

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

# THE BOSTON SUN

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## City to remain in Step Two, Phase Two of reopening plan

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh announced on Tuesday that Boston will remain in Step Two, Phase Two of the state's reopening process for "at least another three weeks," until January 27.

Walsh said that as of Monday, Boston had 431 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and two more people had died from the virus. The current community positivity rate is 8.8 percent, which he said was up from last week.

Walsh called the rise in cases "concerning," adding that hospital rates are also rising. He said that 93 percent of non-

surge adult ICU beds in the city are currently occupied, which is the "highest we've seen in quite some time."

Walsh said that "this is one of the most serious points in the pandemic so far," and if the positive cases do not go down, "we will need to look at more restrictions."

Walsh originally announced in mid-December that the city would "temporarily" revert to Phase Two, Step Two to help slow the spread of the virus and ensure hospitals would be able to adequately care for patients.

Boston will now remain in

(WALSH UPDATE, Pg. 6)

## Irviene Goldson, longtime ABCD health advocate, dies

By John Lynds

Friends, family and colleagues of Irviene Goldson said to know her was to love her.

Sadly, Mrs. Goldson, who served as deputy director of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Health Services, died suddenly last week.

Mrs. Goldson joined ABCD in 1992 as manager of education and training and rose to become deputy director of ABCD Health Services department and a powerhouse of healthcare advocacy in Boston.

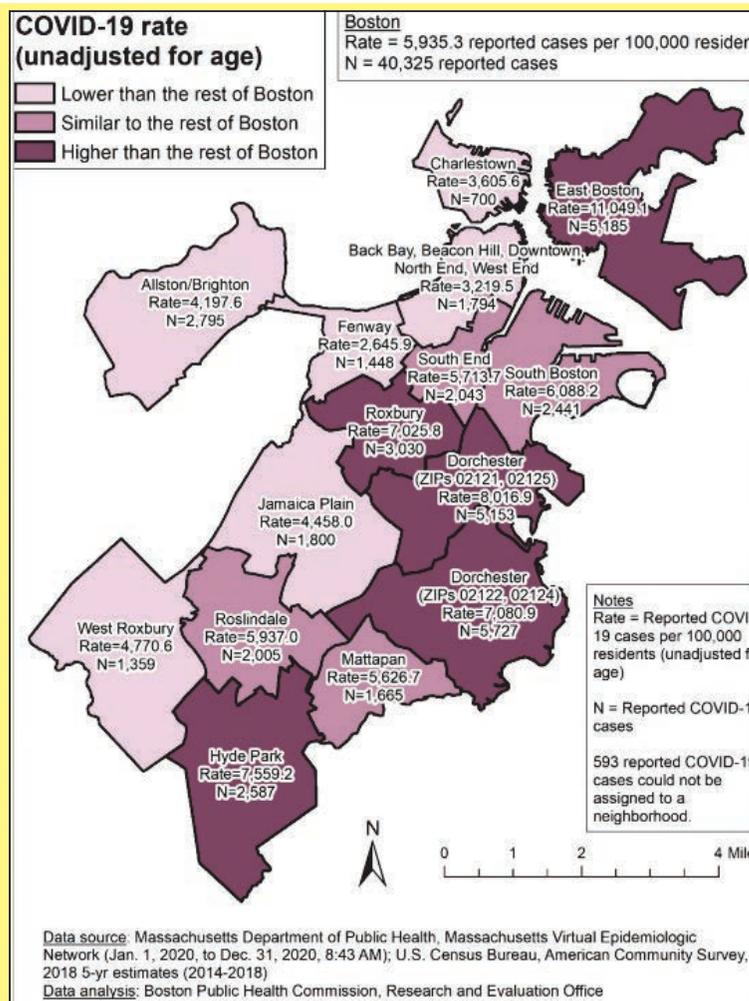
"It is with the deepest sadness that I share that Irviene



*Irviene Goldson, longtime ABCD health advocate, died suddenly last week.*

Goldson passed away sudden-

(GOLDSON, Pg. 3)



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

## Positive test rate up 9 percent

By John Lynds

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in the Back Bay and the surrounding neighborhoods dropped but the weekly positive test rate rose slightly.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday, overall 36,974 Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, West End and Downtown residents have been tested for COVID-19 and the data shows that 4.6 percent of those tested were COVID positive—a 54.4 percent decrease from the 10.1 percent two weeks ago.

Last week 3,967 residents were tested and 3.6 were positive—a 9 percent increase from the 3.3 reported two Fridays ago.

Citywide, 8.8 percent were found to be COVID positive last week.

(COVID-19, Pg. 4)

## Walsh signs executive order creating the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Marty Walsh on Monday signed an ordinance to create the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT), which will bring together the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel and the new nine-member Civilian Review Board, and establish "a single point of public access to a new standard in police accountability and community oversight..." according to the city.

Residents will be able to go to this office with complaints about the Boston Police Department, where they will be

investigated. The office "also creates the overarching Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) Commission, which collectively holds subpoena power for the OPAT, Civilian Review Board, and Internal Affairs Oversight Panel," according to the City.

"To act swiftly and enact the recommendations, Mayor Walsh previously signed two executive orders 30 days after the Task Force released their recommendations to create Boston's first-ever Civilian Review Board, a 9-member board that will be made up of

community members nominated by the City Council and the Mayor's Office, and to reconstitute the existing CO-OP as a stronger Internal Affairs Oversight Panel that will have the power to review all completed Internal Affairs cases," the City said in a release.

At the virtual signing event, Walsh thanked the Boston Police Reform Task Force, headed by former US Attorney General Wayne Budd, for their work on these issues and for the recommendation of the creation of this office.

(POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY, Pg. 4)

# EDITORIAL

## EMISSIONS BILL IS A BIG STEP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The approval on Monday by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature of a bill that requires the state to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 represents a huge step toward the goal of mitigating the effects of climate change in our state.

Although the total carbon emissions emanating from Massachusetts obviously is only a small fraction of global emissions, the legislation provides a blueprint for other states and private industry to follow.

Some say that the ultimate goal of net-zero by 2050 is unattainable, but in our view, that is understating the reality of what is happening in the world today.

Despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Trump administration to perpetuate the use of coal and other fossil fuels, renewable energy actually is cheaper than fossil fuels thanks to the advances in technology of wind and solar energy.

Most excitingly, the progress in the development of hydrogen fuel cells, which has been more than two decades in the making, finally is beginning to look like it will become a feasible source of energy within 10 years, making the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 more than just a dream.

We applaud the action by Gov. Charlie Baker and our legislature in bringing to fruition an environmental action plan that recognizes the pressing need to address the issue of climate change.

Although the pandemic rightly is in the forefront of government leaders' attention today, that problem will seem like a stroll in the park if we do not take immediate action to avert the looming climate catastrophe that threatens our planet's very existence.

## IT WAS A GREAT RUN, PATS' FANS

The 2020 season for the New England Patriots came to a merciful close this past weekend. The woeful Pats finished with a 7-9 record, their first losing season since 2000, and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2008.

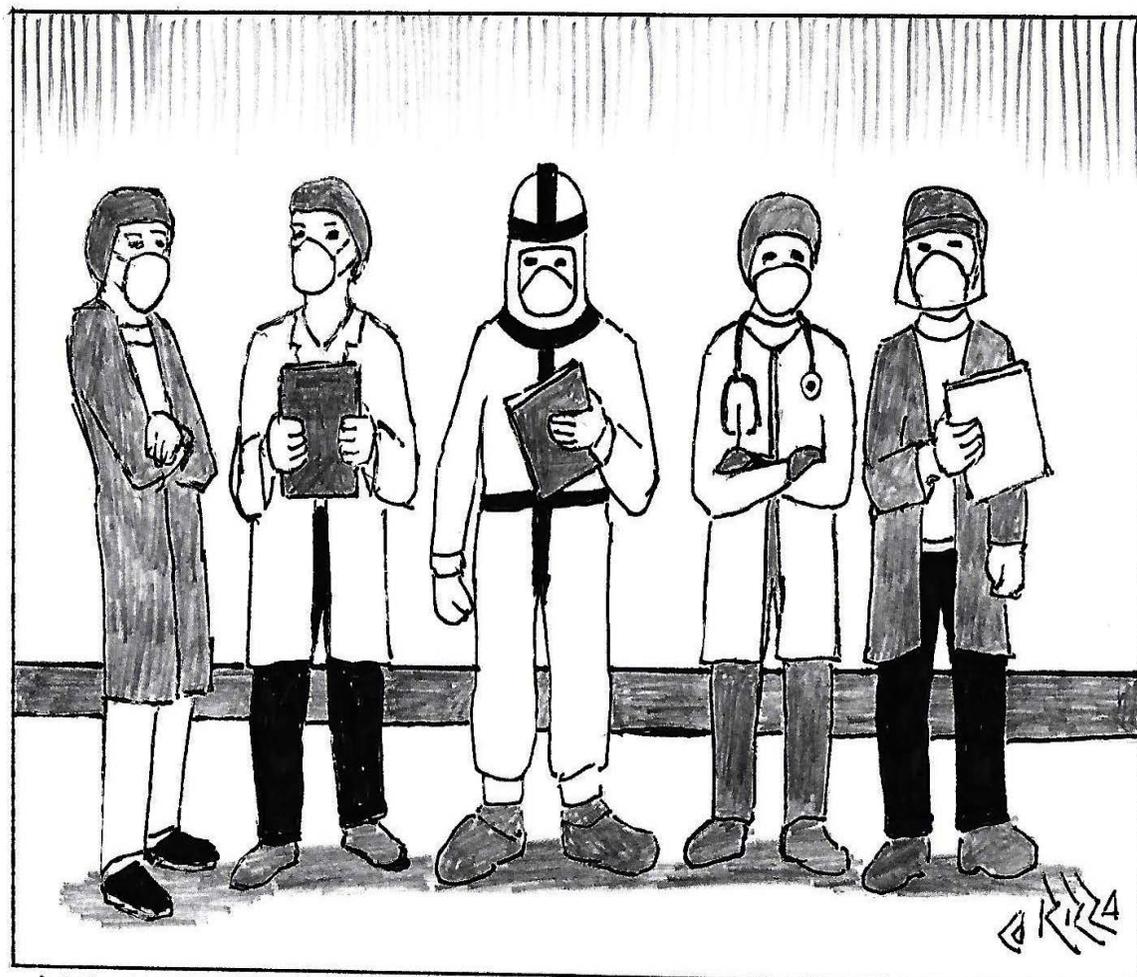
We have to admit that we feel badly for young Patriots' fans, those born after 1990, who have become accustomed to the dominance and excellence, year-after-year, by Bill Belichick's crew. This season has been the equivalent of having an ice bucket thrown over your head, a rude wake-up call to the reality of the ebb-and-flow of professional sports that the Patriots alone among all sports franchises in the modern era have managed to avoid for an unprecedented two decades.

Admittedly, even for those of us who are long-time Pats' fans who can recall all of the decades of ignominy, from Braves Field to Fenway Park to Harvard Stadium and then to Schaefer Stadium, the relegation of the Patriots to the bottom tier of the NFL this season, in which Foxboro and Gillette Stadium no longer were the epicenter of the football universe, was jarring.

So let's be grateful for the two decades of fun that Bob Kraft and his team brought our way.

But as the proverb says, all things must come to an end -- and so they have for our Patriots.

It was a nice ride -- and those championship banners always will be there to remind us of the good times.



NOTHING FINER THAN A FRONTLINER

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A LOOK BACK AT 2020

Dear Editor,

Thank goodness — 2020 finally draws to a close. It's been quite a year to be a new Boston City Councillor. Although this wasn't the year that any of us had hoped for, I've been grateful every day for your trust in placing me in this position. To wake up each morning and ask how to make myself of use to the residents of Boston in tackling this crisis has given me a clarity of purpose in this hard season.

I've sought to answer that question each day with a bias for action. At different times that has meant delivering thousands of boxes of food to our constituents, or creating an impromptu youth jobs program for our office, or helping get our homeless families

housed. It has meant pushing our universities to invest in more robust COVID control plans to keep our communities safe, or mobilizing to successfully prevent closure of the E Line to Heath St.

But I've also tried to tie every concrete effort to something more systemic. We didn't just run our own District 8 food and youth programs, for example; we negotiated to increase city funding for food access and youth jobs by millions. With the pandemic illuminating every existing crack in our unequal society, we need to figure out how to properly mend our issues, not just paper them over with one-off solutions.

In that vein, I've been particularly proud of the work we've done on housing this year — from a groundbreaking new fair

housing zoning amendment, for which I did detailed policy drafting, to the funding of a new City affordable homeownership program that in its first few months has already helped scores of families, 80% people of color, to buy their first home. On the housing front and on many other policy issues, from historic preservation to climate response to police accountability, I have also planted seeds this year that I look forward to seeing bear fruit in 2021. More on that in the coming weeks.

Wherever this email finds you, I hope you and your household are safe and healthy, and that you will join me in looking forward in hope and expectation for a better 2021.

Kenzie Bok  
Boston City Councillor  
District 8

# State of the City address to take place virtually on Jan. 12

Staff Report

Mayor Martin Walsh reported on Tuesday, Jan. 5, that he will be holding the annual State of the City address on Jan. 12 in a virtual format in light of the COVID-19 precautions and the rising numbers of cases in Boston.

The address will take place at

7:30 p.m. and will be on most major news networks and will be livestreamed also at [boston.gov](http://boston.gov) as well.

“The coronavirus pandemic has changed how we approach so many of life’s important events, but we are a resilient city that continues to adapt and support each other,” Walsh

wrote in a letter. “I always look forward to the opportunity to talk directly to the people of Boston during my annual State of the City address, and, while my speech and the events planned around it will look different this year, we will carry on.”

He indicated the speech

would cover the many accomplishments and milestones achieved in 2020, and the continued progress and resiliency on display in the “face of adversity.”

He wrote that he has been inspired by the dedication of residents and their commitment to the community.

“I hope all Bostonians will

continue to play a role in helping the City advance the ambitious agenda we are setting forth,” he wrote. “The past year has demonstrated what we can accomplish when we come together as neighbors, and I’m confident that we’ll set the stage for an equitable recovery for all in 2021.”

## GOLDSON (from pg. 1)

ly,” said EBCD President and CEO John Drew in a statement announcing her passing. “Her rare leadership and unflagging commitment to the Boston community made her not only respected but beloved.”

Drew said with more than 30 years’ experience in health education and training, and curriculum and program development, Mrs. Goldson was a trailblazer, teacher, and tireless advocate who saw health equity as a human right.

“With a passion for reproductive health, HIV and adolescent sexuality, she was an innovator who championed the inextricable link between equal access to health information, education, and care to personal development and empowerment,” said Drew. “Frequently recognized for her work with under-resourced people of color, particularly girls and young women, Irviene was a woman of vision, determination, and action. We at ABCD mourn her loss as a dear friend and colleague, and we grieve alongside all those who knew her and loved her. Her heart was immense, her impact immeasurable. We will miss her always.”

As a former South End resident and Director of ABCD Field Operations that includes the ABCD South End Neighborhood Service Center on Columbus Avenue, Josh Young remembers the impact Mrs. Goldson had on young people and the neighborhood.

“We had a neighborhood teaming with young people and Irviene was there to deal with the health services and reproductive health and sexuality issues that impacted them,” said Young. “She ran a program called Sister2Sister that was a

one-to-one prevention program using video, brainstorming and skill-building activities to educate young women about sexual health and reduce their risk of sexually transmitted disease. There were programs to reduce teen pregnancy. There was Entre Nosotros/Between Us to promote health among Latina and Black women. And so many more. Irviene achieved so much with these programs. She made it look easy - but what she did was huge. She truly made a difference.”

Former ABCD Health Services Director Joan Whitaker, who worked closely with Mrs. Goldson for so many years, said Mrs. Goldson was always a champion of women’s and community health.

“From the 1980s when Irviene was part of the founding of the Cambridge Feminist Health Center, she has championed women’s and community health,” said Whitaker, who retired in June. “She has exemplified empowerment for young people and community building by developing creative programs that have been key to alleviating health inequities. With compassion and wisdom, she has mentored and provided opportunities for countless young women of color. I will miss her kindness, her warmth, and the focused advocacy that have benefited me over the 27 years we worked together at ABCD.”

Current ABCD Health Services Director Jessica Aguilera-Steinert added, “Irviene changed the lives of many young people in Boston and beyond. Young black and brown girls, women and men were her family, her joy and her purpose. She was a fierce advo-

cate and had a lifelong commitment to educating and agitating around sexual health, reproductive justice and health equity. She taught us to be brave and to advocate for others. As one colleague said ‘she walked

in her purpose.’ At ABCD, Irviene was a force to be reckoned with. While working in the Health Services department as the Deputy Director of Community Prevention Programs for 27 years, she developed and

led programs in reproductive health, HIV and STI prevention, sexual health and leadership and empowerment. Irviene believed and fought for justice and we will continue to fight in her memory.”



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## COVID-19 (from pg. 1)

“The average number of positive tests each day for Boston residents was 413,” said Mayor Martin Walsh at a press briefing Tuesday. “That’s up slightly compared to the week before. Our current community positivity rate was 8.8 percent. That is up from the week before. Our case numbers are concerning, and our hospital numbers are higher than we’d like.”

The Mayor said that 93% of adult Non-Surge ICU Beds are occupied, the highest Boston has seen in a long time. The Mayor said that he and his team are in constant contact with local hospitals, and that he needs everyone to do their part.

“This is one of the most serious points of the pandemic so far and if numbers don’t

improve, we’ll have to look at more restrictions. So everyone needs to wear a mask, avoid crowds, and stay six feet apart,” said Walsh. “Every time you do these things, you could be saving a life. We will beat this thing, if everyone buckles down.”

The Mayor also discussed the need for personal safety while indoor dining. He said that the City of Boston continues to monitor the data closely and limit indoor dining capacity to levels the public health experts say are safe.

He thanked local restaurants for following safety protocols, saying that they have been very cooperative. The City continues to support them with small business relief funds, technical

support, and outdoor dining programs, and making it easier for them to offer safe pickup and delivery.

But, the Mayor said, he needs patrons to do their part, too.

The Mayor said local contact tracing efforts make it clear that even though indoor dining itself isn’t a high risk factor, too many people are going out to dinner with people outside their bubbles, increasing the risk for COVID-19 transmission. He said that sometimes they see other people they know and “table hop,” which has to stop.

“We can keep local restaurants open... but only if people follow the public health guidance,” said Walsh. “So, if you’re indoor dining; only go with people in your bub-

ble; keep your mask on when you’re not eating; and don’t mingle with other tables. It’s not just about your safety... It’s about our hardworking waiters and waitresses, hosts, and busboys who are working hard so that you can have a good time. Be respectful and help us spread the word about this.”

The infection rate in the North End and surrounding neighborhoods increased 7.5 percent in one week according to the latest city statistics.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Back Bay, North End, Beacon Hill, West End and Downtown had an infection rate of 321.9 cases per 10,000 residents, up from 299.3 cases per 10,000 residents.

One hundred twenty-six

additional residents became infected with the virus last week and the total number of cases in the area increased from 1,668 cases to 1,794 cases as of last Friday.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 8.5 percent last week and went from 38,872 cases to 42,195 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-seven more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 1,025 total deaths in the city from COVID.

## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY (from pg. 1)

Walsh said that George Floyd’s death last spring was “very challenging for me, personally,” and following his death, Walsh declared racism a public health crisis and established a task force for COVID-19 related health inequities, as well as created the Office of

Equity in the City of Boston.

“One of the most dynamic things we did,” Walsh said, was create the Police Reform Task Force in June, which made final recommendations to the mayor in October based on a review of the current “policies and procedures” of the Boston Police

Department, according to the city. Major areas of review included: “Use of Force Policies, Implicit Bias Training, the Body-Worn Camera Program, and the Community Ombudsman Oversight Panel (CO-OP),” according to the City.

Walsh also thanked the City Council for their support on this issue.

“We have the best police department in the country and there’s no reason why anyone should be fearful of what we’re doing today,” Walsh said. “What we’re doing today is adding accountability, whether it’s in training, whether it’s in hiring, whether it’s in diversity, whether it’s in police misconduct, we want to make sure we do everything we can, that people have the full faith and trust in the Boston Police Department.

Walsh also said, “this is not the beginning of our work, and this is not the end of our work. This is a continuation of our work.”

Walsh continued, “we have an opportunity to be a national model,” adding that “we’re the first city to really respond,” but “we still have more work to do.”

Chairman Wayne Budd explained at the signing event that the Task Force “worked diligently” last spring, summer, and fall and “delivered a robust set of recommendations” to the mayor, including “ways of strengthening the

existing CO-OP board,” which a subcommittee of the Task Force tackled. Budd said they “studied and analyzed existing models of the Civilian Review Board.”

He added that “as a Task Force, we debated and deliberated the strengths and weaknesses of various structures,” and recommended the creation of OPAT.

“This new office...would be designed to staff and support the Civilian Review Board,” and replace the previous CO-OP board, Budd said, and will also enable an “enhanced level of civilian input.”

Mayor Walsh said in a statement that “now is the time to act with urgency to dismantle systemic racism across our city.” He added that “the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency will support

lasting, generational change by rooting out impropriety and ensuring the type of enhanced oversight that leads to greater community trust. This is an important milestone, but it’s only the beginning. I thank the Task Force members for their dedication to engaging the community to create comprehensive recommendations that will deepen our progress towards equity in Boston.”

The remaining recommendations from the Task Force that have yet to be implemented are currently under review and implementation by Mayor Walsh, according to the city. Additionally, the city is currently in search of an Executive Director for the Office of Accountability and Transparency who will lead the OPAT office.

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# Walsh announces 27th round of Resiliency Fund grants

Staff report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Resiliency Fund Steering Committee last week announced the Boston Resiliency Fund's 27th funding round. These grants represent over \$780,000 in funding to 39 organizations in Boston, serving communities by increasing food and health care access, supporting individuals facing homelessness and assisting seniors.

Since its launch at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, \$34 million has been raised, and \$30.3 million has been distributed to 366 organizations.

"The Boston Resiliency Fund has been an essential provider to Boston nonprof-its, building a network of support to help the most vulnerable Bostonians. The organizations granted have been vital to ensuring those most impacted by the COVID-

19 pandemic are supported," said Mayor Walsh. "Thank you to every organization who has partnered with the City of Boston in providing resources to our community."

Of organizations receiving funding this round, 51 percent are led by a person of color and 64 percent are led by a woman. In total, since the launch of the Fund, 56 percent of the organizations that received funding are led by a person of color and 58 percent are led by a woman. Seventy-six percent of organizations serve Dorchester, 70 percent serve Roxbury, 65 percent serve Mattapan, and 56 percent serve Hyde Park, in addition to every other neighborhood in Boston. To learn more about all Boston Resiliency Fund grant recipients and their work, visit [boston.gov/resiliency-grantees](http://boston.gov/resiliency-grantees).

One of the awardees announced on Monday is com-

mon cathedral, which is based on Newbury Street in the Back Bay at the Emmanuel Church. The organization is a religious organization, but provides programming such as a Day Shelter called BostonWarm.

"Common cathedral not only never closed; common cathedral was one of the very few places where we had a voice in response to what was happening to us all," said John, a common cathedral community member. "Common cathedral and its programs, common art and Boston Warm, gave our community agency over our own lives within the pandemic. We saw these spaces become not just a refuge from the disease, but a place to feel that we were actively fighting back and retaining our identity. Boston Warm will now be expanding to Fridays because the community of people experiencing homelessness requested it,

planned it and will be helping to run. We are able to do this meaningful work because of the funding from the Boston Resiliency Fund. We are grateful to the City!"

Local organizations in this round of funding include the following:

- Catholic Charitable Bureau of the Archdiocese of Boston, Inc.: Catholic Charities will use BRF funding to support staff who are packing and distributing food bags to more than 1,500 households at their pantries in Dorchester and in the South End. The two pantries distribute approximately 80,000 pounds of food each week.

- Catie's Closet, Inc: Catie's Closet will use the BRF to fund basic essentials, including toiletries, feminine products, socks, underwear and clothing. This will help close gaps in product availability for people of color

by improving and meeting the need for culturally-appropriate products.

- Common Cathedral: Common Cathedral will use this BRF grant to expand their Boston Warm day center to include Fridays from January through April. The day center provides people experiencing homelessness access to bath-rooms, food, essential supplies and a safe space to warm up.

- Rosie's Place: Rosie's Place will use this BRF grant to continue to serve hundreds of women experiencing homelessness each day by providing prepared and to-go meals from their dining room, and a week's worth of groceries from their food pantry.

- St. Stephen's Youth Programs: St. Stephen's Youth Programs will use the BRF grant to support families through cash assistance and grocery store gift cards.

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# City Councilor Kenzie Bok reflects on first year in office

By Dan Murphy

When she was sworn in as the District 8 City Councilor on Jan. 6 of last year, Kenzie Bok never could have anticipated the unprecedented trials ahead during her first year in public office.

"I came in thinking that I would be very focused on affordable housing," said Bok, who prior to becoming the youngest serving member of the Boston City Council at age 30, worked as the Boston Housing Authority's Senior Advisor for Policy and Planning, "because that's what really drove me into running in the first place."

In her first month on the job, Councilor Bok began "laying the policy groundwork for housing-related initiatives we'd end up launching later in the year," she said, which included one proposal to build new public housing in the city and another to enhancing Boston's commitment to cooperative housing.

"Cooperative housing is something that stabilizes a lot of folks in the district and anchors a lot of our neighborhoods," she said.

But when COVID-19 took hold of Boston during Councilor Bok's third month, the city was faced with an unprecedented and unforeseen public-health crisis.

"When the pandemic hit, in some ways, it shifted everything," Councilor Bok said. "In other ways, especially with housing, it deepened the needs of what was already there."

In the spring, Councilor Bok and her colleagues found emergency housing for the homeless and raised the need for public housing vouchers for families while the threat of eviction for families loomed as they struggled to pay the rent.

"We became focused on cooperative housing as part of the solution," she said, "along with buying apartments that were going into foreclosure [to house residents]."

When asked what accomplishment regarding housing she's most proud during her first year in office, Councilor Bok doesn't hesitate in her reply: the city's "Fair Housing Zoning Amendment."

"It has really been a partnership with Councilor [Lydia] Edwards and the Mayor's Administration to make Boston the first city in the country to embed a commitment to fair housing in our zoning code and in our development process," said Councilor Bok, adding that the policy experience she brings to the job was useful in drafting language for this.

The amendment, which passed last month, is scheduled to become law next week via the city's Zoning Commission.

"What's so exciting is that it's a really important tool for the city, but zoning has historically been used across Boston and nationwide at times for the purpose of segregation and racial discrimination in housing," Councilor Bok said. "So it's extremely powerful to reverse that dynamic and use zoning proactively to bring

about a more inclusive city."

Moreover, she added: "We're the first in the country. We've come up with a really original mechanism for making sure as we grow as a city, and that we grow inclusively and take active steps to make sure every project is a part of building a Boston for all."

Helping residents of her district as they have struggled with food insecurity over the last year also topped Councilor Bok's first-year priorities.

"It was immediately clear that we were hit by a tsunami of need when it came to food in the city," she said, "and I'm proud to have partnered with the city departments to imagine what we could do at a larger scale of magnitude to really transform assistance from providing one-off food needs...to delivering thousands of boxes of meals to our most vulnerable population."

And it all started with a pilot program in the Fenway, Councilor Bok said, "with a bunch of partners to show it could be done."

In the new year, Councilor Bok will be working with Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Administration to get a commitment to undertake an evaluation of the city's Payment of Lieu of Tax (PILOT) program for major universities, hospitals and cultural institutions because, she said, their real estate assessments haven't been updated since 2009.

"It's an important part of the equity puzzle when you think about how real-estate tax rates



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON  
District 8 Boston City Councilor  
Kenzie Bok.

have gone up for the rest of the city," Councilor Bok said. "And also, we have an acute need for resources as we come back from the pandemic and to tackle serious inequality in our city that has only deepened because of COVID."

In this budget year, Councilor Bok also worked tirelessly to secure \$8 million for a first-time homebuyers program that, she said, has already helped a lot of families in its first three months, 80 percent of whom were people of color.

Councilor Bok said she looks forward in 2021 to "accelerating" the work she started last year. "A lot of initiatives have real traction and will give me plenty more to do in the year to come," she added.

These initiatives range from forming an Urban Climate Conservation Corps to requiring greater police accountability, and Councilor Bok has also proposed the creation of the Boston Sestercentennial Commission to provide a wider and

more equitable lens on history in planning for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026 while encouraging the city to take a closer look at the "tools" it now has to ensure historic preservation.

"I'm really leading a major push on historic preservation on the commemoration front," she said.

Councilor Bok, whose office launched an impromptu youth job program over the summer and advocated for 1,000 year-round youth jobs this school year, also remains committed to creating more youth employment opportunities in the city.

"Youth employment is something that's going to be important as young people recover from the current crisis, she said, "and that's one thing I'm going to push for in the current year."

Councilor Bok began her service in public office during what has undeniably one of the most tumultuous years in Boston's history, but through her resolve and unwavering commitment to her city, she rose to the occasion and now looks forward to tackling the challenges ahead.

"It's been a challenging year to be a first-year councilor, but I've also loved getting up every day and thinking about how to help people in our district in this time," she said. "It has given me a really strong sense of purpose through this crisis, and I've felt very humbled by the trust that the people of District 8 have put in me."

## WALSH UPDATE (from pg. 1)

this phase until January 27, after which the public health data will be reevaluated. The restrictions include a 10 person limit on indoor gatherings and a 25 person limit on outdoor gatherings, both in public and private spaces.

Activities and businesses to remain closed include gyms, indoor fitness centers, museums, aquariums, and indoor gaming and arcades, among others. One on one training sessions will continue, Walsh said, and indoor recreational and athletic youth activities may continue with a 10 person limit

for those 18 and under.

The state's additional restrictions that went into effect on December 26 also still apply, the mayor said. Under these rules, office space can remain open at 25 percent capacity, indoor dining can remain open at 25 percent capacity with a 90 minute time limit, and places of worship can remain open at 25 percent capacity. Bar seating is not allowed in Boston without written permission from the Licensing Board, Walsh said. For the complete list of restrictions, visit [boston.gov/reopening](https://www.boston.gov/reopening).

Walsh reiterated that these restrictions are "not about targeting specific sectors as a cause of the virus spread," but the goal is to limit spread and limit the amount of time people spend outside of their homes with others.

"If metrics get worse we might have to implement further restrictions," Walsh said.

He also talked about safe dining and thanked Boston's restaurants "for following the safety protocols," but added that "we need patrons to do their part" to help protect

restaurant workers as well as each other.

He said that "too many people are going out to dinner with people outside of their bubble," and said that people should not "table hop" if they see someone they know in a restaurant. People should also keep their masks on when they are seated at their table and not actively eating or drinking.

"We need to keep local restaurants open, but only if people follow the public health guidelines," Walsh said.

He also said that everyone should be getting tested for the

virus, as the state has more than 30 testing sites. "We're asking you to make it a New Year's resolution," he said.

Walsh also said that he will be delivering his annual State of the City address next week, but this year it will be "completely virtual." The event will be on January 12 at 7:30pm, and will be livestreamed on [boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov), as well as TV news stations.

"2020 was one of the hardest years in Boston's history," Walsh said, and thanked "everyone for doing their part."

# Pine Street digital billboard gets lukewarm reception from neighbors

By Seth Daniel

A proposal from Pine Street Inn to expand their existing billboard program and convert it to digital got a lukewarm reception on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at the East Berkeley Neighborhood Association (EBNA) meeting – with many neighbors citing the familiar refrain that they support Pine Street, but...

The proposal has yet to be filed with the state Office of Outdoor Advertising, but it has been filed with the City's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), though there is no hearing date yet. Attorney Dan Toscano, of the North End, said they plan to convert both existing static billboards (facing North and East) to digital. They also plan to expand the East facing billboard from 20' x 40' to 20' x 60'. They pledged to turn them off from midnight to 5 a.m., that they would be 25 percent less bright than the existing boards and to give 15 hours per month to community advertising.

The existing boards have been a great revenue source since going through a community process and being installed in 2013. In that time, Toscano said there have been no complaints about them.

"Moving to digital billboards would generate additional funding," he said. "The static billboards are usually owned by big companies and they own the structure and reap all the profits. This one is unique because they don't own the structure, but they do own the licensing and revenues go right back to the community to help fight homelessness at Pine Street and job training programs and other services. They keep 100 percent of the revenues."

Pine Street's Aimee Cooledge said they put the billboard up with the blessing of the neighborhood and it provided very needed revenues. They have used those revenues to enhance security at Pine Street, and to help fund a three-year City program to move people out of homelessness and into housing.

"We continue to have the billboard, but we'd like to change it and transfer it to a

digital billboard," she said. "A digital billboard will provide more revenues and we continue to need the funding."

Community members were not thrilled about the digital lighting, and asked that the boards be turned off at night – particularly those that face new apartments on East Berkeley Street.

"A digital billboard seems to me like it brings more light pollution," said Lewis Wheeler. "I get the additional revenues, but I feel like it could also distract drivers...One of these boards will face new apartments on East Berkeley Street. These are things to think about, especially those facing to East Berkeley Street."

Jane Brayton said she supports the efforts by Pine Street, but didn't really feel like it was appropriate to expand the east-facing board by 20 feet.

"I certainly support Pine Street generating more money, but you have to think about your neighbors and the sky being lit up," she said. "Twenty feet is really, really big. I don't think you need to be symmetrical. That's not a priority on my list at all."

City Councilor Ed Flynn stressed heavily that he plays a big role in the process, and he said billboards aren't his favorite thing. He said he will fight for the neighborhood first.

"I am adamantly opposed to electronic billboards in my district," he said. "I would probably support this one because I have such great respect for Pine Street Inn, but I'm here for the neighbors and community process and the voices of the neighbors on this need to be heard. The BPDA might be putting regulations in on turning off the boards at night, but I don't work for the BPDA. I'm going to make sure the neighborhood voice is heard in this process. We need a robust discussion and it will take time. I think we can get there though."

Cooledge added it was just the beginning of a discussion.

The best comment of the night, however, came from City Lights founder Duggan Hill, who once taught Attorney Toscano at the Washington Street

studio when he was a teen-ager.

"Dan Toscano 35 years ago was a break dancer," he said with a laugh.

## •LIQUOR LICENSES APPROVED AT SOWA

EBNA President Ken Smith informed the neighborhood that two liquor licenses – one for the Power Station Event Venue at SoWa and the other for a new Jeff Gates Asian fusion concept at SoWa – were approved in the last weeks of December.

Several concerns had been raised about the Power Station license at the November meeting, but there were a great number of supporters too. Smith said the EBNA letter to the liquor board did reflect the concerns.

"At the end of the day, they did get the licenses," he said. "This is where the communication continues. I plan to continue discussions with Jeff Gates and Mario Nicosia of GTI about more mitigation."

## NEW INDIVIDUAL TRAINING BUSINESS OPENS

Two familiar faces from the now-defunct Boston Sports Clubs facility at SoWa announced to EBNA they will be opening up their own personal training business, Elite Training Group, at the former Celebrity Barbershop, 1242 Washington St.

Trainers Kris Kranzky and Steven Stewart told EBNA they hoped to open up a personal training studio in the building that would be open by appointment only from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. They came to ask for support for a permanent change of use on the building from barber shop use to a gym use.

"We think once we come out of the emergency we're in, we will see a lot of people who have been sedentary a long time and we see our business as a way to help people break out of that and get active again," said Kranzky.

Stewart said they would be following all safety protocols through the COVID-19 emergency and would really be focusing on one-on-one training with weights, cardio machines and other exercises.



A rendering of the proposed digital billboard replacement and expansion at the Pine Street Inn. The Inn is asking for permission in order to increase revenues from the billboards. Static billboards were approved for the location in 2013.

They plan to focus on package deals rather than on monthly fees.

## STATE REP. AARON MICHLEWITZ

State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz – in the midst of a marathon final day of session at the State House – joined EBNA for an update from the state on Tuesday as well.

Michlewitz highlighted some of the recent bills passed, including the Police Reform Act and the override of Gov. Charlie Baker's veto of the Roe Act reforms. He also detailed the help that the state and federal government have provided to small business and restaurants – which has been a great focus of his lately.

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# Rep. Santiago doesn't miss a beat on votes, vaccines despite overseas deployment

By Seth Daniel

Warning to State Rep. Jon Santiago's future grandchildren: He might be telling the truth about walking to work in a foot of snow uphill in both directions when he was younger.

State Rep. Jon Santiago hasn't missed a beat in the latter part of this year, being deployed to the Middle East in a medical role as part of his National Guard unit, but never missing a vote at the State House on critical COVID-19 legislation and marching through a blizzard the day he returned to be vaccinated at Boston Medical Center for COVID-19.

"This is something I'll tell my grandchildren about," he wrote last month as he walked to the hospital for his first dose of the vaccine due to being a front-line doctor treating COVID-19 patients.

"I recently returned from my overseas Army deployment in mid-December and have been back at work on Beacon Hill and in the ER," he wrote. "Many thanks to the neighbors and constituents who remained in touch and supported our office's efforts while I was gone. Fortunately, I was able to stay just as involved while away, even casting votes and attending weekly community meetings... Throughout

my tour of duty I remained engaged with our community and did not miss a single vote this entire legislative session."

Santiago highlighted several of the important bills that were passed and signed into law this year, including the numerous COVID-19 relief packages, the Police Reform Bill and a landmark climate bill passed just this week.

Meanwhile, he also reported having elected a new Speaker of the House in Ron Mariano, of Quincy, after the resignation of former Speaker Bob DeLeo.

"Speaker Mariano has played an instrumental role in passing many of this session's bills," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with the new Speaker and expect many good things to come."

As an ER doctor at Boston Medical on the front line, Santiago said he is very concerned about COVID-19 and working to get more testing, tracing and vaccinations. That remains



State Rep. Jon Santiago has been on a wild ride in 2020. Not only was he a front-line worker as a doctor in the emergency room of Boston Medical Center, but he also spent several months deployed as a medic with his National Guard unit in the Middle East. He returned to the South End in mid-December, and was vaccinated for COVID-19 the day after.

one of his chief issues at the moment.

"Recent months have brought a concerning rise in coronavirus cases across the country and the Commonwealth," he wrote. "I have been advocating for increased testing and aggressive contact tracing since the early days of the

pandemic for this reason. The vaccine campaign is also underway and cannot move quick enough."

For any constituent inquiries or neighborhood issues, contact Rep. Santiago at jon.santiago@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2130.

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## District 4 sees 9-percent drop in Part One crime as '20 draws to a close

By Dan Murphy

As 2020 was drawing to a close, District 4 had seen a 9-percent drop in violent and property crime, according to Boston Police.

Between Jan. and Dec. 27 of

last year, 3,013 incidents of Part One crime were reported in the district that includes Back Bay, the South End, Lower Roxbury and the Fenway as opposed to 3,294 during the same time-frame in 2019.

Two homicides were reported in 2020, down from five the previous year, while rapes and attempted rapes were down nearly 13 percent as the number dropped to 21 from 24 the year before.

Robberies and attempted robberies saw a nearly 12-percent decrease, with 134 incidents last year as opposed to 152 in 2019.

Incidents of domestic aggravated assault were down almost 22 percent, dropping to 47 from 60 in 2019, while, in contrast, non-domestic aggravated assault saw a nearly 18-percent uptick as the number climbed to 267 from 227 the previous year.

The rate of commercial burglaries more than doubled, with 154 in 2020, compared to 74 last year.

Residential burglaries were down around 7 percent as the number dropped to 138 from 149 in 2019, while there were no incidents of other burglary in 2020 as opposed to 17 the previous year.

Incidents of larceny from a motor vehicle were up around 30 percent, with 514 last year, compared to 395 in 2019, whereas, in contrast, other larcenies saw a nearly 22-percent decline as the number fell to 1,597 in 2020 as opposed to 2,039 the year before.

Auto theft was down nearly 9 percent, with 139 incidents last year, down from 152 in 2019.

Citywide, Part One crime was down 5 percent as the number of incidents dropped to 16,491 from 17,415 in 2019.

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# SELDC approves design for new Crite Park in concept; details to be worked out in subcommittee

By Lauren Bennett

The proposed design for the new Crite Park at the intersection of Columbus Avenue and West Canton and Appleton Streets was approved in concept by the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) on January 5.

Cheryl Dickinson, the chairperson for the Friends of Crite Park, had presented an original proposal for the park under Advisory Review last August, where the project was well received overall and the commission made some small suggestions regarding the proposed pergolas, artwork, and flooring material for the park. The current park is a small triangle with a raised brick wall that residents say is uninviting and full of trash on many occasions.

Dickinson returned on January 5 to present the updated plan for a vote from the commission.

Dickinson said at the hearing that “the project is in an area that’s surrounded by a series of affordable housing units,” and many of those residents do not have outside space. “This particular park is very helpful to residents nearby,” she said, and will also provide a place for programming in the neighborhood while honoring artist Allan Crite.

She proposed the installation of eight new trees and the removal of the trees “within the perimeter of the existing brick enclosure that we’re referring to as a park,” she said. Three large linden trees will remain, as well as two trees on the Columbus Ave. side. She proposed several new shade trees “bordering the lindens,” but said that the lindens cause issues when they “emit droppings.”

Dickinson said that the lindens are not allowed to be removed, but the Friends still want to provide adequate seating in the park, so she proposed three pergolas that will both provide shade and protect against the droppings from the linden trees on the Appleton St. side. The pergolas have perforations on the top, which Dickinson said are smaller on the side where the linden trees are. They are proposed to be made of steel and painted a dark brown color.

“The general concept is that of an outdoor living room,” Dickinson said of the proposal, which is a nod to Crite, as

she said that is something that he also mentioned in his work. The proposed park is “about 3.4 times larger than the existing brick enclosure,” she added.

She then talked about the flooring for the park, which was one of the issues raised by the Commission in August. The originally proposed floor was concrete, but the Commission had said they prefer brick to best fit in with the historic district. There was some back and forth and questioning over accessibility in the park with the use of brick, but Dickinson said that after speaking with the Boston Disabilities Commission, they agreed that brick would be an acceptable material for the park.

Dickinson briefly mentioned some of the proposed furniture, which includes dark brown and gray chairs and loveseats and small gray tables.

The previously proposed artwork includes pieces of art on the pergolas, but Commissioner John Amodeo had said he felt it looked like a “bus stop.” The newly proposed artwork includes one mosaic piece that would be located along the portion of the park that abuts the building on Columbus Ave.

“We really like the idea of the mosaic,” Dickinson said.

The Commission also got into a discussion around the upkeep of the park and who would be responsible for it, though this is not within the commission’s purview. Amodeo said that “community volunteer commitments go in cycles,” as people get older and others move in or out of the neighborhood.

Dickinson said that people have already shown a lot of interest in the proposed programming for the park, so she believes that people will also want to pitch in to help keep the park clean and inviting for all.

Amodeo said that “that’s a great intention, but I would like to see your maintenance plan have contingencies for the future. I wouldn’t want to see the community suddenly lose its resources or the city not stepping in and the park therefore decline.”

Commissioner Catherine Hunt thanked Dickinson and the landscape architect for listening to the commission’s comments and inserting them into the new design. “What an

improvement,” she said, adding that she appreciates the use of brick for the flooring. “Brick does not preclude access,” she said.

Commissioner David Shepperd said he also likes the brick and the new artwork, but thinks more of the details surrounding the art piece should be worked out. He also said that he is “not sold on the pergolas yet,” as he believes more discussion is needed on whether or not they are appropriate in the neighborhood. He said that they look “very modern” to him, and argued that the trees in the area would provide shade in the park, so the pergolas wouldn’t be necessary for that purpose.

“I’m hesitant to approve anything with pergolas at all,” Shepperd said, adding that he also has concerns about the maintenance and upkeep of the park and wants to ensure that plantings and other aspects of the park are able to easily be kept up.

He said there are “lots of weeds” and “garbage” on the existing site, and said that the hope is that neighbors will truly pitch in once the new park is built.

Dickinson responded by saying that people have expressed that they don’t want to go near the area because there are a lot of needles and trash. “I would not want to clean that up...I don’t want to deal with that,” she said. “It invites a lot of vagrancy.” She also said that not having the pergolas would be cheaper, but it is a solution for protecting the proposed seating from the linden tree droppings.

“If we only provided seating on one side, we wouldn’t really be making the best use of the park,” she said. She also said she could reach out to the Friends of Hayes Park to see how that park is maintained, which Amodeo said was a “great idea,” as he said that Hayes Park is maintained nicely.

“I heard what Cheryl is saying about wanting to turn your back because it’s just overwhelming,” Shepperd said, but said that he thinks regular upkeep is necessary to maintain a park even if it may be difficult, and has done so himself with his community garden plot which he said has many of the same issues.

Commissioner John Freeman piped in about the pergolas, agreeing with Shepperd that they are “a little on the modern side,” but argued that they are in fact “part of the Victorian vocabulary,” though maybe not in the South End. Freeman suggested that the commission approve the park’s design in concept, but remand further details about various aspects to a subcommittee.

Amodeo said he likes the mosaic placed as a “focal point to draw people in to the park,” and also appreciates the all brick flooring. He also said he liked the all white flower choices against the red brick. He said the furniture “for the most part is fine,” but further details could be worked out in the subcommittee, and the pergola discussion should also be a focus of the subcommittee.

In general, the public was in favor of this proposal as well, with some residents saying they are glad to hear the current eyesore of a park will be brought to life with a fresh facelift. Some liked the amount of seating and the increase in open space, as well as the shade that will be offered.

Others, like Rick Richter, who said he lives down the street from the park, said that he and a few others have occasionally cleaned trash out of the existing park, but “as soon as we clean up, people throw trash right back in there.” He said that though it can be difficult to find volunteers “for a sustained period of time,” there has been significant interest from neighbors in keeping this new park clean and maintained.

Others suggested putting signs with the Friends of Crite Park contact information on it so residents can express interest in helping with the upkeep. Resident Anurag Agrawal said he was “overall in support of the project,” but he said he wants to ensure the proper removal of trash from the receptacles as well as to make sure the park won’t create activity or noise at night.

The SELDC voted to approve the park’s design in concept and remand outstanding details to a subcommittee consisting of John Amodeo and David Shepperd.

“We look forward to continuing the discussion of the details in subcommittee,” Amodeo said.

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# ATTENTION TO DETAIL

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

## THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The stair rail with bunches of grapes and leaves in the last clue is in front of 29 Marlborough Street built circa 1870. Grapes have been an important design element in architecture since Roman times. You can create a scavenger hunt looking for grapes, grapevines, and grape leaves as decorations on buildings all over Boston.

The next clue will be found in the South End.

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

## THIS WEEK'S CLUE



# Real Estate Transfers

BUYER	BUYER 1	SELLER	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
<b>BACK BAY</b>					
Jacks, Tyler		100 Tus Nua RT		100 Beacon St #PHB	\$9,326,000
Canning, Ann E		Krause, Frederick T		265-275 Dartmouth St #4M	\$590,000
Walker, Bruce		Samborn, Kevin		290 Commonwealth Ave #25	\$1,560,000
LCLD 362 Comm Ave LLC		Handsman James B Est		362 Commonwealth Ave #LC	\$561,400
LCLD 362 Comm Ave LLC		Handsman James B Est		362 Commonwealth Ave #LD	\$561,400
<b>BEACON HILL</b>					
Dorris, Emily A		Pare, Gregory M		51 Anderson St #B	\$485,000
Gross, Michaela		Day, Deirdre		13 Bowdoin St #5C	\$530,000
<b>BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE</b>					
Lam-Plattes, Sasha		Nelson, Peter L		1 Saint Charles St #GDN	\$450,000
Amornsiripanitch, Nita		Low, Lenny		188 Brookline Ave #22E	\$2,000,000
Henderson, Dustin E		Edlund, Anna K		30-34 E Concord St #3	\$709,000
Atlantic Oliver Mass Ave		Scott, Thomas H		903 Massachusetts Ave	\$10,000,000
Atlantic Oliver Mass Ave		Scott, Thomas H		905 Massachusetts Ave	\$10,000,000
Atlantic Oliver Mass Ave		Scott, Thomas H		907 Massachusetts Ave	\$10,000,000
Walat, Elizabeth		Ballou, Abigail G		31 Upton St #2	\$954,000
Moskowitz, David		Uribe, Jill K		216 W Springfield St #1	\$2,050,000
Rubio, Manuel J		Suzanne M Brendle		91 Waltham St #5	\$690,000
<b>WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN</b>					
Riley, Sean A		Tower Road LLC		300 Commercial St #213	\$690,000
Katz, Philip		Saia Commercial Street		300 Commercial St #703	\$1,370,000
Spenceley, Richard		Hubbard, John A		300 Commercial St #805	\$1,795,000

# Two Boston chefs aim to bring new Italian eatery to Back Bay

By Dan Murphy

Two well-established Boston chefs are joining together to launch a yet-to-be-named Italian restaurant in Back Bay with mid-range fare and a focus on seafood.

Ken Oringer, the chef at the Boston restaurants Uni, Coppa and Toro, as well as Little Donkey in Cambridge, and Jamie Bissonette, the James Beard Award-winning chef and Oringer's partner at Coppa, Toro and Little Donkey, plan to open their latest venture in a former retail space located between Fairfield and Gloucester streets at 276-278 Newbury St.

The proposed restaurant, which would also offer take-out, would have 103 seats indoors, as well as 25 at the bar and 40 outdoors on two patios, said Jon Aeta, the applicant's attorney, during a Jan. 5 virtual meeting of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay Licensing and Building Use Committee, and it would have a full liquor license, which is being transferred from the former location of Uno Pizzeria & Grill on Boylston Street.

While the restaurant's proposed hours of operation are now 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily, both Conrad Armstrong, chair of the Licensing and Building Use Committee, and Elliott

Laffer, who chairs NABB, indicated that the late closing time could be a "sticking point" for the applicant because of the likely potential for patrons to create excessive noise while exiting the establishment.

Oringer countered that Uni (along with Clio, its predecessor in the same space), which, he said, is located in a more residential area of Back Bay than the site of the proposed restaurant, has closed at 2 a.m. for two decades without incident.

"We've been operating bars in Boston for 20 years ... and we don't attract boisterous crowds," he said. "That's not what we're after."

# First-responders to begin receiving vaccine Jan. 11, Baker says

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker on Monday announced that first responders will be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine starting on January 11.

The vaccine has already been administered to many COVID-facing healthcare workers and long term care facilities as part of Phase One, and first responders, including EMS workers, firefighters, and police officers are next in the order of priority laid out by the state.

Baker said that 74 out of 76 hospitals in the Commonwealth have “begun vacci-

nating their COVID-facing staff,” and last week, vaccination began in long term care facilities across the state.

The plan for first responders was laid out on Monday, with Baker saying that the state’s more than 45,000 first responders will have three choices for how they can receive their first dose of the vaccine.

Beginning on January 11, “qualifying departments can request vaccines to be administered onsite,” Baker said. Additionally, first responders can also schedule an appointment at one of the state’s more than 60 vaccination sites, and

the state will also set up vaccination sites for first responders.

Baker said appointments will be available for scheduling later this week.

“These men and women put their lives on the line regularly before we had COVID-19,” Baker said. He continued, “the Lt. Governor and I are excited to be moving ahead in this particular vaccination effort.”

Baker also announced a “more interactive and user-friendly” dashboard for COVID-19 data that will offer people the opportunity to search data based on different

criteria such as case numbers or hospitalizations, he said. Data can also be searched from a particular time period, and will “make it easier for members of the public to study COVID-19 data in Massachusetts,” Baker said.

The dashboard will be available in the same place as the previous one, and can be found at [mass.gov/covid](https://mass.gov/covid). Baker said new data will be published each day at 5pm.

As of Tuesday, there were 4,178 new cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, 2,428 patients in the hospital, and 425 patients in the ICU. He said on Monday that

there have been a “few lags in reporting,” and there have also been fewer tests reported.

Baker said that while “hope is clearly on the horizon” with the vaccine already distributed to many healthcare workers and longterm care facility residents, “tough days” are still ahead. Baker said it is still “critically important” for people to continue wearing face coverings, not gathering with people, staying home when sick, and following all other guidelines set forth by the state.

“We can and will get through this,” Baker said.

## For the Record

**C O R O N A V I R U S**  
**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 Jan. 11 Emergency Licensed Premise Inspections hearing, 11 a.m., online:**

The Licensing Board for the City of Boston (the “Board”) for a virtual emergency licensed premise inspection hearing on Monday January 11, 2021 at 11 a.m. regarding the licensed premise inspection notice issued by the Licensed Premise Unit of the Boston Police Department the preceding weekend. Notice of this hearing will be hand delivered to any licensee required to attend upon the issuance of the licensed premise inspection notice.

**From the Jan. 12 Bay Village Historic District Commission meeting, 4 p.m., via Zoom** ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83903905425](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83903905425)):

**ADVISORY REVIEW**

•19 Isabella Street: Conversion of former Our Lady of Victories Church into residential condominiums.

**From the Jan. 13 Zoning Commission hearing, 9 a.m., online:**

•9:15 AM Text Amendment Application No. 495 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice that a virtual public hearing will be held on January 13, 2021, at 9:15 A.M., in connection with a petition for approval of Text Amendment Application No. 495 filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency. Said text amendment would amend

Articles 2 (Definitions), 2A (Definitions Applicable in Neighborhood Districts and in Article 80, Development Review and Approval), and 80 (Development Review and Approval) to include Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing requirements to the Article 80 Development Review process.

**From the Jan. 13 Back Bay Architectural Commission hearing, 5 p.m., via Zoom** ([HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85364610188](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85364610188)):

**DESIGN REVIEW**

•535 Boylston Street: Installation of exterior ATM.  
 •659-661 Boylston Street: Modify existing rooftop telecommunications facility by replacing existing equipment and adding additional new equipment.

•Newbury Street: At front facade redesign first-story and lower-level storefronts, and redesign dig-out area with entry stairs from public sidewalk.

•118 Commonwealth Avenue: At rear elevation extend fire escape from fourth story to fifth story.

•222 Commonwealth Avenue: Re-landscape rear yard and replace fencing, construct rear addition, restore rear elevation and replace windows, construct two steel French balconies and convert two existing windows into doors.

•315 Commonwealth Avenue: Restore masonry at front facade and rear elevation; at rear elevation replace existing fire escapes with balconies, add additional balcony, alter fenestration at lower level, create garden and construct garden walls; and at roof add deck, mechanical equipment and redesign existing rooftop structures.

**ADVISORY REVIEW**

•761-793 Boylston Street: Construct five-story rooftop addition.

•885 Boylston Street: Replace storefronts at Gloucester Street façade and Boylston Street façade, and add mural to top floors of building.

**From the Jan. 14 Boston Groundwater Trust meeting, 4 p.m., online:**

•Trust leadership update & re-election of Trust Officers: 15 VOTE REQUIRED

- Financial report updates from Treasurer & Executive Director: 10
- NABB Amicus Brief Update: 10
- Update on review regarding relationship with the City: 10
- Insurance coverage update: 10
- BPDA GCOD revision update: 10
- Update on operating manual: 10
- Executive Director’s report: 10
- Other business: 10

**From the Jan. 14 Public Facilities/BPS Community meeting, 6 p.m., online:**

•The Public Facilities Department and Boston Public Schools will be holding the 2nd Community Meeting for the William E. Carter School Project Feasibility Study, currently in the Preferred Schematic Report phase (PSR). Per the MSBA regulations, the PSR summarizes the District’s chosen Preferred Schematic Design from the options studied during earlier phases (Preliminary Design Program) for the future William E. Carter School building in the South End.

**HOLIDAY RECYCLING AND TRASH GUIDE**

Items one can recycle:

- Gift Bags (no metallic inks, foil, wire or glitter.)
- Cardboard (no larger than 3’ x 3’)
- Catalogs
- Greeting Cards (no metallic inks, photos, foil, wire or glitter.)

Items one cannot recycle:

- Plastic Bags
- Christmas Lights
- Bows and Ribbons
- Wrapping Paper
- Bubble Wrap
- Styrofoam
- Air Pillows
- Tissue Paper

•Packing Peanuts

**SCHOOLS INFO**

•BPS Priority Registration Begins This Week – Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. Priority Registration for those grades ends on Jan. 29. Assignment notifications are on March 31.

Students entering K2 and all other grades have priority registration on Feb. 8 and ends on April 5. Assignment notifications for those grades is on May 28.

There are informational Zoom sessions about registration on Weds. Jan 20, 4 p.m.; and Sat., Feb. 27, at 10 a.m.

BPS Welcome Centers are temporarily closed to the public, but registration can be done online and via phone. Call (617) 635-9010 to schedule a phone appointment with a specialist.

•P-EBT Cards - All BPS students will have more P-EBT funds for this school year. If you received P-EBT funds in the past, look for funds to be allocated the last week of December. New to P-EBT? You will get a P-EBT card in January or check your existing EBT card for funds. Learn more at [www.MAP-EBT.org](http://www.MAP-EBT.org) or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

•Join BPS in creating a BPS Community Cookbook. The schools are collecting family recipes that represent the diverse, delicious foods found in BPS households. These recipes will be compiled and shared in the spring.

•Free Pre-K Spaces Available - There are still spaces available for free, in-person, high-quality Pre-K at community-based organizations across the city for the 2020-21 school year for children who are 4 years old as of September 1, 2020. More information is available at [bostonpublicschools.org/upk](http://bostonpublicschools.org/upk).

**FREE BPS BREAKFAST IN SOUTH END/FENWAY**  
 Students who wish to get a free

breakfast Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 am.,

have three sites to choose from in the South End and Fenway. This is the BPS initiative,

but other organizations are also serving meals in the area as well.

•Blackstone Elementary School – 380 Shawmut Ave. (South End).

•Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, 120 Shawmut Ave. (Monday, Weds., and Friday only – South End).

•Boston Latin School – 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur (Fenway).

**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.

# CAMPION AND COMPANY

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#1 BOSTON  
OFFICE FOR SALES  
OVER \$2.5M+\*

#1 AGENT  
IN  
NEW ENGLAND\*

TRACY CAMPION AND THE TEAM AT CAMPION  
ENDED THE YEAR WITH  
\$886 MILLION IN CLOSED SALES.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN 2021!

