open street next year to celebrate and to bring residents together."



South End residents, members of the Chester Square Neighbors, and Council candidates posed in front of the newly unveiled signs in Chester Park.



James "Reggie" Colimon, a candidate for City Council At-Large and Chester Square Neighbors president Carol Blair excitedly shake hands after unveiling the new signs for Chester Square.



Lorraine Payne Wheeler, a candidate for District 7 (right), chats with a resident in Chester Square. Several council candidates made the rounds at the event to discuss issues with members of the community.



Shown clockwise from above-left: City Council At-Large candidate Alex Gray (left) stopped to talk with some potential constituents in Chester Square.



Ruthzee Louijeune, a candidate for City Council At-Large, chats with resident Alma Dell Smith.



South End resident Meredith Wood chats with District 7 City Council candidate Marisa Luse at the community celebration in Chester Park on July 22.



The new Chester Square sign. These signs are located on both halves of the park and provide history and rules to park visitors.

## ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION HOLDS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER DOCK PARTY



Shown above and below, guests enjoying themselves at the annual summer dock party.



Photos courtesy of Sebastian Gonzalez Quintero on behalf of the Esplanade Association

The Esplanade Association held its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Dock Party on Thursday, July 22, at the Community Boating docks.



Miguel Rosales and John Corey.

# Bluebikes turns 10

By Dan Murphy

Acting Mayor Kim Janey joined representatives from the other “core” original Bluebikes communities, including Brookline, Cambridge, and Somerville, to celebrate the bike-share program’s 10th anniversary on Monday, July 25, during a ceremony outside the Copley Square Branch of the Boston Public Library.

In her remarks, Janey described how the Bluebikes program (originally called Hubway), which she described as a “vital network for all of Boston, had started with just 600 bikes and expanded to currently comprise 4,000 bikes.

While Boston has distinguished itself as a city of champions in respect to its pro sports teams, among other achievements, said Janey, the city has also earned the dubious first in the nation for traffic and congestion. But the Bluebikes program is helping to reverse this trend, she added, as well as to address

climate change in the city, especially during the pandemic when many commuters opted to bike instead of using the T.

To mark the milestone first decade of the Bluebikes program, Janey unveiled a special commemorative “unicorn” bike painted by youth from the non-profit, Artists for Humanity, who were on hand for the occasion..

Kathy Klingler, the Chief Consumer Experience and Marketing Officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the “title sponsor” for the bike-share program since 2018 (when it was renamed “Bluebikes”), said it started off serving four municipalities before expanding to 11 today. Bluebikes has served 12 million bicyclists since its inception, she added, who have ridden a total of 25 million miles while offsetting 13.5 pounds in CO2 emissions.

Bluebikes also set a single-day record of 15,335 trips on Saturday, July 24.

Somerville’s Mayor Joseph Curtatone, who extended his



Youth from Artists for Humanity who painted the bike for the Bluebikes program’s 10th anniversary.

gratitude to Chris Osgood, now Mayor Janey’s Chief of Staff and formerly the city’s Chief of Streets, Transportation, and Sanitation, as well as Nicole Freedman, Boston’s one-time bike czar (both of whom were in

attendance), evoked the words of former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino upon launching the bike-share system a decade ago when he said. “the car is no longer king in Boston”

As for the future of Bluebikes,

Curtatone underscored the necessity of keeping the program publicly owned, as well as for replacing equipment before its lifespan expires and keeping the program affordable.

# Councilor Frank Baker endorses Jon Spillane for Boston City Council At-Large

Staff Report

Boston City Councilor Frank Baker (District 3) announced his endorsement of Jon Spillane for Boston City Council At-Large.

“As someone who has been acutely focused on delivering services to unhoused Bostonians and those dealing with substance use disorders, I am proud to endorse Jon Spillane for Boston

City Council due to his experience creating affordable housing and leading budget and constituent service initiatives at the City Council,” Councilor Baker said. “Jon supports re-opening Long Island, utilizing the Shattuck Hospital, and building bridges with our state and federal government are crucial tools in our efforts to house our neighbors and deliver supportive

services. Jon will be ready on day one to generate real solutions to the greatest issues facing our City at this critical moment.”

“I am honored to earn Councilor Baker’s endorsement,” Jon Spillane said. “Councilor Baker has been on the front-line of addressing Boston’s opioid crisis and related issues of homelessness and substance use disorders for decades, and I am ready to

partner with him to ensure that the next City Council provides treatment and housing to all of our neighbors in need.”

With Councilor Baker’s endorsement, Jon Spillane becomes *one of just two At-Large Boston City Council candidates to earn the support of more than one sitting City Councilor*. Last week, Jon announced endorsements from Councilor Kenzie Bok, Representative Jay Living-

stone, and Senator Joe Boncore.

In addition to the crowded Mayoral election, five of the City Council’s 13 members are not running for re-election, leaving three district council seats and two At-Large seats open. The next Council will not only play a major role in the COVID-19 recovery, but will also be in charge of re-drawing council district lines based on the 2020 census results.

## EBT/SNAP benefits expanded to online purchases

By John Lynds

During the height of the pandemic when most South End and Fenway residents were staying home and doing their food shopping from the comfort of their home.

While the online grocery delivery service industry exploded because many were not com-

fortable venturing into crowded grocery stores, it exposed a significant inequity for those who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Many who received benefits found that many online food shopping services lacked the ability to checkout online and pay using their SNAP/EBT cards,

especially on grocery delivery platforms like Instacart.

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration closed that loophole and announced that residents who receive SNAP/EBT benefits can use their cards to buy fresh food and pantry staples online from a variety of participating stores for same-day delivery and pickup via Insta-

cart, including Price Chopper, ALDI and newly added Stop & Shop and Hannaford. Walmart and Amazon are also federally approved SNAP online retailers in the state.

Massachusetts first launched the SNAP online purchasing program on May 29, 2020. To date, Massachusetts residents have spent over \$75 million in SNAP

benefits in online grocery purchases across retailers. Similar to using SNAP/EBT benefits to purchase food in a store, benefits can be used to buy SNAP-eligible foods online, including fresh produce, frozen foods, dairy and eggs.

“SNAP online purchasing is

( EBT BENEFITS, Pg. 11)

### EXCHANGE SOUTH END (from pg. 1)

review process and codifies all the promises made within the review process.

In this case, some of the promises were made long ago, and are still included in the Agreement, but the IAG stalled out on transportation when it was meeting years ago – and remaining members still have concerns about language regarding trans-

portation and in particular the long-controversial connector road to I-93 that would keep thousands of vehicle trips out of the neighborhood.

Exchange South End went through a tremendous amount of community presentation and process over a few years long before the pandemic, and is brought by Boston developers,

The Abbey Group.

Audrey Reny, managing partner at The Abbey Group, said they have not yet broken ground on the project, but have done the demolition and site prep work allowed prior to getting a building permit.

“During the pandemic, we continued our work with City Hall and are excited to have a draft cooperation agreement ready for comments,” she said this week. “We remain committed to the process of working with the community to bring a multitude of public community benefits to the area.”

Some of those benefits include as many as 7,000 new permanent jobs in the life sciences, technology, retail, research and non-profit fields; an accessible one-acre park on the site called Albany Green; a pedestrian friendly streetscape; improvements to the transportation infrastructure; and a tremendous 30,000 sq. ft. community space whose use is yet to be defined by the community.

A sticking point, however, has been the connector road to the I-93 frontage road, which would allow commuters to access the site in and out without having to enter Albany Street or the South End.

A little over a year ago, The Abbey Group said it remained committed to the connector, but the Agreement language regarding the connector to Frontage Road and BioSquare Drive



Exchange South End is resurfacing this week, with the first public meeting on the project in several years coming Aug. 4. Members of the IAG got notice of a Cooperation Agreement late last week, and have many concerns. The site for the project has been cleared, and is awaiting the Agreement and a building permit to get started.

calls it a “proposed future connections,” while being resolute about constructing an extension on site to East Canton Street and others.

“We remain committed to the frontage road access in conjunction with Boston University, Jacobson’s, and city and state officials, and are following the phased process approach as outlined in our Board memo with the city,” said Reny, who noted that nothing has changed since The Abbey Group reiterated its commitment to the connector in 2020.

Some members of the IAG and those that have now inherited vacated seats said the timetable

to review the document is only about one week, and they said that is a rush job given that the overall project has been in “sleep mode” for about two years.

Members said the perspective is that this is the largest single project in the recent history of the neighborhood, and there are concerns many pieces from the original IAG recommendation letter in 2017 are missing from the draft agreement.

Already, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) has re-convened the Exchange IAG and will hold a virtual public meeting on the matter Aug. 4 at 5:30 p.m.

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BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL  
MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL  
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

# Two new members take oath for Boston School Committee

By Lauren Bennett

Two new members of the Boston School Committee were sworn in at City Hall on July 22, where remarks were also given by Acting Mayor Kim Janey.

Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia were appointed to the School Committee following last month's resignation of Alexandra Oliver-Davila and Lorna Rivera after a text message scandal.

"The sudden departure of these two members created a void in representative leadership with more than 40 percent of BPS students identifying as Latino and 10 percent residing in public housing," Janey said. "I know how important it is to have our children and their families represented in leadership."

Janey said that the School Committee search panel "attracted 23 well-qualified applicants" that were narrowed down to six finalists.

"Ms. Lopera and Ms. Polanco Garcia offer the depth of knowledge and relevant experience to serve the children and families of the Boston Public Schools (BPS)," Janey said. "There is nothing more important right

now than the education of our children."

Janey said that Lopera has done a lot of work on "expanding education access for Latino youth and students of color," working with organizations like Sociedad Latina, City Year, and the Posse Foundation, as well as serving as the Executive Director of Latinos For Education New England. She is also the parent of a Boston Public Schools student.

Janey said that Polanco Garcia is "an immigrant who lives in public housing in South Boston," and has experience in law and bilingual advocacy. She worked on the "No on 2" campaign in 2016, as well as contributed to passing a resolution for sanctuary schools.

Since 2015, Polanco Garcia has been the Director of Parent Engagement and Organizing at St. Stephen's Youth Programs in the South End. She, too, is the parent of a BPS student, and her primary language is Spanish, Janey said. "This is a first for the Boston School Committee."

She continued, "This means that we will have to work very hard to meet her needs, and in doing so, move our school district and our city forward. It sets the stage for us to improve our ability to serve ESL learners

and their parents as they seek to engage our school community."

Lopera said that she moved to the United States from Colombia at the age of four. "I was undocumented and unaware of what my family was risking or sacrificing," she said. She added, "I've spent my entire professional career working to improve access to quality educational opportunities for children and families... my own educational experience, as well as my experience as a parent with a child in BPS who wants to see him and his peers thrive is what will guide my decisions on the Boston School Committee."

Via a translator, Polanco Garcia said that "when I moved to Boston from the Dominican Republic in January 2015, my first contact with BPS was with my sons's school, which was the Blackstone Elementary School."

She said that getting used to the new school "required our family to embrace the myriad of cultures and languages spoken at his school."

Polanco said that "it wasn't easy. I was a single immigrant mom; homeless at first." She said she wanted to get involved in her son's school, so she started going to parent council meetings, vol-

unteering in the classroom, and working at the St. Stephen's after school program.

"I know my story is not unique," she said. "To my fellow parents, I want to say something.

I am not here to fight for you, I am here to fight beside you; to make changes we want. I firmly believe that public schools should be a second home for students and families."



## ASCEND

### NEWTON HIRING EVENT!

**Date: August 11-12, 2021**

**Time: 10:00am-3:00pm**

**Address: 1089 Washington St  
Newton, MA 02465**

ASCEND Mass is hiring for their new store in Newton. Our workforce will reflect the diversity of the City. We are looking to build a world class team that will shape the future of cannabis by hiring hard-working, passionate people with exceptional customer service skills.

#### DISPENSARY SUPERVISOR (FT)

Supports Assistant Managers. Cross-trained in front-of-house and back-of-house operations, staff training, customer service, receiving and compliance.

#### DISPENSARY ASSOCIATES (FT) & (PT)

Guide customers through their cannabis purchasing experience, POS transactions, processing payments, cash handling, order fulfillment, inventory receiving, and other aspects of daily operations.

**All applicants must be 21+  
Competitive wages  
Benefits offered for FT positions**

**TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT  
[awholdings.com/careers](https://awholdings.com/careers)**



### EBT BENEFITS (from pg. 10)

one of several tools the Administration has employed, alongside the state's national leadership in Pandemic EBT and continuation of SNAP Emergency Allotments, to combat food insecurity for Massachusetts individuals and families," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. "SNAP remains an important tool as we start to recover from the public health crisis by putting money to buy healthy food directly into the hands of hundreds of thousands of households and supporting our local communities."

The Department of Transitional Assistance Commissioner Amy Kershawa said as a result of the economic fallout of COVID-19, the state has seen a historic increase in SNAP participation, with 100,000 more households now utilizing the program for a total of approximately 550,000 households.

"Massachusetts has heavily invested in IT changes and maximized federal flexibilities

to make it easier than ever to apply for SNAP and conduct convenient business with the agency 24/7 online and over the phone," she said. "In addition to these changes, SNAP online purchasing is another tool bringing greater equity to how residents can utilize SNAP."

Residents can shop for groceries from Stop & Shop, Hannaford, Price Chopper and ALDI via the Instacart online site and mobile app. Once an Instacart customer profile is created, customers can enter their EBT/SNAP card information as a form of payment. Customers can enter their zip code to determine if they are near a participating retailer, and begin shopping for retailers' EBT-eligible products. Once items are added to their cart, customers will be able to select how much of their benefits they would like to allocate to the order. Orders for delivery and pickup can be placed by customers for receipt in as fast as an hour or scheduled several days in advance.

To help subsidize costs for SNAP/EBT participants, Instacart will waive delivery or pickup fees through September 16, 2021, on up to the first three orders for each customer with a valid EBT card associated with their Instacart account. For more information on EBT/SNAP on Instacart, visit: <https://www.instacart.com/ebt-snap>.

"Providing people access to the food they love is at the core of Instacart's mission. We're proud to partner with Price Chopper, ALDI and now Hannaford and Stop & Shop to provide more families in Massachusetts with a convenient and accessible way to get their fresh food and pantry staples," said David Healy, Retail Partnerships at Instacart. "Expanding EBT/SNAP to reach same-day online grocery delivery and pickup is important to help people access the food they need, and we look forward to expanding this payment integration to even more retailers across Massachusetts."

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# 2021 FESTIVAL HOURS



## REVERE BEACH International Sand Sculpting FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6**

10:00AM - 10:00PM

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 7**

10:00AM - 10:00PM

**FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA - 9:00PM**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8**

10:00AM - 8:00PM

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



# Mayor Janey announces funding awards for digital equity initiatives across the City of Boston

Staff report

The City announced last week that 19 Boston nonprofit organizations will receive \$478,900 in grants through the City of Boston's Digital Equity Fund. The Digital Equity Fund provides support to community-based organizations that help Boston residents digitally participate in educational, economic and civic opportunities, which are increasingly reliant on technology.

Digital Equity Fund awards

range from \$5,000 to \$35,000 to support programming across a variety of Boston neighborhoods and communities. Boston-based nonprofit organizations serving Boston residents and neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic were prioritized in the funding, including the neighborhoods of East Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, Roslindale and Hyde Park. Focus was given to organizations serving older adults, persons with dis-

abilities, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) or English Language Learner (ELL) students, residents of public housing or rental voucher holders, and/or adult residents who have lost employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

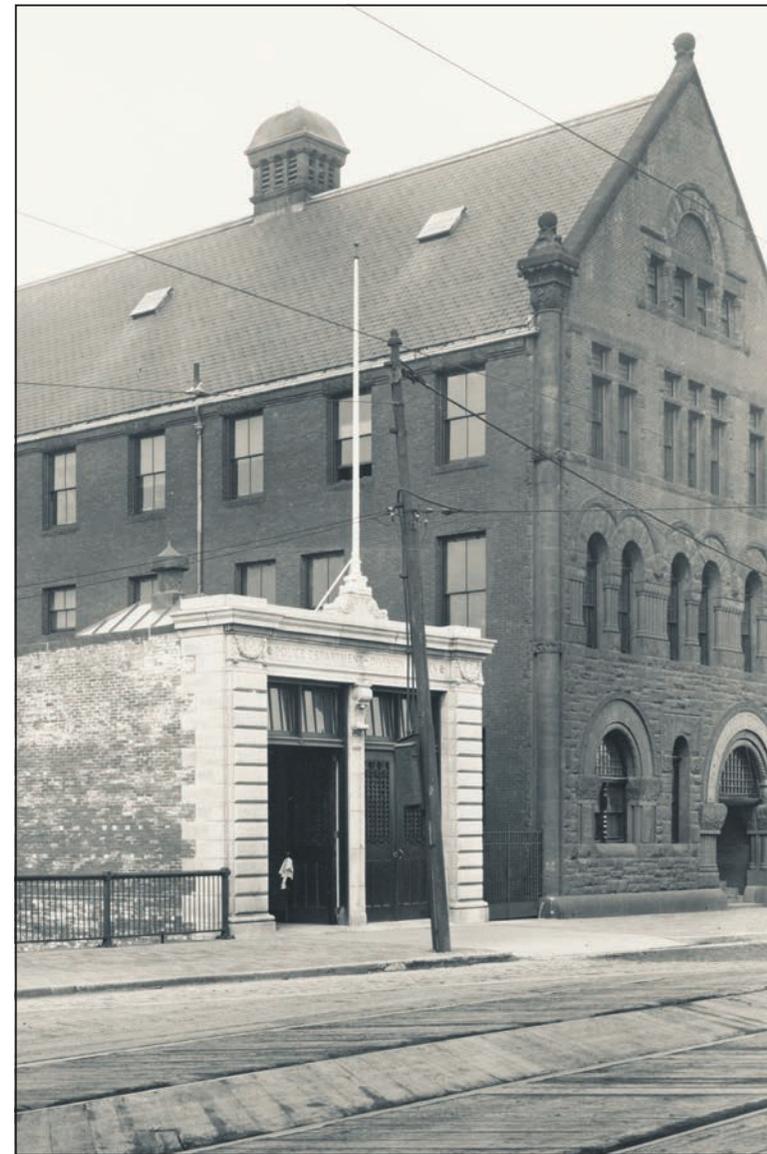
"The digital divide is fundamentally a social determinant of health for people with disabilities," shared Susan Smith, Director of Operations and Develop-

(DIGITAL EQUITY Pg. 14)

## ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The carved swag in the last clue is on 955 Boylston Street built in 1889 as an addition to Boston's Division 16 police station. The building is now home to Dillon's Restaurant. Today's answer is from a circa 1914 photograph. The next clue will be found in the Fenway.

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

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
Bau, David	Dower, Yasuko	340 Beacon St #4	\$1,850,000
MMAI LLC	MJE 1214 LLC	220 Boylston St #1214	\$1,320,000
Salek, Roni L	Philbin, Ellen K	116 Commonwealth Ave #A	\$1,400,000
Soske Investment Prop LLC	Rawn, William L	233 Commonwealth Ave #7	\$955,000
Hawthorne, Kim	Zheng, David	34 Commonwealth Ave #3	\$1,300,000
Lau, Kevin	Chu, Xiao L	390 Commonwealth Ave #301	\$1,000,000
Brit Properties 1 LLC	Todd, Susan	416 Marlborough St #504	\$770,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Squilloni, Raffaella A	Kjellman, Robert H	29 Cedar Lane Way #29	\$875,000
Charles&Joy St Owner LLC	Charles St Bay Fronts	105 Charles St	\$9,340,000
Charles&Joy St Owner LLC	Charles St Bay Fronts	109 Charles St	\$9,340,000
Rurode, William	Willis, Scott B	34-36 Grove St #1	\$350,000
Ingpen, Cameron A	Ross, Bronwyn E	2 Hawthorne Pl #14K	\$157,915
Charles&Joy St Owner LLC	Cobb Hayes RT	2 Joy St	\$5,160,000
Ridge, Betsy	Mundel, Samuel M	145 Pinckney St #134	\$605,000
Nelson, John	Fasoldt, Cordelia	100 Revere St	\$3,350,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Cgged Boston LLC	110 Stuart 23F LJS LLC	110 Stuart St #23F	\$1,200,000
Gorman, Sarah E	Besteni, Lisa	211 W Newton St #4	\$775,000
Bauer, Selena	Amouyal, Philippe	308 Columbus Ave #4	\$1,320,000
Hetzel, Carrie A	Evergreen Mountain LLC	21 Aberdeen St #B	\$312,000
Cohn, Sabrina	Stefani, Brendan J	488-488A Columbus Ave #1	\$1,108,500
Sawyer, Matthew	Pomfret, Scott D	552 Columbus Ave #6	\$1,056,375
Mcdonnell, Terence P	Rideout, Nicole M	103 E Brookline St #1	\$310,000
Smirnova, Dina	Park, Michael K	7 E Springfield St #2A	\$1,100,000
Zhao, Yifan	Zhang, Jessica	80-82 Fenwood Rd #606	\$699,000
Okonow, Benjamin I	Daynard, David J	28 Greenwich Park #3	\$2,035,000
Chahraban, John P	Aleksa, David W	700 Harrison Ave #111	\$422,500
Webster, Allison N	Nuhn, Matthew G	3 Pelham Ter	\$2,350,000
Li, David	Robertson, Richard W	108 Peterborough St #3E	\$665,000
Jee FT	100 Riverway IRT	100 Riverway #3	\$770,000
Armstrong, Barry G	Onstott, Casey	201 Saint Botolph St #6	\$1,150,000
Brown, Brad	Kiernan, Bruce	28 W Cedar St #3	\$1,700,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>			
Arden Oconnor RET	Hessan, Diane S	2-1/2 Battery Wharf #2510	\$3,030,000
Davis, Daniel R	Marchand, Bradley K	357 Commercial St #802	\$2,545,000
Davis, Daniel R	Marchand, Bradley K	357 Commercial St #803	\$2,545,000
Caruso, Dean	Smith, Denver	53 Fulton St #4	\$879,000
Eydani, Mohammad	Goldman Sara S Est	151 Tremont St #18T	\$615,000

### THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# Boston BeerWorks the latest Beantown business to fall victim to the pandemic

By John Lynds

Another landmark Boston location has joined the growing lists of businesses unable to survive the pandemic.

Boston BeerWorks, which opened its first location in 1992 across from Fenway Park, announced on its website and social media Tuesday it will close its Fenway and North Station locations permanently. The company already closed permanently closed locations Salem, Lowell, Hingham, and Framingham due to the pandemic.

“Thank you Boston, Salem, Lowell, Hingham, and Framingham,” said the statement posted by owner Joe Slesar and the BeerWorks Team. “Sad to say but we’ve brewed and served our last beers. We’ve decided to pack it in due to the pandemic and all that. We will miss you and the many years of fun we had bringing you fresh local beer and food. BeerWorks was proud to serve you.”

Boston BeerWorks became a go-to destination for pre and post Red Sox games and the local brewery served up fresh local beer and a host of pub items like burgers, nachos and wings.

Based on the success of its Fenway location the company soon expanded to Salem, Hingham, and Framingham, and opened another Boston location at North Station near the TD Garden.

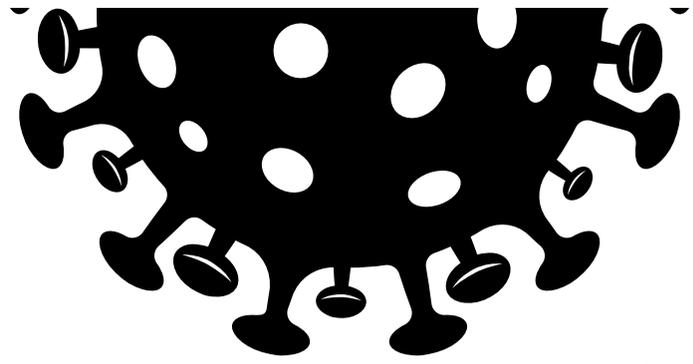
The company was forced to temporarily close all locations in

March 2020 due to the pandemic and state COVID restrictions. The Salem, Hingham, and Framingham BeerWorks ultimately closed permanently but the company’s management hoped to reopen the Boston locations once the pandemic settled down.

However, the economic downturn, loss of a packed Fenway Park in 2020 and capacity limits all added to the BeerWorks inability to rebound after the pandemic.



*Boston BeerWorks announced it has permanently closed its flagship location across from Fenway Park and its other location in North Station near the TD Garden.*



## COVID-19 cases spike 115 percent in the area

By John Lynds

For a third week in a row Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown’s COVID cases have spiked most likely due to the Delta variant infecting unvaccinated and vaccinated people alike.

Earlier this month a COVID outbreak occurred in Provincetown with the Delta variant of the virus being confirmed among the cluster. The BPHC released an advisory on July 20 with new guidance to all residents of Boston who traveled to Provincetown during July until further notice. As of July 19, 2021, at least 35 COVID-19 cases in Boston residents have been traced back to this cluster and the overwhelming majority of those have been fully vaccinated.

According to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 1,416 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents were tested and 2.8 percent were positive. This was a 115 percent increase from the 1.3 percent of residents that tested positive on July 16.

Overall since the pandemic started 56,326 Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 6.4 percent of those tested were COVID positive. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on July 16.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased nearly 50 percent. According to the BPHC 13,702 residents were tested

and 2.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 47 percent increase from the 1.5 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The BPHC urged all City of Boston residents who have traveled to Provincetown since July 1 to get tested for COVID-19 at least 5 days after returning, regardless of vaccination status or symptoms. The BPHC also said residents should self-isolate and avoid groups or gatherings for at least 5 days until a negative COVID-19 test, regardless of vaccination status.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, Beacon Hill, North End, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 644.9 cases per 10,000 residents--roughly a 1 percent increase from the 638.8 cases per 10,000 residents reported on July 16.

Thirty-four additional residents have been infected with the virus between July 16 and July 23 and the total number of cases in the area increased to 3,594 cases overall since the pandemic began.

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 0.6 percent since July 16 and went from 71,399 cases to 71,914 confirmed cases in a week. Three additional Boston residents died from the virus in the past two weeks and there are now 1,39 total deaths in the city from COVID.

### DIGITAL EQUITY (from pg. 13)

ment from the Boston Center for Independent Living. “We will be providing not only hotspots and laptops, but adaptive technology essential to using this technology. It is essential to break down various barriers to integration to today’s intensely technology-driven universe.”

The City of Boston’s Broadband and Digital Equity efforts improve access to affordable and reliable high-speed Internet for households and businesses, expand the availability of high-speed Internet in public places, and facilitate ease of access to up-to-date digital tools. The Boston Equity Office joined with the City’s Department of Innovation & Technology and the Age-Strong Commission to support ways through the Digital Equity Fund to build individual and community capacity for:

- Using the Internet, digital skills, and digital tools to pursue professional, educational, and civic endeavors;

- Engaging with the Internet

safely;

- Developing needs-responsive, community-driven digital skills-building opportunities;

- Increasing broadband adoption among Bostonians who do not subscribe to this service in the home.

The following local grants were announced this week:

- Boston Higher Education Resource Center: The Boston Higher Education Resource Center will use the funding to increase high school and college English Language Learner (ELL) students’ access to personal computer devices as well as provide training to these students in order for them to make the best use of these devices towards their education and career goals. This programming will take place at the organization’s Boston Public Schools partner schools as well as through our Community-based (after school) program at our Roxbury/South End site.

- Castle Square Tenants’ Organization: Castle Square Tenants’

Organization will use the funding to build digital skills among Castle Square’s senior residents and elder Board Members of the Castle Square Tenants Organization (CSTO) by hosting a daily drop-in class and online chats that offer both digital skills demos and informal Q&A sessions.

- Ethos: Ethos will use the funding to address the challenges of social isolation among seniors in Boston, both during and beyond COVID-19, through innovation in information delivery and improved technology access.

- Victory Programs: Victory Programs will use the funding to enhance an existing mobile prevention team to connect clients to services they need (e.g. health support, substance abuse) and provide other skills training (e.g. resume development), as well as provide internet access for members of the Boston Living Center when they are at the program.

### LEGAL NOTICE

**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  
8/11/2021 at 12:00 PM. Unless

stated otherwise the description  
of the contents are household  
goods and furnishings. Will Bour-  
don Tubens unit #1118; Jeffrey

McCall unit #2126; James Dugan  
unit #3063; Keith Campbell unit  
#3081; Charmaine Brown unit  
#3163; Lee Morrison unit #4303.

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.

7/22/21, 7/29/21

BS

# FOSEL reports librarians removed despite widespread neighborhood support

By Seth Daniel

After a week of strong advocacy from neighbors and elected officials in support of suspended South End Librarian Anne Smart, members of the Friends of the South End Library (FOSEL) reported that Smart had allegedly

been forced to retire and another long-time librarian there was fired.

## The BPL....

Past FOSEL President Marleen Neinhuis said she was informed that Smart, whom she was calling to be reinstated, had been asked to allegedly retire or

be fired, she said.

Another long-time Librarian at the branch, she said, had been fired and was not yet close to retirement age.

Neinhuis said she was aghast at the harshness exhibited by Boston Public Libraries in the matter.

Smart had been suspended in April with pay, but few knew about the suspension because libraries across the city were closed to patrons until later in the year. Last week, her cause caught fire and hundreds rallied to support her, including Councilor Ed Flynn and State Rep. Jon

Santiago.

Neinhuis said the issue at hand was that a few patrons were let into the library informally during COVID-19 restrictions in order that they could be helped with computer issues and job applications.

# Students will likely be wearing masks on return in September

By Seth Daniel

Supt. Brenda Cassellius and Acting Mayor Kim Janey have signaled over the past week that while students will be returning full-time to the Boston Public Schools in September, they will probably be mandated to wear masks during school time.

They do not expect, however, to have to apply social distance restrictions to the school day.

Supt. Cassellius said last Friday in a communication to parents that she expects students and staff will need to wear masks during the fall inside school buildings and on school buses.

“BPS expects that all students

and staff will be required to wear masks while inside school buildings and during yellow bus transportation when they return to school in September,” she wrote. “We know that our students age 11 and under cannot yet be vaccinated and for ages 12 to 15 only 18% in the city of Boston are vaccinated right now. For ages 16 to 24, only 52% are vaccinated. Vaccines are the best way to protect ourselves from COVID-19, and masking is also an important prevention tool we must use. BPS does not plan to mandate physical distancing when we return to school this fall.”

Acting Mayor Janey, in a statement, said she is on the same

page with a potential mask mandate for students in September.

“Mayor Janey has reiterated masks are currently required for students and staff in school buildings,” read a statement from the Mayor’s Office. “Future school mask guidance will be informed by public health data and provided to families by BPS.”

The Voices for BPS Families, a citywide group of parents focused on kids returning to school, said they support any measure, including mask mandates, that will keep kids in school full-time.

“First we commend Mayor Janey for proactively communicating to parents and stakehold-

ers this information so families have time to prepare for September,” said Erica Haydock, of Voices. “We are in support of measures that will get students back to full time in person learning in September which align with the latest CDC guidance. The CDC just announced that ‘everyone in K through 12 schools wear a mask indoors, including teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.’ Children should return to full-time, in-person learning in the fall with proper prevention strategies in place.”

Cassellius said CDC guidance does recommend social distanc-

ing, but if it is not possible in school district, the priority should be getting kids back to in-person learning using other safeguards like masks, hand-washing and good ventilation.

The district is awaiting more information from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which has been slow in announcing its safety recommendations and mandates for the upcoming school year.

Cassellius said they will roll out a final plan once they have guidance from DESE and the City’s Boston Public Health Commission consultants.

## 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.

### From the July 27 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, online:

•25 Isabella St., Bay Village. Applicant: 25 Isabella Street LLC. Purpose: Convert existing church into 26 unit residential building per plans and specs.

•603 Massachusetts Ave., South End. Applicant: LDRE Corporation. Purpose: Change occupancy from one office, one retail and three (3) residential units to one office and four (4) residential units.

•331-335A Newbury St., Back Bay. Applicant: Rooted In, LLC. Purpose: Change Occupancy from Retail to Cannabis Establishment (Recreational).

•10 Claremont Park. Applicant: 10 Claremont Park, LLC. Purpose: In conjunction with ALT1079204. Construct a new steel balcony off 3rd Floor Level per building plans at kitchen of Unit # 2.

### From the July 28 License Commission meeting (voting meeting on July 29), online:

•Pressed Juicery, Inc. Doing business as: Pressed, 148 Brookline Ave., Fenway. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above – Minor kitchen and storage for pressed juicery

retail shop.

Manager: Greg Williams. Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

•Vattanac Inc. Doing business as: Gong Cha, 281 Huntington Ave., Back Bay. Has applied for a Common Victualler License to be exercised on the above – customers’ area has 14 seats. We prepare bubble tea, slush, and other tea beverage from behind counter. 1 bathroom. Manager: Piseth Cheav. Hours of Operation: 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

•Clarendon Restaurant, LLC. Doing business as: Post 390, 406 Stuart St., Back Bay. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All-Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to change the d/b/a of the licensed business – From: Post 390 To: The Banks Fish House. Attorney: Stephen V. Miller.

•Bacco’s Wine & Cheese, Inc. Doing business as: BACCO’S WINE & CHEESE

31 Saint James Ave., Back Bay. Holder of a Retail Package Store All-Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to amend the description of the licensed business - From: In one room on first floor with office and prep area; entrance/exit of St James Ave and to building lobby arcade. To: In one room on first floor (2,850 Sq. Ft.) with office and prep area; entrance/exit of St James Ave and to building lobby arcade. Attorney: Dennis A. Quilty.

From the Thursday, July 29, Boston Police Patrolmen’s Union community meeting. The Boston Police Patrolmen’s Association (BPPA) are holding a Community Forum on Thursday July 29th at 5.30 p.m. to discuss important issues affecting

your community. This event will be live on the BPPA YouTube Channel. The BPPA would like to hear from the members of Boston’s neighborhoods about the issues that the BPPA should prioritize and what they would like to see from their community police officers. We would be delighted with your participation in this event. Watch the event live on our YouTube Channel: youtube.com/bostonpatrolmen.

From the Aug. 3 South End Landmarks Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., online via Zoom (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83063888450):

### VIOLATIONS

•3 BOND STREET: Proposed work: Rectify coring of granite for groundwater recharge system.

### DESIGN REVIEW

•69 MONTGOMERY STREET: Proposed work: Remove existing chain link fence and section of stone wall at front yard and install new metal railing system.

•599-627 COLUMBUS AVENUE: Proposed work: Replace existing signage.

•116 CHANDLER STREET: Proposed work: Replace entry doors in kind

•155 WEST BROOKLINE STREET: Proposed work: Install new precast lintels and sills with color to match existing, install new wood doors at main entry.

•11 ST. CHARLES STREET: Proposed work: Construct new roof deck with metal rails and hatch.

•26 YARMOUTH STREET: Proposed work: Construct new roof deck with metal rails and hatch.

•73 APPLETON STREET: Pro-

posed work: Replace existing deck frame, railings, decking and rubber roof in the same footprint.

•133 WEST CONCORD STREET: Proposed work: Install iron ornamental fence at front yard.

•13 UPTON STREET: Proposed work: Construct a new roof deck and hatch.

•809-811 HARRISON AVENUE: Proposed work: Remove and replace windows, replace wood molding in kind, remove awning, paint, and install new signage.

NABB Climate Action Webinar ‘BERDO and Beyond...’ on Aug. 3, 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Join NABB to hear Councilor O’Malley, Dr. Allison Brezius, and Loie Hayes speak about the recently filed BERDO legislation. The webinar will be moderated by Michael McCord, Chair of the NABB Green Committee. Register for the zoom webinar beforehand.

From the BPDA IAG meeting for 761-793 Boylston St., Aug. 4, from 6-8 p.m. The Project proposal is to build five stories on top of 761-793 Boylston Street, office space on levels 3-5 and residential units 6-8 including a roofdeck.

From the BPDA Exchange South end IAG meeting, Aug. 4, 5:30 p.m.: The BPDA will be hosting a virtual Impact Advisory Group (“IAG”) meeting in connection with the Exchange South End project. Please note that the purpose of this meeting is different than that of a traditional community meeting. As part of the development review process, IAG members work closely with BPDA staff to identify the impacts of a proj-

ect and recommend appropriate community benefits to offset those impacts. IAG meetings prioritize discussion between the project proponent (i.e. the developer) and IAG members. Please register in advance for this meeting through the following link: <https://bit.ly/3l25mfb>.

### 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.



# THAYER MANSION

**305 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #2**  
**3 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 4,253 SQFT**  
**\$10,900,000**



**385 BEACON STREET**  
**4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 5,165 SQFT**  
**\$7,900,000**



**10 ROWES WHARF #PH06**  
**4 BEDS | 5F 2H BATHS | 7,230 SQFT**  
**\$12,000,000**



**180 TELFORD STREET #515**  
**1 BED | 1 BATH | 721 SQFT**  
**\$710,000**



**1 FRANKLIN STREET #4702**  
**3 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 3,172 SQFT**  
**\$6,995,000**

