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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024

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Special Council holds hearing on regulations for micro-mobility vehicles

By Dan Murphy

Amid mounting public-safety concerns surrounding mopeds and other micro-mobility vehicles operating recklessly on Boston's streets and sidewalks, a special City Council committee hearing was held to discuss the city's rules and regulations for these vehicles on Tuesday, July 9, at City Hall.

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan chairs the council's Planning, Development and Transportation Committee, which, at her request, sponsored the hearing in response to the prevalence of third-party delivery apps, like DoorDash and Uber Eats, whose drivers often rely on alternate modes of transportation, including e-bikes and electric scooters.

The issue with micro-mobility vehicles in the city is a "nuanced one," noted Councilor Durkan, with the livelihoods of many delivery drivers depending on



A number of mopeds are seen parked on Boylston Street, between Clarendon and Dartmouth streets, on the early afternoon of Saturday, July 13.

these vehicles for work.

Councilor Durkan said these modes of transportation have a less adverse impact on the environment, compared to traditional four-wheel automobiles. These delivery apps have also greatly benefited the city's economy in the aftermath of the pandemic, she said, while opening up access to goods and services previously unavailable to the elderly and others stuck at home.

Conversely, however, the proliferation of these new oneand two-wheel vehicles has also posed extreme public-safety hazards on city streets and sidewalks.

Councilor Durkan underscored how the city remains committed to Vision Zero - its initiative that aims to eliminate fatal and severe traffic crashes in Boston by 2030. But despite this commitment, 3,006 injuries and 10 fatalities were sustained in traffic crashes citywide last year, she noted, many of which

involved some combination of pedestrians, bicycles, and motor vehicles.

Councilor Durkan suggested looking to other cities for solutions, like New York, with

(Moped, Pg. 5)

'CITY SPLASH' RETURNS TO THE CHARLES



PHOTO COURTESY ARTEMISIA LUK

The Charles River Conservancy's annual swim, 'City Splash,' returned on Saturday, July 13, to Fiedler Dock on the Charles River Esplanade. Pictured participants include top row, standing, left to right: Sen. Sal DiDomenico; Lonsdale Koester (CRC Board Chair); Simeen Ali Mohsen (CRC Board); Mary McCarthy (Department of Conservation and Recreation); Sen. Will Brownsberger; Matthew O'Malley (Vicinity); Cllr. Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler; and Rep. Jay Livingstone; bottom row, left to right: Nayeli Rodriguez (CRC Board); Laura Jasinski (CRC Executive Director); Cllr. Patricia Nolan; and Jen Mergel (Esplanade Association Executive Director).

Wu announces new disability data standards for Boston

Special to the Sun

Michelle Wu Mayor announced new disability-aware standards for City resources and the collection of disability data from residents throughout government processes. This Disability Data Standard will support City workers who design and operate services, programs, and policies in the City of Boston and are intended to provide more dignified experiences for all residents and expand opportunities for people with disabilities across Boston's neighborhoods. This initiative is led by the City of Boston Disabilities Commission in partnership with the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT).

"Our goal in city government is ensuring that our policies, programs and services reach everyone and affirm and support our residents each and every day," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Boston is home to over 78,000 residents with disabilities and we know historically this community has not been fully included in city services and underserved in data standardization efforts. These new guidelines will create a common format for all city

(DISABILITY, Pg. 4)

EDITORIAL

THE REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL IS THIS WEEKEND

One of the biggest events of the summer season in the Greater Boston area will take place this weekend when the 20th annual Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival, sponsored by the Revere Beach Partnership (RBP), will transform America's oldest public beach into a world-class exhibition of sand sculptures that will transform Revere Beach Boulevard into a boardwalk with something for everyone, young and old alike.

The festival, for which the RBP trucks in 420 tons of special sand that is suitable for sand-sculpting, once again will bring together world-renowned sand sculptors from across No. America, Europe, and Asia, who will showcase their incredible talents in a competition that will feature both a judges' trophy and people's choice award. The theme for this year's festival is Wonders of the World.

In addition to the sand sculptures, the festival will feature more than 75 food vendors, including Revere Beach's own superb local restaurants and beachside food stands, plus food trucks, along with exhibitors, live music, interactive activities, amusement rides, fireworks, and a vibrant atmosphere that are sure to create a memorable experience for people of all ages.

The festival is scheduled to take place over the three days of this weekend (July 19-21) from 10-10 on both Friday and Saturday and from 10-8 on Sunday, with the fireworks show taking place at 9:00 on Saturday evening. We would note that for those who might be out of town this weekend, you can check out the sand sculptures on Thursday before the official start of the festival,

Free parking with shuttle buses to the festival is available at Suffolk Downs and parking will be available in the 1800-vehicle Wonderland T garage. For visitors from Boston, it is highly-recommended that they take the Blue Line, which has stops at Revere Beach and Wonderland stations that are a stone's throw away from the beach. In addition, the T has a number of bus routes (the 110, 116, and 117) that travel through East Boston, Chelsea, Everett, and Revere that terminate at Wonderland station.

With a forecast for perfect weather, Revere Beach will be THE place-to-be this weekend for what may well be up to a million visitors. We urge festival-goers to plan ahead and make it a day of fun, great food, and viewing of the amazing sand sculptures that will create memories that are sure to last a lifetime for every member of the family.

PUTIN: THE HITLER OF THE 21ST CENTURY

The horrific bombing recently of Ukraine's largest children's hospital by Russia only adds to the genocidal atrocities being perpetrated upon the people of Ukraine at the direction of Vladimir Putin. The Russian assault on the hospital marked one of the worst days of violence against civilians in months.

The bombing, which targeted a civilian hospital with no military value, not only blatantly violated the rules of war, but also reinforced once again the barbarity of Putin's invasion of that peaceful country.

Putin's deliberate targeting of a children's hospital brings him ever-closer to the pantheon of Europe's 20th century barbarian dictators -- Hitler, Stalin, and Mussloini -- and makes clear that the civilized world must do whatever we can to help the Ukrainian people resist this sociopathic monster of the 21st century.

GUEST OP-ED

How would you spend the city's money?

By Renato Castelo

How would you spend \$2 million of the city's money to benefit your community? That's the question we're asking Boston residents as the City heads into its first-ever city-wide Participatory Budgeting process this July.

But first, what is Participatory Budgeting?

When Mayor Michelle Wu announced the Office of Participatory Budgeting in late 2022, she called it an opportunity for "direct civic engagement to shape our budget." The office was created following a ballot initiative to provide a new way for residents' voices and ideas to be represented.

Originally developed in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1989, Participatory Budgeting is a civic engagement process that empowers community members to decide how to spend part of a city's budget. The Brazilians' idea was to "Democratize democracy" by bringing more equitable participation in public spending, particularly for marginalized communities.

This comes at a critical time when record numbers of people nationwide report feeling distrust toward the government. According to the Harvard Kennedy School's 2024 Youth Poll, trust in major public institutions has fallen by up to 50 percent over the past decade.

Participatory Budgeting can provide an opportunity to combat this mistrust as residents come together and connect with local government in a meaningful way. Since its development, Participatory Budgeting has been adopted by more than 1,500 cities worldwide, including by our neighbors in Somerville and Cambridge.

Now in its tenth year of Participatory Budgeting, Cambridge residents recently voted to fund projects ranging from free menstrual care dispensers, to smart recycling compactors, to public toilet upgrades.

While these are not the massive government programs we are used to, they are practical ideas that come from the community and benefit people at a grassroots level.

I was honored to be named the first director of the Office of Participatory Budgeting for Boston by Mayor Wu, and look forward to administering our first \$2 million process in concert with our External Oversight Board. Our mission is to help create accessible spaces for civic engagement, collect ideas, and ultimately put these ideas in action.

As a native of Ecuador who made Boston my home several years ago, I understand the challenges many immigrants and newcomers face in accessing government due to mistrust in public institutions, civic apathy, and language and cultural barriers. That's why we are ensuring this engagement is done in partnership with local community groups and is multilingual and accessible to people from all walks of life.

Boston's 'Youth Lead the Change' initiative has run a youth Participatory Budgeting process since 2014. Building on that, we will also include the opportunities for youth to participate in the citywide process, which can plant the seeds for lifelong civic engagement.

July is Idea Collection Month

This July, the City will co-host a series of public forums in collaboration with non-profit partner organizations where people can propose and discuss their project ideas. Residents can also engage via an online portal, phone line, and via Participatory Budgeting corners at Boston Public Library locations.

Eligible ideas could include funding for programs to strengthen mental health among Boston youth, digital literacy classes for older adults, or workforce training for those reentering society after incarceration. Infrastructure projects are also eligible, such as expanding the City's free Wi-Fi networks or enhancing public art and green spaces.

Our office will work with residents to develop the top ideas into a 15-proposal ballot, and in January of 2025, we will open up the process for voting and in the spring we'll begin implementation of the winning proposals.

As we embark upon our inaugural year of Participatory Budgeting in Boston, I invite you to join us this July. Visit www. Boston.gov/participate to share your project ideas online or find an Idea Collection Workshops nearby. Participants may also call the PB Phone Line at (617) 635-3059 or visit a PB corner at your local Boston Public Library branch.

We look forward to putting your ideas in action and helping inform our City's future budget investments.

- Renato Castelo is director of the Office of Participatory Budgeting in Boston. He holds a Masters in Education Policy from Harvard University and nearly 15 years of civic engagement experience.

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Text or attachments emailed to deb@thebostonsun.com are preferred.

Wu announces health equity agenda to improve life expectancy

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced a new long-term health equity agenda to improve life expectancy, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and help all residents live longer and healthier lives. BPHC's Health of Boston 2023 report on Mortality and Life Expectancy found stark differences in average life expectancy among neighborhoods, the most striking being a 23-year difference between those who live in a part of Back Bay compared to those who live two miles away near Nubian Square in Roxbury. New BPHC data show that while life expectancy in Boston has overall rebounded since the COVID-19 pandemic, the racial gap has widened. In 2019, Black residents had an average life expectancy of 77 years, which was four years less than white residents, while in 2023, Black residents had an average life expectancy of 76 years, six years less than white residents. To improve life expectancy and reduce racial and ethnic gaps, BPHC is urgently encouraging organizations to partner with the Commission to advance health

"I'm thrilled that Boston is launching this first ever public health agenda backed up by community collaboration and resources," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Creating opportunities so that every resident has access to healthy food, livable communities, and access to healthcare are important to ensuring every resident feels at home in Boston. I'm so grateful to the Boston Public Health Commission, Atrius Health Equity Foundation, and all of our partners for their commitment to improving the lives of our residents."

The Commission's Live Long and Well health equity agenda focuses on three of the leading causes of premature mortality in Boston: cardiometabolic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, and other related disorders; cancers of the breast, cervix, colon, prostate, and lung; and unintentional drug overdoses. The agenda also emphasizes the importance of infant and maternal health, older adult health, and mental and behavioral health.

This announcement identified the first priority area as car-



Mayor Michelle Wu.

diometabolic diseases, which are among the top five leading causes of death before the age of 65 in Boston and disproportionately impact communities of color. According to BPHC's Health of Boston 2023 reports, compared to white residents, Black residents died of heart disease at a 37% higher rate; Black residents died of diabetes at a 220% higher rate; and Latine residents died of diabetes at a 80% higher rate. Social and economic factors such as poverty, insufficient housing, and food insecurity make it significantly more likely for a person to develop poorer health outcomes, including cardiometabolic diseases.

"Boston is a city that is rich with high quality health care resources. Yet, we have long-standing gaps in life expectancy and other health outcomes by race, ethnicity and neighborhood," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "In order to close these gaps, we need to focus on drivers of poor health that exist outside the walls of health care institutions, like poverty and economic inequality. This will require a collaborative, whole-of-society, multi-sector approach. I want to thank Atrius Health Equity Foundation for their investment that I hope will catalyze more new partnerships to improve health and well-being for all in our city."

Boston Community The Health Collaborative (BCHC) - which is facilitated by BPHC and convenes City departments, public health, healthcare, community based organizations, and Boston residents - developed a community health improvement plan that identified economic mobility and inclusion as a critical strategy to improve health. To support this, Atrius Health Equity Foundation has committed \$10 million for community-led coalitions to improve financial wellbeing in communities with poor cardiometabolic health outcomes. This investment makes the City of Boston, BPHC, BCHC, and Atrius Health Equity Foundation the first multi-sector partnership in the Live Long and Well agenda.

"We hear from communities across Eastern Massachusetts how economic opportunity is foundational for health and well-being. Our investment recognizes the deep connection between health and wealth and aims to support communities in creating the conditions that enable everyone to thrive," said Dr. Ann Hwang, President of the Atrius Health Equity Foundation. "We are thrilled to partner with the Mayor, the City of Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Boston Community Health Collaborative, all of whom have shown tremendous leadership in advancing community priorities for better health."

"Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Wu and the Boston Public Health Commission, our work as the Collaborative has flourished and is now resulting in a transformative \$10 million dollar investment by Atrius Health Equity Foundation," said Magnolia Contreras, Vice-President of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Co-Chair of the Boston Community Health Collaborative. "This partnership is a testament to our shared commitment, and this investment will go directly to issues raised by our community members who are most impacted by life expectancy

disparities." To execute on this work, a request for proposals will be developed collaboratively and organizations will be able to apply as early as this fall. This partnership will help residents, especially those who are most at-risk for cardiometabolic diseases, meet basic needs, have more access to financial supports and wealth-building opportunities, and navigate complex healthcare and social support systems. This will improve financial stability, mental health, stress,

and cardiometabolic health for

residents across Boston.

Additionally, the Boston Public Health Commission runs several existing programs and initiatives to prevent cardiometabolic diseases. The Commission's Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Division promotes screenings for early detection of disease and partners with other City departments to give residents more access to healthy foods and physical activity. Programs include the Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series, Healthy Boston Nutrition Education, Boston Safe Routes to School, and the Boston Healthy Childcare Initiative.

The Commission is currently

working on a report detailing the Live Long and Well agenda that will be published later this year. Learn more and track updates at boston.gov/live-long.

Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is the country's oldest health department. We envision a thriving Boston where all residents live healthy and fulfilling lives. To accomplish this, BPHC works in partnership with communities to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Boston residents, especially those impacted by racism and systemic inequities. Learn more about our work at boston.gov/

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News in Brief

CHARLESGATE FARMERS MARKET CONTINUES EVERY SUNDAY

The Charlesgate Farmers Market continues every Sunday until Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in DCR Charlesgate Park at Commonwealth Avenue between Charlesgate East and West.

Some of the 20 vendors on hand will be Dicks Market Garden for fresh produce; Captain Marden's Seafood; and Cape Ann Fresh Catch . The new Eastern Standard bakery has joined the market as well, with fresh bread, croissants, and other delectables. Berklee Students will also be performing at the weekly markets.

For more information, email Charlesgatefarmersmarket@ gmail.com.

WLP RECEIVES **GRANT TO SUPPORT** AFFORDABLE HOUSING FROM MASS GENERAL

Women's Lunch Place received funding last Monday, July 8, as one of 22 organizations awarded \$18 million via Mass General Hospital's Community Health Impact Funds to support affordable housing in Boston and North Suffolk County.

"A 12-member Housing Allocation Committee comprising community leaders and housing experts from local and state government, public agencies, non-profits, and the philanthropic community, selected the awardees. The decisions were based on creative, community-centered, impactful proposals addressing at least one of the three strategies determined by the CAB: production and preservation of affordable housing, eviction prevention, and support for community development corporations and other non-profit organizations," development according to the hospital.

SUMMER JAZZ

DISABILITY (from pg. 1)

departments to collect data on disability - improving our services and creating a more welcoming experience for residents. I'm excited to see how these critical changes better support our constituents and move us forward in our work to make Boston a home for everyone."

This announcement comes after several months of work to inform the design of the new data standardization across City departments. The work explored preferred language around disability identity and accommodations. Projects included focus groups with Boston residents, literature reviews, process mapping, and user research. Before the release of the new data standard, the City primarily collected data on disability with the Disability Survey of Boston residents; however data collection from that effort was too limited. The new disability data standard will collect more meaningful data to ensure City programs and services are accessible, welcoming, and inclusive to people with disabilities.

"Understanding how disability impacts residents' participation in City of Boston programs and services is much more valuable than knowing residents' medical diagnosis, in most cases," said City of Boston Disability Commission and ADA Title II

Coordinator Kristen McCosh. "We expect the new data standardization to be more effective when planning and implementing programs, events, and services, because now we are asking people what people really need."

"We needed to identify best practices for collecting information about disability so we can make Boston even more inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities," said Chief of Equity and Inclusion Mariangely Solis Cervera. "My staff worked closely with other city departments to map the process of specific city services to gain a better understanding of the experience for people with disabilities.

The new standard will include the question, 'Which of the following do you typically need to access services and events? (Select all that apply)' and provides respondents 11 access and functional needs options as well as a write in option to select. An important guideline of the standard will be to offer multiple ways for people to participate.

"We were thrilled to partner with the City of Boston to provide research and technical assistance to the data standardization program," said Ellysheva Bunge-Zeira, the Director of Training and Consulting at Disability Policy Consortium. "Our staff worked with the City to support meaningful engagement with Boston's disability community including focus groups facilitated by our staff."

The City of Boston will celebrate the new Data Standards at the 2024 ADA Day event on Wednesday, July 17th from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. This annual public event held on City Hall Plaza celebrates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Each year, the Disabilities Commission honors a partner, usually a City department, that has done exceptional work related to accessibility that year. This year, the City will be honoring DOIT for both the Data Standards and for their on-going work updating internal policies and training documents for departments to improve digital accessibility across City prod-

JULY 18, 2024

"It was a privilege to be able to partner with the Commission for Persons with Disabilities and apply the lessons DoIT learned from developing the Gender-Aware Guidelines and Standards to the collection of data about disability," said Chief Digital Officer Julia Gutiérrez. "The Disability Data Standard will help ensure more consistent data collection across departments and programs focused on what constituents need, which makes it easier for the City to understand where we can and should invest in accessibility from both a technology and program design perspective."

This announcement builds on the Mayor's commitment to ensure that Boston is an inclusive and equitable city for all residents. Last August, the Mayor, along with the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT), the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement, and the City's Registry Department, announced that the City updated its marriage licenses by no longer requiring sex or gender identification on the licenses - the first change made based on new gender-aware guidelines for City resources and the collection of gender-identity data.

CONCERTS AT SOUTH END LIBRARY PARK

The Boston Public Library and Friends of the South End Library

Jazz and Blues with Pat Loomis and Friends on Wednesdays, July 31; Aug. 14 and 28; Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at South End Library Park.

City of Boston Planning <u>Department</u>

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This is a Public meeting for the proposed Institutional Master Plan (IMP) for Northeastern University located in the Fenway neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the recently filed Institutional Master Plan Notification Form (IMPNF) for the 2024-2034 IMP and the recently filed Project Notification Form (PNF) for the Multipurpose Athletics Facility project. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public.

At this time, the Planning Department is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. For more information and updates, visit bostonplans.org.

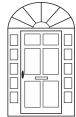
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MOPED (from pg. 1)

the creation of its Department of Sustainable Delivery, which regulates commercial delivery services that use two and threewheeled micromobility vehicles.

Meanwhile, Chik-fil-A's location at 569 Boylston St. in the Back Bay continues to be a constant source of complaints from her constituents, said Councilor Durkan, who added on a recent day, she saw no less than 30 micro-mobility vehicles parked on the sidewalk outside the establishment. She acknowledged the high demand for the restaurant's delivery food but added that the number of constituent complaints she has received related to this one location has been "staggering."

"While the city and DoorDash have worked together really collaboratively on that location, there's obviously still so many challenges," she said. "I think simply creating curbside space and batching, obviously isn't solving the problem. We have the mechanisms in the city to remove a license for delivery for a specific location. Those mechanisms and the timing of them are still a little bit obscured to me."

In the meantime, Councilor Durkan implored representatives from both DoorDash and Uber Eats, both on hand for the meeting, to work collaboratively with the city to address ongoing issues with their delivery drivers, including those stemming from Chik-fil-A's popular Boylston Street location.

"There's so much more work to do," she said. "We need more partnership. We need to do better – that's it."

During her testimony and a statement from the company, DoorDash representative Kate Rumbaugh pledged the company's commitment to continuing to work with the city on resolving issues with their drivers who use micro-mobility vehicles.

About two years ago, Door-Dash began encouraging its riders to use two-wheel vehicles in response to the city's concerns about the abundance of delivery drivers relying on traditional autos clogging the streets, she said

Moreover, Rumbaugh said DoorDash routinely performs background checks of its drivers, including validating their driver's licenses and driving histories. She also sought to dispel a misconception about drivers sharing accounts by saying the company takes a 'multi-layered' approach to ensure this doesn't happen.

"We're always looking to do better," said Rumbaugh, who added that her appearance at the meeting was further evidence of the company's pledge to work with the city to resolve the acknowledged issues. "We stand by the need and hear the need to do better."

Katie Franger, public affairs manager for Uber, which launched its food-delivery platform, then called 'UberEats,' in 2015, also outlined steps her company is now taking to educate its drivers about road safety. She also said the company remains open to suggestions from the city on how to improve its operation.

Like DoorDash, Uber Eats (like Uber itself) also takes steps to ensure that drivers aren't sharing their accounts, said Franger, and the company will permanently disable the accounts of those who violate the rule. She added that Uber's drivers undergo a multi-layered screening process and background check, and drivers are rescreened on an annual basis.

Jascha Franklin-Hodge, the city's chief of streets, noted while food delivery platforms were essential during the pandemic, they've since grown exponentially in cities nationwide, including Boston.

With the proliferation of these platforms, he pointed to the myriad 'negative impacts,' that have accompanied this trend, such as vehicles frequently double-parked outside some popular fast-food establishments, including those on Newbury Street, Seaport Boulevard, and Huntington Avenue, among other locations.

Two-wheel delivery vehicles, including mopeds, have recently become increasingly more commonplace in the city, and are often driven on sidewalks and in crosswalks, putting pedestrians, especially the elderly, at risk, said Franklin-Hodge, "so we must change this."

Some micro-mobility vehicles aren't fully classified under state law, said Franklin-Hodge, such as one-wheel motorized vehicles, stand-up scooters, and Class 3 bikes. Traditional bikes aren't required to be registered either,

something he doesn't expect will change. For motorcycles and mopeds - a classification that applies to most delivery vehicles used in the city - registration is required, however, he said.

In response to public-safety concerns, the city has developed an 'educational flier' to disseminate the facts surrounding the rules and regulation for operating two-wheel vehicles within its jurisdiction, including that these vehicles must be registered; that helmets must be worn; and that operators of these vehicles must adhere to the regular rules of the road

Enforcement will also be increased in the city, added Franklin-Hodge, which he described as a necessary component to resolving the issues surrounding these vehicles.

While the intention here isn't to penalize those working in the 'gig economy,' the city instead aims to hold delivery drivers who disregard the rules of the road personally responsible for their actions, which, according to Franklin-Hodge, is a necessary component in resolving the public-safety issues related to micro-mobility vehicles.

Moreover, the city will be working to better manage its curbs by launching a pilot, which will establish a dedicated area on Boylston Street for mopeds and other two-wheel delivery vehicles to help alleviate congestion at the often-busy block between Clarendon and Dartmouth streets, near Chik-fil-A's Back Bay location.

"Lastly, we're pushing the delivery companies to be more accountable," added Franklin-Hodge.

To this end, Franklin-Hodge said he and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox recently sent a letter to several major delivery companies operating in the city pointing to the ongoing public-safety concerns and asking them to take more accountability for their drivers.

The letter also asked the companies a number of questions about their business operations. "Their responses were disappointing, to say the least," said Franklin-Hodge.

(One of the letter recipients, DoorDash has announced a new safety initiative in response to the letter and in anticipation of the hearing, said Rumbaugh at the hearing.)

Despite its significant size, the food-delivery industry remains unregulated in the Commonwealth, said Franklin-Hodge, so the city is now in discussions with state and elected officials on how to best do so. A starting point, he said, would be to look at how the state already regulates rideshare app services, like Uber and Lyft,.

The city is also exploring how to regulate food-delivery services by mandating that delivery vehicles are registered, and that drivers are insured, said Franklin-Hodge.

"This is not a simple issue, but it's an area where we must act," he said. "We cannot wait until our streets become even more clogged with delivery vehicles. We cannot sit by when a multi-million business profits by looking the other way as its workforce ignores the rules of the road. Most importantly, we can't wait until more people are injured or worse. The benefits of food delivery can't come at the expense of public safety; they cannot come at the expense of people feeling comfortable walking in their neighborhoods.'

Councilor Durkan said she was just hearing Franklin-Hodge's suggestions for first time at the hearing and added she would "like to get in a room and talk about them."

Kristen McCosh, the city's disability commissioner, said people with disabilities are among the highest populations using city sidewalks, "so they've been dealing with this problem for a long time."

The Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities has heard from the disabled community for years about how dangerous conditions are on city sidewalks, she said, and in response, it has developed the 'Boston Brakes' program to help educate drivers and advocate for safety.

But despite the relative success of this campaign, enforcement is still also necessary to make the city's streets safe for everyone, added McCosh.

A longtime advocate for pedestrian safety, District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn said more police officers are needed to enforce the rules of the road.

"Everyone using the roads needs to abide by the rules of the road," he said. "Boston can no longer be the Wild West, and it's been like this for a long period of time."

Boston Police Deputy Superintendent Dan Humphreys said they would focus additional shifts on problem areas while looking at the 'behavior' of individual who are recklessly operating micro-mobility vehicles.

"We want people to voluntarily comply with the rules, and those that don't, we'll focus on them," he said. "And we're going to do everything we can to change the climate in some of these areas and restore peace in those neighborhoods."

But out of concern for the safety of others, the Boston Police also has a policy of not giving chase to micro-mobility vehicles that won't stop for them.

"That's one of the challenges," said Deputy Superintendent Humphreys.

AGC 523 Medford Street,



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Detail of "Dining Al Fresco After the Rain" © Jan Shapiro

FRIENDS' SUMMER PARTY COMES TO 90FS

The Friends of the Public Garden held its Summer Party on Thursday, July 11, at 9OFS, a rooftop venue on Federal Street.

Each July, more than 200 park supporters gather to celebrate summer in the city and the city's beautiful, historic parks at the Friends' Summer Party. This

two-hour cocktail party offered drinks and hors d'oeuvres for guests while raising funds for the Friends' continued maintenance of the Public Garden, the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, and the Boston Common.



Mark Kiefer and Kristen Morse.



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Street closed at 9am Activities start at 10:30am



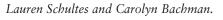
BOSTON.GOV/OPEN-STREETS

CITY of **BOSTON**

FRIENDS' SUMMER PARTY COMES TO 90FS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN







Event sponsors, Stacy Sheehan, William Walsh, and Boris Niktin, of Cambridge Trust (now Eastern Bank).



Pictured, left to right, are Colin Zick, Martha Sheridan, Liz Vizza, Gloria Coleman, and Kenda Coleman.



Julie Madjar and Mimi Sun.

Mammograms Save Lives.

All women over 40 should have a mammogram once a year. Breast cancer found early offers the best chance to be cured. Free or low cost mammograms are available.

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www.cancer.org 1.800.ACS.2345





Wu announces launch of 'Dear Summer Vol. 2' mixtape

Special to the Sun

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City's Office of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment announced the release of "Dear Summer Vol. 2." This annual mixtage features songs and mixes from artists and DJs in Greater Boston, highlighting the vibrancy of Boston's communities. This collaboration aims to build awareness of local creative talent, connect residents and families across neighborhoods through music, and celebrate summer.

"Summer in Boston is a truly special time for our residents, families and communities across every neighborhood. We are proud and grateful that incredible talent calls Boston home, and that these amazing artists and creatives create space for community and culture building all year long," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We are thrilled to launch Vol. 2 of the Dear Summer Mixtape that represents the very best of our creative community, featuring 17 of our best local musicians, mixed by six of our top DJs, and representing our city. As we continue to make our way through summer, we hope that this mixtape taps into the joy and community present throughout Boston's communities"

"This tape is a reflection of the times and an opportunity to showcase local artists who have



international talent, yet are often overlooked," said John Borders IV, Co-Executive Producer and Director of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment for the City of Boston. "By playing champion to artists from Boston, we are looking to amplify a homemade sound. No other municipality has done anything like this. We look forward to seeing this initiative grow, as Boston artists

deserve international notoriety."

Dear Summer Vol. 2 includes 17 curated tracks that represent various styles and genres, including Hip-Hop, R&B, Rock, Blues, Alternative, and Dance music.

Participating DJs include:

- Cammy V, DJ based in Med-
- Knszwrth, DJ based in Dorchester
- L'Duke, DJ based in Med-
- DJ Mez, DJ based in Rox-
- DJ Prince, DJ based in Dorchester
- Guru Sanaal, DJ based in South End

"My goal as a DJ, Producer, and contributor to the music scene in Boston has always been to crack the door open for other artists and DJs and let light shine through. I hope that many of them can stay and thrive as creatives here in Boston and garner momentum for projects that they may have in the pipeline," said Chimel "ReaL P" Idiokitas. Co-Exec. Producer & Curator of "Dear Summer Vol. 2" mixtape. "I'm honored to be co-leading this project, and equally as honored to be able to add to the growing infrastructure for creatives throughout not only Boston, but also the neighboring cities and towns that help make our

community so unique."

Participating artists include:

in Roxbury

• Amandi, R&B artist based

• CD Rose, R&B artist based in Jamaica Plain

• Clark D, Hip-Hop artist based in Mattapan

• Heyssis, R&B artist from Dorchester and Hyde Park

- Blue Light Bandits, Soul/ Indie Rock in Worcester
- Julia Chisholm, Pop/R&B/ Soul artist based in Brighton
- Leo the Kind, Hip-Hop/ R&B artist based in Dorchester
- Najee Janey, Hip-Hop/Soul artist based in Roxbury
- Pat Loomis, Jazz artist based in South End
- Uche Malik, Afrobeats artist based in Hyde Park
- Nay \$peaks, Hip-Hop artist based in Mattapan
- Caliph, Hip-Hop/Afrobeats artist based in New Bedford • Fabiola Mendez, Latin Folk
- artist based in Quincy
- Jill McCracken, R&B/Pop artist from Medford • Neemz, Hip-Hop/Alterna-
- tive artist based in Medford • Sança, R&B artist based in
- Weymouth • Zola Simone, Indie Pop art-

ist based in Cambridge/Medford "Boston is a booming art city and the New England region as a whole is so slept on," said DJ Knszwrth, based in Dorchester. "It's fulfilling to have leadership that amplifies the reach of local talent and deepens their roots in a unique way. It's my new favorite tradition; it's an honor to be selected and to put on for your city."

"One thing about Boston is we know how to come together and build as a community," said Julia Chisholm, Pop/R&B/Soul artist based in Brighton. "This project exemplifies exactly that. It is more than just a mixtape, but a testament to the power of music and love. Music is and always will be, in my opinion, the most unifying energy. Every artist and every song that is featured on the project has their own unique story. And in those stories, is the essence of the city. You can literally feel it. I am proud and honored to be a part of such a beautiful piece of work. And I hope this music touches people's hearts and souls and fills the summer with LOVE."

In addition to Mayor Wu, "Dear Summer" also features appearances from the following 15 Bostonians who represent various neighborhoods, backgrounds and communities.

- Mayor Michelle Wu, City of
- Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts & Culture, City of Boston
- Lauren Melendez, NBC Bos-
- Michael Bivins, New Edition/BBD
- Jimmy Hills, Java With **Jimmy**
- Pamela Leins, Boston Education Fund
 - Paris Alston, WGBH
- Jared Weiss, The Athletic
- Coach Beefy, Dorchester Eagles
- Danielle "Ms. Hot Sauce' Johnson, SPARK FM
- Devin Morris, The Teacher's Lounge
- Jeneé Osterheldt, A Beautiful Resistance/The Boston Globe
- Brian Scalabrine, Boston Celtics
- Aliesha Porcena, Director of Small Business, City of Boston
- Robert "ROB" Eugene, **HUE Boston**

Chimel "ReaL P" Idiokitas

serves as music curator and executive producer and John Borders IV, Director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment for the City of Boston serves as an executive producer for the mixtape. Additional credits for the "Dear Summer" Vol. 2 mixtape include Marquis Neal as Lead Studio Engineer and Connis, a Hip-Hop producer based in Cambridge, as a producer. The mixtape is available to stream on boston. gov/dearsummermixtape using Soundcloud, Spotify and Apple Music.



'Harborwalk 2.0' toolkit released to promote accessible, resilient waterfront design

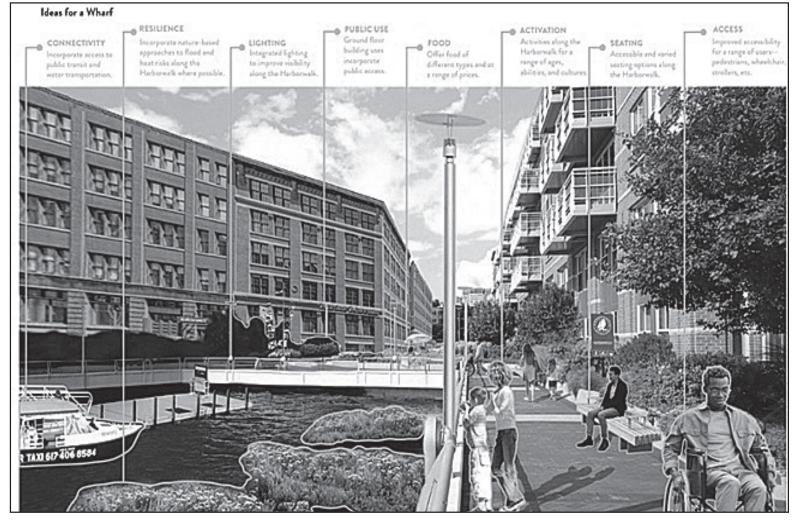
Special to the Sun

Boston Harbor Now released Visualizing Harborwalk 2.0, a toolkit for designing a more resilient and equitable waterfront for Greater Boston. Intended for municipal planners, developers, and resident activists, the guide includes core principles and visual examples that will serve as a compass for Boston Harbor Now advocacy around future waterfront development along the Harborwalk.

"With this toolkit, we aim to provide both inspiration and interventions for waterfront development in an era of inequitable access, climate change, and flooding," said Kathy Abbott, president and CEO of Boston Harbor Now. "As we regularly weigh in on development projects, the toolkit will provide predictability around the issues we're likely to prioritize – and, as needed, call out – to ensure every new project improves the coastline."

The toolkit begins with a set of goals around waterfront resilience, equity, and access that Boston Harbor Now urges planners and developers to use as a baseline in designing projects, followed by detailed lists of principles that can serve as checklists for urban realm decision-making. These include:

• Implementing a variety of



climate adaptation strategies to protect and serve Boston at a district scale.

- Offering entertainment and food at a range of price points; and
- Ensuring the waterfront is visible from inland areas with a

design that communicates it is available and open to visitors.

"No single project can fulfill every principle to the fullest, but collectively, we need to ensure we're working together to bring Harborwalk 2.0 to life," said Kelly Sherman, Boston Harbor Now's manager of waterfront design. "Planners and developers face many competing challenges in design, and this toolkit offers potential solutions so that every project is contributing to a more welcoming and resilient waterfront."

The toolkit lays out design scenarios for transforming the waterfront in three common conditions: wharf, seawall, and park. Using the latest data

SERVICE

DIRECTORY

JOHN J. RECCA

Commercial/Residential

reccapainting @hotmail.com around both flood and heat vulnerability, the toolkit offers visual examples of how, in each scenario, planners and developers can create an equitable and accessible Harborwalk that is responsive to changing climate conditions.

The toolkit was designed by Boston Harbor Now fellow Rocio Alonso, in collaboration with the Boston Harbor Now planning and policy team.



VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING



BETH ISRAEL AND DANA FARBER IMP

Register: bit.ly/BethDanaTF **Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864 **Meeting ID:** 161 033 2716



Scan QR Code to Register

PROJECT PROPONENT: Beth Israel and Dana Farber

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This is a Task Force Meeting for the proposed Institutional Master Plan for Beth Israel and Dana Farber, located in the LMA neighborhood of Boston. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the overall Institutional Master Plan and the potential impacts. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the Task Force and the public.

Mail to: Tyler Ross

Planning Department One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4212

nail: Tyler.c.ross@boston.gov

Website:

bit.ly/BethDanaTF

Close of Public Comment Period:

9/9/2024

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The Sun encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication.

Items should be e-mailed to deb@thebostonsun. com.

BostonPlans.org | ② @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Officials announce launch of Boston Rodent Action Plan

Special to Sur

Wu Mayor Michelle announced the launch of the Boston Rodent Action Plan (BRAP), a new coordinated, multi-agency initiative to mitigate the rodent population in Boston and maintain an excellent quality of life established for Boston residents, families, and visitors. The City of Boston also released the BRAP report, commissioned by the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) and authored by Dr. Bobby Corrigan, a leading Urban Rodentologist renowned across the country. The report details the factors contributing to the urgent rodent population in the city. It will serve as a foundation for the BRAP's aim to improve ongoing City efforts to address this critical quality of life issue better impacting residents and neighborhoods across Boston.

"Boston takes pride in distinguishing our city through delivering exceptional basic city services for safe and clean streets, beautiful public spaces, and responsive and accessible city government,"

said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We're working to make Boston a home for everyone. Except for rats. Our rodent action plan, which is informed by this data-driven report, will guide our approach across our neighborhoods."

In an effort to better address areas of concern and coordinate actions taken by city departments, the City also has established a Boston Rodent Action Plan working group to target better prevention and intervention measures to address Boston's rat mitigation efforts. This group comprises relevant City departments including the Operations Cabinet, Inspectional Services Department, Public Works Department, Boston Public Health Commission, Parks and Recreation, Community Engagement Cabinet, Boston 311, Boston Housing Authority, Department of Innovation and Technology and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission. The working group will ensure that we are using our City resources to address the root causes of rodent populations and drive engagement with residents and property owners to help keep neighborhoods and public spaces safe and clean.

"Boston doesn't like rats, and rat mitigation is one of the priority quality of life issues for this administration," said Chief of Operations Dion Irish. "We are excited and optimistic about the enhanced collaboration amongst city agencies whose work impacts rodent mitigation. Dr. Corrigan's report will be a valuable resource that will aid us in building on the great work already being done towards developing and implementing an action plan that prioritizes addressing root causes, utilizes data & technology, and reduces environmental hazards."

The report highlights various causes and effects of rodent infestation, including poor trash mitigation, storage, and removal. Given its position as one of the oldest cities in the Northeast, it also outlines Boston's infrastructure as an inherent factor that significantly influences the rodent population. This, coupled with densely populated neighborhoods, intertwining alleyways,

old sewer systems, and century-old cobble or brick streets and sidewalks, provide an environment for rodents to thrive.

"The Rodent Action Plan is a strong tool to coordinate multiple City departments that play a crucial role in approaching this complex issue," said Inspectional Services Department Commissioner Tania Del Rio. "By integrating best practices in waste management, public education, improvements, infrastructure and environmentally friendly pest control, we are confident the BRAP will yield positive results for Boston's residents. The Inspectional Services Department is excited to be a part of this initiative."

"We strive to make our parks and green spaces feel like home to Boston residents, and addressing the rodent issue is a crucial part of that mission," said Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods. "By integrating our efforts with the cross-departmental Boston Rodent Action Plan, we can ensure our parks and public spaces remain safe, clean, and enjoyable for everyone in our community."

"Every Boston resident deserves a home that is rodent free," said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. "At BHA, we know that it takes coordination between all city agencies and departments to effectively combat rats in a neighborhood. I applaud Mayor Wu for leading on this issue and I'm confident that this initiative will make a significant difference for the quality of life for our BHA residents and for families across Boston."

Broadly, the report outlines that the City take the following actions:

Build on the City's ongoing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. Integrated pest management stresses addressing the environmental root causes first and from there utilizing various extermination approaches.

Ensure the goal of rat management program, whenever possible is preventative instead of reactionary.

Utilize data related to complaints, physical inspections, geo-mapping, population cluster models, and additional emerging technology to target efforts.

Establish a Priority Action Neighborhood (PAN) plan for the top 3-5 most afflicted neighborhoods to reduce currently established rodent hot spots.

PRESIDENT'S WALKING TOUR OF THE EMERALD NECKLACE



Shown are some of the walkers from last year's event.

Lace up your walking shoes for our annual walk of Boston's largest park system, on Saturday, July 20 (rain date: July 21), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This 6-mile urban hike takes walkers from Franklin Park in Dorchester to the mouth of the Muddy River in Charlesgate Park, led by Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek. Take in the sights, sounds and the

sheer scale of the Emerald Necklace on this special walk. We will make brief stops along the way to take in the scenery and learn about this historic parkland and the Conservancy's current work to restore, maintain and improve these greenspaces while championing better parks access for all.

oning better parks access for all.

The walk starts in Franklin Park at the Shattuck Picnic
Grove, extending 6 miles through

the entire Emerald Necklace until it reaches Charlesgate Park. Stops include Jamaica Pond, the Kelleher Rose Garden, Allerton Overlook in Olmsted Park and more.

Event is free and open to all but registration is required: https://www.emeraldneck-lace.org/event/emerald-neck-lace-tour-2024/.

Incorporate specialized infrastructure-specific rat control for Parks, Sewers and Alleys, and major construction zones.

Move towards alternative baits and other effective tools for controlling rats that do not present environmental threats to wildlife.

Dr. Corrigan's report emphasizes how human behavior significantly contributes to the rodent population which he calls 'a modern-day city conundrum.' Storing trash in unprotected plastic bags is a norm in some areas of the city, which is a key factor in the rodent population. Dr. Corrigan also establishes that the No. 1 driver of rat populations in all cities, including Boston, is the food refuse dynamic, often disposed of in plastic bags. The report outlines that the City in partnership with residents, business owners and property owners changing this behavior will be critical in ultimately reducing the rodent population, and it needs to be done consistently throughout the city for a sustained period

As Boston continues to grow as a city, tackling the rodent control challenge will require investment in data and technology aimed at mitigation. Dr. Corrigan, in the report, also suggests incorporating technology such as rodent sensors, remote rat monitor technology above ground, and shared routine camera scoping below ground/sewers to trace infestations and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the report highlights the need to manage trash in large housing complexes, parks, green spaces, sewers, and utility systems. Additionally, BPHC has determined that the current rodent population at this time does not pose a high public health threat to Bostonians.

The formation of this report and changes to the City's approach were informed by an extensive community engagement process during the annual Spring Pest Management Campaign led by ISD that runs from March through July. City workers conducted various neighborhood walkthroughs and administered rodent control treatment services to impacted areas, which also greatly informed residents, business owners, and elected officials of the challenges posed by Boston's rodent population. For more information regarding the Boston Rodent Action and an update on City efforts, please visit boston.gov/rats.

\$660,000

\$670,000

\$1,700,000

\$8,150,000

\$8,500,000

\$440,000

\$2,510,000

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
BACK BAY			
Tsoukas, Maria M	Corinne M Hamwey T	206 Beacon St #4	\$1,395,000
Hardesty, Jeffrey T	Abdollahi, Shahla	75 Clarendon St #408	\$965,000
Jdc Linwood Avenue LLC	Conklin Gretchen Est	160 Commonwealth Ave #512	\$1,001,000
Shi, Ailan	Age Rt li	265-275 Dartmouth St #4I	\$845,000
Chen, Shu-Li	Huang, Ya-Ti	311 Commonwealth Ave #50	\$1,690,000
BEACON HILL			

34 Hancock St #1E

2 Hawthorne Pl #3M

104 Pembroke St #3

6 W Cedar St

59 Burbank St

56 Charlesgate E #208

8 Greenwich Park #3

Johnson, Virginia R

Painter, Benjamin

Riley-Merrill LLC

Macmullin, Brad

Great Luck Investment LL

Zheng, Yifan

Christian, Christopher D Farm St LLC 67

Lakshmana, Vikram

Tretyak-Odinets, Valeria

55-59 Burbank St LLC

\$10,500,000

Parisi, Toni

May, Taymaa

Yang, Isabelle

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE					
Odonoghue, Ryan	Halloran, Sarah	84 Appleton St #2	\$750,000		
The Heritage 906 Nt	Unit 906 Htge	300 Boylston St #906	\$4,790,000		
Merlis, Scott	Ap One Charles LLC	1 Charles St S #4G	\$2,130,000		
Weller, Michael A	Jinkle, Timothy J	9 Columbus Sq #1	\$2,320,000		
Sancho, Kireina B	Johnson, Patrick	10 Holyoke St #1	\$2,745,000		
Silva, Emily C	Evans, Jamie A	242 W Newton St #1	\$630,000		
Julie D Johnson RET	Kolb, Michele	483 Beacon St #52	\$985,000		
55-59 Burbank St LLC	Wolfe LLC	55 Burbank St			

663 Tremont 3 LLC Larochelle, Christian J \$2,180,000 663 Tremont St #3 Newman Nienhuis Rt R P Bennett Descendants T 160 W Newton St \$4,045,000 Aggarwal, Chhavi 1597 Washington St #408 \$1,037,500 Dimartino, Justin T

Davis, Jeffrey Trotter, Edmund P 15 Worcester Sq #1 \$1,300,000 Kutkovych, Tiana Casey, Christopher M 69 Worcester St #1 \$675,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

WALLEN ROLL, DOUBLE WALLEN					
Oliviajuliet LLC	Santoro, Paul V	50 Battery St #103	\$4,525,000		
Oliviajuliet LLC	Santoro, Paul V	50 Battery St #104	\$4,525,000		
Christensen, Joshua P	Douglas D Anderson T	386 Commercial St #3F	\$371,125		
Hc Management LLC	Flohr, Jan K	1 Franklin St #1514	\$975,000		
Marans, Karen	Levesque, Debra	165 Tremont St #202	\$1,700,000		

Attention to Detail

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER

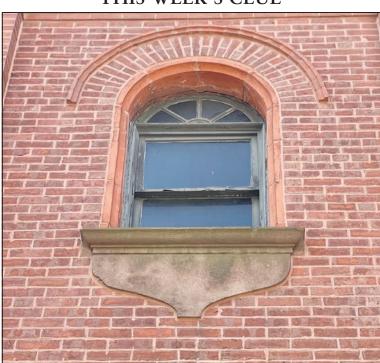


The garage doors in the last clue are at 1 Chandler Street, home to the award-winning MASS Design Group. According to their website, "MASS (Model of Architecture Serving Society) believes that architecture has a critical role to play in supporting communities to confront history, shape new narratives, collectively heal and project new possibilities for the future."

The next clue is in the Back Bay.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



EXCLUSIVE LISTINGS

282 BEACON UNIT #6, BACK BAY

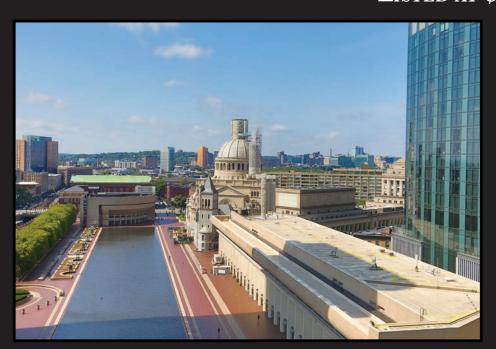
4 Bedrooms | 4F Bathrooms | 3,200 Square Feet Listed at \$4,990,000





100 BELVIDERE STREET UNIT #4G, BACK BAY

2 Bedrooms | 2F 1H Bathrooms | 2,654 Square Feet Listed at \$5,295,000







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