

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

THE BOSTON SUN

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

Neighbors, police riled after brazen daylight shootout in South End

Capt. says easily could be planning multiple funerals

By Seth Daniel

Saying he could very easily be planning several funerals for officers shot on last Saturday afternoon in Chester Square by a fleeing gunman, D-4 Capt. Steve Sweeney said the brazen daylight shooting has rocked the neighborhood and the police district.

The suspect fired on police several times as he fled down Massachusetts Avenue, and police returned fire as they were fired upon. Witnesses reported hearing as many as 20 rounds fired on what was a busy, sunny day in the neighborhood. No one was injured and the suspect was arrested.

“A big concern with the neighborhood is what happened the

other day in front of 558 Mass Ave,” said Sweeney during an online meeting with Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association on Tuesday. “It’s still an active investigation. We are very, very lucky at D-4 that we’re not planning one or more officer funerals today. It’s been stressful for D-4 and the Commissioner has spoken about it and checked in with us. There have been drug use issues in Chester Square, but this really is nothing pertaining to Chester Square. It’s troubling to have that violence during the daytime and we’re on top of it.”

The incident has been followed up earlier this month with a shots fired incident on Lenox Street

(SHOOTOUT, Pg. 2)

As the state begins to reopen, Walsh continues to seek ‘caution and commitment’ from residents

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on Tuesday, a day after Governor Baker released his four phase reopening plan for the state.

As of Tuesday, Boston had 12,050 cases of COVID-19 and 588 people had passed away. “The number of active cases in the City continues to decline,” he said on Monday.

The City continues to ramp up testing in neighborhoods and “continues to build a Citywide strategy.”

Walsh urged residents to keep staying at home and working from home “as much as possible.” He also said that “we need to continue to practice physical and social distancing,” as well as washing hands, disinfecting surfaces, and

wearing face coverings in public.

“Reopening means bringing the same caution and commitment to stopping the spread,” Walsh said, and “continuing to follow the science and the public health guidance.”

Walsh said that although Baker’s plan allowed for the start of construction on May 18, the City of Boston has implemented a phased plan for the restarting of construction.

Similarly, the governor’s plan allows for the opening of office space starting on May 25, with 25 capacity, but Boston’s offices will not be allowed to reopen until June 1, which Walsh said gives the City more time to “work collaboratively on safety plans.” He said that Boston’s population of rough-

(WALSH UPDATE, Pg. 6)

MEMORIAL DAY



There will be no Memorial Day exercises this year at the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument Square in the South End, but in appropriate fashion, the iconic statue has been outfitted in face coverings using the Puerto Rican and United States flags. Though most remembrances have been cancelled, most veterans groups and City leaders will participate in virtual memorials to celebrate those that sacrificed their lives for freedom.

Memorial Day takes on new tack as City looks to ‘Never Forget’

Fallen soldier of Back Bay finally gets Hero Square

By Seth Daniel

The word ‘never’ cannot be overlooked when veterans advocates talk about the phrase ‘Never Forget,’ and despite the restrictions from COVID-19 this Memorial Day, Veterans Commissioner Rob

Santiago said they will do everything they can to remember fallen veterans.

Memorial Day exercises have been postponed and/or cancelled all across the city, but Commissioner Santiago said they will be honoring fallen soldiers this

Memorial Day in unique and different ways.

“One thing that is important is Memorial Day is still going on,” he said. “We will still honor and remember our fallen veterans, but

(DEFREYAS, Pg. 10)

Churches prepare to return the right way

By Seth Daniel

When Gov. Charlie Baker announced that Houses of Worship would be able to open up this week in Phase 1 of the state’s re-opening plan, it was a ‘Hallelujah!’ moment, and now churches are preparing to open at a variety of speeds.

From the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the South End to First Lutheran Church in the Back Bay to Lion of Judah Church in Worcester Square – houses of worship are applauding the decision by the governor to let them open in a common sense fashion as early as this Sunday.

Churches had been excluded from many of the discussions about re-opening, to the discontent of a lot of pastors in the area that submitted a letter to Gov. Baker two weeks ago asking for at least a seat at the table. So, with the exclusion in the early

(CHURCHES RETURN, Pg. 3)

EDITORIAL

MEMORIAL DAY, 2020

This will be a Memorial Day unlike any that Americans have known.

Ever since the official inception of the holiday on May 30, 1868, when the practice of decorating the graves of the fallen Union soldiers with flowers, wreaths, and flags officially became recognized by the order of General Logan at Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) has been a time for all Americans to come together to commemorate and honor those who made the Supreme Sacrifice to preserve our freedom.

When Memorial Day was moved to the fourth Monday of May starting in 1971, the three-day weekend also came to mark the official start of the summer season for Americans of all ages, who gathered for cookouts and other outdoor activities with friends and family.

But in this year of the coronavirus pandemic, all of the usual parades and festivities have been cancelled. With much of the nation still sheltering in place, gatherings of families and friends have been limited to the faux-reality of Zoom.

The pandemic also has brought another set of challenges to our nation, however. The stress we all are feeling, both from the threat of the virus itself and from the economic anxiety it has created, has brought into full view the many, deep fissures in our society which have been lurking beneath the surface for decades.

It is fair to say that America is as disunited as we ever have been since the end of the Civil War itself 155 years ago. This pandemic, rather than bringing us together to face and fight the common challenge of the coronavirus, is threatening to tear us apart and bring to an end the great American experiment.

In searching for appropriate words to capture this moment in which we find ourselves, the Gettysburg address that was delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on the site of the battlefield on November 19, 1863, rings most true, both in terms of honoring those who gave their lives in our nation's wars and for healing the wounds created by the current pandemic crisis.

We hope our readers take a moment to absorb Lincoln's words and reflect upon the meaning of Memorial Day in light of our current situation:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

THE BOSTON SUN

PRESIDENT/EDITOR: STEPHEN QUIGLEY, STEPHEN.QUIGLEY@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

MARKETING DIRECTOR: DEBRA DIGREGORIO (DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM)

ART DIRECTORS: KANE DIMASSO-SCOTT, SCOTT YATES

REPORTERS: SETH DANIEL, SETH@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

LAUREN BENNETT, LAUREN@THEBOSTONSUN.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU

Dear Editor,

I want to thank reporter Seth Daniel on behalf of United South End Settlements and our partners in this work including United Way, City Fresh Foods, About Fresh, and The Krupp Family Foundation. We appreciate that Seth's article captured the

spirit of our neighbor to neighbor family fund designed to help those in our community most impacted by the Covid virus.

Thank you also to our committed staff, our delivery volunteers and the many South End businesses and other businesses who have rallied to support us despite their own problems caused by the

virus. We are humbled by your generosity. It is still not too late to donate. To double the impact of your contribution and to find out more about how the Fund can help you: www.uses.org.

Maicharia Weir Lytle
Executive Director
United South End Settlements

SHOOTING (from pg. 1)

where 13 shots were fired on the street, with no one hit or injured. While crime has decreased significantly during COVID-19 in volume, criminal activity has become more brazen many neighbors said.

Bud Larievy, who lives on Massachusetts Avenue and is president of Washington Gateway Main Street, said he has noticed a great deal more open drug use than usual and other brazen criminal activity.

"Without the foot traffic, there is a sense of being taken over," he said. "Some of it is shocking."

On Wednesday, Carol Blair – president of the Chester Square Neighbors – announced that there will be a meeting of three neighborhood associations to address the situation, which she said was extremely troubling for the neighborhood.

"In this horrendous time, we're doing our best to care for ourselves and each other," she wrote. "But I'm not sleeping well and it seems most of us are more than a bit edgy. What do we say to Saturday's shoot-out in Chester Square? What can we do? Together with Claremont Neighborhood Association and Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association, Chester Square Neighbors has invited Boston Police to Zoom with us - a joint meeting with all three neighborhood associations and our elected officials."

The incident on Saturday, May 16, took place around 2:13 p.m..

Officers from District D-4 responded to a radio call for a man with a gun threatening people in the area of 134 Northampton St. On arrival, officers observed an individual fitting the description of the suspect. When officers

approached the suspect in an effort to speak with him, the suspect, refusing to acknowledge them, took off running down Massachusetts Avenue towards Chester Square. During the foot pursuit, the suspect produced a firearm and began firing rounds in the direction of the responding officers.

In fear for their lives, as well as the safety and well-being of community members in the immediate area, officers returned gunfire. Undeterred, the suspect continued firing his weapon until his weapon reached the lock-back position which occurs when a firearm is completely out of ammunition. After a violent struggle, one in which the suspect continued fighting with the officers, the suspect was placed in custody. No injuries were reported at the scene. Several of the responding officers, however, were transported to an area hospital for evaluation purposes.

The suspect, Tyler Brown, 40, of Boston, was arrested and charged with Assault with Intent to Murder, Discharging a Firearm within 500 Feet of Residence/Dwelling, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Firearm and Feeding Device.

•OFF DUTY OFFICER STOPS CAR BREAK

At about 4:08 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, an officer assigned to D-4 made an on-site arrest in the area of East Dedham Street between Albany Street and Harrison Avenue.

The officer was exiting the rear of the police station parking lot onto East Dedham Street after finishing his tour of duty when he observed an unknown male rum-

maging through the passenger side of a construction truck.

Upon seeing the officer, the suspect, later identified as Jeffrey Bliss, 38, of Boston, quickly exited the passenger side of the truck and ducked down. Bliss dropped a black computer bag on the ground and attempted to flee the scene.

The bag contained various paper work (none of which was in the suspect's name) along with a construction company laptop worth \$2,000. It was revealed by several construction workers that the suspect did not work for any of the construction companies on site. The victim took possession of his property on-scene.

Bliss was arrested and charged with Breaking and Entering a Motor Vehicle (Day).

•ARREST MADE FOR DELIVERY TRUCK BREAK

At about 3:53 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, officers assigned to District D-4, responded to a radio call for a fight in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Washington Street.

Officers spoke to the victim who was making a work delivery, when he observed the suspect, later identified as Alexander Fedele, 24, of Somerville, in the back of his delivery truck.

When the victim confronted Fedele, he ran down Massachusetts Avenue with the victim's cell phone in his hand. Officers quickly apprehended Fedele in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Albany Street and recovered the victim's cell phone.

Fedele was positively identified and placed under for Breaking and Entering a Motor Vehicle (Day) and Larceny under \$1,200.00.

CHURCHES RETURN (from pg. 1)

discussions, many were surprised that churches were given the leeway to open last Monday along with construction and manufacturing.

Pastor Roberto Miranda was one of the lead pastors on the letter, signed by more than 200 church leaders.

As pastor of Lion of Judah Church in the South End, he said allowing them to open is a matter of "common sense."

"For many pastors in the state, Governor Baker's decision to reopen churches has spiritual as well as legal significance," he said. "It recognizes the essential nature of the Church, both symbolic and practical. It validates the important role we play in all those other sectors of society that are now beginning to reopen.

"Allowing churches to reopen in the first phase of the governor's Reopening Plan is not merely an act of grace or a favor to the Church, it is an act of common sense that will strengthen the Commonwealth, and that will help ensure the success of all its other efforts toward a full recovery," he continued.

Gov. Baker's order for churches allows them to have 40 percent of their legal occupancy for worship services, and there have to be masks and proper spacing between them. There are no fellowship dinners allowed and none of the other social engagements that are part of normal church times.

The Cathedral of the Holy Cross is planning to have their first Masses on May 31, said spokesman Michael Kieloch, which is the Feast of Pentecost.

He said they will likely have English, Spanish, and Latin Masses on May 31, but the times are still being worked out so there can be adequate cleaning and sanitizing done in between services.

He said there would likely be a pre-ticket type of system required to reserve a spot since they expect a lot of people to return and are very limited in the space they can offer so as to be safe.

"We've got to get this right the first time," he said. "We decided if we have to take an extra week to do it, it's worth it and then come back on May 31. There is so much to accomplish and a lot of logistics to work out in the next several days."

The Archdiocese of Boston laid the groundwork for the Cathedral and all other Catholic churches to re-open in a document released Monday. Church

leaders have been working with the state for several weeks – along with an internal working committee – to come up with the best practices for safe worship.

"The announcement by the Governor this morning that the Commonwealth was beginning the process of re-opening is welcome news," read a statement from Cardinal O'Malley on Monday. "The Archdiocese has consistently stated we will work collaboratively with local and state officials during this crisis and we will continue to comply with their guidance and mandates devised to restart community activity while continuing to fight the virus and keep people safe.

"Shortly after the Governor's announcement we communicated a series of steps to our parishes that they must follow to adhere to both the state and Church requirements to re-open," read the statement.

While Masses could begin as early as Saturday, May 23, many church leaders in the Archdiocese are shooting to have some sort of re-opening – perhaps using a ticket system if need be – on May 31.

The working committee was made up of priests, deacons, lay leaders and it has come up with an extensive document and checklist for Parishes to consult before scheduling their first services.

"If a parish within the Archdiocese of Boston, after careful and deliberate preparation, considers that they are able to meet all of the State, Municipal, and Archdiocesan guidelines, they may request permission from their Regional Bishop or Episcopal Vicar to begin Masses as early as Saturday evening, May 23," read a statement from the Cardinal. "Many, or even most, parishes may well need more time to prepare, and may choose Sunday, May 31 (the Feast of Pentecost), as the date for their reopening. Parishes should not resume Masses before they are ready, and the decision to delay the resumption of Masses until May 31 may very well be the best decision for a parish. No matter what the start date, no parish should have Mass unless they can do it safely, and in compliance with the guidelines."

Even with the re-opening of Catholic churches, there are many guidelines and it is suggested that the elderly and medically vulnerable populations stay home, where online and cable

broadcasts will continue as they have since March.

Being ready is going to be a major task at most Catholic churches.

The document from the Archdiocese's Office of Risk Management calls for a number of measures to be put in place, including a Corps of Volunteers to be formed and trained so as to direct the flow of people safely into and out of church, and to clean up afterward.

Other suggestions include:

- Church deeply cleaned, according to methods outlined.
- Hymnals and missalettes removed.
- Volunteers in place to assist with traffic flow.
- Signs clearly posted, letting people know:

*That they must wear masks.

*A distance of six feet must be maintained.

*No congregational singing.

• Socially distant seating marked out.

• Hand sanitizer available.

• Holy water fonts empty.

• Markers on the floor indicating the direction of traffic flow and spacing off six feet in places where people might be in lines.

• Some method in place to restrict the number of people who enter the church to below 40% capacity, and no more than the number of socially distanced seats available.

• Plan and volunteers and materials in place to clean church between Masses.

• Permission of Regional Bishop or Episcopal Vicar if starting

Mass before May 31.

Pastor Miranda said it will be a relief for his congregation in what has been trying times, particularly for members of his congregation on the front lines performing child care and other essential functions.

"Churches minister effectively to business people, childcare providers, construction and salon workers, people in the hospitality industry," he said. "For many of them, their temple is a place of refuge. The voice and physical presence of their pastor or priest is a source of comfort and encouragement. Being able to worship in the company of other believers prepares them for the tensions and challenges of daily life, especially life in the times of COVID-19."



East Boston Savings Bank is here for you.

As a 172-year old Boston Bank, East Boston Savings Bank has a rich history of servicing the City of Boston and its surrounding communities. The foundation that we honor are integrity, strength and hard work for all our customers. It is our tradition to be responsive to the needs of people like you and businesses like yours during good times and challenging times.

We have seen and been through past events that have affected the country and the world. As we navigate through this pandemic together, please know that we are here for you. I assure you that East Boston Savings Bank remains your strong neighborhood bank, supporting you, your family, your business and your community. It's because of your trust in us - and our faith in you - we will make it through these events together.

Trust that we are in this for the long-haul, right by your side. Our branch office doors will remain open as long as we can assure the safety of you and our employees. Online Banking, Mobile Banking, ATMs and our Automated 24-Hour Telephone Banking System (866-774-7705) are always an alternative banking option for you - visit ebsb.com for more information. As always, your deposits are 100% guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

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

City Council holds hearing on impact of third party delivery fees on restaurants

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Small Business and Workforce Development held a hearing on May 15 regarding the impact of delivery commission fees on restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council heard from City administration as well as restaurant owners and delivery companies about the struggles they are facing in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak.

“Lots of folks are struggling,” City Councilor Michael Flaherty said. “The restaurant and food industry is probably one of the hardest hit.” Flaherty said that delivery services and venues are having a hard time because volume is down.

“Complaints have been that while everyone is supposed to be sharing sacrifice...delivery fees are high,” he said.

Councilor Ed Flynn said that delivery companies charge 25 to 25 percent commission fees on delivery fees, adding that this is a “huge burden” when sales are already down. “Huge commission fees can wipe out revenue and the ability to retain or rehire. We’re in a pandemic; we’re in an economic recession. We’re asking delivery companies to be reasonable. They haven’t been reasonable. We don’t want to put restaurants out of business.”

Councilor Matt O’Malley said that while he understands the importance of these companies as he has used them himself, and they also provide web search optimization for restaurants, that talking specifically about the delivery component, changes need to be made.

O’Malley reminded everyone that this was week eight of no sit down service at restaurants in the Commonwealth. “The four big

vendors are doing well, and good for them,” he said of the delivery companies. “They have got a windfall perhaps unlike anything they have seen before.”

Kaitlin Pasafero of the City’s Office of Economic Development said that “small businesses are the heart of Boston’s economy,” providing 170,000 jobs in the City. “The impact on the quality of life of residents cannot be overstated,” she said.

She said that these third party delivery fees “threaten to wipe out a restaurant’s entire profit margin.” She said that her office continues to work with small businesses to provide grants and additional support through virtual workshops and other resources.

John Schall, owner of El Jefe’s Taqueria in Cambridge and soon to be on Boylston Street in Emerson College’s Little Building, said that the fees for third party delivery companies are a “huge part” of his cost structure.

“When paying 18 percent of total revenue to delivery companies, you’re just not viable,” he said, especially for restaurants that did not offer delivery prior to COVID-19.

“This problem isn’t going to go away when restaurants open for sit-down dining,” Schall said. “If this isn’t addressed permanently, there will be another wave of restaurant shutdowns.”

Amy Healy, head of public affairs for GrubHub—and the only representative from a third party delivery company who attended the hearing—said that she opposes a cap on these delivery fees. She said that a cap “will result in damaging unintended consequences for local businesses,” and that it will “result in the exact opposite of what the legislation is designed to accomplish.”

She said that GrubHub has supported millions of dollars in meals

and cash donations to help hospitals and others during this crisis.

“A cap will lower order volume,” Healy said, and “raise costs to costumers. Delivery workers would have fewer work opportunities and lower earnings. GrubHub is ensuring that workers in Boston can continue to provide for themselves and their families.”

She said that delivery is one component of GrubHub’s business. The company charges 10 percent to a restaurant to deliver, which she said is “certainly not enough to pay a driver.” She said they also have to pay for personal protective equipment to provide to drivers.

The other part of GrubHub’s business is marketing for restaurants, and offers a menu of different services to restaurants and they can choose what they would like.

“The fees are fully transparent,” Healy said. “We have restaurants tell us all the time that it’s too expensive to hire their own drivers. That’s a choice the restaurant makes—to use us, or they pay their own.”

Councilor Andrea Campbell asked Healy what seemed “reasonable or fair” from her perspective.

“We announced that all profits for the second quarter would be reinvested in programs for driving business to restaurants,” Healy said. “That’s what we believe is going to be most helpful. They need business, they need volume.”

Stephen Clark, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, said that in a recent survey, 46 percent of restaurants report not being open at all, and for many, takeout and delivery is “easier said than done,” as it is hard to build up a delivery platform when many restaurants have never offered delivery before.

Clark also read an email from a restaurant who said that one of the third party delivery companies

set up a website without their permission, even before the pandemic hit. Reading from the email, Clark said, “The concept is someone finds our restaurant on their site and orders from an abbreviated menu which they have selected. A driver comes to the restaurant and shows our hostess the order on his or her phone, pays with a credit card, and has the logo of the third party delivery company.”

The owner proceeded to call a representative from the delivery company who said the person who set up the account in the restaurant’s name was someone who had never worked for the restaurant. The owner also said in the email that the “dummy website” listed an abbreviated menu with outdated items and prices “were inflated by at least \$1.50.”

Clark said that third party delivery companies “will need to have increased regulation” moving forward.

Councilor Matt O’Malley asked GrubHub if they were participating in listing restaurants that do not agree to be listed on their website.

“We are looking at it,” Healy said. “Our competitors do it and in order to stay competitive it was something that we started doing at the tail end of last year.”

She said that “we don’t like that practice either,” and that she would be willing to work on “alternatives” with the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

“I think the alternative is not doing it because it’s a duplicitous practice and the fact that you’re charging more for a meal and setting up an online portal for restaurants that may not even know about it,” O’Malley said. “That’s just very troubling.”

He suggested capping the delivery fees now will support diving business to restaurants.

The councilors generally agreed that more transparency is need-

ed and further discussion on this topic will be necessary. Several councilors said they were upset by the fact that only one representative from the four major delivery companies (GrubHub, DoorDash, Postmates, and Uber Eats) to show up to the hearing.

“Thank you to Amy for testifying,” said Councilor Ed Flynn. “Think of this; she’s the only person that came here from one of the four delivery businesses to face the fire, face the tough questions. The other ones hid behind the computer and didn’t want to engage in this topic and didn’t want to engage in this subject. It probably shows the disrespect those other companies have for the residents of Boston in my opinion.”

He said that he does expect the others to attend a working session on this topic “talking about solutions to the problem.” He said that “Boston definitely needs a cap,” citing several other cities that have already implemented caps on fees. “Our restaurants play an integral part in our community and our neighborhood.”

Councilor Michael Flaherty said that the Council is “trying to strike a balance at what’s fair and reasonable,” and trying to make sure that the process and fees are transparent.

“This is one piece of the puzzle that has to be addressed now and in the future,” said Councilor Andrea Campbell. “I hope that this is an opportunity for us to do something to protect [restaurants].”

Councilor Julia Mejia finished out the hearing by saying she was “grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and listen to all sides,” but she remains “concerned” about the fees and some of the restaurants not even knowing they were on these third party sites. “I think we have a lot of work to do,” she said, “and so I appreciate the dialogue and look forward to the next steps.”

Sen. Brownsberger says caution must be taken as economy reopens

By Dan Murphy

Given the uncertainty surrounding both the financial situation and the direction that the COVID-19 pandemic will ultimately take, Sen. William Brownsberger said reopening the economy must be undertaken with caution and in incremental steps.

“We have to make decisions on conditions in the face of great uncertainty, both in terms of the virus situation and the economic situation,” Sen. Brownsberger said. “In reopening the economy, everyone must go slowly and modestly,

and take the situation step by step.”

While what causes transmission rates to rise remains unknown, Sen. Brownsberger believes the virus can’t be completely contained through self-isolation and testing, which he said isn’t at the level it should be now.

Besides the physical capacity for testing in the Commonwealth not being able to meet the current demand, Sen. Brownsberger also pointed to the potentially large number of asymptomatic carriers who could now have the virus and be unwittingly spreading it to others.

“People who don’t know they

have it are roaming around spreading the virus,” he said. “There’s a lot of virus out there now, and if we allow people to have contact, transmissions will go up, but we can’t know by how much.”

Sen. Brownsberger cited the recent statistic that 10 percent of Boston residents might have already been exposed to COVID-19.

“But what about the 90 percent not exposed?” he asked. “That’s a whole lot of virgin territory for the virus to go wild in so we have to be very vigilant moving forward.”

Sen. Brownsberger also believes more data should be collected and carefully analyzed as more busi-

nesses reopen.

“We have to make modest adjustments and look at all the data we can,” he said, “and we have to preserve sanitation measures as we get out going to some work places.”

As more people return to work, Sen. Brownsberger said they still must maintain social distancing and other safety measures to help contain transmission rates.

“Given our inability to test and track everyone, we have to be zealous about social distancing as we return to work in some places,” he said. “We’ll have to keep wear-

ing masks, regularly washing our hands and distancing from each other at work.”

But despite the necessity, Sen. Brownsberger admits adhering to this safety protocol can seem counterintuitive at times.

“Wearing a mask takes a whole lot to get used to, and there’s a natural desire to go in for a hug, which isn’t something we can do now,” he said. “These things aren’t second nature to all of us.”

Yet Sen. Brownsberger doesn’t expect this will change anytime soon.

“I think it’s entirely likely that we’re going to have different lifestyles and engage in different ways for months if not years,” he said.

Baker-Polito administration releases phased reopening plan

By Lauren Bennett

Gov. Charlie Baker on Monday announced the phased reopening plan for Massachusetts, and urged residents to continue being vigilant to prevent further spread of COVID-19. The plan has been the task of the governor's Reopening Advisory Board for the past several weeks, where it has met with leaders from many sectors and industries across the Commonwealth.

"Our collective success depends on everyone," Baker said. "We cannot move forward until we commit to slowing the spread."

Before getting into specifics of the plan, Baker said that it will progress through four phases, each lasting at least three weeks but could last longer "if the public health data doesn't support moving forward."

He also said that the plan lays out what businesses and individuals must do in order to be able to reopen during each phase. "The advisory board made every effort to be as clear and direct as possible," Baker said. "This is something no one's ever done before."

In Phase One, called "start," which began on May 18, places of worship were allowed to open "with guidelines," and "outdoor services are encouraged." Additionally on May 18, essential businesses, manufacturing, and construction were allowed to operate.

Beginning on May 25, lab space, office space (except in Boston), limited personal services—hair salons, pet grooming, and car washes—and retail with remote fulfillment and curbside pickup are allowed to open. On June 1, office space can open again in Boston.

Last week, Baker announced a list of employers who have committed to continuing their work from home policies "for the foreseeable future," including Wayfair, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Liberty Mutual, and several

others. He encouraged employers to continue work from home policies where it's possible to reduce the number of people coming into contact with each other.

On May 18, hospitals and community health centers were also permitted "upon attestation" to "provide high priority preventative care, pediatric care and treatment for high risk patients and conditions," and on May 25, additional health care providers will be permitted to do the same.

On May 25, beaches, parks, drive-in theaters, some athletic fields and courts, many outdoor adventure activities, most fishing, hunting, and boating, and outdoor gardens, zoos, reserves, and public installations will be permitted to open with specific guidelines.

Baker said that people are still to cover their noses and mouths when six feet of distance cannot be maintained, wash their hands and surfaces often, continue to social distance, and stay home if sick.

"Sticking with these critical tasks is everyone's responsibility," Baker said. "State and local governments will continue to step up testing capabilities alongside the community tracing program. Positive case rates are moving in the right direction," he added.

Baker said that the steps taken in the first phase are for businesses that have "limited face-to-face and customer interactions." He said that people are going to have to change their behaviors and things will not be the same as they were before the virus.

"At some point there will be treatments and a vaccine," he said, but "for the foreseeable future, everyone needs to continue to do the same thing."

This goes hand-in-hand with the Baker-Polito administration's new "Safer At Home" advisory, which advises people to stay at home "unless going to a newly opened facility or activity," he said. Those over the age of 65 and who are at high-risk for the virus

should remain at home.

"The virus will be with us throughout the reopening process," Baker said. "How well everyone does these things will determine how well we move into later phases."

He also said that "we'd all prefer to believe that the virus is less serious now and that it's behind us," but "if we don't keep up the fight and do things we know we have to do and can do we run the risk of creating a second spike in the fall."

He thanked those who have been vigilant in playing their part to reduce the spread of the virus and asked that everyone continue everything they've been doing.

"This plan required a tremendous amount of thought, planning, and preparation by the board," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "Our work would not have been possible without an extensive municipal engagement," she added.

Polito said that things like campgrounds, community pools, playgrounds, restaurants and more, could resume in Phase Two with specific guidelines, and in Phase Three, arts and entertainment, gyms, and other activities "push us towards Phase Four of all resumption of activity," in what will be called the "new normal."

However, as the governor has said several times over the past few weeks, public health data will determine whether the state will enter a new phase, and he said it is possible to revert to a previous phase if necessary.

Polito said that a restaurant, accommodations, and tourism work group has met and will continue to have discussions with these industries about "industry specific protocols for meeting safety standards."

She also said that the business community will continue to be supported "as they implement the mandatory workplace safety standards" that the administra-

tion announced last week. She added that businesses opening up in Phase One will be required to comply with these standards before they are allowed to open.

"The administration will require businesses to self-certify," Polito said, adding that they must develop a COVID-19 control plan and implement the safety standards.

The state has also created sector-specific guidance that "aim to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmissions in each industry." Materials for these guidelines and safety standards are available on the Reopening Massachusetts section of the mass.gov website.

CHILDCARE AND TRANSPORTATION

Polito also said that "key components" of beginning to reopen the state include childcare and public transportation.

In March, the administration created an emergency childcare system for children of essential workers and others on the frontlines of fighting the virus.

She said that the emergency childcare system already in place will be used to meet the needs of "people with no alternative for care" as people slowly return to work in Phase One. She also encouraged families to find alternatives to group care, and that currently, only 25 percent of emergency childcare is occupied. "The system we established has capacity for 10,000 children statewide," Polito said.

"Summer camps serve an important purpose," Polito added, saying that additional health and safety standards are being reviewed in preparation for the opening of summer camps. She said that these health guidelines could be implemented in over 1400 camps across Massachusetts, and "pending public health data," camps could open in Phase Two "with limitations and standards in line with CDC guidance."

On the transportation front, "the MBTA has been and will continue to implement measures to prevent the spread," Polito said. "We cannot significantly reduce transmission" without the support of everyone in the state.

She said that riders of the MBTA are required to wear face coverings, and employers should implement work from home practices and stagger the workday to "reduce demand on rush hours."

Polito said that in Phase One, the MBTA will "support the transit needs of essential workers and those returning" by continuing with limited service. By Phase Three, there will be a modified version of full service, and the MBTA will continue to provide protective supplies to workers and clean stations and vehicles often, as well as "actively communicate public health guidance in stations, online, and over social media," Polito said.

"Today, as we move forward in implementing this plan for reopening, I am confident in everyone's ability to play their role," Polito said. "Everyone must do their part."

She said that the "next few weeks are really important," and by helping businesses incorporate workplace safety standards and making sure everyone follows guidelines, "the Commonwealth can stay ahead of this virus," Polito said.

"As we balance the shared goals of activating economy and public safety...our roadmap provides us with a plan and a direction point to get started," Polito said. "The people of Massachusetts are strong; we're resilient, we've come through tough times before and we will come through this tough time again."

To download the full Reopening MA report with details about which industries fit into which phase, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>.

Back Bay resident recognized by Chambers and Partners

Attorney Harold B. Murphy, a Back Bay resident, as well as shareholder and president of Boston-based law firm Murphy & King, P.C., has once again received prestigious acclaim from Chambers and Partners in the Chambers USA 2020 rankings for his expertise in the areas of bankruptcy and financial restructuring.

Chambers named Murphy a "Star Individual," a designation he has had for 15 years. Chambers

says that he is "considered outstanding in his field" and "is well regarded for his work on Chapter 11 bankruptcies especially those involving cross-border disputes." Chambers' sources note, "his biggest strength is his ability to quickly analyze a complex situation with competing interests, pick out the key details, and devise a thoughtful, elegant solution."

Murphy is co-founder of and leads the firm's Bankruptcy and

Financial Restructuring practice which has been recognized as Band 1 in the Chambers USA rankings for 14 consecutive years. As part of the Band 1 designation, Chambers noted that the firm's practice is known for "standout bankruptcy specialists active in numerous sectors including real estate" and has "substantial capabilities on both the debtor and creditor side." Others interviewed by Chambers said that Murphy &

King attorneys "have a practical approach, experience with local judges and trustees, and give excellent advice."

In Chambers USA 2020, Chambers and Partners ranks the leading firms and lawyers in an extensive range of practice areas throughout the United States. The research is in-depth and client focused with the guide being read by industry-leading companies and organizations throughout the world.



COURTESY OF MURPHY & KING, P.C.

Harold B. Murphy, a Back Bay attorney who was again recognized by Chambers and Partners.

SELDC deals with lighter agenda of roof decks and doors

By Lauren Bennett

The South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) held its second virtual hearing this month via Zoom on May 11, where no very large projects were on the docket. Most had to do with facade changes or roof deck proposals for residential buildings.

31 WORCESTER ST.

At 31 Worcester St., the proposal was to modify the entryway under the stoop, remove an iron gate, and install a door.

Marcus Springer of Springer Architects reminded the Commission that this project was brought before them in 2019 and much of the project is “well under construction.”

The originally approved design of the door was to lower the floor level two feet down to accommodate a new door. The existing condition of the entrance to the garden level of the building is five feet six inches and 32 inches wide.

“We want to make the door wider,” Springer said, and remove the existing grate. He said that they would like to widen the door to 39 inches because the owners have some small children and want to bring strollers through the door and store them underneath the stairs. The proposal also includes pulling the door away from the building to the left 13 inches.

However, the Commission was concerned with this proposal as the material is original, as is the “sense of the opening,” according to Commissioner John Amodeo.

“We’ve approved things like that before because they’re below grade,” said Commissioner John

Freeman. “This involves cutting into the wall of the original configuration.”

Commissioner Catherine Hunt said that the fact that the owners want to bring strollers through that door “is not a reason to change the fabric of the building. I don’t think it’s appropriate to make this kind of change.”

Commissioner Diana Parcon agreed, saying that she thinks this proposal “detracts from the original design.”

The Commission already approve the lowering of the door sill in the previous approval for this building, and Amodeo said that the “length of time for stroller access seems minimal,” probably only a few years out of the entire length of time that the family will live in the unit, so “I don’t see why we should alter the original configuration,” he said. “Plenty of other families manage with the original configuration.”

The Commission voted to deny this application without prejudice, and the applicant is allowed to come back with a different proposal.

81 WARREN AVE.

At 81 Warren Avenue, architect Eben Kunz presented a proposal for a roof deck with hatch access.

A mockup has been created for this roof deck, and Kunz said that “at the roof line you can see a tiny bit of the yellow ribbon that’s extending across.” He said the proposal is to install a roof deck that is “very minimally visible.” The platform of the proposed deck extends out and the railing is set back.

Right now, much of the mockup is covered by shrouded scaffolding,

and “determining the placement of the railing so it’s minimally visible would be difficult,” said Preservation Planner Mary Cirbus.

“I think even with the minimal slot that’s available there that one could make a determination by seeing it in person from within the sidewalk whether the amount of visibility was acceptable or not,” Amodeo said.

After some further discussion, the Commission voted to approve the deck in concept but remand the location of the railing on the street side to a subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Peter Sanborn and Diana Parcon.

36 GREENWICH PARK

At 36 Greenwich Park, the proposal was to install sliding glass doors and a deck at the rear facade mansard level.

Architect Eben Kunz said that the proposal “takes the pair of dormers that exists and joins them between the two,” and retains the existing side of the door. “I don’t believe this is visible from a public way,” he added.

“This work is being reviewed because it is visible from Blackwood St., which is considered a public street or avenue,” Cirbus said. The purview of the SELDC

includes anything on a building that is visible from a public way.

“It looks pretty but it’s not the vocabulary of the district,” said Commissioner John Freeman.

After some more back and forth discussion about purview and visibility in the district, the Commission decided to deny this project without prejudice.

227 WEST CANTON ST.

At 227 West Canton Street, the proposed work was to construct a roof deck. The applicant said there was a leak in the roof, leading to the removal of the existing roof deck and installation of a new roof. Now, they want to construct a new deck that is very similar to the one that was there previously.

She said a mock up of the roof railing was put up, “and I went across the street to the door of the building across the street in the front and there was absolutely no way you could see the front railing at all.” She said it might be “slightly” visible from the back.

She also said that the old deck had wooden railings, but the proposed one will feature wrought iron railings that will not be visible from the road.

Mary Cirbus confirmed that she could not see the railing from the front of the building. More details about the proposal were remanded to staff and the Commission requested a drawing that shows the adjacent deck’s location.

160 WEST CANTON STREET
At 160 West Canton Street, the proposal was to construct a deck with hatch access, and at the entry to modify the double leaf entry doors and install glazing.

Architect Dartagnan Brown said that the original doors will remain, and the “inset panels will go to glass as other buildings to the left and the right have.” Brown said he believed the doors were original to the building, but he was not positive. They currently have wood inset panels.

There is also a mock up in place for the roof deck.

“I think the original door should be retained as-is,” said Commissioner Diana Parcon. Commissioner Amodeo agreed with her, and added that there are currently no roof decks on this whole street, and “this would be the one sticking up, right on axis with the long view coming down Montgomery,” he said. “We have so few streets where this is true,” he said of the lack of roof decks.

Amodeo said that if the deck could be moved back to minimize or eliminate the view of the railing, that would be preferable.

The Commission voted to remand the issue of the roof deck to a subcommittee of Commissioners Peter Sanborn and Diana Parcon, and that the door component of the application be denied without prejudice unless the applicant can prove that the doors are not original to the building.

WALSH UPDATE (from pg. 1)

ly 700,000 nearly doubles in size every day as people come in for work, so office space reopening in Boston will be carefully thought out to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible.

Walsh said that this will include things like continuing to work from home wherever possible, communication with employees, cleaning protocols, ventilation in office spaces, and more.

He said detailed guidelines for office buildings will be released next week.

For small businesses, retail stores will be able to open for curbside pickup on May 25, and the City is “developing creative public space solutions in business districts,” he said.

“Reopening must only happen in a way that’s safe for you, your workers, and your customers,” Walsh said. He added that just because the date will come where businesses are permitted to open doesn’t mean they have to if they do not feel safe doing so. He said that the City will continue to offer assistance and support to small businesses.

Governor Baker’s plan also allowed for the reopening of houses of worship at 40 percent capacity beginning on May 18. “I know that people are missing their in-person services,” Walsh said, but he advised seniors and those at high risk to skip the in person services and connect with their religious leaders to continue participating in services remotely.

For those who will be attending in person services, social distancing should be in effect and face coverings should be worn “at all times.”

Walsh said that the City “will not take steps that put anyone under risk,” and assured residents that the City will “continue to reach out to you with information and resources to help you and your family. Our goal is to not return to what existed before, but build a more equitable and resilient City.”

He also made note of the 46th annual EMS week, saying that Boston’s EMS workers “deserve a special thank you” this year for everything they have done to help keep Boston safe and healthy

during this pandemic.

When asked about the Boston Marathon that has been rescheduled for September 14, Walsh said that when the original decision was made to move the marathon, the hope was that COVID-19 would no longer be a health risk. Walsh could not provide any specific updates regarding the marathon, but he said that he is having conversations with stakeholders “on the best way to move forward.”

At Fenway Park, Walsh said that he’d “love to see games played with no fans” this summer as long as players are comfortable doing so, but nothing official has been announced yet.

Walsh urged residents to keep up the work that they have been doing so far to stop the spread of the virus, and he said he appreciates the governor’s phased in approach to reopening the state, which has been criticized by some for being too quick, and by others for being too slow.

“I think the phased-in approach that the governor is taking is a very thoughtful approach,” he said.



BREWSTER & BERKOWITZ REAL ESTATE

Charles Street Meeting House
121 Mt. Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108
617-367-0505 www.brewberk.com

Sally Brewster

Betsey Barrett

Ron Berkowitz

Toni Doggett

Massachusetts Weekly Unemployment Claimant Data

From May 3 to May 9, Massachusetts had 44,274 individuals file an initial claim for standard Unemployment Insurance (UI), a decrease of 10,949 over the previous week, and the sixth consecutive week of fewer initial claims filing over the previous week.

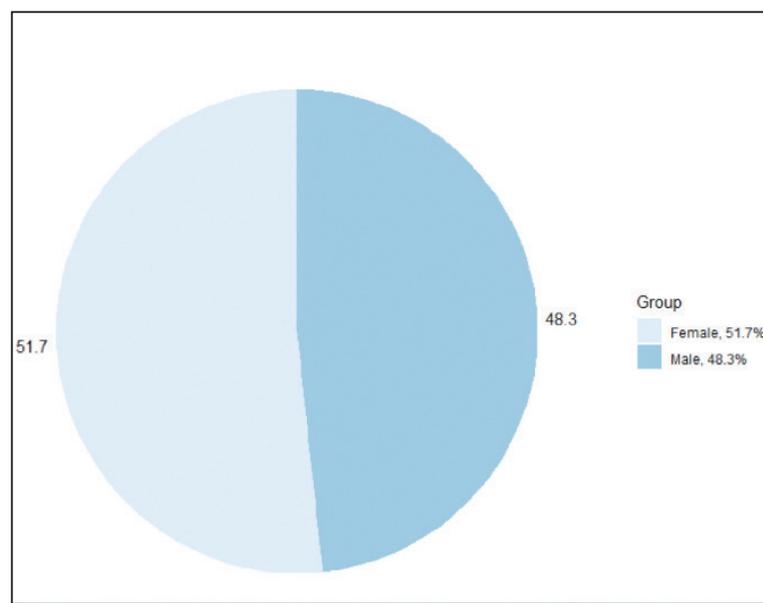
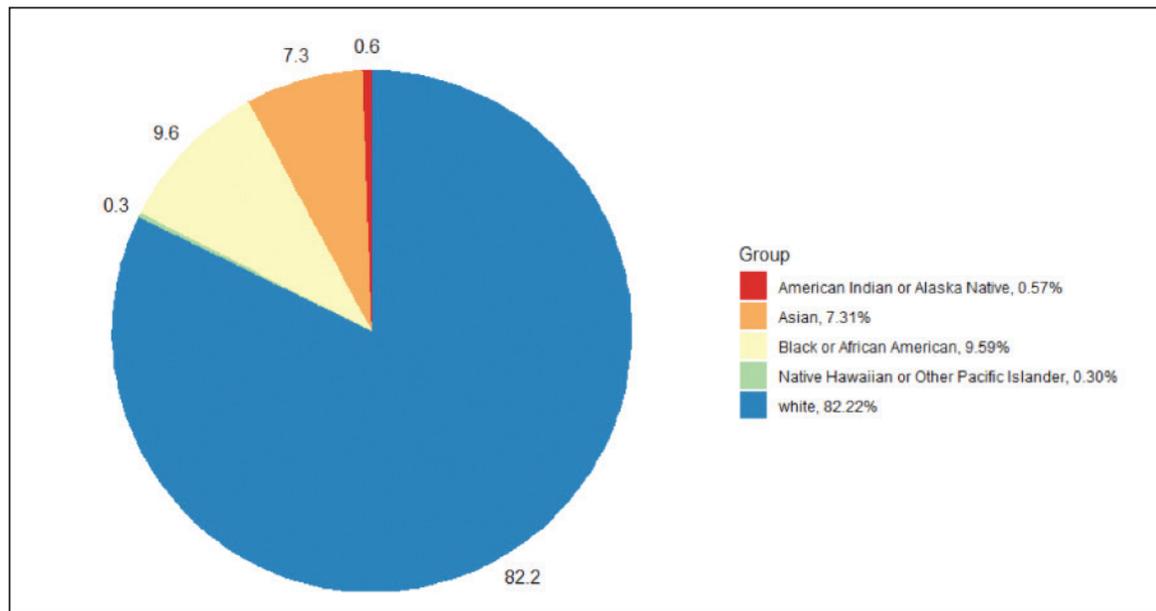
Since March 15, a total of

821,506 initial claims have been filed for UI. For the week of May 3 to May 9, there were a total of 576,172 continued UI claims, an increase of 3.6% over the previous week.

Since April 20, over 255,000 claimants have filed for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

Between both the UI and PUA programs more than 1 million unemployment claims have been filed in the Commonwealth.

Over the last month, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to over



1800. The remote customer service operation is now making over 32,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host daily unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by over 240,000 constituents. Massachusetts was one of the first states to successfully

launch the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. Due to DUA's previous efforts to migrate their systems to the cloud, the first unemployment agency in the country to do so, the unemployment online platforms for both regular UI and PUA has maintained functionality throughout the surge in demand.

Capt. David Ramsay was an elite fighter pilot in the Air Force

Only the 47th African American to graduate from West Point in 1964

By Seth Daniel

Ramsay Park might be better known for its basketball courts and recently-renovated playground areas in the South End, but the namesake of the park is a man whose shadow looms large on a day like Memorial Day.

Capt. David Ramsay fought and died in Vietnam, being killed in action and celebrated as a fallen hero on this special holiday.

However, his accomplishments were much more than just having a large park in the South End bear his name. He paved the way for others and was a tremendous athlete and celebrated pilot – a graduate of West Point Military Academy - in a time when not many African American men did not achieve such successes.

Ramsay actually grew up right where the park sits today, on Sterling Street – which is approximately where Melnea Cass Boulevard and Washington Street lie today. He attended the Asa Gray Elementary School and Sherwin Middle School in Roxbury – graduating from The English High School in June 1956.



Captain David Ramsay, for whom Ramsay Park is named.

He quickly enlisted in the US Air Force in 1956 and was honorably discharged in 1960, switching military branches to attend the prestigious West Point Military Academy. He graduated there in 1964 with full honors and with the rank of captain. He was only the 47th African American to ever graduate from West Point.

His pioneering career included being one of the first African Americans to be appointed to fly with the elite USAF Thunderbirds.

It was as a jet fighter pilot where Ramsay served in Vietnam.

He was killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam on Aug. 17, 1970 – exactly 50 years ago this

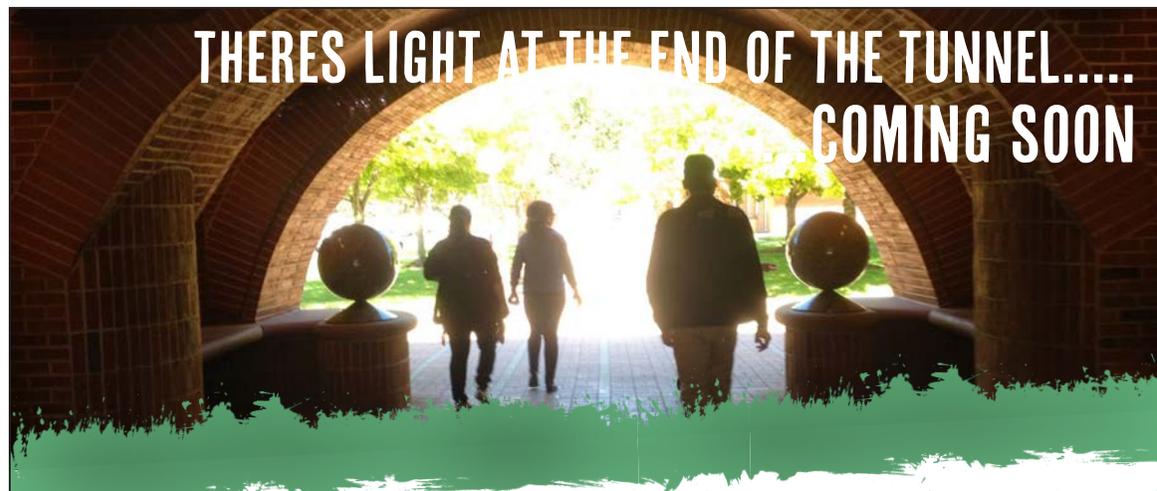
coming August.

Capt. Ramsay's Awards and Decorations include: Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, two

Meritorious Service Awards, Bronze Star, Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, two Air Medals, National

Defense Service Medal, Silver Star, and Viet Nam Service Medal.

Ramsay Park was dedicated in his honor Nov. 20, 1999



AS DAYS TURN TO MONTHS, WE'VE ALL BEEN GOING A LITTLE STIR-CRAZY. THE PEOPLE WANT OUT. AND THEY'RE PLANNING FOR IT. MAKE SURE THAT PLAN INCLUDES YOU

YOUR AD IN COLOR
2 COULMN-X-3-INCH \$45/RUN

SHARE YOUR REOPENING PLANS WITH US & WE'LL SHARE IT WITH BOSTON

EMAIL DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM TO GET SET UP

Kicking off a campaign from the front lines of the COVID-19 fight

By Seth Daniel

State Rep. Jon Santiago this week finds himself continuing to care for patients on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle, while at the same time making the ballot and kicking off his re-election campaign to the State Legislature – a campaign that finds him with no opponent in his quest for a second term.

When the Sun last talked with Rep. Santiago in March, the Emergency Room doctor at Boston Medical Center was just preparing for what might or might not have been a tough few weeks.

It ended up being a tough 12 weeks, and counting.

“The update now is we were able to control the surge in mid-April and level things off in April,” he said. “We were able to galva-

nize space in the hospital and staff and get PPE so we didn’t get to a point where we had to ration care...Fortunately, we were able to prevent that.”

Santiago has upped his working hours at the hospital, he said, going from working every other weekend to every weekend. He also took some time off, but decided to volunteer at the Boston Hope Hospital in the South Boston Con-

vention Center. There, he treated the homeless and vulnerable populations who were sick with COVID-19.

Santiago said at the peak in mid-April, BMC was treating about 225 patients with COVID-19, but by the end of last week, they had dropped to treating 60 admitted patients with COVID-19.

While that has been a relief, Santiago said he has been con-

cerned about the push to re-open and doesn’t know if the data supports a quick move to re-start the economy.

“Right now, I don’t think we are there from a public health standpoint to open the economy,” he said. “We’re not where we need to be yet to open.”

He said without a vaccine, and

(SANTIAGO, Pg. 9)

Boston water sales drop substantially as City comes to standstill

MWRA reduces rates significantly for water, sewer base

By Seth Daniel

There seems to be no end to the secondary effects of the COVID-19 virus, and now City officials are at a loss to figure out why water sales for home and commercial ratepayers are down – particularly for Boston.

The MWRA has taken steps to reduce rates this month to help cities and towns handle this year’s coming budget complications, and that will be helpful as the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) copes with having lost

revenue due to lost water sales.

Water sales for Boston through May 8 were down 13.7 percent, something that was unexpected as people stayed home from work in greater numbers than before and big-water users like Logan Airport and the hotels were shuttered. The same was true in surrounding cities, with Revere down 3.6 percent and Milton down 7 percent. Other bedroom community suburbs like Swampscott (12.7 percent), Winthrop (10 percent) and Stoneham (16.7 percent) showed major water sale increases.

“The question becomes is this a long-term thing or will it settle down and even out,” said Fred Laskey, MWRA Director. “We will want to know if there is a permanent change in the water usage.

If Boston and other large communities are down, then it could result in an increase for suburban communities. It’s too early to push the panic button. We are looking at it, as are other communities.”

Laskey said Boston accounts for a major part of the MWRA usage, and it is something very critical to watch.

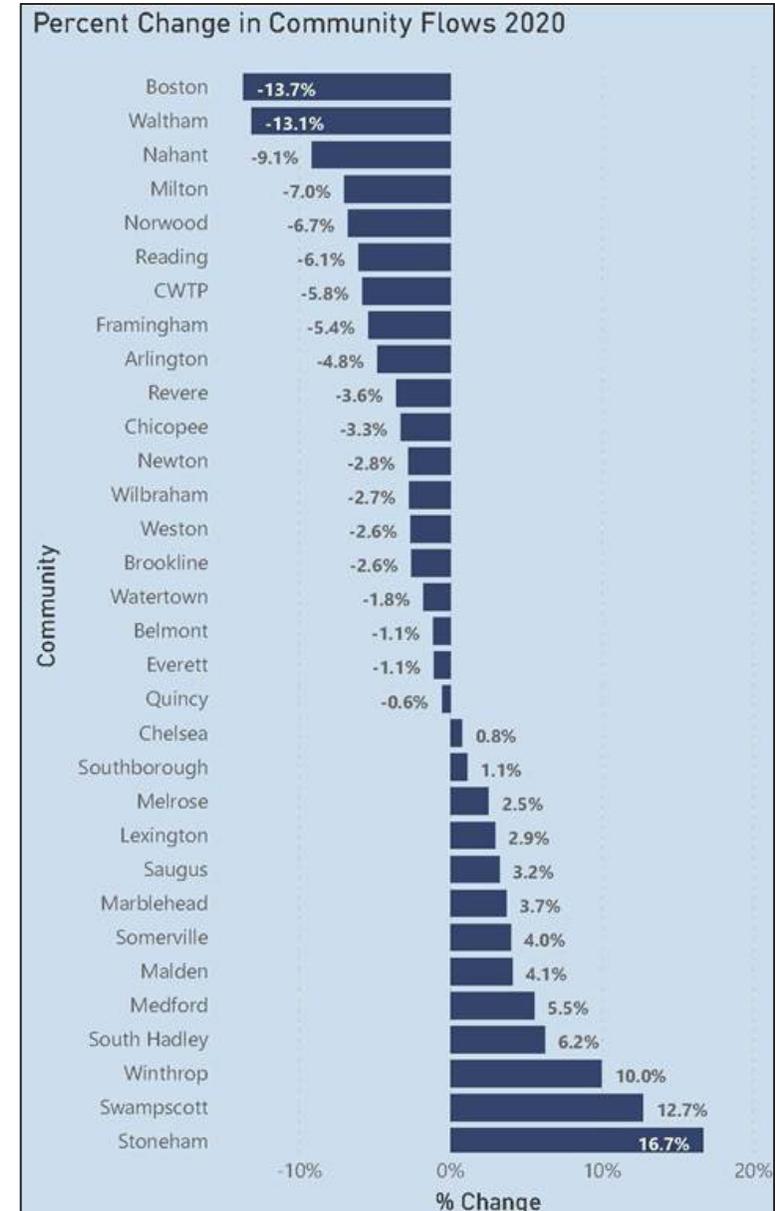
“The big news is Boston sales are down dramatically,” he said. “The water usage in Boston is the biggest. It’s one-third of our rate because they drive a lot of the usage because of their size. The sales are down and a lot of that we think is indicative of people tele-working.”

Dolores Randolph of the BWSC said they are seeing a significant decrease from large users. The largest users are decreasing usage as much as 97 percent, she said. That includes Logan Airport, which is a major water user and has basically grounded most of the flights and human traffic that usually passes through. The same can be said for hotels, who use a lot of water and are empty for the most part.

“We’re not surprised this is happening,” she said. “We’re looking at it and following the patterns like everyone else. It’s too early to say, but we’re not surprised given the decrease by large users.”

The water and sewer system in most cities, like Boston, is fully funded by ratepayers. If less water is sold, but costs on improvements continue to go up, it could mean a rise in water bills. For Boston, one of the key potential reductions comes due to the slowdown of Logan Airport, which uses a lot of water.

Meanwhile, on May 6, the MWRA Board voted to reduce base rates to cities and towns significantly. MWRA proposed a 3.6 percent increase in February, but with reductions to its operating budget and capital financing,



the rate increase, which goes into effect July 1, was lowered to 1 percent. These cuts will not result in any loss of service, and amount to \$29 million in reductions through the MWRA membership communities.

“We’re in uncharted waters,” said Laskey. “The finances are up in the air. They’re talking about a state shortfall in funding and local challenges will be apparent too. We thought it was the appropriate time to do this. The thing is we did this early. We usually don’t set water rates until the end of June. These communities wanted to know and we did it early so they could plan.”

In addition, the MWRA agreed to potentially defer over \$71 million in community loan payments. That stipulation – which will help communities with cash flow problems – allows them to defer payments on any Local Water Pipeline and Infiltration/Inflow loans with repayments due to MWRA in FY2020, FY2021 and FY2022.

The MWRA also received an allocation this month from the state to help debt service, which is typically used to pay off the Boston Harbor cleanup costs. This year the \$891,535 will be directed to communities to help reduce assessments further.

BWSC’s share of that funding came out to \$263,122.



The Gardisans
GARDEN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

By ZEN Associates, Inc.
800.834.6654 | gardisans.com

Keep your garden looking it's best in every season with the Gardisans. Our team of certified arborists, horticulturists and landscape professionals know exactly what needs to be done, when it needs to be done.
Call today to schedule a consultation.

Please Recycle

SANTIAGO (from pg. 8)

with so many people that did not get COVID-19 and thus have no anti-bodies, there are a lot of vulnerable people out there who get sick on a resurgence. One key number he looks at is the percent of positive tests, which has gone down.

“We’re headed in the right directions with the numbers,” he said. “We had 30 percent testing positive in mid-April. We’re in the low teens. I think there’s still a little way to go. We need to be below 5 percent positive with ample testing.”

Santiago said the pandemic has further enlightened him to the plight of vulnerable communities and people of color and low-income families – and just how the systems in place did not work for them. He said there will be no going back to the way things were, something he is sure of legislatively and medically.

“The virus has exposed to us the health disparities,” he said. “They were long there but this exposed and exacerbated them...We can’t go back to normal because normal didn’t work for certain communities...That’s a lesson learned and one I want to work on in the Legislature and the hospital.”

When not working on the front lines, Santiago has been on the front lines in the State House, advising leadership in the House on the internal COVID-19 Task Force set up by Speaker Bob DeLeo. He is one of five members on that Task Force, and said it has been invigorating.

The worry now has turned to the economic issues that are going

to hit the state very soon.

“Like I said about the virus getting worse before it gets better, I say the same about the economy,” he said. “The economic issue will get worse before it gets better.”

The State Budget has been completely scrapped for the moment as revenues and expenditures – as well as federal reimbursements – are in the queue or are uncertain.

Already, Santiago has participated remotely in the first few historic online votes on legislation in the House.

“We’re going to take up more difficult pieces of legislation in the near future, but as we get more accustomed to it,” he said. “I think we’re up to the challenge... It’s going to be a process to get out of this, and it’s going to be a long process. I’m confident, though, we’ll bounce back stronger than we were before.”

Santiago said he is excited for pursuing a second term, and noted that the time has gone by quickly since he was first elected two years ago. He said while COVID-19 has dominated the discussion, there are still issues in the neighborhoods that he said need addressing – such as the opioid epidemic in the South End and the Hynes Convention Center sale in the Back Bay.

“The way I practice politics is to be present and listening and learning from my constituents and neighbors and taking that to the State House,” he said. “It’s what I did before COVID-19 and what I’ll do after it...I look forward to being the representative of the 9th Suffolk District if the voters will have me for a second term.”

Rates, cases and testing stay steady and low in the downtown

By Seth Daniel

Little has changed and rates and testing remains very encouraging for the downtown neighborhoods, as they display some of the lowest rates of infection in the city outside of the larger homeless population that is buoying up rates and cases in the South End.

Of all the downtown areas, Fenway remains the least affected neighborhood in the city with 252 positive cases and an infection rate of 46 per 10,000 residents. The Downtown/Back Bay/Beacon Hill areas recorded 347 cases with an infection rate of 62.3 per 10,000 residents. In the South End, the number of cases grew to 727 for a rate of 203.3 per 10,000. That rate is not indicative of the general neighborhood as many of the homeless population were tested at shelters and Boston Medical Center, and were given a South End address if they were positive for the virus.

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) released the latest data on Friday of last week, and was current up through May 14 at 1:05 p.m.

On the matter of testing, all neighborhoods have been tested consistently, though on the lower end. The South End has had 2,785 tests and a positive rate of 26.4 percent. The Downtown area has had 2,442 tests with a positive rate of 14.3 percent, while the Fenway had 1,448 tests and a positive rate of 16.3 percent.

Some neighborhoods like South Dorchester had tested more than 5,500 residents, and East Boston had tested 3,580 residents with a positive rate of 36.3 percent, which was the highest in the city.

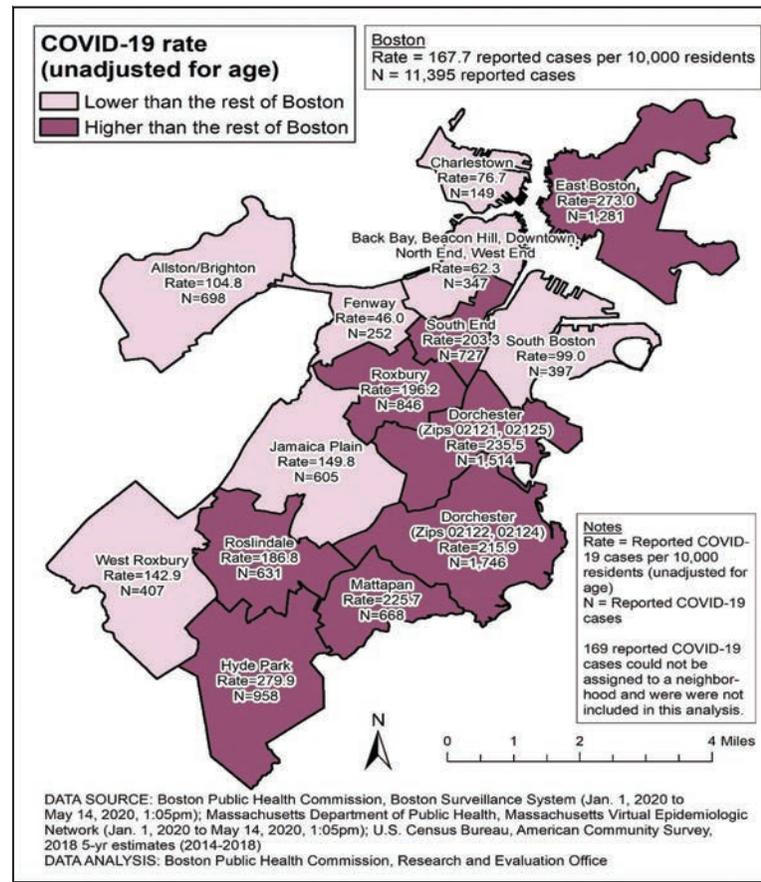
East Boston had 1,281 cases and a rate of 273 per 10,000.

Hyde Park had the highest infection rate at 279.9 per 10,000 – something that could be explained by the large numbers of nursing homes and elderly care centers in that neighborhood, though more research is needed on that matter.

Meanwhile, South Dorchester had the highest number of cases, with 1,746.

•On the issue of race, Black/African Americans are still affected at much higher rates than other races, with 39 percent of the cases in Boston coming from that population. The date, however, is incomplete with 20 percent of cases not reflecting any race. Hispanic residents also increased a great deal over the week, climbing to 24 percent of the cases after having been at 17 percent last week.

Whites make up 25 percent of



all cases, but whites make up 43 percent of all deaths (244 deaths).

As of Tuesday, May 19, there were a total of 12,050 confirmed cases and 5,121 people had recovered. There were 588 deaths from COVID-19 complications.

•The numbers of women affected by the virus also continued to grow larger than men. That was first reported last week as the two genders evened out statistically for the first time, with men having been affected more previously.

Of all the cases, women made up 51.4 percent and men made up

47.4 percent.

Women’s infection rate also grew, sitting at 166 per 10,000, with men at 165.4 per 10,000.

•Most cases are still concentrated heavily in the older adult population.

Figures showed that one in three cases was a person 60 or older. Those age 50-59, though, made up the largest percentage of cases, with 17.2 percent of cases. Those 80 years old and above, had an infection rate of 578.7 per 10,000, much higher than all other age groups.



State Rep. Jon Santiago has kicked off his campaign for a second term while fighting COVID-19 on the front lines with patients at Boston Medical Center and the Boston Hope Hospital. He is unopposed on the ballot this time around.

Antonio's

CUCINA ITALIANA

Stay Home and Let us come to You!

Don't let quarantine keep you from your favorites!

Lobster Ravioli...Chicken Ziti Saladate...Angel Hair Pomodoro
Spinach Ravioli...Fusilli Matriciana...Eggplant Parmigiana ...Chicken Rafael
Pork Chops, Vinegar, Peppers, & Potatoes....Shrimp Scampi....And More!

Find Us On Your Favorite App! **GRUBHUB**

Uber Eats

288 Cambridge St., Boston 617-367-3310
Monday - Saturday, 11 am - 9 pm Sun: Closed

COVID Relief Coalition offers pro bono legal work to state's small business and nonprofits

By Dan Murphy

A local lawyer has joined a number of fellow attorneys to provide pro bono work to the state's small businesses and nonprofits in the age of COVID-19.

Christian Westra, an attorney with the Ropes & Gray and a Charles River Square resident, helped establish the COVID Relief Coalition – an alliance of Massachusetts law firms, nonprofits and government agencies established in late March to help small businesses and nonprofits statewide access emergency loans and other sources of relief during the pandemic. As of May 16, the Coalition had already received 200 requests for

pro bono legal work, he said.

"We're eager to help as many people as we can," he said. "Small businesses and nonprofits can go fill out an intake form on our website (at covidreliefcoalition.com), and that will go out to the law firms. Then we'll contact you and set up an appointment, assuming you qualify and most people qualify."

Westra added, "We're a pretty broad-based group, so we try to be as inclusive as possible and get the word out to as many people as we can."

Through the Coalition, referrals are shared between participating law firms, and they communicate on how to help guide clients

through the process with the Small Business Administration, among other entities.

"We also help people how to deal with challenges of not being able to pay rent or utilities, and help with situations that are specific to their businesses," Westra said.

But, as Westra concedes, even the Coalition members are trying to grasp how the constantly changing and seemingly ambiguous process works.

"Our guidance is continuing to evolve," he said. "People don't have a clear understanding of how loan forgiveness works so we help people assess the risks and figure out what makes the most sense for their business and organizations."

Of particular interest to many of the Coalition's clients are the terms of the Small Business Administration's Payment Protection Program (PPP), which provides forgivable loans to small businesses to help pay employees during the pandemic. "We expect to get more questions as people start to think about loan forgiveness for the PPP," Westra said.

To help small businesses and nonprofits navigate this terrain, the Coalition has "tried to capture some key documents," as well as providing contact information for other sources of relief specific to their circumstances. The Coalition also provides information on how to access unemployment benefits

and other resources to help individuals.

Westra said his commitment to the Coalition was spurred by his desire to help the neighborhood he loves recover from the ongoing pandemic.

"As a neighbor and someone who lives right next to Charles Street, it was heartbreaking to see all the closed shops and how it impacted people in such a significant way," he said. "But one of the things I can do as a lawyer is help marshal my colleagues to give free legal advice through the coalition."

To learn more, visit covidrelief-coalition.com.

DeFREYTAS (from pg. 1)

Already, local veterans posts and volunteers have assisted the City in placing flags on 52,000 graves of veterans in Boston, and they have decorated the 1,200 Hero Squares that lie all over the city.

In groups of 10 or less, they have gone out to make sure all of that work gets done as soon as possible.

"We have to go out in groups of 10 or less," he said. "It's going to take a little longer to decorate this

year, but it looks like it will all be done by Memorial Day."

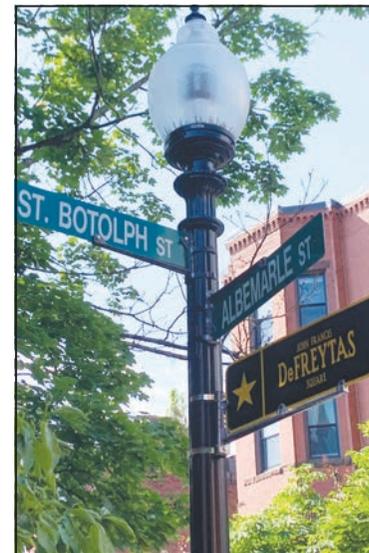
One Hero Square in the Back Bay/St. Botolph area that will get its first celebration and decoration this year will be for John F. DeFreytas.

Commissioner Santiago said the family called his office late last year looking for information on DeFreytas, as they lived in Maryland and could not get up to Boston. Santiago said he learned that there was no Hero Square for

DeFreytas, and he moved to get one commissioned at the corner of St. Botolph and Albemarle Street.

DeFreytas, who was born in 1916, lived at 198 St. Botolph Street before joining the Army in World War II, serving as a Private 1st Class in the 10th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division and the 28th Cavalry Recon Squadron.

Santiago said DeFreytas and his squadron between Sept. 11 and 28, 1944, were looking for a way to cross the Moselle River in France.



A new Hero Square dedicated to John F. DeFreytas was never able to be dedicated officially due to poor weather and COVID-19 restrictions, but Commissioner Rob Santiago said they will remember fallen soldiers like him on Memorial Day this year despite not being able to gather in person.

In the heat of battle, they located a spot that was unguarded and were able to cross. The German Army quickly realized this, and mounted a counter-attack. Eventually, the Americans received backup from a tank battalion and forced the Germans to retreat. However, during the fierce fighting, DeFreytas was killed on Sept. 12 – likely run over by a tank after being injured.

That Hero Square was to be dedicated last fall, but bad weather cancelled it, and now COVID-19 restrictions have also stopped any gathering to celebrate his heroism.

That said, he will be remembered by City leaders this Memorial Day.

The main celebration, Santiago said, would be the making of a video called 'An American Quilt of Remembrance' that will premiere on Memorial Day and will tell stories like that of DeFreytas.

"There will be videos, pictures

and music woven together in a very patchwork fashion," he said. "It will be a quilt dedicated to the many who gave their last full measure of life to make preserve freedom in this country for others."

Already, City Hall has been lit red, white and blue this week to commemorate the holiday, and on May 24, they will light up City Hall and the Zakim Bridge gold in honor of the Gold Star Families that lost loved ones.

This Memorial Day might be different, but Santiago said it shouldn't be any less meaningful just because folks cannot gather in one spot.

"These men and women went to war willingly and knew they may not come back, and many of them did not come back," he said. "We want to continue this year to take the time to show their bravery and valor."

IT'S BEEN A LONG HAUL.....
WE THINK ITS TIME TO
TREAT YOURSELF

AS DAYS TURN TO MONTHS, WE'VE ALL BEEN GOING A LITTLE STIR-CRAZY. THE PEOPLE WANT OUT. AND THEY'RE PLANNING FOR IT. MAKE SURE THAT PLAN INCLUDES YOU WITH A

BUSINESS CARD SIZE AD
2 COULMN-X-2-INCH \$25/RUN

**SHARE YOUR
REOPENING
PLANS WITH
US & WE'LL
SHARE IT
WITH BOSTON**

EMAIL DEB@THEBOSTONSUN.COM TO GET SET UP

SELDC approves new 566 Columbus Ave. building in concept, remands details to subcommittee

By Lauren Bennett

The Harriet Tubman House project at 566 Columbus Ave. was back before the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) at a virtual hearing on May 18 after being continued from the May 5 hearing. The project was approved in concept and will move to a subcommittee to refine the last of the details before coming back to the full Commission for a final approval.

Commissioner John Amodeo had to excuse himself from this portion of the hearing as he is the landscape architect for the project, but two newly appointed commissioners, Fabian D'Souza and David Shepperd, joined the Zoom call for their first ever hearing as Commissioners.

"We see the Commission as an asset and a partner working both with us and the community at large," said David Goldman of New Boston Ventures. This is the fourth time the Commission has met with the development team on this project.

Though the use of a building is not in the purview of the SELDC, Richard Taylor, a co-developer on the project, said that the program for development of this building is home ownership, recognizing that many artists in the South End and Lower Roxbury have been displaced over the years.

Architect Jonathan Garland went through a detailed presentation of the proposal, beginning with the historical context of the existing building and the neighborhood, as well as several South End buildings from which he drew inspiration for the new building. The existing building at 566 Columbus Ave. will be demolished to create a six story residential building with a nonprofit commercial space and an "express cafe" on the ground floor.

"We're really trying to think of this building as a bookend," Garland said, since it stands at the corner of two prominent streets in the South End. The ground floor will be lighter in color to allow for transparency and vibrancy, and the upper floor and corner of the building will be a sculpted, heavy gauge plate metal.

The project has gone through several iterations over its time with the SELDC, and the cladding of the building has gone from fiber

cement to red brick, and the design team has also done away with balconies that hung over the edge of the building. The windows have also been more defined, and the railings have been more refined.

"We feel like the design modifications in concert with the Landmarks Commission have come a long way," Garland said. "We've done other things to be even more consistent with the district."

The building has a "signature roof element with a strong cornice band that separates it from the lower portion," Garland said, and the building feel has a "clear line of base, middle, top."

The garage door detailing has been adjusted to better fit within the neighborhood, and the transition between this new building and 220 West Springfield St. has been refined as well.

The Commission was impressed with Garland's presentation, and Commissioner John Freeman called it "carefully researched and so thoughtfully presented." They also appreciated the inclusion of the historical context and research that went into the development of this new building.

They also seemed to favor the latest proposal. "I think it's a great improvement," said Commissioner Catherine Hunt.

"It's a lot more fitting with the neighborhood in general than the previous design," said Commissioner David Shepperd. He did question why the garden space on West Springfield St. doesn't connect farther down "like most townhouses on that street and many others."

Garland responded that "a lot of it goes back to precedent," as buildings that sit at the corner of two main streets are considered "bookend" buildings and did not have garden fronts at all. He said they still wanted to include a space to "soften" the look of the building.

"There is only a courtyard within it and no significant green space around it," Shepperd continued. "The windows have a lot of detail around them that I think it's a vast improvement over the design with all the metal on the whole building." He said it "seems quite busy in the brickwork," and he said the tall metal "seems out of place to me." He suggested a material that is "more consistent with Mansard roofs in the area" such as slate.

On the other hand, "I appreciate the fact that you have tried to make the corner more sculptural with metal," Commissioner Fabian D'Souza said.

Commissioner Catherine Hunt said she has concerns about the massing on West Springfield St.

"I think you guys are on the way to a really great building here," Commissioner John Freeman said. "The difference between where we started and where we are now is phenomenal. It's going to be a stellar building when it's done."

Freeman's concerns were also with the height on West Springfield St. "Part of that is in the renderings; it does seem to loom over the rest of the street," he said, which is a "condition which happens frequently in the South End."

He suggested setting the building back farther or lower it to "reduce the feeling," He also said that the currently proposed five degree slope of the Mansard roof is "probably a bit too little" and "not quite enough to show off the fact that you do have the sloping Mansard."

He said he appreciates the "shingle-like" material for the Mansard roof, and the "brick parts of the building have massing that is excellent." He had some issues with the corbeling of the brick—calling it "a little art deco"—and wondered if it could be defined a little more so it better represents a South End window.

He said the "sculpted metal is fantastic. It kind of has a fantasy part to it," adding that this was the "right way to turn a corner."

Comments from the public were mixed, with some people wanting the Commission to wait until the public health emergency was over to make any decisions, some concerned about the loss of the history of the building, and others fully supporting the project.

One person said that she feels the loss of this building is adding to the "black history in the neighborhood" being "erased." She said she wanted to know more about the existing mural and how that will be preserved once the building is demolished.

Garland said that a mural advisory committee has been formed and is made up of arts community members and "those closely tied to the original commission of the mural." He said that this committee has met several times and are

considering the best ways to preserve the significance of the mural.

Jared Katsiane shared similar concerns about the mural. "If they truly believe it's iconic, you don't rip it down and reproduce it," he said. "Public art is still art."

Chris Cox, a South End resident, said that he believes the building "looks terrific," and praised the design team for doing their homework on other buildings in the South End.

Other neighbors also praised the look of the building and appreciated the changes it has gone through to get to this point.

"The presentation was thoughtful," said John Ruggieri. "I just think it's a great addition to the South End and that corner in particular."

Alina Walhart said that she and her husband are long time residents of the South End and "we think the building is a nice landmark to the corner." She said the red brick is a "nice touch that goes well with the rest of the buildings in the South End."

Others were not so enthusiastic about the project.

"I find it unconvincing that this process has actually been diligently and thoughtfully done," said Gabrielle Ballard. "The mural advisory committee does not sound like a satisfactory answer." She said that the fact that "the Commission is bulldozing through this process in the midst of a pandemic is wildly irresponsible."

Goldman reiterated that the committee is "made up primarily of neighborhood people who are interested in art and preserving the mural." He said that the late artists' widow is on the committee as well. "I hope that helps inform you where we are with it and where the thinking is," he said.

Nino Brown said that as a teacher, he was planning on bringing his

students to the Harriet Tubman House to learn about the history of the house, and wondered how the Black history was being preserved.

Goldman said that they have agreed to maintain an art gallery in the building, and the sale of the building "ensures the future" of United South End Settlements (USES) a nonprofit which primarily service communities of color. He said that with the sale of the building, USES will be able to continue offering these services moving forward.

Other general public concerns with the building were the height and massing, as well as the loss of green space.

Commissioner John Freeman said that this project has been in the purview of the SELDC for about a year, and they had already been discussing it for three hours on Monday night, so "I think it's time to move it to the next step."

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the building in concept with details remanded to a subcommittee of John Freeman and Catherine Hunt, with David Shepperd as an alternate. Any meetings of this subcommittee are open to the public.

"I don't think it's appropriate to hold up this building due to the pandemic," Freeman said. "Construction is way down the road," he added, and felt that it was "fairest to move it to the next step."

Details to be discussed in the subcommittee include the connection to West Springfield St., the datum line, the height, alternative detail in the metal and parapet, articulation of the windows, and shadow studies for the overhang in the front of the building.

Once the subcommittee works out a final design proposal, it will come back before the full Commission for a final vote.

SERVICES

JOHN J. RECCA
PAINTING
Interior/Exterior
Commercial/Residential
Fully Insured
Quality Work
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates
reccapainting@hotmail.com
781-241-2454

Assistant Restaurant Manager (Boston, MA) wanted for Thai Restaurant. Reqs min Bachelors in any field + 12 mos mgmt.exp. Reply by resume only to Thailand International Corp., 542 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118.

BBAC holds first virtual hearing on May 13

By Lauren Bennett

The Back Bay Architectural Commission (BBAC) met virtually for the first time on May 13, where project proponents were able to remotely present their proposals via Zoom.

545 BOYLSTON ST.

At 545 Boylston St., applicant Kathryn Lampes proposed an extension of the Boston Marathon mural from April 11, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The building at 545 Boylston St. has a new owner, who would like to extend the approval of the banner through the new date for the Boston Marathon, which is set for September 14.

The mural features silhouettes of runners in light blue and dark blue with a horse in the background, as well as text that reads “What Gets You to the Finish Line?”

“Our proposal is to keep the banner up until the end of the year,” Lampes said. “We think it’s a great, encouraging banner, so we hope that it stays.”

She said that they believe the banner is keeping water from entering the building, so there will be some concerns and building repairs needed once it is removed.

“To me, it’s too overpowering unless it has a more limited purpose,” said Commissioner John Christiansen. “The message right now is it’s just too dominant.”

Commissioner Robert Weintraub reiterated that the proposal was just to extend it through the rest of the year. “It seems to make sense to extend it to December,” he said, “to get it through the marathon.”

Lampes said that the new building owners “do not have any plans as of yet to put up a new mural,” as the repairs will probably take around a year to complete.

The Commission voted to approve this proposal.

15 ARLINGTON ST.

At 15 Arlington St., Jason Perillo presented a proposal for the Newbury Boston Hotel, formerly the Taj Hotel, to install an awning

and a blade sign at the Newbury St. elevation.

“This is for the specifics for the Banino’s sign,” Perillo explained. The blade sign would be black aluminum with painted graphics, and the proposed awning would be shed style, and made of Sunbrella fabric with painted graphics. The awning would be green fabric with cream lettering.

“I’m not excited about the black blade sign next to the green awning,” said Commissioner Jerome CooperKing. Commissioner Robert Weintraub agreed, saying that “it doesn’t scale properly.”

Christina Zimmer, Vice President of Design at Highgate, said that the blade sign would be visible if someone is coming up Newbury St.

“My understanding today was showing the specifics of the sign and awning,” she said, adding that she believes the concept for a sign and awning were approved in concept at a previous BBAC hearing regarding this hotel’s rebranding and renovations.

“Just the signage for the hotel was approved in the past,” said Joe Cornish, Director of Design Review for the Boston Landmarks Commission. “We didn’t talk about these locations.”

Several other Commissioners agreed, saying that they did not recall the approval of these signs in concept, but Cornish said he would check the records to confirm exactly what had been approved in the past.

“I like the awning; I’m just hesitant about the blade sign,” CooperKing said. Commissioner Genia Demetriades agreed.

Li Wang of CBT Architects said that the signage package presented in November included a proposed blade sign on new Newbury St. facade.

“When we had the signage approval completed, there was a blade sign on that building that signified a future retail tenant,” he said, that was shown “somewhere in that general location.” He said he did not recall providing a dimension for the sign.

“We wouldn’t have approved a blade sign without any dimen-

sions,” CooperKing said.

“In that case, if Li is correct, a blade sign was approved in that location but not necessarily the blade sign we approved,” Cornish said.

The Commission overall agreed that the proposed location for the sign was not good, and public comment from Jackie Yessian echoed this sentiment. She said that she also does not believe the blade sign was part of the original application “and is not desirable.”

The Commission ultimately voted to approve the proposed awning, but continue the blade sign to another hearing for further discussion.

177 NEWBURY STREET

At 177 Newbury St., architect Tom Trykowski proposed a redesigned front entry garden to the lower level retail space.

“We’re looking at redoing the garden entry to come in off of the sidewalk,” Trykowski said. Right now, there is a three foot brick area at the right sidewalk where Trykowski said the new entry to the staircase will go.

He also proposed new railings and planters, and while specifics of signage will be approved at another hearing as there is no tenant yet, Trykowski was looking for a signage approval in concept to present to a potential tenant. He wanted the potential to hang signage in the windows on the flanking storefront, similar to Credo which is the ground level store up above. He also asked for the ability to have a sign to cover the entire doorway with, as there is “not a lot of architectural meat there to mount letters.”

Commissioner John Christiansen said he would like the signage to reflect the storefront above, but Commissioner Jerome CooperKing said that it’s “too small if it reflects what’s above.”

Commissioner Genia Demetriades said, “I don’t think it needs to echo it. We have to be practical so someone can rent the space.” She said she understands that some store names may be longer than others and the details of the sig-

nage will have to be considered in their own application as it is a case-by-case basis.

Trykowski said that this space has only had popups recently, and “everyone has talked about the lack of opportunity for decent signage.”

The Commission wanted Trykowski to “thin” up the walkway so it wasn’t so wide leading down to the garden level entry, but to also lighten up the rail so it could still be seen through as well as show more greenery.

Sue Prindle of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) said that she “appreciates the narrowing of the front entrance,” as the proposed “started to look like the dominant entrance to the building and that threw everyone off. Having it match the one at 179 [Newbury] would be an improvement.”

The Commission approved the proposal, subject to reducing the width of the opening to five feet, as well as having a “lightened” but still “substantial” railing.

199 COMMONWEALTH AVE AND

29 COMMONWEALTH AVE.

At 199 Commonwealth Ave., the proposal was to remove the existing cherry tree and replace it with a crabapple tree. The Garden Club of the Back Bay submitted a letter saying that it “does not oppose” the removal of the tree. The Commission voted to approve the removal of the tree, remanding the species and the caliper of the new tree to the Garden Club, and also said that this is not to be a precedent in the neighborhood.

At 29 Commonwealth Avenue, architect Guy Grassi proposed to install a new headhouse, roof deck, mechanical screening, cabinetry and appliances, a spa tub, and a fire bowl on the roof.

Grassi said that there is a buyer for this building, and he will “make sure that whatever it is they want to do won’t be higher than the railing system that was approved,” and that “everything ins in the original footprint of the deck.”

He said that none of the roof

kitchen bar and cabinetry were higher than the railing system, and the hot tub would be copper clad.

After going through each piece of the proposal in greater detail, the Commission approved the proposal with the provisos that the screen wall to the north would be allowed to be as high as the heat pump, which is five feet four inches, and the remaining railing and planters are to be no higher than between three feet eight inches and four feet six inches, and planters should be installed to the left of the hot tub.

126 MARLBOROUGH STREET

The last proposal was for 126 Marlborough St., where architect Ellen Perko proposed to remove the existing headhouse and deck and construct a penthouse and deck.

Perko said that the existing headhouse on the roof is “narrow” and the stairs are steep. She proposed a deck in front and a “small area” on the back for mechanicals.

The mockup is visible from the neighbor’s entryway on Marlborough St. as well as Alley 424.

“It’s so visible,” Commissioner Genia Demetriades said. “Why are we even considering it?”

Abutting neighbor Paul Mammola said that the new structure “is not small by any means.” He said that it would be “by far the largest on the block in terms of roof access structure,” and called it “out of proportion and step with others in the area.”

He said it was “very visible” from the street and “moreso from the park.”

Marie Lefton, another abutter on Commonwealth Avenue was also opposed, saying that “if built, the structure would detract from the neighborhood look and feel” of surrounding homes. Sue Prindle of NABB was also opposed as was another abutter.

The Commission voted to deny this proposal without prejudice, meaning that the applicant can come back before the Commission with a different proposal.

Parks Parcel Priority plan survey now underway

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is encouraging park users and open space advocates to take part in the City of Boston’s new Parcel Priority Plan (PPP) using an online survey. The survey results will be used in developing the open space acquisition Parcel Priority Plan, and the City of Boston encourages residents from every neighborhood to

share their feedback.

Enhancing and enlarging Boston’s network of resilient public open space is critical, and the Parcel Priority Plan will identify and evaluate lands in the city that should be acquired or protected as open spaces. This will be used for the development of the update to the City of Boston’s Open Space

and Recreation Plan.

Questions that are a part of the survey include:

Where would you like to see open space?

What should the City of Boston focus on when acquiring or protecting open space?

Residents’ responses will shape the future of Boston’s park system.

Survey responses will be combined with data modeling and the City’s priorities to create the Parcel Priority Plan. This is an essential first step in understanding where the Parks and Recreation Department has opportunities to expand the open space network. Creating new open space and protecting existing open space will move forward as opportunities and funding are available.

The online survey is available in six languages in addition to English. To participate, please visit boston.gov/parcel-priority-plan.

Interpretation and translation services are available at no cost. To access these services or learn more about the project, please contact Maggie Owens at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (617) 961-3025 or email maggie.owens@boston.gov.

City Council holds hearing on language access during COVID-19 pandemic

By Lauren Bennett

The City Council Committee on Civil Rights held a hearing on May 15 regarding language access and information parity during the COVID-19 outbreak. This was the first time a Boston City Council hearing was available in languages other than English. The hearing was translated into Cantonese, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, and Spanish while the hearing was happening, and is now available for viewing on the Boston City Council YouTube channel in all five languages.

Sponsored by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Ed Flynn, the hearing focused on the issue of many non-English speakers who do not have access to a lot of important information surrounding the COVID-19 crisis, as many resources and applications were only available in English at first, leaving many out of opportunities to receive aid and important information.

“As an immigrant myself, I

know the struggles of securing housing while navigating government resources and living paycheck to paycheck,” Councilor Mejia said in a statement. “Holding this hearing is the first step in working towards a more equitable and accessible Boston for all. Now more than ever we need to ensure that those living the realities are able to have access to the resources they need. Throughout my campaign, we always said we wanted to change business as usual in City Hall. A hearing around language accessibility, with interpreters, is something this city has never seen before. I am proud to be working with Councilor Flynn on this initiative to make sure Boston is really a city where all means all.”

Councilor Ed Flynn said at the hearing that his district is comprised of a large Cantonese and Mandarin speaking community, as well as Spanish speakers, and said that he is “proud to have four women of color who work for me.” Each of these women speak a language other than English, and “I couldn’t effectively do my job

and represent my constituents if I don’t have a dedicated staff that’s committed to the residents of my district and the city,” he said.

He said he is working to communicate in the languages spoken in his district and has held community forums in various languages since the beginning of the pandemic.

“Language access is not something that’s nice to have; it’s essential,” said Councilor Kenzie Bok.

The City Council heard from various members of the community and organizations across the city about the struggles they have faced around this issue.

Melanie Roche-Laputka said that she has been able to translate some English documents for families, but no materials from some neighborhood association meetings were available in any other languages. “Many do not feel comfortable attending meetings,” she said, because they will not understand what is happening nor will they be able to participate and be a part of the discussion.

Carlos Espinoza-Toro of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation said that some businesses are afraid of applying for loans. “We work with them, supporting them and helping them understand these topics,” he said.

Suzanne Lee said that in an effort to have more full participation from residents, four town halls were held in Cantonese and Mandarin, each time with about 150 people attending. The meetings were held in Cantonese and Mandarin and translated into English instead of the other way around. “I want to thank my councilor Ed Flynn who participated in those town halls,” she said. “Having that kind of town hall in the native languages is critical to getting our immigrant population to participate and...their voice matters.”

Others spoke up as well, saying that some resources for businesses are only available in English, as well as some grant applications, which leaves out some who may be most in need of funds.

A recent press release from Councilor Julia Mejia’s office states that “according to Boston Plans, there are over 111,000 Bostonians who speak English ‘less than very well,’ presumably many who are unable to access critical resources during the COVID-19 outbreak. In a recent ProPublica piece, it was even found that hospitals have left many Coronavirus patient who don’t speak English alone, confused, and without proper care citing that, ‘even in normal times,

those who don’t speak English have worse health outcomes for a range of routine procedures and can struggle to gain access to interpreters,” the release says.

“I want to thank Councilor Mejia for partnering with me on this important issue,” Councilor Flynn said in a statement. “During this critical time, it is imperative that we prioritize language access to ensure that residents who speak a language other than English have equitable access to information, services and programs relating to this pandemic. We know that our immigrant neighbors are some of the most impacted residents in this COVID-19 pandemic, and it’s very important that our city provide the interpretation and translation services necessary to help our residents get through these difficult times.”

Mejia said at the hearing that the work will not begin after this hearing, but rather that “the work has already started, and it’s our responsibility to move beyond the dialogue and put some muscle behind this and walk out of this conversation with a real clear mandate that we can’t continue to do business as usual.” She continued, “and that if we bring all stakeholders to the table, then that’s what real policy making looks like.”

Rep. Livingstone holds first virtual office hours

By Dan Murphy

State Rep. Jay Livingstone connected with constituents during his first virtual office hours last Thursday, May 14.

The virtual office hours drew around 12 to 14 participants from Beacon Hill, the West End, Back Bay and Cambridgeport. But unlike his normal office hours, which Rep. Livingstone typically holds once a month in the neighborhoods he represents to speak individually to those in attendance, this new format allowed him to interact with everyone tuning in at once in real time.

Participants from the West End were eager to discuss the closure of Lechmere station on May 24 for almost a year to work on the MBTA Green Line, Rep. Livingstone said.

Shuttle buses will run between the Lechmere area and North Station for the duration of construction, and Rep. Livingstone said he has worked with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to situate a new bus stop in front of Whittier Place in accordance with the wishes of West End residents.

The virtual discussion also touched on reopening the economy and associated health con-



Rep. Jay Livingstone

cerns, Rep. Livingstone said.

“At the state level, I’m looking at if restaurants are allowed to reopen, how they could have an easier time receiving approval for outdoor space,” he said. “And if restaurants have a liquor license, they now need approval from both the city and the state, so I’m working on streamlining the state process to lessen time.”

Otherwise, Rep. Livingstone said his virtual office hours were relatively standard fare.

“People had questions about pending legislation,” he said. “It was typical office hours.”

Rep. Livingstone said he intends to hold virtual office hours once a month going forward.

High school seniors unsure about their future should consider a career in court reporting

Staff report

Are you a high school senior not sure about taking the college path for your future? Or, are you interested in learning a new skill set? Maybe you’re just ready to explore a new career choice. Now could be the perfect time for college bound student unsure about committing to a four-year traditional college, to take advantage of the National Court Reporters Association’s (NCRA) A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program, a free online six-week introductory course that let’s participants see if a career in court reporting or captioning is a good fit for them. NCRA is the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters and captioners.

NCRA’s A to Z Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program is an introductory course in stenographic theory. It provides participants with the opportunity to learn the basics of writing on a steno machine. There is no charge to take the course, but participants are required to have access

to a steno machine or an iPad they can use to download an iStenoPad app. NCRA does not have any machines available for rent at this time.

The program is a hybrid course combining both live online instructor sessions with videos and dictation materials for self-paced practice. During the six-week program, experienced court reporters teach participants the alphabet in steno and how to write on a machine.

The course is perfect for high school seniors who are still considering what career path to follow upon graduation in the spring. A career in court reporting or captioning is also a viable one for military members post service, their spouses, career changers, or college graduates who decide their chosen field was not the right one for them.

“Imagine a career with a ring-side seat to all the action. From capturing the official record in high-profile criminal trials, speeches on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, to major sporting events or breaking

news, a career in court reporting or captioning can lead to unlimited opportunities,” said Cynthia Bruce Andrews, the NCRA Senior Director, Education & Certifications.

“If you’re looking for a career that is on the cutting edge of technology, offers the opportunity for work at home or abroad, like to write, enjoy helping others, and are fast with your fingers, then the fields of court reporting and captioning are careers you should explore,” she added.

Participants in the NCRA A to Z program are taught by volunteer professionals working in the court reporting and captioning arenas. These program leaders also share insights into the many aspects of court reporting and captioning that make it a viable profession, including good salaries, flexibility, interesting venues, and the increasing demand for more reporters and captioners to meet the growing number of employment opportunities available in the field.

If you are interested in taking the program online, please visit www.atozdiscoversteno.org.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The bronze object in the last clue is a scupper which is an opening on a ship or a building for draining water. This one is on Miles Standish Hall in Kenmore Square. Originally built as the Miles Standish Hotel in 1925, it has been a Boston University property since 1948 and was renovated in 2018.

The next clue will be found in the South End.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Back Bay and South End businesses receive grants from city's Small Business Relief Fund

By Dan Murphy

More than 40 Back Bay businesses and 36 South End businesses are among the recipients of the initial round of funding from the city's Small Business Relief Fund.

Aiyara Thai Massage & Wellness; Aluna Salon SPA, LLC, Arden Gallery Ltd.; Bacco's Wine & Cheese; Back Bay Acupuncture + Chinese Herbal Medicine;

Bare Bones Yoga; Boston Medical; Carrig Kitchens, LLC; Castanet, Chaba Florist; Charlie's Sandwich Shoppe; Copley Acupuncture; Cryomed Boston; David Binder Photography; Diamond Chiropractic, George Horemotis; Gilded Studio Pilates, Pole, And Dance; Iterate Labs, Inc.; JSD Studio; Maria Karalexis Hair Stylist; Maria's Taqueria; Melman Chiropractic Group; Micro Scalp

Pigmentation Inc.; Mike & Patty's; Mondy's Brow Studio;; Movement Over Everything; My Destination Pilates LLC; Ocean Time; Parker Cote Elite Fitness; Parkside Dental Care; Patella & Palmito Corporation; Patron Films; Paul and Susar Buta; Peter Pavlina; Scire Massage Therapy, LLC; Seed Acupuncture; The Body Shop; The Collier Con-

(RELIEF FUND, Pg. 15)

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1

BACK BAY

Hegarty, Michael
Kelly, Veronica T
Millie Park 2019 RET
Hall, Elizabeth A
Franzetta, Sharon A
Warshauer, Mark E
Starr, Richard N
Conte, Kaitlyn

SELLER 1

361 Beacon LLC
Hanna, Daryl G
Deutsch, Clayton G
Colombo, Roberta
Quigley, Thomas P
Pellegrino, Jason
Tracey Ann Smith T
Friedl, Andrew P

ADDRESS

361 Beacon St #1
82 Berkeley St #1
29 Fairfield St #2
146 Marlborough St #8
373 Commonwealth Ave #302
12 Gloucester St #2
425 Newbury St #A46
197 Saint Botolph St #3

PRICE

\$2,050,000
\$1,510,000
\$2,625,000
\$695,000
\$839,000
\$749,000
\$126,500
\$710,000

BEACON HILL

Serizier, Yula
Ossowski, Mallory A
ElShabrawi, Yosuf

Prezioso, Adrian H
Furst, Edward
Topalian, Julia

1 Garden St #5
22 Irving St #5
97 Mount Vernon St #24

\$700,000
\$791,000
\$631,000

BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE

Zhao-Isaacson T
Miller, Dane
Partridge, Terri
Logan, Prescott H
Brown, Jeffrey M
Ciampi, Mary
Chang, Feng
Karim, Abu S
Rocheleau, Brett M
Dickey, Stephen J
Rutland Square 20 NT
Steinman, Maurice
Quigley, Scott N
Jeffrey H Saef 2013 FT
DeLadurantaye, Daniel
Shah, Anosh
Fortin, David E
Hunter, Sivika
Pierce, Joshua

Shagoury, John D
Englander, Elizabeth
Eisenberg, Neil J
Proud, Graham
Gliserman, Michael
401 Beacon Street LLC
Onnie, Bernadette L
Bailey, Jennifer
Coe, Lawrence D
465 Park Drive RT
Nagel, Gregg M
Schroeder, William R
Russo, Joseph D
201 West Brookline St
Persaud, Ramona
98 West Springfield Rlty
JP Property 1 LLC
Tse, Louis
Senovich, Dennis J

32 Fayette St
1 Melrose St #1
223 W Canton St #3
173 Warren Ave #2
187 Warren Ave #3
401 Beacon St #1B
4 Charlesgate E #204
96 Gainsborough St #205W
472 Massachusetts Ave #1
465 Park Dr #19
28 Rutland Sq #3
46 Rutland Sq #1
157 W Brookline St #4
201 W Brookline St #204
153 W Canton St
98 W Springfield St #3
3531 Washington St #224
3531 Washington St #506
7 Worcester Sq #3

\$2,100,000
\$542,000
\$1,625,000
\$2,500,000
\$1,175,000
\$1,050,000
\$1,152,500
\$790,000
\$1,520,000
\$500,000
\$2,010,000
\$1,675,000
\$1,250,000
\$3,975,000
\$3,580,000
\$1,185,000
\$288,700
\$627,500
\$2,275,000

WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN

Oneill, Elaine
Quattromani, Alexandra
Devos, Adam S
Barber, Richard T
Catherine R Norcott T
JWF Property Investments
Yu, Jessica

Deruyter FT
Mcgrath, Damien
Vincent, Jonathan
Fondas, Peter
Polese, Marcia
Baker, Scott R
Trahan, Jonathan

142 Commercial St #601
300 Commercial St #509
376 Commercial St #4F
55 Commercial Wharf #6
65 E India Row #4D
1 Franklin St #1608
171 South St #B19

\$907,500
\$720,000
\$1,115,000
\$1,500,000
\$611,000
\$1,750,000
\$282,000

Newbury St. stylist 'excited' to reopen, but is treading with caution

By Lauren Bennett

For many across Boston, it has now surpassed the two month mark of working from home and only going out for essentials like groceries and prescriptions, and many have realized that their hair desperately needs to be cut. Some have let it grow out; others have made an attempt to cut it themselves. Governor Baker announced on Monday that hair salons would be part of Phase One of the state's reopening plan and will be able to open on May 25.

Patrice Vinci of Patrice Vinci Salon on Newbury St. said she is excited to be reopening, but she will do so very carefully.

"For us, Phase One is a very slow and cautious opening," she told the Sun. "I've been watching the news and following all of the

guidance and recommendations."

Vinci said that throughout the past two months, she has been updating her clients weekly or biweekly via email, social media, and video chats. "Sometimes it wasn't even just for hair," she said. "Sometimes it was just to connect and see how everyone's doing." She said that many people missed the social aspect of going to a hair salon and chatting with everyone there, so Vinci made sure she kept in touch with her clients in every way possible.

She also said she was unsure whether hair salons would be part of Phase One, so she has been preparing all along for when she'd be allowed to reopen. "I've really stayed in touch with the regulations all along," she said.

She said that for the first month of everyone staying home, many people were okay with their hair

growing out a little or could deal with their roots showing, but "as the weeks went on, there were more people doing virtual haircuts or virtual color applications," she said.

"Now that we're opening... there will be a lot of redos now," she said. "Sometimes it's best to leave it to the professionals."

Vinci said she has even colored and cut her own hair at home. "I've taken this time to give my hair a break from blow drying and heat," she said. She said she's done a lot of conditioning treatments. She said this time has been good to give hair a break from coloring and heat, and she's even had time to try new products that she has recommended to people.

Patrice Vinci Salon normally has 14 stations, but come next Monday, that will be slashed to six. Each station will be at least six

feet apart, and in many cases, even further.

"We're going to be mostly doing our own shampoos," Vinci said. She said that assistants won't be there for the most part, because "the less contact the better."

She said there will also be spacing in between clients, and the salon will operate by appointment only. When one client leaves, the next one will be called in. They will not be allowed to wait inside the salon for their appointment; people must wait outside until it is their turn.

Vinci also said that for Phase One, she will be prioritizing clients who are over 60 and those with underlying health issues, as well as some of her clients who are front-line workers—they will be allowed to have the first appointments.

"We're taking all of the safety precautions," Vinci stressed. "All

of the stylists and clients will be required to wear masks." She said they are also asking all clients and stylists to use the restroom before coming to their appointments, as the restroom will be used for emergencies only.

"We are going to have a very strict policy and there is not going to be any exceptions for anyone, including my staff," she said. "I have been very adamant about following all the regulations that the City has put on us and we want to make sure that everyone's safety comes first."

She said that while she is "happy to be opening again, we just want to make sure that everything is done the right way." She understands that everyone wants their hair done at this point, but "we want everyone to be healthy and have a good experience."

RELIEF FUND (from pg. 14)

nection; The Newbury Center; Wright Performance; and Zenith Health Works were among 561 businesses to receive \$2 million in funding through the program.

Recipients from the South End include Anita Kurl Salon; Arrow Event Management, LLC; Ash & Rose; Blunch; Boston Sculptors Gallery; Bre Welch Makeup and Hair; Cafe Quattro; Ceatro Group, LLC; Cha Cha Cha Hairdoos; Claire Carino Contemporary; Cuppacoffee; DBA Around

the Corner; Dia Moeller Tattoo Inc.; Endurance Pilates and Yoga LLC; Eye Adore Threading; Fountain Street Fine Art LLC; Heather Buechler Art; Hidden Jewel of the South End; InFusion Art Glass; Kinda Touma Fashion LLC; lauren passenti jewelry; Mazon Lighting Design; Mike's City Diner; My Nail Salon; NCC Restaurant Group (d.b.a. New Market Pizza); New England Audio Rental; Niche Plant Shop; Perspective Photo; Pictex Corporation; Revive Hair Stu-

dio, LLC; Skip's Barbershop, LLC; Stitch and Tickle; Upton DCM; Vibrant Beauty Salon; and Wendy Rapoza at Revive Hair Studio.

"The Small Business Relief Fund grants are critical to help struggling small businesses across the city address challenges brought on by COVID-19," Mayor Martin Walsh said in a statement. "These businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the lifeblood of our communities. I'm proud we are able to assist them during this

time, and am grateful to our partners who have stepped up in a big way to support Boston's neighborhood business community."

Moreover, 58 percent of the businesses receiving grants through the program are owned by people of color while 48 and 44 percent are owned by women immigrants, respectively. And 95 percent went to businesses with 15 or fewer employees. The top 10 zip codes with the most recipients were East Boston, Jamaica Plain, Brighton,

South End, Dorchester, Roslindale and Roxbury.

An additional \$5.5 million in funding is being added to fully fund all eligible grant requests submitted during the application process, which combines newly available federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development; as well as commitments from Citizens Bank and Eastern Bank, according to Mayor Walsh's office.

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 21, Ways & Means Budget Working Session, Via Zoom online:

- 10 a.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budgets for the Police Department (BPD), the Fire Department (BFD), and Boston Emergency Medical Services (BEMS). This hearing will also cover BPD revolving funds.

- 2 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budget for the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), including Recovery Services.

From the May 21 License Commission meeting, 10 a.m., Zoom meeting (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/88368490210?P-WD=REPSVJJORLV2BNJ4VKY3WGJL-CLGYZZ09):

- Proposed emergency amendment to the Board's General Rules Section 1.06 regarding the administrative review and approval by the Board of a temporary extension

of licensed premise onto outdoor space.

- Proposed citywide removal of the condition of "alcohol with food only" on outdoor space or any other similar condition that prohibits the sale and service of alcohol on outdoor space without the service of a food item.

From the May 21 Public Improvement Commission hearing, 10 a.m., remote hearing:

- On a petition by Mark Kenmore LLC for the Widening, Relocation, and Extension of the existing right-of-way lines of Commonwealth Avenue (public way), Boston Proper, generally at Beacon Street/Kenmore Square, located west of Brookline Avenue.

- On a petition by Mark Kenmore LLC for the making of Specific Repairs within the following public ways in Boston Proper:

- *Commonwealth Avenue – at address no. 560-574, generally at Beacon Street/Kenmore Square;

- *Beacon Street – generally at Commonwealth Avenue/Kenmore Square.

- On a petition by Crown Castle Fiber for a Grant of Location with lead company status and no participants to install new telecommunication conduit with City shadow within the following public ways in Boston Proper:

- *West Dedham Street – generally at the side of 380 Shawmut Avenue, between Shawmut Ave-

nue and Washington Street/Pelham Street;

- *Washington Street – at West Dedham Street/Pelham Street.

- Tremont Street; Boston Proper – Specific Repairs – On a petition by the City of Boston Transportation Department.

From the May 26 Boston Landmarks Commission, 4 p.m., Zoom meeting (HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/88652712497):

- Boston public library main branch, 700 Boylston Street: restoration of courtyard fountain.

- Berkeley Building, 414-426 Boylston Street: Replace existing blade sign and wall sign.

- 2020 Landmarks Commission Work Plan Update: Stanhope Stable: Move from potential petitions category to study report priority.

- Landmarks Commission Annual Meeting: Election of Chair and Co-Chair

From the May 27 COMMITTEE ON CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES, 1 p.m., Zoom meeting:

- Order for a hearing regarding the City of Boston purchasing liquor licenses. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Flynn and the sponsor is Councilor Edwards.

From the May 28, Ways & Means Budget

Working Session, Via Zoom online:

- 10 a.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budgets for the Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT) and Inspectional Services (ISD). This hearing will also cover the PEG Access fund.

- 2 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is the FY21 Budget for the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA).

- 6 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is to hear public testimony on any aspect of the FY21 budget.

•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.



WATERSIDE BEACON STREET

136 BEACON STREET #9
3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | 2,210 SQFT
\$3,299,000



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



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



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



90 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #2/3
5 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 3,062 SQFT
\$4,799,000

