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THE BOSTON SUN

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SERVING BACK BAY - SOUTH END - FENWAY - KENMORE

City parks and Back Bay businesses left in ruins following Sunday's riots

By Dan Murphy

In the aftermath of Sunday's protests over the death of George Floyd, the Boston Common, the Public Garden and the Commonwealth Avenue were left in tatters while the storefronts of many Back Bay businesses were boarded up Monday after falling prey to looting and vandalism.

"There was a lot of damage in all three parks."

Liz Vizza, executive director of the Friends of the Public Garden, a nonprofit that helps maintain them in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, "but the biggest impact from graffiti was experienced on the Common."

Thousands of protestors marched from Government Center to the Common, where tensions reportedly escalated at around

9 p.m. when the city's curfew in response to the COVID-19 took effect, and police then met attempted to disperse the large crowd gathered in the park.

The 54th Regiment Memorial on the Common, which pays tribute to the first Northern black volunteer infantry unit enlisted to fight in the Civil War, was among the park landmarks defaced. Vandals tore down protective fencing and spray-painted graffiti on the rear of the monument, which is now undergoing an extensive restoration, Vizza said.

Elsewhere, the Alexander Hamilton statue on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall was covered in graffiti on all four sides, and the George Washington statue in the Public Garden was also tagged.

Sixteen trashcans in the Public

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PETERS PARK PROTEST



PHOTO BY EJ LEMAY

Protestors in Peters Park gathered on Friday, May 29, for the first protest organized in response to the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis (MN) police officers on May 25. What was expected to be a smaller gathering quickly swelled to hundreds of people. The peaceful situation in Peters Park lasted for nearly an hour. Later, it moved to the D-4 Police Station where there was a small confrontation with Boston Police, before the crowds left for a gathering in Roxbury. It kicked off a weekend and week of protests that went on nearly every night.

LOOTING IN BACK BAY



PHOTOS BY SETH DANIEL

Just a few hours after the looting in the Back Bay subsided, a man in a suit heads off to work Monday morning through the destruction in the Back Bay that took place early Monday. A peaceful protest in the evening on Sunday featured thousands travelling through the South End and down to Boston Common – where speakers from Black Lives Matter addressed the crowds and a candlelight vigil took place. However, soon after that dispersed, violence erupted in the downtown, rioters clashed with Boston Police, the National Guard was called in and looting went rampant through the Back Bay. Here, on Monday morning, as residents of Newbury Street cleaned up the destruction, many created a shoe memorial in front of the Uggs Store – which had been thoroughly looted. More protests continued in Boston Monday night and Tuesday night as well.

Radical Change: Peaceful protests morph into violence and looting

By Seth Daniel

While more than a handful of large-scale protests over the murder of George Floyd at the hands of some officers in Minneapolis have resulted in emotional, peace-

ful and moving exercises of Constitutional freedoms, several have also erupted into large-scale violence and looting after the official protest has ended.

That has been the case in the

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Elected officials respond to protests, demand racial justice and reform

By Lauren Bennett

As the nation responds to the death of George Floyd with protests and requests for police reform, elected officials at all levels of Massachusetts government have spoken out in response to what has happened in Boston, and many legislators have also called for justice and reform to address

police violence.

George Floyd was a 46 year old Black man who died after his neck was knelt on by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for nearly nine minutes, and his death, along with those of others like Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many other Black Americans,

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EDITORIAL

MOST OF THE PROTESTERS ARE NOT LOOTERS

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. -- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The vast majority of Americans have been sickened by the horrific video of a white Minneapolis police officer slowly and agonizingly choking to death a 46 year-old African-American man, George Floyd.

Mr. Floyd had not committed any act of violence prior to being arrested and was lying prone on his stomach, with his hands handcuffed behind his back, as the officer applied pressure with his knee and the full force of his body weight to Mr. Floyd's neck for eight minutes and 53 seconds.

The murder of Mr. Floyd while in police custody was the culmination of a series of high-profile, race-related incidents in recent weeks that have highlighted the racism that is inherent in our society and that have spurred the protests for the past week in major cities across the country.

What has been striking about the protest movement is that the protesters in every city have been representative of all races and nationalities, similar to the peaceful protest marches and the Freedom Rider movement in the 1960s that were led by Dr. Martin Luther King and other leaders of the Civil Rights movement at that time.

Unfortunately, there always are a few people who will seek to profit from any situation. Those who have been vandalizing property and who have been ransacking high-end retailers, as occurred Sunday night along Newbury St. and in downtown Boston, are professional criminals with lengthy records who have jumped on the protest bandwagon, so to speak, solely in order to take advantage of the diversion of the police created by the peaceful and legitimate protesters.

However, the criminal behavior by a small minority of professional criminals amidst the protesters should not be a basis, either for average Americans or for our political leaders, to fail to acknowledge two important aspects of the current protest movement:

First, that every American has a right of free assembly and second, that our nation must address the rampant racism that exists at every level of society.

Our government leaders who negatively are politicizing the current situation are no different than the criminals who are ransacking the high-end stores. Both are seeking to hijack the legitimate methods and goals of the protest movement for their own ends.

However, we must not allow either the criminal element or unscrupulous politicians to distract us from attaining the goal so eloquently expressed

by Dr. King in his "I Have a Dream" speech before 250,000 persons at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Fifty seven years later, America still is a long way from realizing Dr. King's dream of racial equality. Hopefully, the sad and tragic events of the past few weeks will rekindle in every American the need to achieve the goal of a just society for all Americans.

THE BOSTON SUN

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GUEST OP-ED

The Boston Reopen fund is helping small businesses open their doors while keeping our community safe

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of the people of Boston has been my top priority. As our city and our state begin a gradual reopening process, based on clear health benchmarks, peoples' health and safety *remains* my top priority.

Reopening does not mean 'back to normal,' it means bringing a serious commitment to stopping the spread of the virus *into* our workplaces and community spaces. I am committed to making sure that every small business in Boston understands what steps they need to take in order to keep their employees, their customers, and the community safe. I am equally committed to making sure that none of them have trouble reopening due to a lack of access to resources. That's why we created the Reopen Boston Fund.

The Boston Reopen Fund is a grant program to help small businesses put safety measures in place, including buying personal protective equipment (PPE); installing safety partitions for customers and employees; and managing outdoor space approved for business use. These are grants, not loans, so they don't create debt. The grants will be distributed to brick-and-mortar businesses, with fewer than 15 employees, where people work close to each other or to customers. These include businesses in sectors like personal care,

retail, food service, arts and entertainment, fitness, and event spaces and bars. The grants will also create more opportunities for local, and minority- and women- owned contractors to provide and install safety materials.

The funds will be released in three rounds, corresponding to the phases of the state's reopening plan. Applications for funding opened on May 28, and grants are being distributed on a rolling basis. For more information, visit Boston.gov/ReopenFund.

This new fund builds on the support we've offered to our small businesses since this crisis began. So far, the City has dedicated more than \$13.5 million to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19. That includes \$5.3 million in grants which we've distributed to 1,470 small businesses through our Small Business Relief Fund. This fund focuses on businesses in the most-affected industries, including: hospitality, personal care, arts and recreation, retail, and health-care and social assistance. Businesses that have received grants represent every neighborhood in Boston.

We also created a new online resource dedicated to safety guidelines and resources for purchasing the necessary supplies. It's the responsibility of every business owner to keep their employees safe, but we created this website to help them meet that responsibility. For more information, visit Boston.gov/BusinessPPE.

We continue to hold weekly

conference calls for small business owners, offer technical assistance, and provide small businesses with the flexibility they need to continue connecting with customers---like allowing all restaurants to offer takeout and delivery. Information about these resources and more are available at Boston.gov/Small-Business.

Our small businesses are the heartbeat of our communities. They hire locally, they circulate a lot of economic vitality back into the neighborhood, they are important to the historic and cultural character of our communities. Many residents rely on them for their own well being. A large percentage of small businesses in Boston are also owned by women, people of color, and immigrants. That's why supporting them is not only important to our economic recovery; it's also one way we are working to achieve equity throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

We know how hard the last few months have been to our small businesses, and that they face a difficult economy in the months and years to come; but we will continue to support them in every way we can. I encourage everyone who thinks that they can benefit from these resources to visit Boston.gov/Small-Business. Information about other topics like food access, testing, emergency childcare, senior supports, and more are available at Boston.gov/Coronavirus.

Martin Walsh is the Mayor of the City of Boston.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STATEMENT FROM UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANDREW E. LELLING

Dear Editor,

Loud, even disruptive, protests honor the memory of George Floyd and increase the pressure for swift, transparent accountability for those who killed him. I commend those who protested loudly, yet peacefully. But stealing suits, robbing a jewelry store, and rounding out the night by vandalizing businesses in Back Bay, attacking police and torching cruisers? That's crime, and nothing

more.

Let me be clear: the violence and destruction last night in Boston was an embarrassment to the movement for police reform and accountability. The Boston Police, supported by State Police, Transit Police, federal law enforcement and the National Guard, was doing its job – the dangerous, necessary job of protecting the public safety. I support them completely and, if needed, I will use federal charges to make that point.

I commend the Boston Police and the hundreds of other local, state and federal officers on the streets last night, for their bravery, professionalism and restraint. You

reminded us that 99% of law enforcement officers are true public servants, putting themselves in harm's way for the rest of us.

U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling

STATEMENT ON THE MAY 31ST PROTESTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

Dear Editor,

This morning Bostonians woke up to a City destroyed by the actions of those who took over and desecrated an otherwise peaceful

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PHOTO BY LIZ VIZZA

The rear of the 54th Regiment Memorial on the Boston Common is seen after it fell prey to vandals Sunday night.

BACK BAY LOOTING (from pg. 1)

Garden were set ablaze as well, Vizza said.

“When this happens, the community hurts,” Vizza said. “It doesn’t just hurt a monument or a greenspace, it hurts all of our hearts.”

By early Monday morning, the city’s Graffiti Busters and volunteers were on the scene to help clean up the wreckage left behind in the parks.

“There were dozens of community leaders picking up trash, and that was a beautiful thing to see,” Vizza said.

In Back Bay, rioters shattered the front windows and allegedly broke into Clarendon Wine at 563 Boylston St. at around 10:30 p.m., before making off with more than half the store’s stock, including liquor and lottery tickets, and damaging computers, the business owners told local news outlets. This came has yet another major setback for the family-run business that dates back to 1940 and had closed recently to assess its future in the wake of the ongoing public-health crisis.

More than three-dozen other businesses and commercial properties in the neighborhood, along with scores more in the Downtown Crossing area, reported they too experienced vandalism and/or looting overnight, according to boston.com.

Martyn Roetter, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay, described the events of Sunday evening as “quite appalling” and “utterly shocking and disgraceful” after watching them unfold on TV at home.

“Up until about 9, things had

gone well, and the protesters made their point respectfully by expressing their outrage, but not by attacking city government,” he said. “It’s hard to tell exactly, but other groups came in at that time and created mayhem. Some also used it as opportunity to go into stores and get some nice stuff for themselves, and they did.”

Roetter said he watched in disbelief as rioters exited Copley Place and Concepts “carrying out loads of loot” and staring directly into the TV camera as they left the scene in cars with license plates that could be easily read.

“The looting on Newbury and Boylston streets went on for quite some time without the forces of law and order there to stop it and intervene,” he said. “People had hoped Boston wouldn’t go the way of other cities like Los Angeles and Chicago, so I think the mob activity developed more rapidly and widely than anyone anticipated.”

Even so, Roetter said the city reached out to him on Monday to not only to acknowledge the previous night’s events, but also to assure NABB and the neighborhood they are now on high alert to prevent it from happening again.

Despite the senseless actions on the part of some protestors, Roetter and Vizza both remain supportive of those who gathered on the Common and acted responsibly.

“The Common is our center stage of civic life, and we stand in solidarity in spirit with the peaceful protestors,” Vizza said. “We support their First Amendment right to protest injustice or what they want to speak about, and this is the ground where we have done that for generations.”

Scaled-down SoWa Market to open this Sunday

By Seth Daniel

The SoWa Market on Sunday will open a scaled-down outdoor market on Sunday, June 7, that will be mostly food vendors for the local community.

Market Manager Alexandra Horeanopoulos said they are basing their design on some other markets operating with social distancing in Boston and around the country. They have limited it to 20 vendors so they can have a manageable start. There will be tents arranged around the perimeter and customers can go by each tent once in order – like a buffet.

It will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 7.

The SoWa Arts Market, Food

Trucks, and Beer Garden are currently postponed until further notice.

Bradley St. Amand of GTI Properties said the market will be smaller than in previous years for obvious reasons, but will be a good resource for fresh food in the neighborhood.

“It is really meant to be a local resource for the South End community,” he said. “It’s very controlled and very, very local and something to help the community, the farmers and the vendors this summer.”



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Ming's Market withdraws appeal of Zoning Board decision in EBNA

By Seth Daniel

The long zoning battle with Ming's Market over the use of a building on East Berkeley Street for a warehouse is officially over, with company lawyers sending a letter to the City informing them that they have withdrawn their appeal.

The news came at the first online meeting of the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) on Tuesday night, and was welcome good news in a time that has been challenging. EBNA had to cancel their March and April meetings, but wanted to do a Zoom meeting before recessing for the summer — with the next meet-

ing now scheduled for September.

"We did get notice from the attorneys that they were withdrawing their appeal of the decision about using the building on East Berkeley as a warehouse," said President Ken Smith.

Ming's Market, at the corner of Washington and East Berkeley Streets, has been a thorn in the

side of the neighborhood for many years, as it has seen numerous code violations, has a foul smell frequently and is covered in graffiti that is never covered up. The store has been described as a blight by EBNA, though it is popular with a good many Asian customers in the general area.

Ming's had proposed to use the

former parking garage building on East Berkeley as a warehouse, though they had been doing so for some time without zoning approval. That led to a protracted and complicated legal battle with the building owner, Leo Motsis, which was resolved earlier this year in

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LETTERS (from pg. 2)

and meaningful protest with acts of violence and destruction. Their actions are unacceptable, disgraceful, and served as a disservice to those who showed up to protest peacefully. I want to thank the Boston Police Department, Boston Fire Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services, and other first responders who worked hard all night to protect our City and its residents. I pray for anyone injured last night protecting our City.

To the thousands who participated in the initial peaceful march honoring the legacy of Mr. George Floyd and calling for change that returned home after its completion, I thank you. I am sorry that those with ill-intentions usurped the narrative of your event and put your lives and cause in danger.

As a City, as a community and as neighbors, we must choose how we move forward. The path forward may not be clear yet, but I do know that we need to walk it together. As an elected official, I am committed to bringing government, community, law enforcement, and activists together to sit at the table and ensure these protests result in deeper understanding and positive, measurable results. I want to both ensure the thousands who participated in this event have their voices heard and their goals achieved, while also ensuring that those who perpetuated violence and destruction are held fully accountable and that their actions are not repeated, glorified, or seen as acceptable in the City of Boston.

Councilor Flaherty

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF BOSTON CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KIM JANEY

Dear Editor,

This is a critical time in our nation's history, and just like Black lives, how we respond in Boston, matters. As President of the Boston City Council and as the District 7 Councilor, I am extremely proud of the peaceful protest that took place in Roxbury's Nubian

Square yesterday.

Breonna Taylor was struck by 8 bullets, killed in her own home in Louisville after police used a battering ram to enter. George Floyd's haunting, and all too familiar, cries for breath, as a police officer in Minneapolis held his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for almost 9 minutes. These are not isolated incidents, but rather reincarnations of the violence wrought by centuries of chattel slavery and later Jim Crow Laws. What generations of Black people have witnessed and experienced is a system that finds new ways to devalue Black lives. And it has to end.

Roxbury has a deep history of community organizers and activists who have worked for many years to build up our community, and we are not about to let anyone come and tear it down. Deep gratitude goes out to the local organizers involved and to the Black men from our community who were there to support the efforts and ensure safety. I also want to thank the local police, who showed up very differently than they did at Friday's protest at the B2 station, after I and others raised concerns. Instead of coming with helmets and sticks, they were in regular uniform, and they were instrumental in redirecting car traffic away from the growing crowd of protestors.

Even downtown the protest remained peaceful. Afterwards, there were a few who used this as an opportunity to wreak havoc in our city. Let's be clear, we cannot allow interlopers to co-opt our movement for their own agenda. I condemn violence in all its forms, and that means violence against protestors and violence against police officers.

As a community organizer for the last 30 years, I know how important protest is to our struggle. This is about Black Lives. How the police treat us is a big part of that, but it's not about them, it's about US! Even in a world without police brutality and state sanctioned killings of unarmed Black people, our communities still face a myriad of inequities. We are still

living in substandard housing, with low-paying jobs, and sending our children to under-resourced schools. It is because of these massive inequities that we are still being impacted by COVID disproportionately.

Boston's recent and upcoming protests call for real change, that for too long has fallen upon deaf ears -- change that closes Boston's enormous wealth gap and addresses our housing crisis. Our agenda must be one that promotes and protects the true liberation of Black people in our country, after 400 years of oppression.

It is so exhausting to have to fight for your very existence, in your own country, every single day. Now is not the time to stand on the sidelines. We need everyone, including those who benefit from the system of white supremacy, to do what they can to dismantle it. We need true justice. We cannot have healing without it. Take care of yourselves and each other.

As always, in solidarity.

Kim Janey, Boston City Council President

BOSTON TEACHERS UNION ISSUES STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH OUR BLACK FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY; DENOUNCES ANTI-BLACK RACISM AND POLICE BRUTALITY

Dear Editor,

It is with a very heavy heart that we find ourselves in a position, once again, of having to make a statement in solidarity with our Black community members and to denounce police brutality, while reaffirming our commitment to fighting anti-black racism and fighting racism of all forms.

The recent national media attention on the tragic murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and on the racially motivated assault on Christian Cooper, have painfully continued to expose what we know for too long has always been there — the

reality that our society is built on systems and institutions that continue to oppress and harm black people and perpetuate racism and white supremacy.

We, as educators serving predominantly Black, Latinx, APIA, and indigenous students, have a duty to confront and undo our own internalized prejudices and bias, and to fight to transform the systems that perpetuate and enforce them. In our quest to create the truly equitable schools that our students and educators deserve, we cannot ignore how social, racial and economic disparities impact both our communities and our classrooms.

Words, however, are not enough. While we will continue to plan and support our Black Lives Matter Week of Action, as well as our Black Caucus, Haitian Educators Committee, Immigrant Rights/Unafraid Educators, Ethnic Studies Now! and other BTU committees that specifically advance racial justice, we must also create more ways through which our union can continue to address racial bias, and, specifically, anti-black racism.

At all of our conferences, we will have racial equity workshops. This includes our Summer Organizing Institute, Fall Leadership Conference, Winter Conference, and Parent 2 Parent Conference. For the next year and beyond, I am asking that racial equity training be a requirement for all of our elected Building Reps, staff, and for our Executive Board. I am urging all of our members to take time to participate in these opportunities to further our own learning and understanding of racial equity because that understanding is fundamental to the work we do and to what we stand for.

The work to dismantle racism and the systems that perpetuate them must begin with us -- with each individual being willing to listen, learn, self reflect and lower our defensive reactions. All of us have both ideas to unlearn and new perspectives to gain, as we all strive to better understand our individual and collective roles in both fighting white supremacy and supporting our Black, Latinx, APIA, and indigenous students,

union members, and communities. This includes examining and understanding the historic and current roles of policing both in schools and in our communities of color.

Our advocacy — over the summer, and as we plan for potential fall reopening and beyond, must continue to be centered in racial, social and economic justice. It is not only when brutal violence claims national media headlines that we must do this work, but it is work that must be done everyday, in our small interactions, in our daily conversations, and in the actions we take to be an ally — not a bystander or a perpetrator. Our goal as a union is to develop a shared, deeper racial analysis that will empower each of us to take action, do our part, and lead in the fight against all forms of injustice.

Over the next week, we will also be working with Superintendent Cassellius and BPS offices of Equity and Opportunity Gaps to bring together educators throughout the district to listen and to share ways that we can continue to support our Black students, educators and community. We will continue to work with the Superintendent and with the City to create a more equitable school system that truly reflects and celebrates the diversity that makes us strong and schools that we can all be proud of.

Lastly, during this time, while we are also healing from pandemic induced trauma, we remind everyone to seek mental and emotional health support and self-care, both through medical providers and/or through our networks and community. We will continue to share resources and support opportunities on our website: <http://www.btu.org>. The COVID-19 crisis has already exacerbated and exposed racial inequities, adding another layer of trauma that too many in our community have already long been experiencing. Now more than ever, we need to continue to practice radical self-care and look out for one another. And to truly look out for one another, we must be brave enough to look inward, first.

Jessica Tang
Boston Teachers' Union,
president

DA Rollins, Boston Police Union spar over Tweets as protests unfold — both peaceful and violent

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA) and DA Rachael Rollins are in a war of words this week over Tweets by the DA that the police union say incited some of the violence that occurred early Monday morning after a peaceful protest broke up on Boston Common.

It has been a week of uncertainty and uneasiness throughout the country, and Boston has been a focal point for some of the protesting and some of the violent acts and looting — though Charlestown has been spared from any violence or looting.

There have been nearly 70 arrests in Boston, likely more people sought, though there have been thousands that have shown up to protest peacefully the death of George Floyd at the hand of some Minneapolis police officers.

In the midst of that has been a lot of words, and DA Rollins has been very active on social media — and now the BPPA is taking her to task on some of those postings.

“On behalf of the BPPA, we

write to condemn your reckless statements labelling all police officers ‘murderers,’ and the corresponding Tweets that undoubtedly incited violence against the proud men and women of the Boston Police Department,” read the union letter from June 2. “To be clear, our officers, arguably the best trained in the nation, deserved better. Your statements were and are dangerous, divisive and wholly unwarranted.”

The Tweet in question focuses on demanding action and radical change, but cites that people in general are being murdered at will by police.

“Ahmaud Arbery. George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Tony McDade. Christian Cooper. While we are being murdered at will by the police & their proxy, privileged racists like Amy Cooper play the victim. No more apologies. No more words. Demand action. Radical change now. Nothing less,” read the entire Tweet.

The BPPA letter indicates that officers still responded even though they believe her Tweet incited rioters to take action by attacking

police.

“Instead of slandering our officers as murderers, you should be highlighting their professionalism and dedication to our City,” read the letter.

The BPPA also took umbrage with her comments in a City Hall press conference when she said it was ironic to tell people to follow police commands and not be violent “when in fact it’s those very people that murder us with impunity.”

“As the chief law enforcement officer in Suffolk County, it was utterly inappropriate for you to make a statement mocking violence,” read the letter.

“We know you saw BPD officers put their lives on the line to keep our City safe. Yet you accuse us of ‘murder...with impunity’ — that is disgraceful.”

DA Rollins responded with a Tweet later on June 2 asking why the BPPA didn't put out a letter denouncing the murder of George Floyd, but chose to put out a letter

criticizing her.

“You mean Anti-Police BRUTALITY. And did I somehow miss BPPA's letter denouncing the murder of George Floyd and calling for the immediate termination and prosecution of the 4 police that murdered him and/or watched and did nothing while he died? White fragility is real people,” read the Tweet.

Meanwhile, also on June 2, DA Rollins put out a press release criticizing the courts for not holding some protestors who were arrested over the last week.

In the release, she cited a number of arraignments that did not go her way, including one arraignment of a Dorchester man for 20 counts of armed assault with intent to murder.

She also issued a statement that seemed to back away from her Tweets towards the letter from the BPPA.

“Unfortunately, the actions of several unruly and violent individuals are overshadowing the

actions of tens of thousands of peaceful, but outraged protesters who gathered all across our beautiful City to demand justice and accountability for this latest group of Black people killed by members of law enforcement or their proxy across the country,” said DA Rollins. “More troubling is that several police officers and civilians were injured as a result of that violent uprising. We wish those who were injured a full and speedy recovery.”

“I state unequivocally, my discontent is not with the overwhelming majority of police officers who serve our communities with dignity and pride, who are culturally competent and bring honor to the badge they wear,” she continued. “No, my outrage is laser focused on the rogue few who believe that they can kill with impunity. And they have been empowered to do so by Mayors across the country that will not fire them and District Attorney's across the country that will not prosecute them. That stops now.”

EBNA (from pg. 4)

Ming's favor. That led to the zoning request, which EBNA opposed and the ZBA ultimately denied. That led to an appeal.

Mayoral Liaison Faisa Sharif said she wasn't surprised and the owners were probably making a business decision.

“I believe they were always waffling back and forth and they had an uphill battle with the ZBA case,” she said. “I'm not surprised. It would have been a contentious hearing and I'm sure a business decision because it is an expensive process.”

•PROTESTORS IN EBNA SUPPORTED

President Ken Smith said thousands of protestors have been in their neighborhood over the past week and it was mostly a point of pride, though a handful of businesses like the CVS on Harrison Avenue had been looted Monday morning.

“We were proud to have the protest march go through our neighborhood on Washington Street,” said Smith. “We're grateful so many went out to participate. Unfortunately there was some violence and businesses were damaged but there are no indications that can be attributed to those marching peacefully.”

PROTEST AT PETERS PARK



PHOTO BY EJ LEMAY

Shown above, protestors in Peters Park called for many different things on homemade signs — including reparations for the murder of George Floyd and investment in the future of the youth and not incarceration systems.

Shown to the right, protestors in Peters Park called for many different things on homemade signs — including reparations for the murder of George Floyd and investment in the future of the youth and not incarceration systems.




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The H + M store on Boylston Street in Boston's Back Bay was destroyed and looted of clothing during the violent portion of Sunday/Monday's protests.



The Steve Madden store on Newbury Street had been destroyed. The owner said he blames police for not policing their own bad apples.



A worker from a clean-up company swept up glass and boarded up windows at the Alex and Ani Store, which had been hit hard.

PROTESTS (from pg. 1)

Back Bay, Beacon Hill and the South End over the past seven days – with the massive Sunday evening protest turning into a cavalry of lawlessness in the Back Bay and downtown not seen for a generation in Boston.

Sunday's protest elicited thousands of participants that gathered in Roxbury and marched en masse through the South End up Washington Street. Neighbors there in the South End were supportive of the measure and many joined in the march. After passing through the South End, it settled on the Boston Common where thousands mourned and protested police brutality and the murder of George Floyd – not to mention the scores of black Americans over the years unjustly treated or killed during police actions.

Speeches gave way to a candlelight vigil outside the State House, and then a break-up of the gathering – which went off without a hitch, though there wasn't much social distancing (which seems to be a forgotten cause now).

However, about 30 minutes after the break-up things went downward in the area of Temple Place and Downtown Cross-

ing. Police clashed with a smaller group of protesters, and things got violent.

However, it seemed to calm down, but overnight madness erupted.

In the Back Bay, stores were looted in what seemed like a carefully planned operation, residents said.

As the violence was erupting on the Boston Common, residents – who asked not to be named for fear of retaliation – said large groups started swelling into the Back Bay on Boylston Street and Newbury Street.

One resident said it was brazen and there was no police presence for almost one hour. They would break a window with some sort of tool they had with them, then a group would move into a store and take everything, while a series of cars would circle around and load up the goods.

This happened over and over again at stores like the Ugg Store, H + M, Nordstrom Rack, Alex and Ani, Steve Madden, Alexis Bittar, numerous Copley Mall locations and the list goes on and on. There was even significant defacing of the Shaw Memorial on the Boston Common.



Black Lives Matter was spray painted all over the windows of many stores.



Some signs left behind spoke for themselves.

“There were no police able to get here and these looters were sauntering and marauding with shopping bags,” said the resident Monday morning. “They were giggling as if they were shoppers. They shot off fireworks and had fun. For those of us that still have to work, this is disgusting. I'm so angry. They're not doing justice to the principle of George Floyd's death...Even with the presence of the police and National Guard, they didn't care and just defied them, meandering and challenging authorities while walking around with full shopping bags.”

On Monday morning, glass was everywhere and security guards had been called in to guard the exposed businesses from further loss – many of which have been closed down due to COVID-19 for months already. Board-up crews moved in and secured many of the businesses, making some of the most attractive business districts in the city look like Dodge City after a Wild West shootout.

One business owner at Steve Madden Shoes was sweeping up the glass from his store, which had been nearly emptied of all the shoes. He said it's time for the police to better police their own.

“The reason we have all this destruction is because that man in Minneapolis was murdered by

the police and should be tried for first-degree murder,” said Daniel. “These things have to stop. The police union has to stop protecting the bad apples. That is the real problem. I don't blame the people for this. They are frustrated nothing has been done for so long with the attitude of the police department to the citizens. They have to stop treating people like animals.”

In the South End, popular Laced clothing store on Mass Avenue was also significantly looted, and owners posted on Facebook they didn't blame the young people that perpetrated the crime. They said, in fact, they supported them.

“We value these young people and their lives more than we value material things that can be replaced,” read the post. “While we are saddened by the recent vandalism of our store, we are more deeply saddened by the loss of life that has led to this rage. We stand with the young people in their outrage and through our relationships commit to exposing them to longer lasting and more effective techniques in their fight for equity and humanity. This is not about Laced or any of the other properties damaged. It is about the loss of life which is irreplaceable and precious.”

In the South End on Friday night, May 29, the first of the

protests took place at Peters Park. While many didn't expect it to draw a large crowd due to the COVID-19 restrictions still fresh on everyone's mind, it did bring hundreds to the park from around the city. That protest remained peaceful and was a demonstration of Constitutional rights.

However, once it moved, many in the protest focused in on the D-4 Police Station on Harrison Avenue. There protestors remained peaceful though taunting police who came out of the station. Once the crowd began to throw projectiles at the officers in front of the station, they were ordered to put on their protective helmets.

Soon after that, many protestors moved on to Roxbury, but a large group remained and squared off with police in a violent confrontation on the grounds of Cathedral Housing Development – though it didn't appear as if anyone from Cathedral was involved.

There were 10 arrests in front of the D-4 Station, and none were from the neighborhood. One woman, Lilly Antoinette, of Somerville, had been arrested last year in a violent clash with police during the Straight Pride Parade.

Protest actions continued throughout the week, but none gained the violent momentum or looting in Boston that occurred on Monday morning.



A worker prepared to board up the 'fresh' store on Newbury Street, which was emptied.

OFFICIALS RESPOND (from pg. 1)

have sparked protests nationwide against police brutality and other racist acts.

On Sunday, a peaceful protest took a turn after dark when incidents of people throwing bricks and water bottles at police officers were reported, as well as accounts of officers using mace and tear gas on protestors. Storefronts were shattered in Downtown Crossing and throughout the Back Bay. The MBTA shut down downtown stations as well. A rally held in Franklin Park on Tuesday night was peaceful and went largely without incident.

Mayor Walsh said at a press conference on June 1 that the “majority of people were passionate and peaceful,” and that “racism and injustice are wrong and must end.”

He applauded those who protested peacefully, but said that “what happened in downtown Boston was an attack on Boston and its values.”

He said that “untold economic damage was done to stores,” as well as monuments to abolitionists and Civil War veterans, including the Robert Gould Shaw memorial, which honors African-American soldiers.

“This was the very last thing that our city, quite honestly, needed,” Walsh said. “We have to understand that the Black community is in real pain. We will continue to stand with them and we will continue to push for that change.”

Walsh said he remains committed to keeping the residents of Boston safe, as well as create more spaces for peaceful outlets. He said that “we don’t want a police state here,” and called for “a balanced approach” instead. “We believe in free speech and people’s right to protest, to march,” he said.

“People are tired; people are fed up,” Walsh said. “The actions of some [Sunday night] hurt that cause and hurt a community that is hurting more than anyone should ever have to bear.”

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross said that he is also proud of the peaceful protestors.

“We know what’s going on in our nation,” Gross said. He said that “we know that decades and decades of people dying at the hands of the executive branch of the US” is something that has been happening for many years and has not stopped. “Voices have to be heard and Black lives do matter,” he said.

“Unfortunately, individuals showed up not with a peaceful intent on mind but with being disruptive,” Gross said. “That’s not paying homage.”

He said that a total of 53 people were arrested after Sunday night’s incident, and one summons was served. Of those arrested, 27 were

from Boston, 24 were from elsewhere in Massachusetts, and the last two as well as the summons were from other states.

“I’m telling you folks, the negative actions will not deter us from remaining together as a community,” he said. “This should strengthen our resolve to work together, no matter what.”

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins said at Walsh’s press conference on Monday that she and others are “fed up and exhausted” by the injustices towards Black people seen throughout the country,

“People are disgusted and outraged and they should be,” she said. She said that it is “completely ironic” that those meant to protect the public are “those very people that murder us with impunity.”

“I feel as if my heart does certainly go out to the officers and civilians who were hurt last night,” she said. “Those police officers showed up to do their job.. we don’t know what their opinions are. We would never wish



A security guard called in to watch over merchandise left wide open in a Newbury Street store following looting.

them harm.”

She said that her office will be prosecuting those whose actions did not honor George Floyd’s memory, calling the behavior “unacceptable. You will be prosecuted and held accountable,” she said.

However, Rollins did say that “buildings can be fixed,” but “lives were stolen and people lynched and murdered and they will never come back.”

Governor Charlie Baker spoke out on Monday about the demonstrations as well, saying that “the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police was a terrible tragedy.” He thanked those who “marched and exercised their right to free speech.”

He said that the state has been speaking with elected officials, public safety experts, and others to “find ways to enhance transparency in the law enforcement and criminal justice systems.”

On June 2, Massachusetts elected officials from the federal, state, county, and municipal governments came together for a press conference voicing their support for those speaking out against violence towards Black Americans. The conference began with an eight minute and 46 second silence to mark how long George Floyd remained under former officer Derek Chauvin’s knee. The elected officials also presented a “a multi-point plan with demands for police accountability and policies to advance racial justice at multiple levels of government,” according to the state legislature.

“The pain of Black and Brown folks has been delegitimized since the beginning of time,” said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. “What you see happening throughout this nation is unrest and it will persist as long as there is unrest. The only thing we seek to destroy and to actively dismantle is systemic racism, structural racism, systemic oppression that did not just happen, it was codified in law... We cannot allow these fatal injustices to go unchecked any longer.”

Pressley made it clear that she believes Congress “needs to send a clear message and act.”

She said that the last time a resolution on police brutality was in the House was in 1999. “That resolution never made it to the floor,” she said. “I can’t even begin to approximate the number of Black lives we’ve been robbed of in that time.” Pressley’s resolution to “condemn police brutality, racial profiling and the excessive use of force” is part of the ten-point plan. At the state level, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz spoke out as the only member of the Black and Latino Caucus in the Senate.

“I’m grateful for the outpouring of grief and righteous anger, and the unwavering demand for justice, from so many protesters,” she said in a statement. “I’m also grateful to the legislative colleagues who’ve reached out in recent days, asking what they can do to help. Today, we’re offering up a roadmap for that support. If you’ve tweeted #Blacklivesmatter or offered up thoughts and prayers, today we ask you to stand with us and actively fight for these proposals to protect men and women of color—many of which we’ve tried to move for years. Let’s not wait any longer to get them to floor votes.”

At the City level, Councilor Ricardo Arroyo shared an emotional story of a past encounter with police, where a gun was pointed at him after he was pulled over on his way home from Providence.

“Racism is violent by definition. It affects every single determinant of health and is the leading driver of inequity,” Arroyo said in a

statement. “Systemic racism is a tangible thing not an abstract concept, and unless well intentioned colleagues join us in dismantling the racism entangled in the systems of which we are a part, they are part of the problem. True solidarity requires them to leverage their power with us to enact real policy change.”

Council President Kim Janey said that “this is a critical time in our nation’s history...how we respond in Boston matters.”

She thanked the peaceful protestors as well, adding that “I fully condemn violence in all its forms; violence against protestors and violence against police officers. This is a time for healing...”

She said that the “fight involves more than just putting an end to police brutality,” but it also includes legislation that addresses discriminatory housing, health discrepancies, eliminating the opportunity and achievement gap in schools, and “a plan to close the enormous wealth gap in Boston where the median net worth for Black families is \$8.”

She said that these systemic issues are a “product of a system of white supremacy.”

She added, “we as electeds of color say no more. Dismantling it will take work, it will take political will, and it will take everyone who benefits from that system. We can’t have peace, we can’t have healing without justice. District Attorney Rachael Rollins spoke at the press conference from the county perspective, and said that “we aren’t here because of the good and honorable and culturally competent and de-escalating able officers.”

She said that “the officer who murdered George Floyd had 19 infractions on his record,” and said that there has been an “epic failure of prosecutors across the country of not standing up and holding people accountable.”

Out of the most horrific situations, we see the most amazing changes and improvements,” she continued. “It is very dark right now. I am ever optimistic that we are going to get through this and be even better.”

Others who spoke at the press conference included Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins, Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, State Rep. and Chair of the Black and Latino Caucus Carlos Gonzales, and Rep. Russell Holmes.

Ten-Point Plan to Address Police Violence and Advance Racial Justice

Federal

1. Pass Congresswoman Pressley’s Resolution to condemn police brutality, racial profiling and the excessive use of force.

2. Improve oversight and independent investigations to hold individual law enforcement officers and police departments accountable.

3. Department of Justice must reassert its statutory authority to investigate individual instances of racial profiling, police brutality and violence and investigate and litigate individual law enforcement officers and police departments routinely violating civil rights.

4. Adopt sound and unbiased law enforcement policies at all levels of government that reduce the disparate impact of police brutality, racial profiling and use of force on Black and Brown people and other historically marginalized communities.

State

5. Peace Officer Standards and Training [POST]: Resolve to provide for a “Special Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training” to study and make recommendations concerning the implementation of a Peace Officers Standards and Training [POST] system, H2146 Reps Holmes and Vieira; Reported favorably now with Rules Committee; Establishes a statewide POST system to certify police officers and enable de-certification for misconduct and abuse.

6. Civil Service Exam Review and Oversight: An Act to Reform Civil Service Exams, H2292 Rep Holmes; Currently sent to study, but could be

added to Outside Section of the Budget; Establishes an Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity to establish guidelines and review for diversity plans for all state agencies, Establishes a peace officer exam advisory board to review examinations for appointment and promotion of peace officers.

7. Commission on Structural Racism: An Act establishing a special commission on structural racism, H1440, Holmes; Currently sent to study, but could be added to Outside Section of the Budget; Establishes a commission to study how the systemic presence of institutional racism has created a culture of structural racial inequality which has exacerbated disproportionate minority contact with the criminal justice system in Massachusetts.

8. Adopt clear statutory limits on police use of force, including chokeholds and other tactics known to have deadly consequences. Require independent investigation of officer-related deaths. Require data collection and reporting on race, regarding all arrests and police use of force by every department. In drafting; to be filed by Rep. Liz Miranda soon.

Municipal

9. Declaring Racism is a Public Health Crisis and worthy of treatment, assessment and financial investment in order to eradicate negative health impacts.

10. Create a Civil Review Board/ Commission with subpoena power to investigate allegations of law enforcement wrongdoing.

Boston Pride goes virtual for the 2020 celebration

Staff report

Boston Pride is announcing a series of virtual events to celebrate Pride 2020 and Boston Pride's 50th anniversary.

After the City of Boston announced that all large public gatherings would be halted during the spring and summer in an effort to protect the wellbeing of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pride Committee got creative. Boston Pride has organized a series of virtual events for the month of June that will bring LGBTQ people together to commemorate 50 years of Pride in Boston, to honor the network of care that comprises the LGBTQ community and to celebrate the always fabulous and multi-faceted expressions of LGBTQ culture.

SHOW YOUR PRIDE! Everyone can participate in virtual Pride, and not just online. Boston Pride encourages everyone to show their Pride by decorating their windows, doors, porches, yards, cars, neighborhoods, and (especially) their pets for traditional Pride weekend, June 12-14. Share photos of yourself, friends, family, and/or household wearing your Pride outfits and displaying your Pride decorations. Tag us @bostonpride in your Instagram stories and use the hashtag #wickedproud on Facebook and Twit-



ter! We can't wait to see the sea of rainbows.

The month of virtual Pride events will begin with the traditional annual raising of the rainbow pride flag by the City of Boston on Friday, June 5. A full and detailed list of events can be found on the Boston Pride website: www.bostonpride.org.

"The COVID pandemic means that the Pride celebration will come to you this year," said Linda J. DeMarco, Boston Pride President. "I am incredibly proud of Boston's LGBTQ community for coming together to find creative ways to spread the message of Pride throughout Pride Week. Our virtual events are designed so everyone can participate from the safety of their homes. We know these events cannot replace the excitement of being together in person, but they will help us stay connected, remember our history, and remain strong during these times of physical distancing."

The annual Boston Pride Guide will also be going virtual with a digital version available on the Boston Pride website on June 5.

Boston Pride's 50th anniversary will be celebrated in 2020 and 2021 with the Parade and Festival moved to June 12, 2021.

Walsh cancels 124th Boston Marathon

By Lauren Bennett and Dan Murphy

Mayor Marty Walsh announced on May 28 that the 124th Boston Marathon, which was postponed to Sept. 14, has been cancelled.

"The Boston Athletic Association (BAA), with our input and support, has determined that the traditional one day running of the 124th Boston Marathon is not feasible this year for public health reasons," Walsh said at a press conference on May 28. "There's no way to hold the usual race format without bringing large numbers of people into close proximity."

Walsh said that while the "goal and hope" was to contain the virus and help recover the economy, "this kind of event would not be responsible or realistic on September 14 or any time this year."

Boston Athletic Association CEO Tom Grilk announced that instead of the live race, the BAA and the City are now planning "an historic virtual Boston marathon" featuring a week's worth of events and activities for runners and supporters to take part in.

The BAA will also be refunding entry fees for all registered participants, he said, and has "plans to provide finishers of the virtual race with various items that they would expect, such as their participant shirts and the unicorn medal that so many of them strive so hard to earn."

Walsh said his decision to cancel the race came when he realized

the number of positive cases was climbing during the surge, and that the potential for a second surge in the fall became very real. He said experts have said that the second surge could happen between August and October, and with the new marathon date scheduled for mid-September, he realized bringing tens of thousands of people together in close quarters would not be responsible.

"Economically, it's a big hit," he said. "I mean, there's no question about it. This entire three months has been a big hit for most sectors economically. Certainly, we're feeling it in our budget, our restaurants are feeling it, our small businesses are feeling it, many of our offices are feeling it."

Walsh said that the City could take around a \$200 million hit by cancelling the race.

"We'll survive," he said. "It might be a different reality for a lot of people. I know that as we move forward here."

Martyn Roetter, chair of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay board of directors, said the decision to cancel the Marathon would undoubtedly hurt Back Bay businesses, including many that have remained closed for nearly three months due to the pandemic and some that fell prey to looting and vandalism following Sunday night's protests over the death of George Floyd.

"It's another blow that makes recovery more difficult," Roetter said. "The hope in the fall was

to get some boost for hotels and restaurants with all the people who come to the Marathon. It delays the ability to recover and may of course increase the number of businesses that can't survive."

The cancellation will also likely have an adverse impact on Back Bay retail businesses that have long benefitted from out-of-towners with expendable income who come to Boston for the footrace and shop.

"Many come here from overseas and throughout U.S. and buy things to take home with them, but they won't be doing that this year," he said.

But while Roetter said cancelling the Marathon doesn't bode well for the local economy, he is confident that Mayor Martin Walsh and the BAA carefully weighed that factor against the public-health risks in making their decision.

"You can't have a healthy economy when people are afraid of getting sick," Roetter said.

Meanwhile, Mayor Walsh encouraged the city to rise to the occasion during these trying times.

"This is a challenge," Walsh said. "But meeting tough challenges is what the Boston Marathon is all about. It's a symbol of our city's and our Commonwealth's resilience. So it's incumbent upon all of us to dig deep, like a marathon runner, like we did in 2013, and keep that spirit alive. And I know that's what we'll all do."

South End neighbors discuss Chester Square shooting, ways to move forward

By Lauren Bennett

The South End community had a discussion with D-4 Capt. Steven Sweeney, City Councilor Kim Janey, City Councilor Michelle Wu, Representative Jon Santiago, and Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz via Zoom on May 27 regarding the shooting in Chester Square on May 16. The meeting was organized by Chester Square Neighbors, the Claremont Neighborhood Association, and the Worcester Square Neighborhood Association.

Residents were invited ahead of time to submit questions for Sweeney and the elected officials, many of which were addressed in their remarks. More than 60 people tuned into the meeting to learn more about the incident as well as what they can do to help move forward.

"One neighbor described it as the Wild West," Chester Square Neighbors president Carol Blair said. On May 16 at approximately 2:13pm, D-4 officers responded to a radio call for someone with a

gun at 134 Northampton St., Boston Police Commissioner William Gross said at a recent press conference.

After officers identified a man who fit the description, they went to talk to the suspect, which he refused to do, and fled down Mass. Ave. towards Chester Park.

"During the pursuit, the suspect discharged his firearm at the responding Boston Police officers," Gross said. "Being in fear of their lives as well as the pedestrians, people that are on these streets with their families, being in fear, they returned fire, they discharged their weapon at the suspect to stop the threat. In turn, the suspect fired his weapon to lock back, that means he exhausted all of his ammunition. The officers apprehended the suspect where he violently struggled." Gross said that the suspect was released from prison in January, but no other information about him was provided as the investigation is ongoing.

Gross said that four officers went to the hospital "where they could be medically evaluated," but

no one was injured. He added that he has spoken with Mayor Walsh and District Attorney Rachael Rollins, who he said are both "highly upset" about this incident.

"The officers went to talk to him, he fled and he fired his weapon to lock back. I don't think he cares for anybody on this street," Gross said of the suspect. "This is your neighborhood—nobody should be releasing repeat violent offenders that will act like this. This is unheard of. A main thoroughfare. Great people in this neighborhood. Businesses, a park, people around, and this guy turns and fires in broad daylight."

In light of this situation, Blair said the purpose of this virtual gathering was to "learn what we can about what happened and how we might move forward."

Sweeney reiterated that this is "still an ongoing active investigation," so he was unable to provide some of the specific details of the case, such as the number of shots fired.

Sweeney said that he "understands people's concern" about

this incident, and that "we don't come to work expecting to be shot at."

He also said that District 4 is "one of the safest districts in the city," and said that this incident was unrelated to the opioid crisis.

He said police presence will be increased in areas like Mass/Cass and Chester Park. "We're working on a summer plan right now and it entails having presence in the park," he said. "We do our best. We can't hit every park every day."

He said that issues on the Southwest Corridor are under the jurisdiction of the State Police, but "we usually get there first," he said.

City Council president Kim Janey said that pre-COVID-19, there were issues with violence in the city as well as the opioid epidemic, mental health issues, and "unresolved trauma."

She said, "when we add onto this COVID-19 and how the economy is being devastated, we see people who are being released." She said that she is "all for compassionate release," and "if there

is a nonviolent history and the person is better off on the outside, let's help them."

Janey said she's seen "violence bubbling up" in parts of her district and in others across the city, and part of the solution is to address the issues of mental health, trauma and economic impact of the virus and the injustices that existed before the pandemic hit. She called it a "very complex issue," but it's "important that we're having this conversation."

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz said that she is used to having community meetings "in the wake of shootings," and said that it's "an experience I don't wish on anyone."

As far as next steps, Chang-Diaz said that "this is a very dire concern of mine as we head into the summer," calling it a "sort of pressure cooker situation." She said this is the case more so in other neighborhoods of the City than the South End, though "the South End is not immune to this."

(SOUTH END SHOOTING, Pg. 10)

Baker-Polito administration announces guidelines for restaurants, lodging businesses ahead of Phase Two

By Lauren Bennett

Gov. Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito announced guidance on May 29 for restaurants and lodging, ahead of Phase Two of the reopening plan. Baker is expected to “make an announcement and decision with respect to Phase Two” on June 6, he said.

“We are certainly seeing positive momentum in a number of areas,” Baker said. “People are starting to get back to work. Outdoor and recreation activities are coming back. We’re making progress, thanks to everyone doing their jobs now more than ever and we need to keep doing what works to kill and slow the virus.”

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced the new guidance for restaurants and lodging, adding that the workplace safety standards that will be required for these businesses are “organized around four distinct categories covering social distancing, hygiene protocols, staffing and operations, and cleaning and disinfecting.”

Polito said these guidelines are being released ahead of Phase Two “to give lodging facilities and restaurants time to prepare their operations, to get ready, and to do that in adherence to the general workplace safety standards that we had previously issued.”

Outdoor dining at restaurants will be allowed at the beginning of Phase Two, Polito said, and the State is working with legislators on accelerating the permit-

ting process for outdoor dining.

Indoor dining will be allowed later on in Phase Two, “subject to the public health data,” she said.

The guidance for restaurants and lodging which is posted on the Reopening Massachusetts website at mass.gov, includes protocols for social distancing and physical space, Polito said.

She announced that some of the highlights of the guidance for restaurants are: “tables must be positioned six feet apart, the maximum party size will be six people, use of outdoor space is encouraged even when indoor seating is allowed, and seating at bars is not allowed, “but bar areas may be reconstituted for table seating,” she said.

Additionally, hygiene and leaning protocols will be required, like having single use utensils or menus, or “strict sanitization guidelines” for these items.

Polito also said that “reservations or call ahead seating is recommended,” and “contactless payment, mobile ordering, or text on arrival for seating will also be encouraged.”

Restaurants should also provide training in these health and safety protocols to all employees, she added, and establishments will be temporarily closed if a there is a case of COVID-19.

HOTELS, MOTELS, AND OTHER LODGING BUSINESSES

Guidance was also released for hotels, motels, and other lodging businesses, which will be allowed to resume operations in

Phase Two.

“Safety standards apply to all forms of lodging: hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, and short term residential rentals, including those arranged through online hosting platforms such as Airbnb and Vrbo,” Polito said. She added that spaces like ballrooms and meeting rooms will still remain closed.

“Onsite restaurants, pools, gyms, spas, golf courses and other amenities at lodging sites may operate only as these categories are authorized to operate in accordance with our phased reopening plan,” Polito said. She also said that lodging operators must tell guests traveling to Massachusetts from out of state about the policy urging them to self-quarantine for 14 days.

The guidance for lodging includes protocols for social distancing, hygiene, and keeping staff spread out during their shifts, Polito said. It also includes enhanced sanitization protocols in between guests, including cleaning and sanitizing surfaces, washing linens and bedspreads, and considering leaving rooms vacant for 24 hours between guests.

“In the event of a positive case of COVID-19, the room used by that guest may only be returned to service after undergoing an enhanced sanitization protocol in accordance with CDC guidelines,” Polito said.

“As we move forward in reopening our economy, we understand the importance of balancing public health and economic health and we need to do everything we can to support both,” she said. “Together

with state and local governments we balance the shared goals of maintaining both public safety as well as getting our economy back up and running and as we navigate these next phases in our fight against COVID-19, we will continue to work with our industry partners to do what’s best for local main streets and downtowns.

I’m confident that the restaurant and lodging owners, managers, servers, bartenders and staff, and the many others who make up these industries will get back to work, will reopen their doors and their places to the residents across our Commonwealth and be able to offer the things from our places that people know and love so much in their communities and will do so as safely and as quickly as possible.”

OTHER UPDATES

As of June 2, 358 new COVID-19 cases were reported, bringing the state’s total cases to 101,163. A total of 7,085 people have died statewide due to the virus. Baker reported on June 3 that there has been a 77 percent drop in positive tests since the beginning of May.

This is “obviously a very significant drop and an important piece of data we are paying attention to,” Baker said.

Baker also announced on May 29 that the state is having “positive conversations” with sports teams, which will be allowed to begin practicing at their respective facilities on June 6 “with health and safety rules that all of the leagues are developing.”

Baker said that these facilities will continue to remain

closed to the public, and that “the leagues are obviously working hard to host games again.”

He said that “pro sports would be a great thing to see again,” and would be a “significant milestone for all of us as fans,” however, “the opening will be gradual and will require a lot of patience from everyone.”

On June 1, Baker issued an Executive Order that lists specific types of businesses and activities that fall into the remaining phases of the reopening plan.

“Effective immediately, the Executive Order permits Phase II businesses to reopen their physical workplaces to workers only to conduct necessary preparations prior to the start of Phase II. Preparations include but are not limited to completing a COVID-19 Control Plan, implementing sector-specific protocols, and complying with Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards,” according to the State.

“This lead time is important for preparations,” Baker said on June 1.

Retail stores will be allowed to have “browsing and in-store transactions with restrictions” at the beginning of Phase Two as well. Guidance for retail stores, as well as childcare, recreational summer camps, and organized sports programs is available in detail at mass.gov.

He also said that over the weekend, the COVID-19 Response Command Center also submitted details for an expanded COVID-19 testing proposal to the federal government, which includes increasing testing capacity and access to testing.

Walsh provides reopening update, announces additional \$5 million for Rental Relief Fund

By Lauren Bennett

On May 28, Mayor Walsh gave an update on the coronavirus and Boston’s reopening plan. On June 1, office buildings were allowed to reopen in Boston at 25 percent capacity, and employers were encouraged to have employees work from home wherever possible as well as stagger the workday so as to not overwhelm the transportation system.

Office buildings in the rest of the state were permitted to reopen on May 25, but Walsh said at last Thursday’s press conference that Boston waited a week because “we wanted employers, landlords, and building managers to have time to create a plan.”

The City has created a document with guidelines for office buildings, which has been published on the City of Boston website.

Walsh warned that these guidelines and protocols “have to be managed on an ongoing basis,” as there will be “nothing close to old routines until vaccine or treatment is made available.” He urged those who can continue to work from home to do so.

Walsh said these steps are also being taken at City Hall, which is now open by appointment only on Tuesdays and Fridays. Visitors will have their temperatures taken upon arrival and a mask must be worn inside the building. City Hall was also open on Monday, June

1 for the extended property tax deadline, though the department preferred to take payments online or over the phone, Walsh said.

Other measures the City is taking as the state begins to reopen include increasing space on bus stops at bus routes, putting in new bus lanes on Washington St. and Essex St. through Chinatown, and increasing bike lanes connecting downtown, Back Bay, and the South End.

Walsh said that 264 establishments in Boston have expressed interest in using parking lanes or sidewalks for outdoor restaurant space. He said that the City is ready to help those businesses with these requests wherever possible.

He said this would be a pilot

program, but mentioned that it has worked well in European cities.

On June 3, Walsh announced the reopening of the Rental Relief Fund application process, which will begin on June 5 at noon and will be available in seven different languages. The Fund, which began with \$3 million in April now has an additional \$5 million in funding.

“The Rental Relief Fund was established by Mayor Walsh as a means to provide income-eligible tenants in the City of Boston with direct financial relief to assist with rental payments,” according to a release from the City.

“During this challenging time, it is important that we leverage all

resources available to ensure the health and safety of our residents, and to keep them stably housed during the COVID-19 public health crisis,” Mayor Walsh said in a statement. “We know that many Bostonians are struggling, and we know the need for assistance with housing payments remains, which is why we are proud to make available this additional funding for households who otherwise would be unable to make their rent payments.”

Preference will be given to applicants who are ineligible for unemployment benefits or who cannot receive full benefits because of the nature of their jobs. For more information and to apply, visit boston.gov/rentalrelief.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The window entablature in the last clue is on 115 Commonwealth Avenue, built circa 1876. Stories that presidential assassin John Wilkes Booth owned this building are wrong. The research team from www.BackBayHouses.org found that the land under the building was purchased on behalf of Booth in 1863 and the deed was put in the name of Booth's mother. More details on the transfer of the deed from then on can be found on their website.

The next clue will be found in the Fenway.

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

THIS WEEK'S CLUE



Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1 | SELLER 1 | ADDRESS | PRICE |
|---|---|--|--|
| BACK BAY | | | |
| Knowles, Jessica 175 Marlborough LLC | Kracoff, Brian Mcteaugh, Peter | 66 Clarendon St #3 175 Marlborough St #2 | \$660,000 \$4,550,000 |
| BEACON HILL | | | |
| 20 Meadowbrook Road NT Montgomery House LLC Dhar, Rakhsita Hartnick, Christopher | Domolky, Susan Y 55 Bromfield Street LLC C Barrow Mogauley T White, Christopher M | 70 Brimmer St #107 53-55 Bromfield St 88 Mount Vernon St #20 101 Revere St | \$450,000 \$1,200,000 \$835,000 \$2,740,000 |
| BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE SOUTH END | | | |
| Larson, Dale N Iwamoto, Naoki Vasel, Katherine Petrelli, Mary A Kiley, Ferdinand J Shlager, Lyle M | Young, Patricia A Kodiak Black T Brosnan John G Est Watia, Buck K White, Christy M JP Property I LLC | 221 W Canton St #1 188 Brookline Ave #231 70 Fenway #42 136-140R Shawmut Ave #2F 46 Union Park #4 3531 Washington St #304 | \$950,000 \$1,605,000 \$439,000 \$1,250,000 \$1,250,000 \$755,000 |
| WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN | | | |
| Tremont Suite 1701 LLC | Salem, Munal | 170 Tremont St #1701 | \$1,630,000 |

SOUTH END SHOOTING (from pg. 8)

She said that pre-existing gun violence will be exacerbated by issues caused by the pandemic, and in Boston citywide, there was a doubling of shootings this April compared to last April. "I view it as directly related to mental and economic stressors," Chang-Diaz said, though she added she wasn't sure what the motive was of the individual who was apprehended in the Chester Square shooting.

"This individual was someone who was released in January because his sentence wrapped," she said.

"Pushing for increased prevention resources is a big priority of mine," she said. "We need your help." She said that this summer, prevention resources "will be most relevant for the immediate term."

Rep. Jon Santiago said that as a resident of Tremont St. and someone who walks down Northampton St. nearly every day, "this hits home for me. Gun violence hits me hard." He said that as an emergency room doctor at Boston Medical Center, he "takes care of these folks," some of whom do not make it out of the hospital.

City Councilor Michelle Wu said that making sure to put resources in place and coming up with a recovery plan for the pandemic to "address the underlying crises that have led us to this place in the first place" is part of the solution.

Bob Barney, president of the Claremont Neighborhood Association, said that he has noticed some disconnect between four separate police entities in the neighborhood: Boston Police, State Police, Northeastern University Police, and Transit Police.

"I think there's some opportu-

nity or synergies to connect those police agencies better," Barney said.

"We have a great working relationship with the Northeastern police department," Sweeney said, adding that that are always in touch with state police. "Any issues you have, we'll address them with those entities if people are having issues."

There was also discussion on surveillance cameras and where and if they should be located within the community.

Barney said he is "not 100 percent sold on cameras, but I do think they're a deterrent" and could work in areas "with continued issues" like Titus Sparrow Park.

"Cameras help us," Sweeney said. "There are a lot of road blocks of getting them in certain places. It's a work in progress."

He also said that more officers on bikes would be "out and about" in the area patrolling.

Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods said that Titus Sparrow Park is going through a "much needed" full process for redesign, which could help be a part of the solution. He also mentioned recent renovations at Peters Park as well as Ramsay Park, which will also receive renovations.

There was also further discussion on the opioid crisis and getting services to those who need them.

The last part of the discussion was focused on what the neighborhood can do, which included things like looking into the installation of cameras, and cleaning alleys.

Chang-Diaz also talked about gun safety laws and mentioned

a bill about crime gun data and "doing more robust analysis of fun crime data than we have as a state.. She said that "supply lines of illegal guns is an issue I've become more focused on over the years."

Karen Mauney-Brodek, a South End resident and president of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, suggested a socially distanced activity in the parks, such as an exercise class, "just to show how we can all use and love the park." She also suggested writing a letter in support of the gun safety law mentioned by Senator Chang-Diaz

"One of the things we haven't touched on is an essential need for us to begin to address the revenue we're going to get from the state," said Steve Fox, moderator of the South End Forum. He said there needs to be a "dedicated effort towards temporary and permanent supportive housing. I think the pandemic has demonstrated to all of us how the shelter environment can't really cop with what we've been faced with."

He added that the City cannot continue to "rely on universities to turn over their dorms for us in order to be able to move beyond a primary diagnosis."

Carol Blair said, "I hope this will light a fire and these connections will multiply."

For now, Sweeney said the criminal investigation is ongoing and a firearm discharge team has taken over the investigation. The Suffolk County District Attorney's office is also involved. There are "many moving parts," he said.

Blair said that anyone should feel free to follow up with the neighborhood associations on this matter.

South End Community Health Center sets up test site

By Seth Daniel

The South End Community Health Center (SECHC) has set up a mobile testing site in the Blackstone School driveway in the South End – starting drive-up and walk-up testing at the site last week.

The Center's Medical Director, Dr. Glennon O'Grady, said the set-up has been ideal and will likely be in place for a while as they try to help ramp up the city's overall testing capabilities.

"The site is perfect," he said. "We can do drive-in or walk-up patient screening. It really has been a great place for it. We opened up last week for everyone who wants to get tested. We do want people to register first, though. Our numbers have significantly increased as we've gone along and that's the idea."

The testing is done with a swab and detects active virus in the system of a patient. It is done in conjunction with a Quest Labs, and most patients can get a result in about 24 hours, he said.

"We rolled it out with a slow start – testing about 35 a day last week," he said. "We feel like we have the ability to get to 50 a day

pretty easily if there is demand. Right now, it's a question of people wanting to be there or not. We have enough testing supplies. This is going to be a long-term process. I don't know if we'll be able to stay here is school resumes in the fall. At least now through the summer we plan to be doing things at the Blackstone."

Right now, anyone who wants to be tested is directed to call the Health Center directly to register. They will be given a time to go to the test site, and the test will be performed in a matter of minutes. Patients can either drive-through or walk in. The slow start was on purpose, he said, to work out glitches that might arise, but things rolled out rather smoothly.

"People are seeing quickly that it's an easy test," he said. "It's a little uncomfortable..., but it's an easy test. We don't have people waiting a long tie. We don't want people congregating and we want to keep people six feet apart... Our goal is to get the patients their result the next day."

Testing is a tricky process, as there can be false negatives that can happen due to the timing of a test. Sometimes people can get



The COVID-19 test site set up next to the Blackstone School in the South End has been operating for about a week by the South End Community Health Center. Officials said they are doing about 35 tests per day now, but believe they can do 50 per day.

tested and receive a negative result, but then a further test a day or so later presents a positive test.

However, O'Grady said the majority go the other way.

"For most people who have this issue it is the other way and they get tested after they are symptomatic and are positive," he said. "That can go on for about a month after symptoms have resolved. At that point, they're probably not infected. We tell them they are positive because the virus particles are still

in the body, but the virus is not."

Other issues can be an incomplete or inadequate sample on the swab, which can happen as the test is a bit uncomfortable.

Part of the funding for the site comes from the Boston Resiliency Fund, which provided large grants to health centers to increase community-based testing. The grant, O'Grady said, has helped to increase testing capacity and fund start-up costs for PPE and the tent at the site.

There is no need to have insurance to be tested, and there are strict instructions provided if someone tests positive – including a quarantine.

"They must quarantine for 14 days or until they are asymptomatic," he said. "People should not be going out and it's really a two-week window."

The test site is open Monday to Friday, 1:30-4:30 p.m., but hours could increase if there is enough demand.

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 June 3 License Board Hearing, 10 a.m., online via Zoom: ([HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/94166876250?pwd=RU9HUJJBHVJNjUzRjRkMm4kUkS2UvLpUT09](https://zoom.us/j/94166876250?pwd=RU9HUJJBHVJNjUzRjRkMm4kUkS2UvLpUT09))

•PAPA RAZZI TRATTORIA OF NEWBURY ST., D/B/A: PAPA RAZZI, 157-159 NEWBURY ST., Back Bay. Holder of a Common Victualler 7 Day All Alcoholic Beverages License has petitioned to transfer the licensed business from the above - To: Capital Burger Holdings, LLC d/b/a The Capital Burger (at the same location) Unit No. 1 of the Condominium located within the building, containing approximately 3,211 sq. ft. on the ground floor, 2,590 sq. ft. on the second floor, 600 sq. ft. in the basement, and 500 sq. ft. outdoor dining/ patio area patio on private property, with seating for 28 and an 11 p.m. patio closing to be operated annually, weather permitting. Christopher W. Scott, Manager. Mid-night Closing Hour.

•Foodie's South Boston, LLC D/B/A: Foodie's Market, 230 W. BROADWAY, South Boston. Has applied for a Retail Package Store Malt & Wine License to be exercised on the above - 16,000 Sq. Ft. market including 2 floors; market on ground level, main entrance/exit on West Broadway; basement includes storage and offices. Manager: Victor G. Leon. Closing Time: 9 p.m.

From the June 5, 11 a.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT

OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION: The Committee on Government Operations will hold a working session on a petition for a special law re: An Act Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston and petition for a special law re: An Act Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Lydia Edwards. The Sponsors are Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Councilor Frank Baker.

From the June 9, 3 p.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: Ordinance banning facial recognition technology in Boston. This matter was sponsored by Councilor Michelle Wu and Councilor Ricardo Arroyo and was referred to the Committee on May 6, 2020.

From the June 9 Boston Arts Commission meeting, 4 p.m., via online Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85182337443>):

•Vandalism and conservation:
*Puerto Rican Veterans Memorial in the South End

From the June 9 Bay Village Historic Commission, 4 p.m., via online Zoom ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82800959597](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82800959597)):

DESIGN REVIEW
•132 Arlington Street: Construction of nine rowhouses on existing parking lot.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW/APPROVAL
•19 Piedmont Street: At front façade repair masonry and parapet, and repair roof and flashing to address active water entry into building.

From the June 10 Back Bay Architectural Commission meeting, 5 p.m., via online ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85904219664](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85904219664)):

DESIGN REVIEW:
•827-829 Boylston Street: At front façade

install inclined lift to access lower level of 827 Boylston Street.

•73 Marlborough Street: At rear elevation install gas line at sidewall.

•285 Clarendon Street: At roof install air-conditioning condenser.

•34 Fairfield Street: At rear elevation install air-conditioning condenser at ground level.

•223 Commonwealth Avenue: Replace all windows in-kind; remove rear addition and install garage door opening; and at roof re-clad elevator overrun, install headhouse, roof deck and air-conditioning condensers.

•321-323 Marlborough Street: Combine two rowhouses into a single-family residence. Work includes: restoration of exterior features; re-landscaping of front gardens and rear yards; removal of fire balconies; installation of garage door opening; and at roof installation of mechanical equipment, construction of penthouse addition, roof deck, and elevator override.

The following features are STILL CLOSED in all City of Boston parks:

•Playground structures and equipment (slides, swings, climbing structures)

•Fitness equipment

•Courts: basketball, street hockey, and handball

•Organized, group sports activities on fields: baseball, softball, football, rugby, cricket, and soccer

•Please only use parks when you have the ability to remain six feet away from others. If you find a park to be crowded, choose a less busy time or find another park.

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PERMITS

Due to the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, the Boston Fire Department is extending the expiration date

on all existing Place of Assembly and Annual Permits from June 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Any issued Place of Assembly Permit or Annual Permit stating an expiration date of June 30, 2020 will now automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in mid-August, and the permitting cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

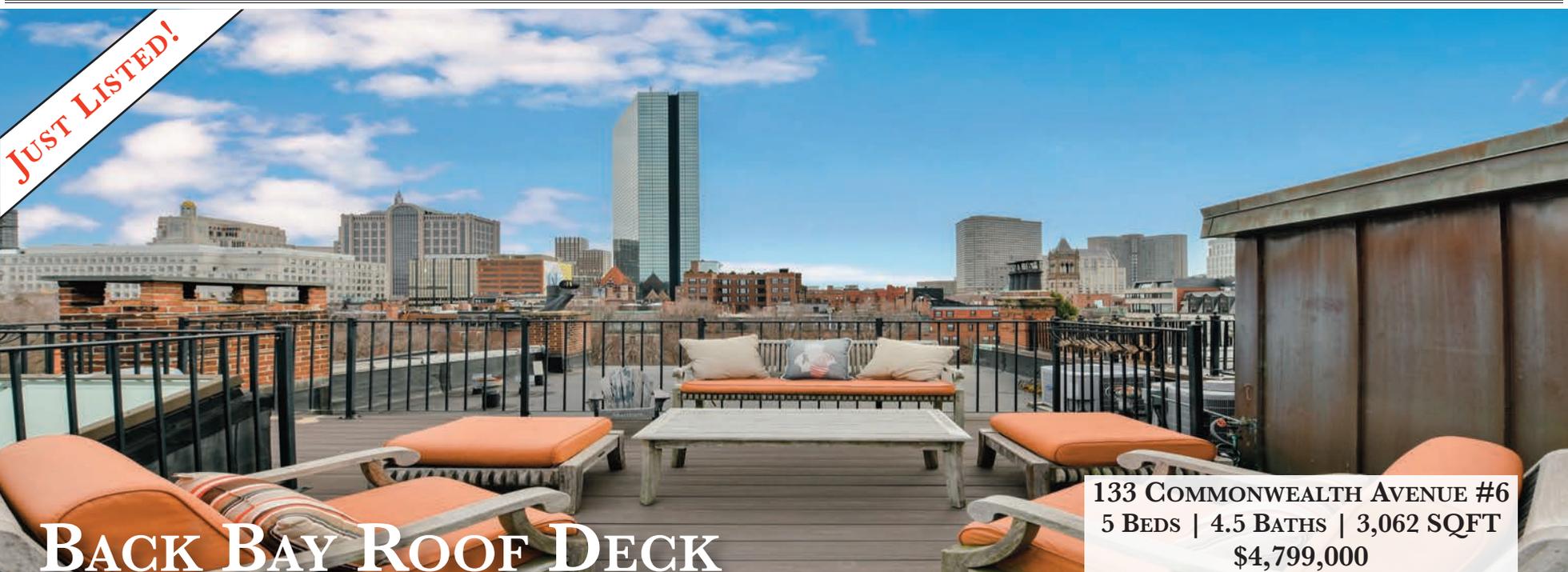
REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

•Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.

JUST LISTED!



BACK BAY ROOF DECK

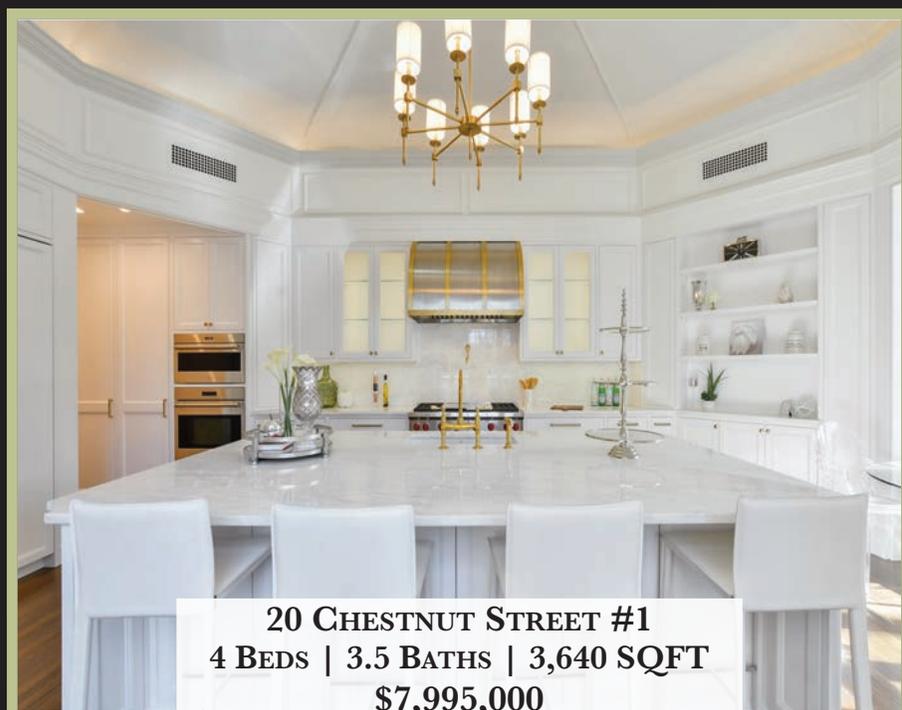
133 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #6
5 BEDS | 4.5 BATHS | 3,062 SQFT
\$4,799,000



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



17 LOUISBURG SQUARE
5 BEDS | 3F 2H BATHS | 7,610 SQFT
\$18,500,000

