

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

# THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

## Red Sox hopeful for a return to play this season Elected officials address Fenwickians

By Lauren Bennett

Nearly 90 people tuned into the Red Sox neighborhood conference call on May 6, which provided an update to the community about goings-on at Fenway Park and what lies ahead for baseball and other events, as well as provided local elected officials an opportunity to give some updates.

Sam Kennedy, President and CEO of the Red Sox, led off the call with information about this summer at Fenway Park.

"We've been blessed to be in touch directly with Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh," he said. "We're trying to do everything we can to support through our television network at through our following."

He said that "unfortunately," he did not have detailed information regarding the future of baseball. "You may have heard various reports about the concept of a return to play for MLB," he

said. "We are very optimistic and hopeful and we have a lot of ideas about trying to return to play but we have no firm plans because right now," the MLB Commissioner's office is in contact with the federal government. "We just have to wait until it is safe," Kennedy said. "Baseball is important but is largely irrelevant compared to what the country is dealing with."

Kennedy said to "count on seeing a phased in, staged approach" to the return of baseball. He said it is possible that baseball could return in another part of the country "to get going," so all all of the players could be isolated in one place instead of traveling around the country.

"We will of course follow the guidelines that are set out for us by our elected officials and we are very, very grateful to have a voice at that table to discuss what a return to play at Fenway Park

(FENWAY UPDATE, Pg. 5)

## Troubled Fenway rooming house receives reprieve from Licensing Board

By Dan Murphy

A trouble-plagued Fenway rooming house has received a stay of execution because although the city's Licensing Board voted to indefinitely suspend its license on Tuesday, May 5, that determination will be held in abeyance for six months and only served in the

event that the property receives a subsequent violation due to its mismanagement.

Boston Police responded to the 60-room Boston Fenway Inn by FOUND at 12 Hemenway St. multiple times last month, including responding to a call for a fight

(ROOMING HOUSE, Pg. 2)

## Rep. Livingstone to hold virtual office hours

By Dan Murphy

While holding traditional office hours at coffee shops in the neighborhoods he represents isn't an option now, State Rep. Jay Livingstone is connecting with his constituents via virtual office hours today, Thursday, May 14, from 4 to 6 p.m.

"I normally have office hours at least once a month in each neighborhood I represent, but I'm not able to do so now because I can't meet them in person," Rep. Livingstone said.

As in previous office hours, Rep. Livingstone said he would

(LIVINGSTONE, Pg. 4)

## WGMS HERE FOR COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT PANDEMIC



The Washington Gateway Main Street (WGMS) organization has been pitching in with members of the business district in the South End to find and help families in the area to get food. Through a program with Main Streets, districts are able to get boxes of fresh food to distribute to needy families in the district. WGMS Director Andrew Maydoney said they have been working out of Richard Pile's Elephant Walk Restaurant, and have taken two deliveries and made two distributions. They have helped 60 families get access to fresh food, he said. Shown above, Board member Bob Wells poses with Maydoney in front of a large distribution of food. Meanwhile, Kareem from Katsiroubas Foods (left) displays some of the food delivered through the program.

## Summer Bummer

### Walsh cancels all festivals and parades for the summer; Boston Pops to hold virtual Fourth of July event

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh on May 8 announced that all festivals and parades scheduled to be held on city property this summer, up to and including Labor Day, will be cancelled. He encouraged organiz-

ers of these events to create virtual versions so people could still participate without gathering in large crowds.

"This is a public health decision and it's the right decision," he said at a press conference last Friday. He said that smaller scale events

may be able to happen later in the city, but everything will be evaluated on a "case by case basis."

Walsh said in a statement, "While we're planning a healthy reopening and an equitable recov-

(SUMMER FUN CANCELLED, Pg. TBD)

## Gardening expected to be in high demand this summer

By Seth Daniel

With most all special events cancelled, and a lot of summer fun that just isn't socially distant, the expectation is that gardening - particularly in community gardens - is going to skyrocket in popularity, and in a lot of ways, it already has.

Peter Bowne, of the Trustees - who oversee community gardens in Boston, said gardening is a safe activity where one can be outside, can exercise and

(PANDEMIC GARDENING, Pg. 7)

## Exchange South End says it is committed to connector road

By Seth Daniel

Neighbors and abutters of the massive Exchange South End commercial project report having serious concerns that The Abbey Group might be trying to get out of permitting and building a critical connector road to I-93 within its Albany Street project - a connector that stands to keep thousands of employee com-muters off of local neighborhood streets.

That said, The Abbey Group confirmed they are

(EXCHANGE SOUTH END, Pg. 3)

# EDITORIAL

## A NEWFOUND RESPECT

### FOR TEACHERS

The closing of schools across the country for the remainder of the school year because of the coronavirus has presented many challenges for educators and parents alike.

School districts have been experimenting with the implementation of on-line classes in their effort to provide a meaningful learning experience for students of all ages.

Parents have been enlisted in this effort to varying degrees, mostly-dependent upon the age of their children. High schoolers are able to do what they need to do with little parental supervision and guidance.

On the other hand, parents of children in the youngest age-groups have been required to spend a lot of time with their children in order to assist teachers in fulfilling the school system's, and their child's, educational needs and goals.

In our view, the coronavirus has brought to the forefront a number of issues with our educational system in general, and on-line learning in particular.

First and foremost, remote learning can be only as successful as the technological capabilities of the students, their families, and their households. Access to high-speed internet and ownership of up-to-date hardware (and software) are crucial to successful on-line learning.

Second, the degree to which young students are dependent upon their parents to make on-line learning a meaningful experience has become painfully obvious. Parents need to have the time, the patience, the skills, and a certain degree of knowledge if they are going to participate meaningfully in their children's at-home instruction.

Third, parents have discovered that instructing younger children is far more complex a task than just knowing the ABCs and basic arithmetic. The large number of parents who basically have given up on the process as the pandemic grinds on attests to the frustration of the average parent in attempting to participate meaningfully in their children's education.

Finally, the current crisis has brought into crystal-clear clarity the crucial role played by teachers in educating and inspiring our nation's children. Until now, most parents -- and certainly non-parents -- have taken for granted the unique and amazing job performed each day by America's educators. The typical parent puts their child on the bus, gets them off the bus, and that's about it.

But just as the pandemic has highlighted the incredible work that our first and second-level responders accomplish day-in and day-out, so too, the value of America's educators has become abundantly clear to all.

We hope that one of the lasting effects of the pandemic is the degree to which we acknowledge that our children's education -- and the very future of our country -- depends upon a well-funded public educational system, and that the backbone of that system are our qualified, professional, and dedicated teachers.

## GUEST OP-ED

### COVID-19's hidden cost: Opportunity and continuity for our kids

By Peter Gammons

Having covered baseball for 50 years, I miss the game terribly. The box scores, the games and all that go with them, have been so ingrained in my daily life, from Opening Day to the World Series, that it's hard doing without them. Sadly, though, that has become the new normal.

I miss the whole ladder of the game, too, from youth baseball to the minor leagues to the stars who play for the L.A. Dodgers or Boston Red Sox. In that vein, I recently contacted two friends of mine -- Robert Lewis, Jr. and Theo Epstein.

Robert is the founder of The BASE, a Roxbury-based program serving inner-city youth. The BASE combines year-round baseball, softball, and basketball training, league play, and tournament travel -- all cost-free -- with academic prep work, college visits, and other key resources. Together these programs open pathways to college and meaningful employment for hundreds of urban youths annually.

Under Robert's leadership, The BASE raises young people to see beyond the walls surrounding their own neighborhoods and equips them to deal with life outside these borders. In doing so, it helps develop the next generation of community leaders as it sets high standards, on and off the playing field, for young people looking for an opportunity to succeed in life. Take a step into BASE headquarters and you're likely to spot signage reflecting core principles, such as "Success Lives Here", "Excellence is the New Minimum," and "Earn Your Spot."

I have often called The BASE and its teams, the Astros, the

country's best urban baseball program, hands down. It is that -- take a look at their trophy case-- but it is so much more. And although it started right here in Boston, many people in our community don't know much about it, or what a vital resource it has become for so many Black and Latino youths -- and for our city's future. Unfortunately, its student-athletes have been sidelined, unable to utilize The BASE resources because of the social distancing mandated by the coronavirus.

The other friend I spoke to was Theo, president of baseball operations for the Chicago Cubs. Theo and his brother Paul cofounded the Foundation To Be Named Later (FTBNL), which sponsors the Peter Gammons Scholars program. Founded in 2010, our program has provided college scholarship grants to more than a hundred under-resourced students, some of whom are also BASE alumni.

Theo has been a longtime BASE supporter, personally and through his foundation. He'll tell you that whenever he feels the need to be more optimistic about things, he thinks about Robert and the extraordinary work he's doing.

As Robert and I talked, he expressed concern about the effect COVID-19 would have on BASE student-athletes headed for college this fall and how devastating it would be if they didn't get to finish high school, much less play a final season of baseball or softball.

But we also talked about the bigger picture. The BASE is where many of these kids go to get fed, not just work on their throwing, fielding, batting, and schoolwork. It's where they find a second home, and a second family. It's where they get the kind of athletic, academic, nutritional, and socialization pro-

gramming that the public schools just cannot offer them, however hard they try.

It's a place where a 9-year old can be inspired to write a poem about Jackie Robinson, then have it read by New York Yankees legend Bernie Williams at an MLB celebration of Robinson's legacy. At UCLA, no less, where Jackie was a star college athlete. To me, that's unbelievable.

So, what would happen, we wondered, if the Roxbury facility couldn't re-open in the weeks and months ahead? This wasn't idle speculation. The BASE and TFTBNL had each scheduled major June fundraisers, one at Fenway Park, the other in Chicago. For understandable reasons, both are now in jeopardy.

We all know about businesses and schools being closed during this scary health crisis. But let's not let it choke off hope and opportunity for hundreds of urban youths -- young people at risk of losing traction academically while also suffering career and personal growth setbacks that threaten their very futures.

As we all mourn the loss of baseball -- temporarily, we hope -- let's make sure we step up to the plate and keep vital organizations like The BASE alive and healthy. Our recovery from this current crisis will not be measured by economics alone; it will also be psychological. We will need renewed optimism that our young people face much better times ahead.

As Theo would say, it will help to think about what Robert and The BASE do every day.

*Peter Gammons is a Hall of Fame baseball writer, book author and current analyst for the MLB Network.*

### ROOMING HOUSE (from pg. 1)

on April 4; responding to a call to investigate a person on April 8; responding to a call to assist with a removal and failure to follow a non-essential business order on April 12; responding to a call to investigate a person, also on April 12; responding to a call for a noise disturbance on April 15; responding to a call for an assault and battery with a deadly weapon, patron-on-patron assault by means of a dangerous weapon and failure to notify police on April 23; and a patron drinking alcohol on a public sidewalk in front of the building on April 29.

The rooming house's licensee, a subsidiary of Los Angeles-based Hawkins Way Capital, has submitted an updated safety plan to the Licensing Board that was obtained by this publication and outlines heightened precautions management is now undertaking.

These new safety measures, which were implemented the week ending May 8, include installing three additional video cameras on the premises, updating data storage so security footage can be maintained for a 30-day period and implementing hourly walk-throughs by staff to discourage loitering on the property; requiring incoming guests to display property-issued ID badges that prove they are registered and within their approved stay period; posting additional signage inside and outside the building instructing no loitering, no visitors permitted in rooms and no non-registered guests allowed in the building, no drugs and no drinking of any beverages in public areas; closing the guest laundry facilities until further notice; and prohibiting guests from storing any food items in a shared refrigerator.

## THE BOSTON SUN

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## EXCHANGE SOUTH END (from pg. 1)

committed to permitting and completing the access road once they have a cooperation agreement signed.

“Once a cooperation agreement is finalized with our abutters, we can then start the process to secure the needed permits from the city, state and federal authorities which will enable us to begin to execute the Frontage Road connection,” said Audrey Epstein Reny, managing partner at The Abbey Group. “The Abbey Group’s intent and commitment is to complete the Frontage Road connection in as timely a way as possible.”

Abutter Boston University declined to comment on the matter, but Randi Lathrop, represent-

ing Jacobson’s Flower Market, did comment in saying they would like to see the road built.

“Of course we would prefer that the road be built before Phases A and B are completed because of the large numbers of cars it will off-load and get of the South End,” she said. “Otherwise, all those cars will be on local streets... This road is definitely a key piece to their employees getting in during off-peak hours. It’s going to help Newmarket, Mass Ave, Boston University and Boston Medical Center. It should really off-load traffic off of Mass Ave and we believe that is really important. Without it, we think we’ll have gridlock on the local

streets.”

The connector road that would allow direct access to the I-93 Frontage Road has been a major sticking point for years, and other have tried to permit it with little success. Few wanted to talk about what happened many years ago at the BMC Garage adjacent to Frontage Road, which nearly has a direct connection, but had the request denied all those years ago. The connection for Exchange South End is critical as it is estimated 5,000 to 7,000 employees will be working at Exchange after it’s fully built out. Traffic studies showed without the connector road, loads and loads of traffic would access the site via neighborhood streets. That is why the connector has been a point of contention and one that is required to be permitted and completed under

a state environmental regulator’s waiver that was approved last year – allowing the project to start before the road is permitted or finished. However, before the end of that Phase 1 process, the connector must be permitted and ready to go before any more can be built.

Member of the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) have been skeptical of the traffic impacts for two years, and some have said they believe Abbey might build Phase 1 and then sell off the project before completing the connector road. There was no indication of that from The Abbey Group.

However, others have pointed to the fact that key agreements have not been signed with the neighborhood prior to the demolition and construction beginning last December.

Boston Planning and Devel-

opment Agency (BPDA) spokesperson Bonnie McGilpin said the agreements are still under review and the company is only working under a limited permit.

“For the Exchange South End, the work that has been done to date has been under demolition or excavation permits,” she wrote. “The project will not receive a foundation permit until the Cooperation and Transportation Access Plan Agreement (TAPA) have been signed. Both are still under review by the BPDA.”

Lathrop and some members of the IAG said until those agreements are signed, they don’t believe the neighborhood can rest easy.

The Abbey Group, for its part, indicated in its statement that it is committed to the road and the project.

## DA Rollins and Rep. Santiago supporting efforts to reduce incarcerated population

District Attorney Rachael Rollins and State Representative Jonathan Santiago jointly filed an amicus letter on May 7, 2020 in a case brought by incarcerated individuals seeking an order of the Supreme Judicial Court to ensure the lives and health of high-risk inmates by reducing the state’s prison population. It is as follows

“As a lawyer and a healthcare provider, we share an equity-driven, public health-minded approach to our work. To protect our communities, we know there can be no us versus them, no victim versus defendant, no haves versus have nots,” the elected officials wrote. “A failure to protect the most vulnerable among us is to jeopardize the health and safety of our entire community.”

The amicus letter was submitted last week in the case *Foster, et al. v. Mici, et al.* The plaintiffs in the case are all currently incarcerated or civilly committed in facilities operated by the Massachusetts Department of Corrections and all have medical conditions that increase their risk of death from COVID-19. The civil matter names DOC Commissioner Carol Mici, Secretary Thomas Turco of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Parole Board Chair Gloriann Moroney, and Governor Charlie Baker, as plaintiffs. Several of the plaintiffs will become eligible for release in the coming weeks to months or have been approved for parole but remain held. Despite their pending return to the community. These individuals currently face the heightened risk of dying in prison due to conditions in the facilities that prevent them from taking recommended social dis-

tancing and hygiene measures.

“There is no death penalty in Massachusetts. No person incarcerated at a DOC facility has been sentenced to death by COVID-19,” District Attorney Rollins said. “Social distancing is the difference between life and death. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 behind the wall protects the lives of not only the people incarcerated, but also of the corrections officers, prison employees and contractors and the families and communities they go home to at the end of each day. As elected officials, Rep. Santiago and I represent these communities and are responsible for keeping them safe. The best way to achieve both public safety and public health goals is to reduce the rampant spread of COVID-19 behind the wall through the release of individuals from jails, houses of correction, and prisons who do not present a meaningful risk to the safety of the community.”

In addition to his role as a legislator, Representative Santiago is a physician on the front lines of efforts to reduce the spread and deadly impact of COVID-19.

“COVID-19 doesn’t respect rules,” said Rep. Santiago. “It only knows survival through transmission and the overcrowding and unhygienic settings often found in correctional facilities allow for the virus to spread. These conditions put inmates at risk for sickness and death and therefore, releasing certain non-violent inmates who do not present a meaningful risk to the public should be done to not only limit their exposure, but prevent spread to other inmates and staff.”



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I understand there are a bunch of unknowns with this pandemic but know this; East Boston Savings Bank has endured many devastating events in the past and has come through each of these stronger and more committed to our customers than ever.

Thank you for trusting in East Boston Savings Bank. Stay safe and we look forward to continuing working hard for you.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Gavegnano  
President, CEO and Chairman  
East Boston Savings Bank

# Back Bay, South End ministers lead call for voice in re-opening

By Seth Daniel

Two ministers from the Back Bay and South End are leading the call with more than 200 other religious leaders statewide to have a voice on re-opening and to look at why they are considered non-essential.

Pastor James Hopkins of the First Lutheran Church in the Back Bay and Dr. Roberto Miranda of Congregation Lion of Judah in the South End presented a letter to Gov. Charlie Baker and the re-opening Task Force late last week with 216 other pastors asking to be considered in the phased opening approach.

## LIVINGSTONE (from pg. 1)

answer questions and hear concerns from constituents, but in this new virtual forum, everyone will participate at the same time.

"I just want to be accessible to everyone," he said, "and now I have a forum to do this."

State Livingstone said he

To date, churches have been shut down and not allowed to hold gatherings of more than 10 people. Most have gone online or had small services with the proper social distancing, but they have been deemed non-essential, and don't appear to be on the top of anyone's list for re-opening.

"We felt as the time drew near to open the Commonwealth, maybe the governor would invite us in as an essential part of the Commonwealth," said Miranda. "We are essential to the community in many ways. We are a little discouraged to see so many other businesses given latitude to operate – liquor stores and marijuana

shops are being allowed to operate and we churches are so limited to operate. There are legitimate concerns that need to be talked about...and we need to plan and direct our ushers as to how we will do this...We hope the governor will at least engage in a conversation with us instead of just one directive coming from the state... Church is an important part of life for thousands and thousands of people in the state and I think we deserve that attention and care."

Hopkins said the true definition of church is to gather, and it has been a hardship to be online and to miss great celebrations like Easter. However, he said they all expected to have some sort of voice at the table when talk of opening began. To their dismay, religious communities have not representation in the discussion.

"That definition says that to have church it is essential to gather," he said. "It is essential to church to be gathered. I'd like to say we're not trying to dictate what everybody's latitude is in making decisions. We are saying

we would like a voice in helping to determine that."

In the letter, both pastors stressed that they are not looking to be rebellious or break rules or go against authority – saying the very nature of Christian gatherings is to respect authorities. Mostly, they said they wanted to have some latitude to be able to determine – with the right recommendations – what is safe for their buildings and congregations. They said of all the states, Massachusetts is one of the few that have disregarded churches.

"We note with disappointment that, despite the 8,000 churches in the Bay State and the millions who worship in and are served by them, they have no representation on that board," read the letter. "We therefore hope that you will hear directly from us now.

"When the phased reopening of our Commonwealth begins, the reopening of our churches must be in the first phase," it continued. "It is upsetting that, unlike roughly half the states across our nation, churches in Massachusetts were

not deemed 'essential' at the outset, but this must come to an end. This is consistent with the federal guidelines for a phased reopening, where in phase one, 'places of worship can operate under strict physical distancing protocols.'

Miranda said having to meet online has been interesting, but it has been an extreme hardship for the elderly, the many Spanish-speaking immigrants in their congregation, and especially the large population of those in drug recovery who seek their church from nearby Mass/Cass.

"We do have a lot from the homeless population around us who come in and worship," he said. "Many of them were sober and were doing so well and developing good habits and finding places to live. Then the church closed and they have become disconnected and all the sudden the whole resource is taken away. I'm hurt to see them on the street and back into drugs and not able to worship with a community that loves them. It's a big heartache."

## SUMMER FUN CANCELLED (from pg. 1)

ery process, I know this announcement will be disappointing to many residents and organizations that look forward to these events each year. This is a hard public health decision, but it's the right one. I encourage people to rethink their events, and thank them for their work to inspire us, and help our communities get through this difficult time."

The City said that cancelled events include ones that "bring crowds together in close contact, like a road race, concert or flag raising," and no events that involve more than 10 people should be planned.

When asked at a press conference on Monday about the concerts scheduled for Fenway Park this summer, particularly the New Kids on the Block concert scheduled for September 19, the mayor said, "as of right now that has not been cancelled by Fenway," nor have several of the other concerts slated for this summer. "We have no idea where we're going to be in August," Walsh said. "There are a lot of questions swirling around. If we're in a different place in August in society, then I'll be having a different conversation."

One of the most notable cancellations of the summer is the Boston Pops live Fourth of July perfor-

mance that takes place every year at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. Instead of the live performance, the Pops will present a televised event in honor of frontline workers and those who have lost their lives due to COVID-19. Walsh did not have a definitive answer on whether there will still be fireworks over the Charles River.

The program, called A Boston Pops Salute to Our Heroes, will be available for viewing and listening on television, radio, and digital media on July 4 starting at 8pm, and features new content from the Boston Pops and guest artists, as well as highlights from Boston Pops Fireworks Spectaculars of the past.

The program will also feature a "newly released video production of John Williams' Summon the Heroes and other newly created content paying tribute to the healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential service providers who are the heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic and honoring the memories of those who have lost their lives during this crisis," according to a release from the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO).

"The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular is one of the City's most beloved traditions and antic-

ipated annual events," Mayor Walsh said in a statement. "While a live concert and fireworks display are not possible this year due to the ongoing public health crisis, I am so glad that thanks to a host of partners who were determined to carry on this tradition, the show will go on in a new way. I encourage all residents who look forward to Boston's Independence Day celebrations to embrace this year's celebration with us, as we mark another moment in our nation's history."

Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart told the Sun that is was a "punch in the gut" to have to announce the cancellation of the in-person event, but "we knew it was coming," he added.

"The fourth of July is so huge for us," he said. "Of all the things we've had to cancel, this is the biggest blow."

He said that "years of great shows" has allowed the Pops to put together a "retrospective" show for people to enjoy safely from their own homes. He said it was "important" for the Pops to be there for the Boston community and pay special tribute to the frontline workers, first responders, and "people who have been touched by the virus."

Lockhart could not confirm

whether the entire event will be prerecorded, or if the hosts would be making live announcements during different segments of the program, but confirmed that there will be special messages from community leaders, musical artists, and Lockhart himself.

"We will muster the 85 members of the Pops to produce a new musical performance," he added, and hinted that it will probably be something familiar to many instead of a completely original song. "We'll wait until the dust clears to write the pandemic pieces," he said.

The Boston Pops have been performing Fourth of July Concerts on the Esplanade since 1929, but became "iconic" in 1974 with the introduction of fireworks and the performance of Tchaikovsky's "1812" Overture, according to the BSO.

Though this is the first time the event will happen solely virtually, it is not the first time the event has been altered in some fashion. In 1986, John Williams and the Boston Pops performed at the centennial rededication ceremony of the Statue of Liberty, causing the Boston fireworks and concert to be moved to the fifth. In 1992, bad weather forced the postponement of the concert until the fifth,

in 2012, thunderstorms caused the audience to evacuate, though the fireworks went on as planned, and in 2014, the event was held on July 3 and the concert was shortened to allow the fireworks to go off before Hurricane Arthur hit.

"All of us at the Boston Pops are pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the many and various frontline workers who have been the glue holding our communities together since this health crisis began, and to honor those who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus," Lockhart said in a statement. "While disappointed not to be able to present our traditional live concert on the Charles River Esplanade, we are putting all our energies into developing a truly special commemorative broadcast event. We hope A Boston Pops Salute to Our Heroes will bring viewers and listeners the consolation, comfort, and inspiration we all seek during these challenging times. Please join us as we show our appreciation for the heroes of this epic crisis and celebrate the meaningful messages of Independence Day that unite us as citizens of this great and beautifully diverse country."

## FENWAY UPDATE (from pg. 1)

might look like," he said. "I am extremely optimistic of the resiliency of the people in our country and especially Bostonians."

On Monday, the Associated Press and others reported that Major League Baseball owners gave the go-ahead to a plan for starting a shortened baseball season this July with a possible spring training start in June, though many of the details have not yet been worked out.

Dave Friedman, Senior Vice President of Legal & Government Affairs for the Red Sox, said that the "good news" is that the MLB Players Association has reached an agreement with the Commissioner's office that will allow players to be paid a base amount even if there are no games this season.

"We don't have anything set," Friedman said as far as baseball goes. "It's likely to start with empty ballparks and no fans." He said the Red Sox are taking a look at other countries like Taiwan and South Korea, both of which have resumed baseball with modifications. Friedman said that although those countries are different from the United States, "those leagues have given us a roadmap."

Friedman said that aside from teams all playing in the same area, other solutions include testing players frequently and having teams play in home parks.

Friedman also spoke about the ticket refund policy for games that have been cancelled due to the virus. He said that currently, people have the choice to either get a full cash refund or take a credit for a future game for all tickets from April 2 to the end of May.

As for summer concerts, Friedman reported that the Grateful Dead shows, which were scheduled for August, have been cancelled. The James Taylor with Brandi Carlile and Shawn Colvin concert scheduled for June 21 has been postponed with no new date set yet, Friedman added.

"There is no other news or official changes to the schedule," he said. Over the weekend, Mayor Walsh announced that all festivals and parades scheduled for this summer will not happen, but there has been no official word on the remainder of the Fenway Park concerts.

Friedman also said that activities for the fall and winter, such as the Spartan Race, and the Fenway Bowl college football game scheduled for late December, are still on the calendar as of now.

He added that the Red Sox have been "brainstorming small group activities" to activate Fenway Park in a safe way as the city continues to battle COVID-19, such as

having a way for people to drive up and get Fenway Franks and popcorn, but nothing is "definitive," Friedman said. "It's subject to health and safety first and foremost," he added, but "it's not sustainable for our business to have no revenue."

### UPDATE FROM D-4 CAPTAIN STEVEN SWEENEY

Captain Sweeney said on the call that year-to-date crime was down 27 percent in the district, and even through more people are home, residential burglaries are down, as is larceny from motor vehicles.

He said that the Boston Police Department is "trying to address speed issues," and "if there is a blatant motor vehicle violation, cars are to be stopped."

He urged residents to call the police if they see anything suspicious, and that the district has received "a lot of 311 and 911 calls" related to people not social distancing or wearing face coverings.

Sweeney said that "we try to educate," and "let people know" the importance of social distancing and wearing face coverings in public.

Additionally, he said that the homeless areas have been "relatively quiet," but they have received a couple of calls about activity in the Fenway Victory Gardens, but "we're on top of it and monitoring that," he said.

Compared to other districts, Sweeney said "we're doing pretty well" as far as the health of the officers. He said that only two D-4 officers were out due to the coronavirus.

### UPDATE FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

"I'm extremely proud and grateful of the people of Massachusetts," said State Senator Will Brownsberger. He said he is "resolute in the support and recognition of the reality of the need for social distancing," and "the resolution and reality that it's going to be a long haul."

Also on the call was Rep. Jon Santiago, who, when he's not working at the State House, is also an emergency room doctor at Boston Medical Center.

"I've had two roles in this epidemic," he said. "I'm quite active in both of them." He said that before COVID-19, he was working every other weekend, but because of the need for first responders right now, he has been working overnights Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for the past eight weeks.

"It's been an inspiring and challenging experience," he said. "I'm very proud of our healthcare system and our government and our

leaders in academia to provide the testing and PPE that we need," but he added that more testing and more PPE are still needed.

Santiago said that May.6 was also the first time in nearly 200 years that the legislature voted remotely, calling it a "pretty momentous occasion given the history of our Commonwealth."

District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok was also on hand to provide an update on what her office has been doing over the past several weeks.

"We're handling this at a multi-level way right now," Bok said. Right now, she is focused on "meeting people's basic needs right in this moment," such as ensuring food and shelter for all, and "looking on to the questions about economic recovery," and "eventually transforming our society due to inequity."

She said that her office is currently focused on supporting food access, as "way too many people in our society are living right on the edge, and this has pushed them over."

In March, Bok's office, in partnership with Fenway Cares, piloted a program to deliver 320 fresh produce boxes to families in the Fenway. That pilot evolved into a partnership with the Boston Resiliency Fund, and thousands of boxes have since been delivered to families across the city.

"I think that right now, there are a lot of people talking about food access," she said. "Until you see it, it's hard to believe that people in a developed country really are as on edge as they are in terms of food insecurity. It's really startling and alarming."

She said that it is more critical than ever to support organizations like the Greater Boston Food Bank, Project Bread, and the Boston Resiliency Fund.

Bok said her office is also concerned about solutions for young people this summer, with the possibility of cancellations of summer camps and other summer programs that provide learning experiences, activities, and jobs for youth. Additionally, Bok said her office has been calling seniors in the district with help from volunteers in the community.

### OTHER FENWAY PARK UPDATES

Dave Friedman said that Red Sox offices have been closed since March 13, and employees have been working from home. He said that Fenway Park has been deep cleaned, and one player on the roster had tested positive, which led to the shutting down of JetBlue Park in Florida.

"For a few weeks we were able to continue construction on the MGM Music Hall," he said, but once the mayor shut down non-essential construction in the city, work on the building has been suspended.

"We do feel a responsibility to try and give back to the neighborhood," Friedman added.

The Red Sox Foundation has donated nearly one million dollars to coronavirus measures, including \$250,000 to the Boston Resiliency Fund to buy Chromebooks for students' remote learning. The Red Sox Foundation has also contributed to the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.

It has also created its own emergency hardship fund to serve New England and Florida near the Red Sox spring training home to address food insecurity, to which \$640,000 has been allocated. A website has been created for people to explain their hardship, and Friedman said that within 24 hours, 4,000 requests for help getting food were received.

Sonya Bhabhalia, Government & Neighborhood Affairs Assistant for the Red Sox, reported that the Red Sox has about nine million followers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, which has been used to share information like a message from David Ortiz, "scoreboard animations reminding people to stay safe and stay home," and to promote home fun for kids like coloring pages and worksheets. In her weekly community updates, Bhabhalia has also provided a list of Fenway restaurants that are open for takeout and delivery, and which ones are closed but are accepting gift card purchases for use at a later date.

Finally, Claire Durant, Director of Business & Government Affairs at Boston Red Sox, answered some questions that had been previously sent in as the conference call did not allow for public questions to be asked live.

She said a million dollar fund has been established to help Fenway Park employees such as ushers and ticket takers, who have missed out on work this season because there have not been any games. Durant said that this money will "by no means make them whole and is not a full income replacement, but hopefully is enough to help them make do."

As Friedman reported, construction on MGM Music Hall has been suspended, and Durant added that it is "very likely" that the suspension will delay the fall 2021 scheduled opening of the venue.

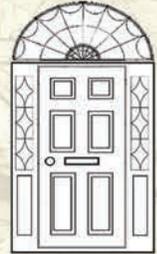
Durant said that there is currently a skeleton crew of facilities and maintenance workers performing "critical maintenance tasks" at Fenway Park.

When asked about mitigating traffic and noise for any concerts that might happen this summer, Durant said that the Red Sox are in touch with D-4 Captain Steven Sweeney and "will resume planning efforts once businesses start opening again," and they are "open to any ideas and suggestions" from the community.

Fenway Farms was planted over a month ago, but there has been no harvest yet, Durant said. She said that the plan is to work with Aramark and Green City Growers to donate the produce throughout the growing season, and use it at Fenway Park if it is able to open to the public at some point this summer.

She reiterated that the Red Sox are "exploring ideas of what a socially distanced ballpark would look like," and making plans to keep everyone safe should the park be allowed to reopen.

"Hopefully we can open up again in the near future," Durant said.



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# City looking at expanding sidewalks, making pedestrian lanes to help businesses

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh on Monday said that the City of Boston is exploring different ways to help businesses once the economy starts to reopen, including the expansion of sidewalks and possible creation of temporary bus lanes to increase bus service.

“We have been looking for ways to expand space,” Walsh said at a press conference on Monday. He said possibilities include “expanding sidewalks in business districts to help with physical distances,” and opening lanes for cyclist and pedestrian use, but “we need to do this in a way that does not cut off emergency vehicles” or deliveries, he said.

He said that when restaurants do open, they “probably won’t open at 100 percent capacity,” so exploring ways to give them more space to have outdoor dining on sidewalks is something the City is considering.

Additionally, Walsh said that the City wants to “help the MBTA if they want to increase capacity for buses.” He said that right now, subway ridership is down, “but essential workers continue to rely on bus routes.”

He said that when more and more people start to return to work, they might be concerned about crowded buses, so increased capacity and potential temporary dedicated bus lanes could be a solution.

He stressed the importance of retaining public safety should these things be implemented.

“We’re going to be looking at all the different ideas and reaching

out to the community for input,” Walsh said.

## SUPPORT FOR NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Walsh said on Monday that the impact on nursing homes and assisted living and similar facilities has been large, and “consistent with impacts we have seen nationwide.” He said that the “focus is on residents and staff struggling with uncertainty.”

He said that as of May 9, 252 Boston residents have passed away from COVID-19 across 39 facilities, representing 48 percent of the citywide total.

Walsh said that the City is in “constant contact” with administrators of these facilities every day, and worked to create staff shifts and administrative support. He said that the City will continue to support these facilities, their staff, the residents, and the families of residents.

“We see you, we are thinking about you, you are loved and valued,” Walsh said.

## ON REOPENING

Walsh said the City “continues to have conversations with different areas on how they can open safely,” saying that “the data is key” when making decisions. As of May 12, Boston had 11,168 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 533 people had died, which was no increase in deaths from the day before.

“A day with no deaths to report is certainly a good day,” Walsh said, but said that there is still more work to do.

He said on Monday that there has been a downward trend in Boston, and “we haven’t been this low in positive cases since March. He said that while this is a good sign, the numbers have to be consistent over a period of 14 days. He said he expects the numbers this week to go up again, as last week the numbers dipped then rose again.

“May 18 is a date that a lot of people are focused on,” Walsh said, as it is the date where the governor’s stay at home advisory is set to expire, and the state’s reopening advisory board is expected to release full details for the phased reopening plan.

“We support a cautious, phased in approach” to reopening, the mayor said, adding that the City has been in contact with employers across industries in the city on a “broad and inclusive conversation with a focus on equity.”

As for City Hall reopening, he said that when the time comes, people will possibly work in shifts so as to not fill the building to its regular capacity. “We’re looking at 20-50 percent capacity,” he said, and recommended the same for other office buildings. He also encouraged people who work in offices to “think about who you’re bringing back,” such as an older person or one with a preexisting condition that is more at-risk for contracting the virus.

## RESOURCES TO ASSIST RESIDENTS APPLYING FOR FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENT

Mayor Walsh on Wednesday announced that support will be provided by the Boston Tax Help

Coalition to people who need help getting their stimulus payments from the federal government.

“We know that too many of our low-income residents are having difficulty accessing the federal economic stimulus payment they are entitled to,” Mayor Walsh said in a statement. “If you are eligible under the federal guidelines and have not requested the payment, we encourage you to reach out for assistance. We are here to help make sure that every Boston resident who is eligible for this money receives it.”

Residents can check to see if they are eligible for the stimulus money before calling at <https://www.bostontaxhelp.org/stimulus-payment-help/>. The hotline can be reached at (781) 399-5330 or by calling 311.

“Residents with incomes under \$75,000, including those with no income, may be eligible for the full \$1,200 payment,” according to the City. “However, residents who do not usually file a tax return must file an application with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in order to receive their payment. Boston Tax Help Coalition volunteers and staff have been trained to assist residents in filing this application with the IRS.”

## BOSTON RESILIENCY FUND AND EVICTION MORATORIUM

Walsh said on May 13 that more than \$30 million had been raised for the Boston Resiliency Fund, and by the end of this week, over \$17 million will have been donated to 200 organizations across the City to help people most affected

by the impacts of this virus.

Walsh also said that for the last two weeks, the City’s nonprofit partners have been processing applications for the \$3 million that has been set aside to help with housing payments. He said that more than \$800,000 has been distributed to over 300 families.

Walsh announced on Wednesday that an additional \$5.5 million has been allocated to help eligible small businesses to pay their rent, utilities, and employee wages, on top of the \$2 million that was given out to businesses last week from the City’s Small Business Relief Fund.

“More than one owner told us that these payments helped them from having to close their doors permanently,” Walsh said. The full list of recipients can be found at [boston.gov](http://boston.gov).

In mid-March, a program to freeze eviction proceedings was launched, and in April, the state legislature passed a statewide eviction moratorium, Walsh said.

“No one, regardless of income and immigration status can be evicted right now,” Walsh said. “I take my job very seriously,” he added, saying that the City carefully allocates public money to a cause and hopes that people “understand and respect it.”

He also said that he hopes to open Boston Public Schools and colleges in Boston this September, and the City continues to work with the state and stakeholders on a framework for businesses to reopen, as well as thinking about public transportation.

“There’s still a lot that has to happen,” Walsh said.

# Neighborhood cases down while testing up in downtown areas

By Seth Daniel

Positive COVID-19 cases within the general neighborhoods of the downtown remain low even as testing has ramped up among the general population and the homeless population in the South End.

Because of the numbers of homeless that have been tested in the shelters and hospitals of the South End, the neighborhood appears to be a hot spot at first glance, but most believe the greater South End remains low if the homeless numbers are removed.

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) released case data as of 1:30 p.m. on May 7, as has been customary over the last several weeks.

In that data, the South End showed 701 cases with a 196.1

per 10,000 resident infection rate. That, once again, was bolstered by homeless being tested in large numbers at Boston Medical Center, the Pine Street Inn and the City’s homeless shelters – all of which are assigned a South End address.

As of May 12, there had been 2,476 people tested in the South End with a 28.5 percent positive rate – down significantly from the first few weeks of testing in the neighborhood.

Once again, Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill (58.9 per 10,000) and Fenway (41.7 per 10,000) had lower infection rates, and low numbers of cases. The Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill area had 328 cases, while Fenway reported 228 cases.

All three areas are some of the lowest in the City and the Greater

Boston region, in fact.

Testing has ramped up significantly in many neighborhoods, where more than 3,000 or 4,000 residents have been tested in some neighborhoods.

East Boston, though close, told a radically different story of COVID-19.

By May 7, some 3,053 people had been tested, with a positive rate of 38.7 percent. That was down about 10 percent from last week, when Eastie tested at nearly a 50 percent rate. Despite that, there were 1,187 cases for a rate of 252.9 per 10,000, the second highest rate in the entire city.

Hyde Park had the highest infection rate, with 260.1 per 10,000.

One interesting note released this week is that 48 percent of the deaths in Boston, and there were 533 deaths as of May 12, hap-

pened in nursing home facilities.

### •Cases by Gender Evens Out

For the first time since the pandemic hit, the infection rate by gender in Boston has pretty much evened out.

The infection rate citywide for men was 154 per 10,000, and for women it was 153.9 per 10,000. Typically, men have displayed a higher rate of infection.

### •Age and COVID-19

The age group with the most cases by percentage in the city are those 50-59 years old, with 17.2 percent of the cases. Second highest were those 30-39 years old with 15.8 percent, followed by those 40-49 years old at 15.1 percent.

The infection rates pretty much followed the same gradual incline as age increased, though it is clear the disease is particularly danger-

ous for those age 80 and over.

The infection rate was 561.4 per 10,000 for those 80 and over, which was much higher than those just 70-79, who came in at 302.2 per 10,000.

### •Cases by Race

The COVID-19 virus still has hit the Black/African American community the hardest citywide, with 29.3 percent of the total cases – though there is incomplete data on race with 25.5 percent of the total confirmed cases unknown by race. Black/African Americans, however, had the second highest rate of deaths (182/35 percent). The highest numbers of deaths were of white residents (224/44 percent).

There were 20.2 percent of the cases who were white, and 14.8 percent who were Latino.

# Councilors Flynn, Flaherty and O'Malley to hold hearing Friday on impact of delivery commission fees for restaurants during COVID-19

City Councilors Ed Flynn, Michael Flaherty, and Matt O'Malley will hold a hearing Friday, May 15, at 12:30 p.m. to discuss how commission fees from third-party delivery companies have been affecting Boston's restaurant industry during this pandemic. As local restaurants have become dependent on delivery for their sales, many are concerned about the high commission fees paid to third party delivery companies. This hearing aims to discuss how we can help our local restaurants during this pandemic, including the possibility of placing a cap on delivery commission fees during this time. The hearing will be chaired by Councilor Julia Mejia, chair of the Committee on Small Business

and Workforce Development, and will be held virtually via Zoom.

Many restaurants use third party delivery companies such as Grubhub, UberEats, Doordash, or Postmates, and their commission fees can be up to 30% per order and reach hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. As restaurants become more reliant on delivery sales as a critical piece of their revenue, they're now expected to pay an even larger portion of commission fees while already struggling during this pandemic. Moreover, it is difficult for restaurants to negotiate a favorable commission fee structure because they lack negotiating power due to the industry being dominated by only a few third party delivery companies.

To address this issue, San Francisco has placed a 15% cap on delivery commission fees through an emergency order back in April, and the Mayor of Baltimore has written a formal letter to delivery companies requesting them to cap their fees to 15% for local restaurants. More recently, the Cambridge City Council and Mayor filed a policy order to talk about capping the delivery commission fees to 10%. This hearing will also discuss the possibility of placing a cap on commission fees in Boston.

"Restaurant owners and residents in the industry are deeply concerned about the excessive delivery commission fees paid to third party delivery companies," said Councilor Flynn. "During these uncer-

tain times, it's almost predatory to charge 30% fees to our local restaurants that are heavily reliant on delivery revenue to help them survive and get to the other side of this crisis. I want to thank Councilors Flaherty and O'Malley for their partnership, and I look forward to this important discussion with pertinent stakeholders."

"Regulating delivery fees was already a topic of discussion among many in the restaurant industry prior to COVID-19, but, as with many things, this pandemic has added an increased sense of urgency to our action on this matter," said Councilor Flaherty. "I recognize that these delivery services have bills of their own to pay, but to this point their practices feel

exploitative. My hope is that the stakeholders can come to a solution that is economically viable for the restaurants, delivery companies, and consumers independent of a hearing, but nonetheless look forward to working on the issue and if necessary, a productive hearing on the matter."

"This measure provides relief for Boston's restaurant industry during the coronavirus pandemic," said Councilor Matt O'Malley. "Third party delivery service fees during this time are absolutely crippling many local restaurants while the delivery companies are experiencing windfalls. We are aiming to cap the fees as well as supporting our local restaurateurs as well as their customers."

## PANDEMIC GARDENING (from pg. 1)

also be social at a safe distance.

"It's safe," he said. "We already have put up guidelines about gardening in COVID-19 conditions. It's about social distancing and wearing masks and wearing gloves and being very mindful of what you touch that is community property like a gate or lock or shed... It's going to be really important for people to get outside when they can safely and to be part of a community still...The bottom line is the gardens are open and we're working with folks and figuring out how to do things virtually."

So far the weather hasn't completely cooperated for gardeners to safely plant the summer vegetables, but it hasn't stopped many from making preparations.

John MacLachlan, who gardens at the Berkeley Gardens in the South End, said almost everyone in the garden seems not to be deterred by COVID-19.

"Many of us have been out already preparing our gardens," he said. "I've been out on the few nice days we've had trying to rabbit-proof my garden, and cleaning out the winter debris."

Sarah Hutt, of the South End, said her garden plot has already been producing peas and lettuce, which are perfect for the colder weather.

"This year we had the most gardeners return than any other year," she said. "I'm not sure why but we didn't have many unclaimed gardens this year for the lottery...The big thing this year is where to buy plants. SoWa had a neighborhood favorite from a New Hampshire farm that brought great tomatoes and other things. The Flower Market on Albany Street had good things, but it is closed now...Being able to go over and play in the dirt

is really, really a wonderful feeling."

For Bob Minnocci, who gardens at the Rutland Washington community garden in the South End said he doesn't see any slowdown in gardening so far this year. Most are abiding by the social distance rules, and it has been a great way to get outside for some exercise.

"So far, this year, I have put down fresh soil and cleaned out weeds from last year," he said. "I've noticed other gardeners working their plots, preparing the soil and planting seeds. Most have masks on. I will say that working the garden is the best exercise a person could get. By the time you get done weeding and cleaning, you have exercised muscles you didn't know you had."

That garden and many of the community gardens in Boston



Community gardener Sarah Hutt shows off lettuce that has come up in the cold weather planting season in her South End plot. Many gardeners are not slowing down their efforts because of COVID-19. In fact, experts say it is a great way to be outside, exercising and keeping a social distance - while also getting access to fresh food.

were founded a half-century ago to help residents who wanted to supplement their food supplies in the summer months. While that has become less of a problem in recent years, such uncertainty around food is also driving a new crop of gardeners to the Trustees - people who seem to be thinking it might be the only way to feed their families in the coming months.

"The numbers of plot requests we got has gone through the roof," he said. "We are all excited, but we're all kind of freaked out about that. Everyone has been to the grocery store. It's a scary new world in a lot of respects and there's not end date in sight. We hope for an end date, but we don't know. Having safe, healthy food is really important and you have families that have lost their income and they're looking at the garden to help. Access to gardens and food can supplement

your budget and that may be as important as ever right now...We just don't know where we'll be in six months or so with this."

For the gardening community, they have been very excited to get going, Bowne said. He said the annual Gardeners Gathering had to be done via Zoom for the spring meeting, and they had a huge number of garden coordinators log in for direction.

In addition, they have also done a number of garden workshops and seminars online to help new gardeners, and supplement the knowledge of existing gardeners.

"You need to only look at how quickly everything has shut down and changed," he said. "There's always something therapeutic about being able to get one's hands in the dirt. There's a real sense of being able to stay grounded in a world that's constantly changing."

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# Baker announces four-phase reopening plan

By Lauren Bennett

Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday announced a four-phased approach to reopening the state, as well as released Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards that all industries will follow.

“The goal of the phased reopening, based on public health guidance, is to methodically allow certain businesses, services, and activities to resume, while protecting public health and limiting a resurgence of new COVID-19 cases,” the state said.

Phase 1, called “Start,” means that limited industries—ones that are “more naturally set up,” according to Baker, would be allowed to open with “severe restrictions.” Phase 2, called “Cautious,” means that more industries can open “with restrictions and capacity limits.” Phase 3, called “Vigilant,” means that even more industries can “resume operations with guidance,” and Phase 4, called the “New Normal,” includes a development of a vaccine or therapy and “enables resumption of new normal.”

Baker said at a press conference on Monday that “all phases will be contingent upon the public health data.” He said that the goal is to begin implementing this plan on May 18, but added that “the facts on the ground will determine whether or not we actually hit that goal.”

Baker said on Monday that the state’s Reopening Advisory Board had met with stakeholders from 44 different industries and sectors, representing more than 110,000 businesses and over two million workers, in industries like dentistry, museums, sports, arts, entertainments, fitness, cannabis, labor

unions, hair salons, and more.

Additionally, he said that the board has received written comments from more than 2200 employers and organizations.

He said that a more detailed plan about which industries fit into which phase will be released in the coming days.

“This is no time to quit,” Baker said, especially “when we don’t have real certainties” about how the virus changes and reacts.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito talked about the Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards on Monday, explaining that “all workplaces that are allowed to operate will be required to implement these mandatory workplace safety standards.”

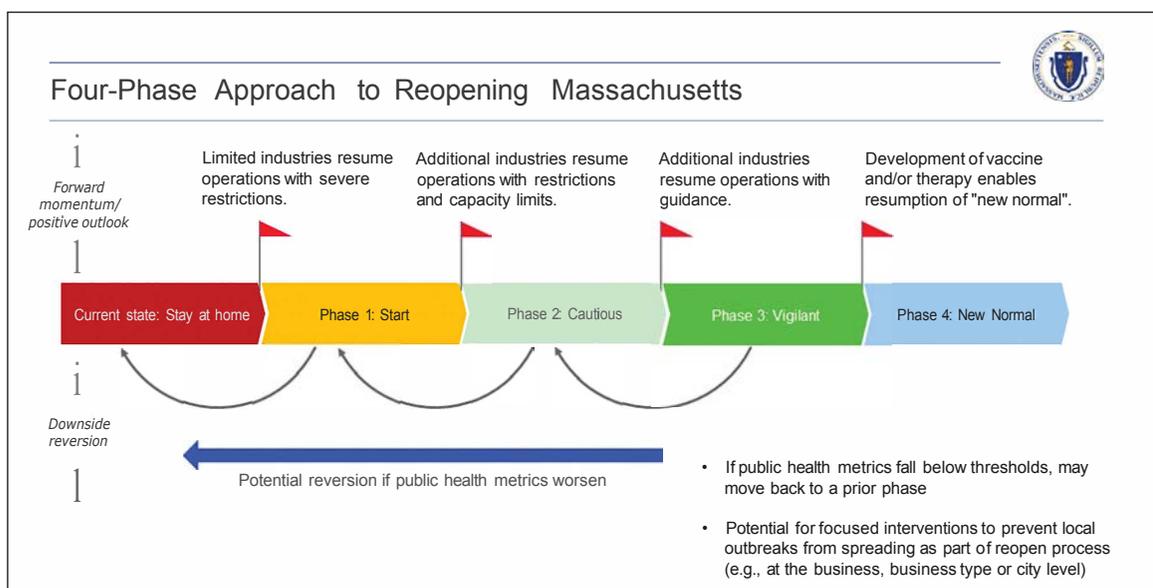
These standards include things like social distancing in the workplace, installing social distancing signage in the workplace, and requiring all employees to wear face coverings or masks, Polito said.

For hygiene, the standards include frequent hand washing and regular sanitization of high touch areas, as well as including a place for hand washing in the workplace that is adequately stocked with soap.

Polito also said that cleaning protocols “specific to the business” must be established and maintained, and if an employee contracts COVID-19, the workplace must be cleaned and disinfected.

“As we move towards a new normal, we all have a lot of work to do,” Polito said. “I am confident that when we reopen, we will do so in a safe manner for all the people of this Commonwealth.”

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**  
On May 8, the Baker-Polito



Administration announced the creation of a new COVID-19 public awareness campaign titled “New Tools, New Rules—Same Great Care” in partnership with the Mass League of Community Health Centers.

“Community Health Centers throughout the Commonwealth are open and accepting patients, and this campaign encourages residents to continue to seek care for their medical conditions and reminds individuals not to delay treatment as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency,” the state said on May 8.

“In addition to implementing additional, onsite safety protocols, many Community Health Centers have introduced and expanded Telehealth care options. Furthermore, MassHealth contracts with three Telehealth providers to offer additional support for members with questions about symptoms that might be related to COVID-19.”

Ads for the campaign will run for free on WCVB in the Greater Boston area, as well as digitally on Facebook in “English, Spanish, and other languages, and will specifically target regions with the highest populations of families in need of services,” a release from the state said.

## OTHER UPDATES

Baker on Tuesday announced that he filed a supplemental bill authorizing around \$1 billion for costs related to COVID-19, including the purchasing of PPE, “rate adjustments for providers of congregate care and other essential human services,” temporary field hospitals across the state, the Community Tracing Collaborative, and other expenses.

He said that the money would likely be reimbursed by federal aid programs such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), among others. He said he looks forward to working with the

state legislature on enacting this bill.

Baker continues to provide updates on the Community Tracing Collaborative that began on April 12 and stressed the importance of answering these phone calls if you receive one. “Contact tracers will only reach out from phone numbers with 833 or 857 area codes, and the phone’s caller ID will say MA COVID Team,” according to the state.

As of May 7, the Community Tracing Collaborative has reached almost 14,000 people with confirmed cases of COVID-19 and established over 7,500 of their contacts. Baker said that the average number of contacts per con-

firmed case is two.

On May 11, he said that the state is “continuing to monitor daily trends” in COVID-19 data. “We believe we are trending in the right direction,” he added. Baker also said that 10 million pieces of PPE have now been distributed across the Commonwealth.

On Tuesday, Baker said that “while these recent numbers have been encouraging, we’re not yet out of the woods and we should all remember that.”

As of May 12, Massachusetts had 79,332 confirmed cases of COVID-19, and 5,141 people had died.

## State files supplemental budget bill to authorize \$1 billion in COVID-19 spending

Gov. Charlie Baker filed a supplemental budget bill on Tuesday for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), which will authorize \$1 billion in spending necessary to cover incurred and expected costs during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

It is expected that this spending will result in no net cost to the Commonwealth, after anticipated federal reimbursement and other federal funding sources.

These expenses include the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment, rate adjustments for providers of congregate care and other essential human services, incentive pay for state employees on the front lines at certain facilities in operation 24 hours a day, costs of temporary field hospitals and shelters, National Guard pay, the first statewide contract tracing program in the country, emergency child care for essential workers, and increased costs of local housing authorities and of the family and individual shelter system.

This authorization will enable the Commonwealth to leverage

federal financial support, most notably, aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which can only reimburse state spending resulting from eligible disaster response activities. This legislation would ensure that adequate state spending has been authorized to allow the Commonwealth to continue to protect the public unimpeded until the federal reimbursement process can be realized.

COVID-19 costs not supported by FEMA reimbursement will, to the extent possible, be matched to other available federal revenue sources, including the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund established in the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

The bill would also attribute federal reimbursements to FY20 if they are associated with COVID-19 response costs incurred in FY20, allowing the use of revenue sources without putting the FY20 budget out of balance.



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# City Council holds hearing on food insecurity and cultural competency

By Lauren Bennett

The Boston City Council Committee on City & Neighborhood Services held a hearing on May 8 on addressing food insecurity and cultural competency in the midst of the COVID-19 out-break.

Co-sponsored by City Councilors Liz Breadon and Julia Mejia, the hearing focused on what city agencies and other organizations have been doing to support the city's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as what can be improved to make it even easier for people to receive the food they need.

"Far too many families in our city are struggling to put food on the table," Councilor Mejia said. "I hope to have a solution oriented conversation," she added, and "move beyond the crisis and create solutions that extend far beyond our lifetime."

She said her office began working on this hearing order when they repeatedly heard that people do not have access to culturally competent food and are receiving "what's left over" at food banks and other food pickup sites.

"This pandemic has lifted the lid in many underlying problems that we knew were there in our communities," Councilor Breadon said. "The issues are now so much more acute and critical at this time." She said that she has seen "long lines" of people waiting for food at food pantries throughout her district of Allston-Brighton.

"People who have never experienced food insecurity before are experiencing it now," Councilor Kenzie Bok said. She also said that

one of the pieces of providing culturally appropriate food is being able to provide ingredients for people who are used to cooking at home, instead of having them receive already prepared meals.

Bok has been a leader in delivering boxes of fresh produce to residents across the city, and she said at the hearing that there have been many seniors who are used to having access to fresh fruits and vegetables, so programs like this are vital in the city.

Several panelists presented at the hearing, including Catalina Lopez-Ospina, Director of the Office of Food Access in the City of Boston.

She talked about the more than 60 youth meal sites that have been set up across the city, and "from day one we engaged with our food providers to make sure they had the capacity," she said. She said that more than a million dollars from the Boston Resiliency Fund has been granted to immigrant services organizations to provide culturally appropriate food.

Additionally, Meals on Wheels services have been expanded to provide different types of food such as Caribbean, Cantonese, and vegetarian options. "We should offer what people want to eat," she said.

She said that there are systems in place for people to receive food within 24 or 48 hours, and people who have no food and need it immediately can receive some within six hours.

"We know that food access has been an issue," Lopez-Ospina said, and "moving forward, food is going to be one of the priorities for this administration."

Jonathan Greeley of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) said that the mayor has asked him to step away from his duties at the BPDA and "turn efforts to feeding Bostonians."

He said that work on this issue has been separated into three categories: initial response, on-going initiatives, and next steps.

For initial response, he said that the setting up of youth meal sites was one of the first things that happened at the beginning of the pandemic, and the Boston Resiliency Fund has "become a crucial resource for our efforts," he said.

Ongoing initiatives include working with the Age Strong and Immigrant Advancement offices, and to continue enrolling households in the food delivery network, as well as identify where there are still gaps. They also will continue to engage with stakeholders across the city to "anticipate where new needs are coming from," Greeley said.

Next steps include the establishment of more food hubs and adult meal sites in neighborhoods across the city.

Dan McCarthy of the Greater Boston Food Bank said that the organization is the "largest hunger relief in New England and one of the largest in the country," serving over 100 agencies in the City of Boston. He also said that according to Feeding America, one in four Bostonians experience food insecurity.

He said that SNAP benefits are "our first line of defense against hunger," and applications for SNAP have "skyrocketed"—there has been a nearly 400 percent increase in applications.

He called the Greater Boston Food Bank the "Costco of

food assistance," as many organizations receive food from the bank and then distribute it to their own clients.

"The food acquisition team has been moving mountains," McCarthy said. He also discussed the increased request for grocery items rather than already prepared meals, and Greeley added that the Age Strong Commission has had the opportunity on several occasions to provide gift cards to grocery stores as well.

"We are working really hard to provide a wide variety of resources," Greeley said.

Emily Shea of the Age Strong Commission thanked the Meals on Wheels program for stepping up to provide over 600,000 meals last week. She said before the pandemic hit, the program delivered around 43,000 meals a week. She added that Meals on Wheels is also still able to provide safe, socially distanced check-ins with the people they deliver meals to.

Pat Baker of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute discussed the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program that is available for every single child in Boston Public Schools.

"Every school child qualifies for free school meals and is getting this benefit," she said, which amounts to \$5.70 per eligible student per day, or \$28.50 a week.

She also brought up the question of EBT online purchasing, which is something she said should have been implemented much earlier, though she said EBT online purchasing will be limited to Amazon, Walmart, and other "large companies," and is "not going to be helping local stores or bodegas," she said.

"If we successfully close the SNAP gap in Massachusetts," she said, "that's going to double the federal nutrition dollars." She said there might be a way the council could help out by supporting the initiative to "enable local grocers with different ways to access the SNAP benefits."

Heloisa Galvao of the Brazilian Women's Group said that "the need is so great and what worries me more as we go into the eighth week of distance and we don't know how many weeks we have ahead, the need is going to be greater and greater." She thanked people for their leadership on being able to provide food to those who need it.

After further questions and comments from the Council regarding making sure people get access to the food they are familiar with eating, among other things, Councilor Breadon thanked all organizations across the city, including church food pantries, community agencies, and others, for stepping up to the plate. "I've never observed such an incredible effort across the board to deliver food and support to our most vulnerable residents at this very difficult time," she said.

Councilor Flynn thanked the panelists for their "dedication in supporting people and families that are hungry," calling them "the heroes of our city." He also thanked the Mayor's Office and his colleagues on the Council for their dedication to this issue.

"You make Boston the great city it is because of your compassion and dedication," he said. "We see you and we appreciate everything that you're doing."

## Virtual discussion focuses on challenges surrounding 2020 Census

By Dan Murphy

City Councilor Ed Flynn hosted a virtual discussion Friday focusing on the challenges of tallying accurate counts for the 2020 Census, especially in immigrant communities, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilor Flynn underscored the necessity of getting an accurate Census count to assure that communities not only receive adequate representation in Congress, but are also allocated sufficient federal funding for schools and benefits like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), which provides needy families with a supplemental food budget.

But Councilor Flynn said outreach has become increasingly more difficult since the pandemic struck because going door to door

to solicit responses is no longer an option while many immigrants and seniors lack Internet access so they can't complete the Census online.

Sebastian Zapata, the city's Census liaison, said around 30 percent of the city's population is foreign born, and on average, one parent of every Boston Public Schools student is foreign-born.

"The Census is a safe, secure and crucial way to getting us resources we need for next 10 years," he said. "The Census is about everyone regardless of their status. It's just a snapshot of who lives in our communities over the past 10 years."

Anne Williams, U.S. Census partnership specialist, said the Census, which is now available in 13 languages, can be completed by mail, over the phone or online at

[www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).

"We want people to know the Census is underway, and it's happening now," Williams said. "Half of the households in America have responded, but there's still plenty of time."

While the Census deadline was originally set for July 31, Williams said an extension until Oct. 31 has been requested.

Williams also said that Census responses wouldn't be shared with other government agencies or law enforcement, and that cybersecurity measures have been taken to better protect respondents' personal information.

City Councilor Andrea Campbell, whose district includes Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain and Roslindale, said, "These communities are some of the hardest to count so it's important we're

raising this issue."

Councilor Campbell added, "My district has extremely large immigrant populations. It's not just important that we be counted for resources... but it's an opportunity for these communities to share their stories."

State Rep. Jon Santiago, who also works in the Boston Medical Center ER serving largely minority communities, said the Census is "now more important than ever in the age of COVID-19."

Rep. Santiago pointed to the disproportionately high rates of coronavirus infections in Chelsea—a community of 40,000 that spans only two square miles.

"We need to get places like Chelsea the resources they need," he said. "Elected officials have to do the best we can to make sure everyone is counted."

Karen Chen, executive director of the nonprofit Chinese Progressive Association, said, "People more now than ever need to understand the importance of [Census] data."

This data, she said, determines the number of hospital beds and the need for child care in communities.

"If you're not on lease, that's okay, be sure to include everyone in household," Chen said, adding that respondents who need help completing the Census can call the Chinese Progressive Association at 617-433-8522 for assistance.

Meanwhile, Chen said the COVID-19 pandemic has "exposed racial and social inequity."

"Everyone counts and we should count everyone so we can use the data to move towards equity," she said.

# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The figure in the last clue is atop the fountain in Statler Park. It is by artist Ulysses Ricci, circa 1912. The Smithsonian's Art Inventory describes the sculpture as, "Woman in classical robes stands in the middle of the upper bowl holding a cup from which water originally flowed."

The next clue will be found in the Kenmore/Fenway area. Do you have a favorite building or detail you would like featured? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your suggestion.

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# Restaurateurs urge state to allow restaurants to reopen May 19

By Dan Murphy

A group of Massachusetts restaurant owners and managers has joined together to pen a letter to state elected officials urging them to allow restaurants to open on Tuesday, May 19.

In the May 12 letter to Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and "all Massachusetts Representatives and Senators," the MA Restaurant and Jobs Group wrote, "We want to reopen restaurants, safely and legally, on May 19, 2020, provided that virus hospitalizations aren't rising. Thirty days after that, we want to open at full capacity. Towns and cities would be allowed to slow this timetable if local virus hospitalizations are rising now or in the future. However, these localities would announce an alternative time frame immediately so that we and our hard-working employees can plan accordingly."

According to the letter, around half of the estimated 300,000 employees in the hospitality industry statewide had been laid off to date, with 60,000 of those jobs not likely to return.

The MA Restaurant and Jobs

Group maintains that the state's restaurants can abide by social-distancing and operate more safely "than a Walmart, Target, Home Depot, or a supermarket." To safely and legally reopen its restaurants, the group has committed to reconfiguring patios, dining rooms and bars to maintain the standard six feet for social distancing; sanitizing the facilities; creating marked lines for patrons to queue up outside, rather than lining up inside restaurants; sanitizing menus after each use or replacing them with disposable and online menus; meeting reopening standards set by the National Restaurant Association; testing the temperature of employees; creating protocol to shut down and sanitize restaurants if an employee test positive for COVID-19; blocking half of the restroom facilities, if they can accommodate more than one patron at a time; requiring patrons to wear masks when not seated; and posting pictures and video on social media to demonstrate that they're meeting these standards.

"Cleaning and sanitation for the safety of customers and employees has been the most cru-

cial component of our industry for decades; it's what we do first and foremost," the letter reads.

Speaking on behalf of the MA Restaurant and Jobs Group, John Grasso, owner of the Halfway Café, which has three locations in the Boston area, as well as The Brook Kitchen & Tap in Holbrook, said, "We're closely regulated by building inspectors, plumbing inspectors and health inspectors - health inspectors can pop in on us at any time - so we have to monitor ourselves. Our job is safety, and this is what we're used to doing."

Grasso said the letter provided the group an opportunity to be heard at the state level on the steps that its restaurants would take to ensure the safety of patrons and employees when they're allowed to reopen.

"The longer we're closed, the more difficult it will be to come back, and we already know it's going to be a tremendous challenge coming back," Grasso said. "We want to get our voice in the room. We know what we have to do and just want the opportunity to do it."

## Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>			
FMS Properties LLC	Savage, Paul	371 Beacon St #5	\$680,000
Rude, Catherine L	Signore, Stephanie D	45 Saint Botolph St #201	\$975,000
Hagen, Nathan J	Wilson, D Ellen	400 Stuart St #25D	\$2,950,000
Wilson, D Ellen	Mark Blash T	400 Stuart St #27E	\$5,400,000
Olegovna-Wright, Ekaterni	Karon, Kimberly	461 Beacon St #1	\$760,000
<b>BEACON HILL</b>			
Curtis, John	Ferraro, James L	21 Beacon St #91	\$975,000
Macleod, Bruce A	Patti, Taylor A	27 Bowdoin St #1B	\$685,000
Richard S Dodd IRT	Boyer, Mary R	27 Chestnut St #4C27	\$1,450,000
Johnson, Virginia R	34 Hancock Street TE LLC	34 Hancock St #1E	\$590,000
CMalandrakis, Emanuel P	Eacmen, Rosemary V	6 Whittier Pl #6E	\$750,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>			
Mcquillan, Ries	Ellis, Robert G	117 Chandler St #4	\$1,390,000
Mackin, David	Roux, Ruben	431 Columbus Ave #6	\$831,000
Kracoff, Brian	Walmsley, George T	30 Lawrence St #1	\$1,176,000
Lee, Wun H	102A Mt Pleasant Ave LLC	102-A Mount Pleasant Ave #2	\$540,000
Iapp, Charles E	Scott Landry 2015 RET	50-52 Rutland Sq #1	\$1,645,000
Cameron, Danielle	Gallo, Peter P	8 Rutland Sq #1	\$2,325,000
Bam Topeka LLC	Boston Topeka Street LLC	41 Topeka St	\$5,500,000
Bam Topeka LLC	Boston Topeka Street LLC	47 Topeka St	\$5,500,000
Schoenberger, Michael A	98 West Springfield Rlty	98 W Springfield St #1	\$1,170,000
Charest, Aimee M	JP Property 1 LLC	3531 Washington St #420	\$288,700
Neenan, Thomas	Curtis, John	43 Westland Ave #606	\$1,875,000
Mcghie, Christina A	Brady, Lauren A	92 Worcester St #1A	\$809,500

# Bay Village HDC hears townhome proposal for 132 Arlington St. parking lot

By Lauren Bennett

The Bay Village Historic District Commission held its first virtual meeting via Zoom on May 12, where an advisory review for the construction of nine rowhouses on the existing parking lot at 132 Arlington St. was heard. The Commission was in favor of the proposal, but they did not take an official vote.

David Goldman of New Boston Ventures said that the project team's "goal from the very beginning" was to create a project on this site that was "not controversial," "complies with existing zoning," and "fits into the neighborhood."

The project consist of nine three story adjacent townhouses with garage parking that, according to Goldman, comply with Floor Area Ratio and "all other applicable law" except for Groundwater Conservation Overlay District requirements. He added that the team has met twice before with Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission, to get input and feedback on the direction of the proposal, and this was the first time the full Commission had seen it.

Goldman added that there is an 1890 Sanborn map of Edgerly Place that was lined with townhouses in this location. "In some ways, it's a nod to the historic nature of the street and what once stood there," he said.

Architect Jonathan Garland explained that the project fronts on Edgerly Place, and he went through some of the design features that the team has chosen so far.

"We want to be very compat-

ible with the scale of the neighborhood," he said. "The use of materiality is important." The townhomes will be red brick, with a warm colored metal used on the rear facade and the window bays on the front.

He discussed other buildings in the neighborhood where inspiration was drawn from, including the building across the street with the "green datum line above the entry," which Garland said "strikes a balance of the base of the building and the upper levels." He said they are looking at a similar datum height for the townhouses, as it "feels connected and compatible between the proposed and the existing."

He also referenced the Boston Center for Adult Education building, which is adjacent to this proposed development. That building is around three stories high, so Garland said the townhouses would appropriately fit in with the scale of existing buildings.

"There are a lot of three and four story buildings in the area," he said.

Additionally, there will be a single garage door for each of the townhomes, and brick and possibly cobblestone paving will be used to "make this feel pedestrian," Garland said.

There will be a backyard garden patio that works with the cornice lines, with a six foot high fence between each of the townhomes.

Garland said that a plate metal with a certain gauge would be used on the building to provide rigidity, and it would have a finish on it that prevents discoloration.

"At this moment, our thinking is that the yard space is the primary outdoor space, said

Dennis Kanin of New Boston Ventures. He said that they are currently leaning against the idea of installing roof decks, but that could change at a later date. However, there will be mechanical space on the roof that is "very low profile" and the parapet on the building would not allow the equipment to be visible from the street, Goldman said.

"I like what I see," Commissioner Stephen Dunwell said, adding that the fact that it is zoning compliant is a plus, especially for the neighborhood residents. "There's a lot to like here."

Dunwell also said that a lot of housing in Bay Village is industrial turned residential, and Commissioner Thomas Hotaling said that these townhomes are a chance for housing to be differentiated even more.

"I think it's a lovely design," said Commissioner Ruth Knopf. "A lot of thought went into it," she added, and said it "fits into the space" and is "not exceeding boundaries like we're used to seeing."

Dennis Kanin said he has talked to someone who represents the new buyers of the abutting Boston Center for Adult Education building, and said that they are planning to keep the same height as the current building.

Goldman said that they are looking to build this "as quickly as possible," as all the financing is in place. This hearing was purely advisory and was a chance for Commissioners to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. The project proponents must come back before the Commission with their final presentation for an official vote before they can proceed.

# This year's Duckling Day celebrated on screens

By Lauren Bennett

For more than 30 years, Mother's Day has been synonymous with Duckling Day in the Boston Public Garden, and brings families from all over the City to celebrate mothers, spring, and don their duck gear.

This year, Duckling Day could not happen in person because of COVID-19, but the Friends of the Public Garden and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department made sure people could still celebrate virtually.

A small program was broadcast on Facebook Live at noon this past Sunday, May 10, and featured words from Friends of the Public Garden's Executive Director Liz Vizza, Mayor Marty Walsh, a video featuring photos from past Duckling Days, and a special reading of Robert McCloskey's "Make Way for Ducklings."

"In my lifetime, I have never seen the parks be more important than they are today," Vizza said. "They are a place that we can be alone together. We can go and be renewed by the beauty of nature in the springtime environment that we have these days. We can be socially distant, and yet, enjoying a place that is free and available to each and every one of us."

Vizza thanked the City of Boston's Parks Department staff for their continued partnership and work on keeping the parks safe and clean, especially recently.

"So even through we're not together; it's a little different every year, we're together virtually and we're really happy to be able to

bring this program to you," Vizza said. "Like Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings, we will march on."

Mayor Walsh also expressed his thanks and gratitude for still being able to come together virtually even if the celebration isn't the same as it has been.

"I want to thank the Friends of the Public Garden for continuing to make Duckling Day a special event in our city, even during this difficult time of physical distancing," he said.

"I look forward to warmer, and better days where we can all gather in our parks again. We're working every day to keep people healthy and get life back to normal. We'll all get through this together, and we'll get back to celebrating each other very soon."

The 20 minute virtual Duckling Day video can be viewed on the Friends of the Public Garden's Facebook page, and Duckling Day crafts to complete at home can be found on the Friends of the Public Garden website.

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## For the Record

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

**From the May 13 Public Facilities Commission, 10 a.m., Virtual Via Zoom:**

- Shani Fletcher, Development Officer, Neighborhood Housing Development Division. Transfer of the care, custody, management and control from the Public Works Department (PWD) to the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND): Vacant land located at an unnumbered parcel on Windsor Street, South End.

Square Feet: 5,000

Assessed Value Fiscal Year 2020: \$142,600

DND Program: GrassRoots

**From the May 14, Ways & Means Budget Working Session, Via Zoom online:**

- 10 a.m. Environment Department, including the Conservation Commission (ConCom). This hearing will also cover the Environment Department revolving fund.

- Noon - The focus of this hearing is the Landmarks Commission.

- 2 p.m. - This hearing will also cover the Parkman Fund and the Parks revolving fund.

**From the May 14 Boston Groundwater Trust meeting, 4 p.m., Via Zoom:**

Agenda

- Adoption of Minutes from January 16th Meeting: 05 VOTE REQUIRED

- Financial Report: 05

- FY 2021 Budget Review: 15 VOTE REQUIRED

- Well Readings Update: 10

- Development of BGWT Operating Manual: 15

- EXECUTIVE SESSION- Annual Personnel Review Process Update: 10

- Executive Director's Report: 15

- Other Business: 15

**From the May 14 Zoning Advisory Board, 5 p.m., via WebEx meeting:**

- 37 Dwight Street Applicant: Highline Development

Purpose: Construct a roof deck with roof hatch access. Construct rear deck. Both with exclusive use to Unit.

**From the May 15, 10 a.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, Online Via Zoom:** Order for a Hearing to Explore Preparation for the Upcoming 2020 Elections in September and November.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Matt O'Malley and was referred to the Committee on April 15, 2020.

**From the May 15, 10 a.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, Online Via Zoom:** Order for a hearing to discuss the impact of delivery commission fees on restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. This matter was sponsored by Councilors Michael Flaherty, Ed Flynn, and Matt O'Malley and was referred to the Committee on April 29, 2020.

**From the May 18 Ways & Means Budget Working Session, Via Zoom online:**

- 11 a.m. - The focus of this working session is Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT), Inspectional Services (ISD), Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), and the PEG Access Fund.

**From the May 18 South End Landmarks hearing, 5 p.m., (ZOOM MEETING LINK: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89833543780](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833543780)):**

**DESIGN REVIEW HEARING**

- 566 Columbus Avenue. Continued from 5/05/2020 SELDC Public Hearing. Proposed Work: Construct a new building

- 158 West Canton St. Proposed Work: At the stoop, install new decorative metal railings; at the

garden level entry under the stoop, modify the entryway, and install new door.

- 40 Gray St. Proposed Work: Construct a skylight and roof deck with hatch access.

- 69 Rutland St. Proposed Work: Construct a roof deck.

- 48 Union Park. Proposed Work: At the stoop replace pipe railings with new decorative metal handrails; at the front yard install new metal fence.

**•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.



# BACK BAY PENTHOUSE

**80 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #PH**  
**4 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 3,560 SQFT**  
**\$6,250,000**



**73 MOUNT VERNON STREET #1**  
**3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,082 SQFT**  
**\$4,295,000**



**20 CHESTNUT STREET #1**  
**4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,640 SQFT**  
**\$7,995,000**



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



**110 ARLINGTON STREET #3**  
**3 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 2,310 SQFT**  
**\$3,395,000**

