



THE BEACON HILL TIMES

T H E R E A R E N O T I M E S L I K E T H E S E T I M E S



Charles Street retail stores start Phase 2 reopening

By Dan Murphy

Since Phase 2 of Gov. Charlie Baker's plan for reopening the Commonwealth took effect Monday, June 8, Jennifer Hill has enthusiastically welcomed back guests to her longstanding Charles Street gift store, Blackstone's of Beacon Hill, even if they just come in to browse.

"I know we're in business to make money, but this is the fun part," Hill said. "It's so nice to see the happy faces of people who just want to walk around the store, and even if they don't buy anything, that's okay."

Like other retail stores in the Commonwealth, Blackstone's can only operate at 40 percent occupancy per state guidelines, and with its 500 square-foot storefront, this means the store can only accommodate a total of five people, which sometimes includes two employees, at any given time.

Blackstone's has also installed a contactless credit-card terminal and provides gloves and masks to customers as needed, along with hand sanitizer at the counter.

"Some people are still getting used to the routine, but on the whole everyone has been accommodating," Hill said Friday. "Overall, people have been very courteous and ask if it's okay to enter. They are just so thrilled to be back in a store."



Watchdog Lina standing guard in front of Linens on the Hill.



Jennifer Hill, owner, and Tanisha Gray, store manager, of Blackstone's of Beacon Hill.

Unlike some other retail businesses, Blackstone's was in a unique situation, since it was allowed to reopen May 8 as part of Phase 1 for curbside and door-side service. Hill said this helped make the transition to Phase 2 vir-

tually "seamless," since the store already had the safety protocol outlined by the Center for Disease Control and the state in place.

And so far during Phase

(STORES Pg. 6)

Allan Hodges to lead BHV

By Suzanne Besser

Allan A. Hodges, who has been active in community and professional groups throughout Boston and Newport, RI, was named president of Beacon Hill Village at its annual meeting held this week on Zoom. A resident of the Downtown neighborhood, he succeeds Douglas Fitzsimmons who for two years was at the helm of the nonprofit organization, a community of older adults whose mission is to live well and age well.

Having completed a 50-year career in urban planning and environmental impact analysis in both the public and private sectors, Hodges is well-suited for his new role. In addition to serving his first term on the BHV board, he is a member of the Boston Common Committee of the Friends of the Public Garden and the Leadership Team of the Downtown Boston Residents Association.

He welcomes the opportunity to serve on BHV's board because he believes its basic central idea is solid and much needed in the

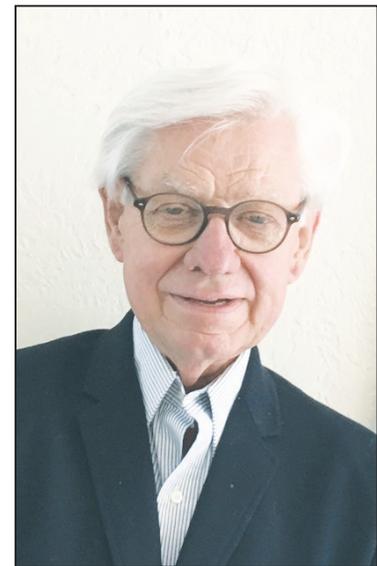


Photo courtesy of Beacon Hill Village
Allan Hodges named president of Beacon Hill Village.

downtown communities it serves. "I think the future of the Beacon Hill Village is bright," he said. "It is a sensible and easier alternative for active older adults than moving into continuing care communities unless, of course, they need

(BHV Pg. 5)

Vilna Shul welcomes new director of development

By Dan Murphy

When Christen Hazel first read the posting for The Vilna Shul's director of development position, she almost felt as though the job description had been written specifically with her in mind.

"I had a desire to join an organization dedicated to preserving history and building a welcoming community steeped in Jewish traditions," said Hazel, whose first full day in the role is Monday, June 22. "So, this is like my dream job, to be honest."

A West End resident, Hazel comes to her new position after serving as director of development

(HAZEL, Pg. 5)



Christen Hazel, The Vilna Shul's new director of development.

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER

Beacon Hill Civic Association Committees

Every spring, the Beacon Hill Civic Association publishes its Annual Report covering committee accomplishments during the past year. We'll be sharing the committees' reports here over the

next weeks.

Planning & Oversight Committee

The Planning & Oversight ("Planning") Committee serves as an umbrella committee to initiate, monitor and oversee the BHCA's efforts on long-range issues that

affect our neighborhood. The Planning Committee also tracks the BHCA's involvement with the various committees and groups in the City of Boston, in order to strengthen the organization's voice in governmental and com-

(BHCA Pg. 12)

For the latest news in Beacon Hill that you need to know, check www.beaconhilltimes.com

Sen. Brownsberger and Rep. Jay Livingstone hold wide-ranging virtual Town Hall meeting

By Dan Murphy

State Sen. Will Brownsberger and State Rep. Jay Livingstone welcomed around 50 guests for a virtual Town Hall meeting Thursday, June 11, to discuss a wide range of issues, including the looming state budget, the future of the T and proposed police reform.

“State Police reform needs to happen,” said Sen. Brownsberger, who added that despite rallying calls to strip them of funding, the State Police now only accounts for about 1 percent of the Commonwealth’s annual budget. “We shouldn’t take all the money away from police or eliminate police. I don’t think I can get to that place myself.”

Gov. Charlie Baker has filed a bill that besides requiring officers statewide to be certified, would take complaints against individual officers to the state level, and which Sen. Brownsberger said the legislature expects to vote on soon.

The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus is also now working on recommend changes for policing, but Sen. Brownsberger said oversight responsibilities must fall on the officers in charge as well.

“We need committed police leadership to send the message to officers about what kind of policing the community wants,” he said. “We can also make a difference moving the compliant process to the state level.”

As it stands with complaints

against officers today, Sen. Brownsberger said a collective bargaining union and management often send in arbitrators who don’t always enforce discipline.

Rep. Livingstone, whose district includes the Cambridgeport neighborhood in Cambridge, said there was a lot of public backlash in response to Cambridge City Council’s recent conversation on increasing funding for that city’s police force, which ultimately “lost momentum” when some of the department’s critics realized a budget cut would mean certain responsibilities they deem necessary would no longer be handled by police there.

“What exactly we want from the police is going to be a very important discussion,” said Rep. Livingstone, who served as Middlesex County’s Assistant District Attorney for four years. “A tremendous difference [between officers] is what kind of training they’ve received, that’s part of the equation, and what kinds of equipment they use is part of the discussion as well.”

In another matter, the state’s projected \$43 billion budget for fiscal ‘21 is expected to fall short of that benchmark by between \$4 billion and \$6 billion, Rep. Livingstone said. And with a budget shortfall of between \$2 billion and \$7 billion projected for the following fiscal year, the state’s \$3.5 billion “rainy day fund,” which is the second biggest in the country, won’t be enough to cover this expected deficit.

“The biggest wildcard now is federal funding because of the HEROES Act” Rep. Livingstone said of the pending stimulus bill that would allocate nearly one-third of its requested \$3 trillion to state and local governments to pay “vital workers” first-responders, healthcare workers and teachers now at risk of losing their jobs because of budget cuts. “If municipal and state government is bailed out by the federal government, that’s going to make the biggest difference, but right now it doesn’t look pretty.”

This comes only weeks before the state’s formal legislative cycle for the fiscal year is slated to wrap up July 31, but Sen. Brownsberger remains confident the legislature can accomplish several major goals by then, including establishing an early-voting or vote-by-mail system; passing a proposed \$18 billion state transportation bill; and implementing some measure of police reform. “There are a lot of other things that would be great to get done as well,” he said

Sen. Brownsberger said it’s also likely legislative sessions would be extended during a time he described as fraught with “more uncertainty than any other budget cycle in decades.”

“It’s just a legislative vote; it’s something we can do,” he said. “I don’t think there are any major procedural barriers if we want to do it.”

Rep. Livingstone agreed with this prediction, saying: “There’s been a lot of discussion on break-

ing it up or extending the sessions. When the formal sessions end July 31, there will be a discussion about voting on the budget afterwards. It hasn’t been finalized yet, but that’s my guess as to what will happen.”

Both state officials warily ponder the future of the MBTA.

While the T has lost considerable revenue from a dramatic drop in ridership since the pandemic hit, Sen. Brownsberger said only \$700 million comes from fares, while the remainder of its \$2 billion annual budget is provided via state sales tax and to a lesser extent from property tax revenue from the Commonwealth’s cities and towns.

Sen. Brownsberger said the T must continue to operate for those who rely on it as their primary mode of transportation, but he said according to a recent survey, more than half of respondents who began working from home because of the public health crisis said they expect to continue doing so even after state restrictions have been eased on their workplaces.

“Frankly I don’t think there’s any way to safely ride the MBTA,” said Sen. Brownsberger, who added despite his affinity for the T, he has only taken one round-trip subway ride since the pandemic struck. “You don’t want to be on a crowded train where you’re pushed up against people, you just don’t.”

Rep. Livingstone said MBTA officials told him after the 2009 recession, it took six years for ridership to return to ‘08 levels, and

that the current crisis is expected to have a similar long-term effect. Low ridership has its advantages, though, he said, such as allowing the T to implement comprehensive new safety measures, as well as to expedite some repair work.

On the Blue line, the T was able to reduce the projected year-long repair schedule, which included plans for suspending service overnight and on two weekends, to around two weeks by shutting down service on the line completely during that time. Expedited work on the Green C and E lines is set to begin in July and August, respectively

“The Red line will be shut down for some time as well [to allow for repairs],” Rep. Livingstone said.

Andrew Bettinelli, Sen. Brownsberger’s chief of staff, also provided information on helicopters that fly over Back Bay – something that residents of that neighborhood have described as an increasing public nuisance.

Under Federal Aviation Administration regulations, helicopters are mandated to adhere to “navigational highways” that follow the routes of vehicular highways, like Storrow Drive, and rivers, such as the Charles, he said

The FAA also allows helicopters to fly lower to the ground than airplanes while several landing pads for nearby hospitals are located near Back Bay, which Bettinelli said further “exasperates issues.”

Hill House Summer Camp readies for blended summer

Hill House, Inc., an independent, nonprofit community center in Downtown Boston, has blended its ever-popular Summer Camp into a virtual camp for the first two weeks, but plans to open its doors to campers on June 29.

Following the strict guidelines

set forth by the CDC and the state of Massachusetts, Hill House’s 21st year of summer camp, which typically welcomes over 500 campers throughout the summer in its Kiddie Kamp for ages 3-5 and Day Camp for ages 5-12, will continue to offer essential summer fun and learning opportunities. Campers in Week 1 (June 15-19) and Week 2 (June 22-26) will enjoy an online format including creative weekly themes, outdoor scavenger hunts, homemade ice cream making, Zumba, and much more, led by a staff of dedicated, fun-loving counselors.

Starting June 29, camp will resume as an in-person camp, with major changes to comply with CDC and state reopening guidelines.

“This year’s summer camp

is going to be different for all of us,” said Executive Director Lauren Hoops-Schmiege. “Now, more than ever, we have to look to how we can fulfill our mission of connecting people safely and meaningfully. Summer camp has always been one of the best ways to build friendships and try new adventures. Our hope is that summer camp will allow kids to laugh and enjoy one another after so many months apart while doing so under the safety guidelines outlined by our public health officials. Hill House summer camp will play an important part in all of our children’s lives this summer and we cannot wait to see everyone.”

The changes that will be implemented to the Hill House in-person camp program include; daily temperature/health screenings,

frequent and regimented cleanings throughout the day, staff/child ratios and grouping restrictions, distancing and mask requirements for all staff and possibly children, snack/lunch policies and plenty of outdoor time.

Summer camp, while looking a bit different this year, will still follow the underlying spirit of Hill House, community, fun, and friendship.

For more information about Hill House’s summer programs, virtual or in-person, contact Lauren Hoops-Schmiege by email at lschmiege@hillhouseboston.org.

For full listings or more information about all of Hill House’s summer programming including enrichment and athletics, visit <http://www.hillhouseboston.org>.

HELP KEEP STREET TREES HEALTHY

Our street trees suffer in the soon to be upon us, hot, dry summer months. Help the one nearest your house by watering it when there has been no rain for several days. But don’t fertilize it! Too much fertilizer will burn its roots.

DPS Group has openings for:
V.P. Business Develop - Supports organizational structure that will allow continued expansion of DPS service offerings. **Ref code: (G9275-00002).**
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Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1 | SELLER 1 | ADDRESS | PRICE |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| BACK BAY | | | |
| Nigro, Joseph D | Beauregard-Watson, Suzan | 141 Arlington St #4 | \$431,000 |
| Morrissey, Melissa C | Righi, Giulia | 278 Clarendon St #7 | \$1,221,595 |
| Cordo, David N | Vendome Union 618 NT | 160 Commonwealth Ave #618 | \$1,700,000 |
| Sullivan, Matthew T | Chen, Diana | 103 Marlborough St #8 | \$650,000 |
| Xu, Kun | Jmavro Realty LLC | 458 Beacon St #6 | \$1,560,000 |
| Hall, Keith | Pinango, Magaly E | 390 Commonwealth Ave #411 | \$1,115,000 |
| Zhang, Emily | Hess, Donald T | 195 Saint Botolph St #4 | \$1,200,000 |
| BEACON HILL | | | |
| Harris, Robert P | Deutsch, Margaret C | 2 Beaver St | \$2,340,000 |
| Jane Kelley T | Hawpet LP | 9 Hawthorne Pl #11D | \$760,000 |
| Jane Kelley T | Hawpet LP | 9 Hawthorne Pl #319 | \$65,000 |
| BAY VILLAGE/SOUTH END/KENMORE | | | |
| Danon, Daniel | Furtado, Sean P | 17 Braddock Park #3 | \$1,968,200 |
| Carstens, Elizabeth J | Severson, Carol L | 11 Follen St #3F | \$540,000 |
| Gowrie, Deborah | Pincus, Michael S | 18 Melrose St #1 | \$1,045,000 |
| Roberts, Alan H | Adelstein, Lester J | 505 Tremont St #206 | \$2,400,000 |
| Chang, Edith Y | Kleinman, Adam S | 173 Warren Ave #1 | \$1,485,000 |
| Henning, Michael | Engstrom, Katherine R | 499 Columbus Ave #6 | \$962,500 |
| Huang, Weihua | Alterovitz, Gil | 183-185A Mass. Ave #304 | \$1,200,000 |
| Padinkov, Iliyan | Pembroke T | 133 Pembroke St #4 | \$850,000 |
| Dhand, Amar | Jones, Peter F | 407-409 Shawmut Ave #2 | \$1,535,000 |
| Parm-Reg RT | JCG Worcester RT | 728-740 Tremont St #3 | \$5,250,000 |
| Toman, Michael | Campbell, Amanda L | 122 W Concord St #1 | \$2,175,000 |
| Lee, Nathan | Scott, Andrew | 88 W Springfield St #4 | \$550,000 |
| Adler, Jillian | Wehr, Charles | 52 Waltham St #2 | \$790,000 |
| Elder, Kimberly A | Butke, Danielle | 1180-1200 Washington St #201 | \$1,025,000 |
| Silva, Gregory P | Dhand, Amar | 1672-R Washington St #102 | \$1,073,000 |
| DeBenedictis-Kessner, J | Barkey, Ronald A | 1688 Washington St #3 | \$1,035,000 |
| Bayerl, Andrew G | 21 Worcester Street | 21 Worcester St #2 | \$1,180,000 |
| WATERFRONT/DOWNTOWN | | | |
| Crusenberry, Stephen M | Dezube, Dustin | 1 Nassau St #2204 | \$1,185,000 |
| 53 Houghton Street LLC | Teresa M Farah RET | 147-149 Richmond St #4 | \$610,000 |
| Wei, Shu | Rittner, David | 580 Washington St #704 | \$925,000 |

Attention to Detail

BY PENNY CHERUBINO

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER



The plaque shown in the last clue is on the Ether Memorial. The Friends of the Public Garden describe the memorial as, "... the oldest monument in the Boston Public Garden, installed in 1868." The featured plaque represents, "The Triumph of Science" and the inscription below it reads, "Neither shall there be any more pain."

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



Now You can be UPFRONT & CENTER

With our **STICKY NOTE** on the Front Page

Perfect for: Community Reminders, Schedules, Coupons, Sales, Announcements, Programs and more!

3-inch-by-3-inch Sticky Note
Req. 3-week advance placement



Example Page
Sticky Note represented by Black box

Four Options to Choose From

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| 7,000 COPIES 2-COLOR | \$600 | 7,000 COPIES 4-COLOR | \$700 | 12,000 COPIES 2-COLOR | \$800 |
| 12,000 COPIES 4-COLOR | \$900 | 4-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE A COMBINATION OF COLORS. 2-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE MADE WITH ANY 2 COLORS | | | |

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Reading on a Screen?? Click on Your Rep's name to start sending them an email!

EDITORIAL

JUST UNBELIEVABLE....

The tragic shooting death this past Friday night of 27 year-old Rayshard Brooks outside of a Wendy's restaurant by an Atlanta police officer has confirmed even further (as if there needed to be any more proof) the degree of racial bias that exists in many police departments across our country and the need to move swiftly to institute major reforms in those police departments in order to avoid further tragedies.

How it can be that a fleeing person, who apparently was under the influence of alcohol, can be shot in the back at close range while running away barefoot in a parking lot is mind-boggling. The officer fired three shots, of which two struck Mr. Brooks. In addition, neither of the two officers involved with the incident provided medical attention to Mr. Brooks until two minutes later when one of them unrolled a bandage.

If officers either are unable to control their racial animosity or are so lacking in training that they cannot act without shooting someone dead in the back when there already is heightened scrutiny of their actions, then the time truly has come to completely revamp the method of policing in this country.

And the sooner, the better.

A TREMENDOUS COURT DECISION

The decision this past Monday by the U.S. Supreme Court extending the rights of gay and transgender workers under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars employment discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, and sex, is a wonderful affirmation of the shift in this country from one of outright homophobia just a generation ago to the acceptance by a large majority of Americans of persons regardless of their sexual preferences or gender identity.

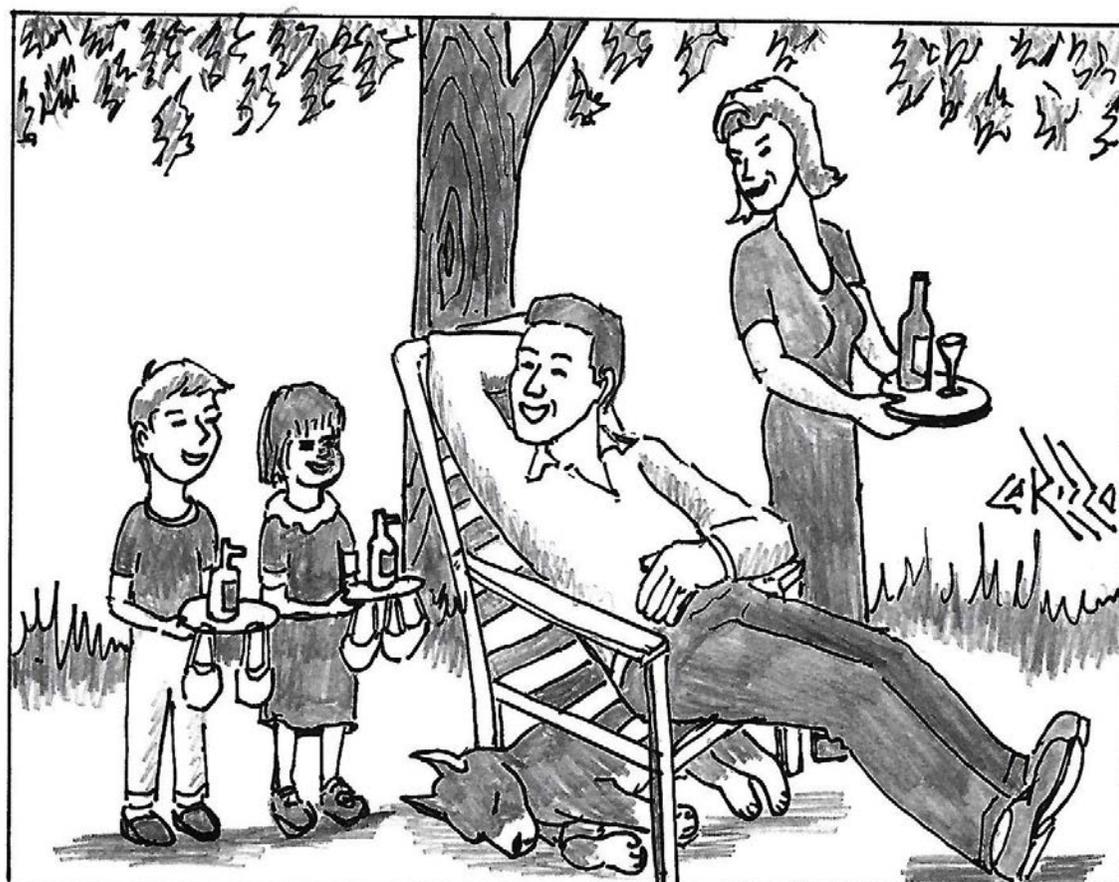
This newspaper for more than 25 years has supported the efforts of the LGBTQ community to secure all of the rights that are enjoyed by every American and to be free from discrimination of all kinds.

We applauded the Goodridge decision in 2003 by our Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that held that the Commonwealth must legally recognize same-sex marriage, something we had advocated for almost a decade previously.

In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court in the Obergefell case affirmed same-sex marriage as a Constitutional right, thus making it applicable to all 50 states.

This week's decision by our country's highest court now extends Title VII protections for gay and transgender persons to all 50 states. Previously, about half of the states still allowed a person to be fired by their employer solely on the basis of their sexual status.

There still is more to be done in terms of bringing full legal and social equality for our LGBTQ fellow citizens, but Monday's 6-3 decision, which included two of the conservative justices, Roberts and Gorsuch, unquestionably represents a huge step forward for gay and transgender Americans.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY..... JUNE 21, 2020

GUEST OP-ED

The Rental Relief Fund is helping to keep Bostonians in their homes during the pandemic

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we knew that many people would be challenged by housing costs while they were out of work. As a part of our comprehensive response, we wanted to include assistance for renters. That's why we created the Rental Relief Fund, a program to help cover residents' rent payments. We started this program in April, and we recently announced an additional round of funding.

The Rental Relief Fund was set up to help residents who have lost their income and are not eligible for employment benefits, and residents who, even with unemployment benefits, are still not able to make ends meet. We dedicated \$3 million for the first round of funding, which began in April. Earlier this month, we opened up a second round of applications, and dedicated an additional \$5 million to the program, bringing the total to \$8 million. We are currently accepting pre-screening applications in 10 languages for the second round until June 19 at

12:00 p.m.

Our goal is to ensure housing stability for Bostonians who are out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize how profoundly the public health emergency is impacting people, and our response is focused on equity and protections for our most vulnerable populations.

The reason we are adding this money is that we expect low-income renters to remain in financial distress for some time. The state eviction moratorium that we helped to get in place will be lifted August 18, or 45 days after the State of Emergency ends. We have worked hard in the last couple of years to reduce evictions, and we have one of the lowest eviction rates in the country. We want to keep it that way. We want to make sure people can stay in their homes.

It's important to know that it is safe to apply for this fund. You will not be asked about your immigration status during the Rental Relief Fund process, and it does not affect immigration applications as a "public charge." Also, none of your information will be

shared with anyone else that's not processing your application. Our goal is to help anyone in need of rental assistance without fear or barriers.

So far, we have granted \$818,000 to 257 households across 17 neighborhoods to cover rent for April and May. That means 257 individuals or families are no longer facing potentially losing their housing or being displaced thanks to this Fund. We are currently in the process of reviewing more applications with our partner agencies and will continue to distribute money until the fund is depleted.

I know that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting people in many ways, especially in vulnerable populations. As we begin to gradually and safely reopen, we will continue to provide support for students, seniors, immigrants and renters. The Rental Relief Fund is one step. If you have any questions, you can call the Office of Housing Stability at 617-635-4200, or you can visit boston.gov/RentalRelief.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

THE BEACON HILL TIMES

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Baker announced 50 pop-up COVID-19 testing locations; urges at risk people to get tested

By Lauren Bennett

Governor Charlie Baker announced on June 15 that there would be 50 pop-up COVID-19 testing sites throughout the Commonwealth, and urged anyone who has recently participated in a large gathering, such as a protest, to get tested for the virus.

Baker said on Monday that the average positive test rate in Massachusetts is down “to about three percent,” and about 1000 people remain hospitalized with the virus, which is down over 70 percent.

He said the state continues to see “positive incremental prog-

ress.” He said that about a week into Phase Two of the reopening process, outdoor dining, lodging, and summer camps are starting to reopen to the public with restrictions.

“Our progress to date is encouraging, but it doesn’t mean the virus has left town,” Baker said. “It’s up to all of us to continue to do the things that we know can kill COVID.”

On June 17 and June 18, 50 pop-up COVID-19 testing sites will be open to test “individuals who have recently attended large gatherings,” Baker said. “Anyone who has attended a large gathering over the last two weeks should get tested.” Test results will be

provided confidentially, and people are urged to share the results with their doctors. Baker said that these large gatherings where thousands of people have been coming together in large groups are coinciding with the reopening process.

“Any time large groups of people come together, there’s a risk for transmission,” he said. He said that he “certainly supports” people’s rights to peacefully protest, but “some people who have the virus don’t show symptoms and can spread the virus to others.” He said that even if “you’re feeling fine,” you should get tested anyway.

“Everyone’s done amazing work to keep people safe,” Baker

said. “Getting tested this week on one of those two days is a way to play your part.”

According to the state, Massachusetts has tested over 700,000 people to date for COVID-19. “The state currently has capacity at 45 labs to perform up to 30,000 COVID-19 tests per day, and its nursing home testing strategies have been replicated by states across the country,” according to a recent press release. “The Administration continues to prioritize expanding access to testing, with a key focus of that strategy being ensuring access to testing in skilled nursing facilities, rest homes, and assisted living residences and other 24/7 staffed

congregate care settings.”

The Baker-Polito Administration filed a federal plan on May 30 to expand testing under the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act of 2020, from which the state has received \$374 million in federal funding, which will be used for increasing testing capacity, increasing access to testing for vulnerable and high-risk population, having the testing capacity to support a possible second surge, and more, the state said.

A complete list of pop-up testing sites is available at <https://www.mass.gov/gettested>.

BHV (from pg. 1)

medical or other services of daily living that the Village is not set up to provide.”

During his tenure at the nearly 20-year-old nonprofit institution that sparked a movement of Villages across the country and internationally, he hopes to attract more members and to expand programs and services beyond Beacon Hill where only a half of current BHV members reside. Already, because of the interest of an individual member in the North End/Waterfront, an informal ‘mini village’ was established, an initiative he applauds.

He is concerned, however, that BHV has yet to reach its potential membership, given the number of folks over 60 who live in central Boston, and encourages more to jump aboard. “They will find amazing people in BHV, whose vibrant programs and services reflect their talent and vigor,” said Hodges.

On a personal level, Hodges joined after his wife died 18 months ago. “I was warmly welcomed, with lots of follow up calls, encouraged to join committees and be active,” he said. “I did all of that and I love it. The Village has helped me move forward.”

Along with Hodges, Marty Walz and Barbara Berkman are newcomers to the board of directors. “I am honored to join the board so I may help strengthen this innovative movement to redefine what it means to live well as we get older,” said Walz who, as principal of Marty Walz and Associates, provides executive level support to organizations of all sizes.

Like Walz and Hodges,



Photos courtesy of Beacon Hill Village

Marty Waltz.



Barbara Berkman.

Berkman said she was honored to serve as a BHV director. A resident of the West End, she is a retired research professor at Boston College School of Social Work and the Rehr/Fizdale Professor Emerita at Columbia University School of Social Work. “As an academic whose main focus has been research in aging and health, I have been aware of BHV since its inception and am a strong supporter of its mission. I hope that I will be able to help BHV in its continued efforts to address the challenges and opportunities that face those who choose to ‘age in place.’”

HAZEL (from pg. 1)

of the Beacon Academy, a Boston-based private school that offers aspiring, underprivileged students a 14-month school year between eighth and ninth grades with the goal of getting them scholarships to independent high schools that will prepare them for college.

“Beacon Academy is great place that’s doing really special work,” Hazel said of the school, which is the only of its kind in the U.S., “but when I saw this opportunity I couldn’t pass it up.”

Hazel discovered The Vilna Shul - the only Jewish historic building remaining in Downtown Boston - as a new transplant to the city.

“I had attended a few programs at the Vilna over the years with my family and had certainly researched all about the building, its rich history and the beautiful murals that were being restored,” she said.

The Vilna offered her as a newcomer to the city a sense of belonging, something she found she had in common with others she met there.

“It’s a really a welcoming community, and I know a lot of people here from the North Shore who took a similar path by moving from the suburbs to the city,” she said.

About four year ago, Hazel and her family relocated to Boston from Andover, where from 2009 to 2016, she served as director of advancement for The Pike School, a private pre-K-9.

“It was great because our long-term plan was to move to the city,” she said, adding that her family moved to Boston earlier than anticipated so her son could attend Boston Arts Academy.

“That decision sped it up a bit.”

Hazel has become more immersed in the Jewish faith in the past few years, making her latest career move also seem serendipitous.

“I was drawn to the Vilna because of its rich history and eclectic community,” she said. “On a personal note, I fell in love with Judaism and relished a chance to continue that journey.”

Meanwhile, Hazel comes to the Vilna during a transformative time for the organization as its 101-year-old synagogue just underwent an extensive \$4 million facelift.

Besides providing universal access to the Phillips Street building via a new entrance, work involved the creation of a new community room with seating capacity for 100 occupants; a new visitor’s center and gift shop; a multi-use educational classroom; a family room within the historic kitchen; and new office space for staff and volunteers. Other improvements included the restoration and reproduction of the rest of the decorative murals in the building’s sanctuary and historic foyer, as well as the installation of a new HVAC system and state-of-the-art audio/visual systems.

In her new role, Hazel will be spearheading the capital campaign for Phase 2 of the Vilna’s ambitious renovation plans, which entails the completion of restoration work on the remaining murals in the sanctuary, as well as a third phase that includes enhancing its educational infrastructure and establishing an endowment to secure the organization’s long-term future.

“People often say, ‘Oh, I couldn’t do what you do. I could

never ask people for money,’” Hazel said. “Fundraising is about building relationships over time. It’s getting to know people’s hopes and dreams for a better world and then matching those wishes with opportunities to support the Vilna philanthropically. ‘The ask’ takes about five minutes. The relationship builds over years.”

Marilyn Okonow, chair of the organization’s board of directors, believes Hazel, who brings more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit world to the job, along with her deep devotion to the Vilna, is more than up to the task.

“Christen really loves our organization, the culture and our history, and she understands our mission very well,” Okonow said. “She’s the perfect choice for our director of development during a moment in time when our organization is planning for the next decade. We’re very excited to have her expertise and enthusiasm.”

And as The Vilna Shul is now increasingly broadening its audience by bringing its programming to more than 3,000 people online since the launch of its Virtual Vilna initiative in late March, Hazel looks forward to introducing newcomers from all faiths and walks of life to this unique, welcoming and inclusive cultural center.

“While we do celebrate Jewish holidays and offer special programming around them, the Vilna is so much more,” she said. “We’re reaching a broader audience. Everything from visiting artists, authors, filmmakers to pickle making to history classes to musical performances, the Vilna has something for everyone.

Developer proposes reducing Winthrop Center's residential component

By Dan Murphy

As construction continues on what will be the fourth tallest building in the city and the tallest structure in Downtown Crossing, the developer of the \$1.35 billion, mixed-use Winthrop Center in the Financial District is seeking to reduce the skyscraper's proposed residential component in response to current economic uncertainty.

Millennium Partners Boston filed a notice of project change with the city's Boston Planning and Development Agency on June 10 requesting the elimination of the residential component in the east tower, which was approved by the city last year. This reduction in residential space would decrease its residential gross-square footage from approximately 662,825 to around 572,283. The number of residential units would also be reduced from 387, as was previously approved, to approximately 321 as a result of this change. In total, the project would be decreased from 1,545,021 to 1,447,000 gross square feet.

The building's height of 691 feet will remain the same, as would proposed parking provisions, office and retail space and the Great Hall/Connector, which will provide 2,400 square feet of public meeting space.

"In response to changing market conditions due to the global impact of COVID-19, Millennium Partners Boston is reducing the scale of the residential portion of the project by 14 percent while keeping its signature height intact and maintaining the building's

integration of core design principles developed in conjunction with MIT professors," a press release from the developer reads in part. "The COVID-19 pandemic has had a wide-reaching effect, from impacting the construction process to infiltrating the banking environment. Adjusting the building in response to new economic constraints, Millennium Partners Boston's priority is to move the building into the next phase of construction and ensure no compromise is made in the quality, safety, comfort, and well-being that Winthrop Center will deliver to occupants as Boston emerges from COVID-19."

Winthrop Center is being built on the site of a former city-owned garage in Winthrop Square, which Millennium Partners purchased from the city up front nearly two years ago for \$102 million. The developer still owes the city more than \$50 million from the transaction, however.

BPDA Director Brian Golden said in a statement: "The sale of the Winthrop Square garage was, and still remains, the most lucrative sale of City-owned property in the City's history for City of Boston residents. By selling a dilapidated, vacant garage in downtown Boston that was generating no revenue, the City of Boston will be able to make unprecedented investments in public housing and open space. The project will transform the garage into a unique, mixed-use tower that will bring public realm improvements to the surrounding neighborhood and more afford-

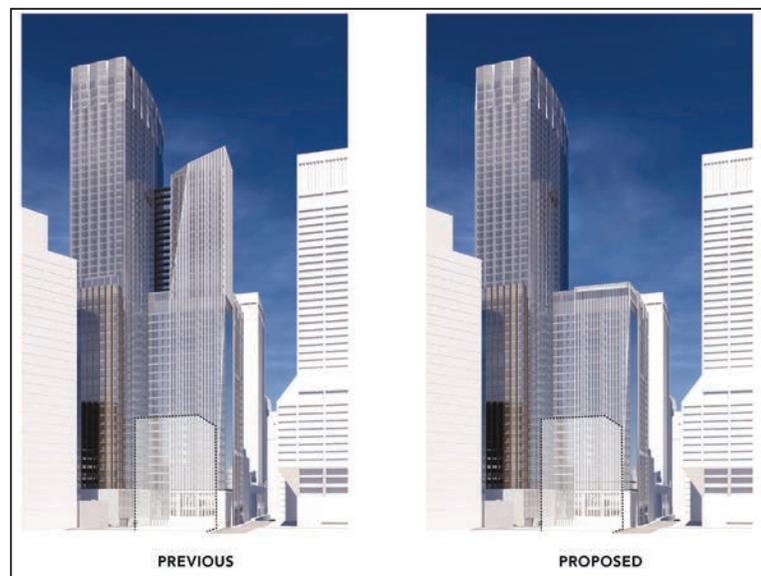
able housing to downtown. The BPDA is reviewing the Notice of Project Change filed and commissioning a third party independent evaluation of the current market for high-rise condominium financing and their request to modify the approved project due to financing challenges during the ongoing global pandemic. The approval of Millennium's proposed changes will not go forward until that review and a public process alongside the community is complete."

Millennium Partners has also requested that the BPDA allow changes to the developer's affordable housing agreement with the city because the residential units would initially be positioned as rentals.

State Rep. Jay Livingstone said he is eager to find out what the proposed project change would ultimately mean regarding the developer's affordable housing obligation.

"I have been assured by the BPDA that it will not change the mitigation due to the Friends of the Public Garden and the Boston Common," Rep. Livingstone added.

Liz Vizza, executive director of the Friends of the Public Garden, a nonprofit that along with the Boston Parks Department maintains the Public Garden, the Common and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, said, "We are pleased to see that Millennium's changes to their Winthrop Square project will not result in further shadow impacts to the parks, and that they will continue to honor their commitments, including \$28



Courtesy of Millennium Partners Boston

Renderings show Winthrop Center before and after the proposed elimination of the residential component of the east tower.

million for Boston Common and funding through the Fund for Historic Parks at The Boston

Foundation to benefit the care of all three parks."

STORES (from pg. 1)

2, business has been brisk for Blackstone's, which Hill attributes to its extensive selection of hard-to-find products and unique gift ideas.

Lynne Wolverton, owner of Linens on the Hill at 52 Charles St., is pleased she has been able to reopen as part of Phase 2, but said business was somewhat unpredictable during their first week back.

"It's sort of up and down," Wolverton said. "Some days there is very little foot traffic and some days it seems almost like normal. Sales aren't what they were before [the pandemic struck], but I'm still kind of encouraged."

The reduced occupancy guidelines haven't affected business too

much either, Wolverton said, since even at its busiest before the pandemic struck, no more than a couple of customers were usually inside the store at any given time.

Linens on the Hill has been displaying items for sale on the sidewalk outside the store to entice passersby inside because Wolverton said the business is at a disadvantage since its windows remain boarded up as a precaution against vandalism.

But those who have made it inside the store seem just as happy to see Wolverton as she is to see them.

"I'm encouraged that people seem like they want to get out and shop," she said, "and every-

body says that they're happy we're open."

Like Blackstone's, Linens on the Hill has also installed a contactless credit-card terminal and provides hand sanitizer to patrons at the door and the counter.

"People ask if they can come in, and by and large, almost everyone has been very careful and mindful of wearing masks and adhering to social distancing, but we're hoping for a little more foot traffic," Wolverton said.

As for Hill, while she looks forward to restrictions being further eased on Blackstone's, she said, "If this is all we get for a while, it's okay. It beats the alternative of nothing or going backwards."



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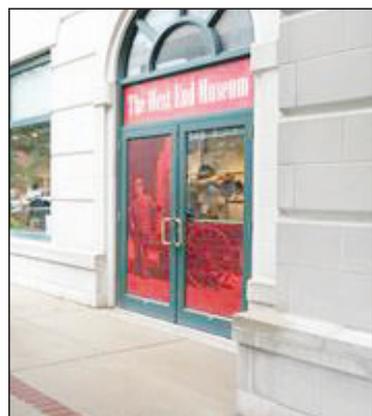
West End Museum perseveres despite mandated closure; readies for reopening

This period of closure under COVID-19 restrictions has been challenging for The West End Museum, as it has for many nonprofit institutions, particularly smaller ones that depend on visitor donations. Even so, the future looks bright for “Boston’s Neighborhood Museum.” It has a number of vital projects in the works and has maintained continuity of leadership, upheld community engagement, and continued to fulfill its mission.

“It is an exciting period even though we’re not open to the public,” said Duane Lucia, former director and newly elected board president. “We are working on changes that will ensure a better experience for our visitors once we reopen and will solidify support that will sustain the Museum for many years to come.”

Lucia has lived in the West End since 1989 and has been on the board of directors since 2011. He has twice been Museum director and served as board president once previously. In 2019, he took on the role of interim director with the goal of increasing the Museum’s endowment, reinvigorating exhibits and programming, and hiring a permanent director. The latter transpired in February of this year, and Lucia subsequently was elected president of the board.

Sebastian Belfanti is the Museum’s new director, but he is not new to the organization. He first joined the Museum as program director in October 2019. In that role, his collaboration with Lucia combined with his dedica-



Courtesy Bimal Nepal/Bimal Photo

The West End Museum exterior.

tion and accomplishments made him the ideal fit for the directorship. To ensure a smooth and successful transition, Belfanti and Lucia worked together closely as each moved into his new role.

“From Jim Campano founding and being first to serve at the Museum’s helm, to Duane leading us out of some recent struggles, each director has filled a unique need. My mission is to modernize in order to reach scores of new people, from current West Enders to travelers looking to learn more about our unique urban paradise,” said Belfanti. “As so many old West Enders have told me, it’s my job to set the Museum on the path to carry their stories into the future. I consider it a great honor to be entrusted with such a special place and I plan to live up to the challenge.”

In the month following Belfanti becoming director and Lucia transitioning to board president, the Museum premiered a new exhib-



Courtesy Simmons University Archives

Elizabeth Peabody House, 87 Poplar St., West End, Boston, ca. 1901-1913,

it, intensified programming, and broke records for visitor numbers and media coverage. While COVID-19 threw a wrench into the works, Belfanti expects the upswing to resume when operations return to a more normal state. To help offset revenue lost under the mandated closure, Belfanti launched a COVID-19 Relief Fund in April, and that campaign remains active. Donations of any amount are welcome and appreciated at www.gofundme.com/f/campaign-for-west-end-museum.

The Museum does not have a reopening date yet, but Belfanti, Lucia, and the board have written a plan that establishes stages

and corresponding requirements for cleaning and disinfecting, PPE for volunteers, social distancing demarcation, access to offices, and more. Meanwhile, virtual operations are robust, including weekly emails with historical spotlights and relevant news, vigorous social media, and a brand new virtual exhibit.

This week, the Museum will launch “Learned from Our Neighbors: Stories from the Elizabeth Peabody House” via its website and social media. Created by students at Simmons University in partnership with the Boston City Archives, the digital exhibit celebrates the Elizabeth Peabody House (EPH), social worker and EPH Director Eva Whiting White, and life in Boston’s West End. It will serve as a preview of the larger onsite exhibit originally scheduled to premiere in June and now projected for September. A Zoom opening in the next few weeks will feature Belfanti hosting guests from Simmons: Laura Prieto, professor of history and women’s and gender studies; Jason Wood, archivist and head of discovery services; and a few of the students involved in the project.

Other current operational activities include a website overhaul; plans for facility renovations and grant writing to support them; upgrades to the Museum’s permanent exhibit, “The Last Tenement;” and deep-



Courtesy Simmons University Archives

Eva Whiting White, undated.

ening ties with the hundreds of community groups and businesses in today’s West End.

The West End Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of the history and culture of Boston’s West End. The Museum’s permanent exhibit, “The Last Tenement,” highlights the immigrant history of the neighborhood through its decimation under Urban Renewal in the late 1950s. The main gallery features rotating exhibits. The Museum is located near North Station. Its entrance is on Lomasney Way. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 12:00pm-5:00pm; Saturday 11:00am-4:00pm. Admission is free.



Courtesy Abigail Egan Photography

“The Last Tenement” exhibit at The West End Museum

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Walsh resubmits budget that invests in housing, education, public health and COVID-19 impact

Staff Report

Mayor Martin J. Walsh on June 15 resubmitted his Administration's Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget, which builds on the Walsh Administration's record of presenting a balanced, sustainable and proactive budget that invests in the needs of our growing city, while also taking into account the economic impact COVID-19 has had on City revenue. The \$3.61 billion recommended budget represents an increase of \$119 million, or 3.4 percent over the FY20 budget, and the resubmission follows over 30 City Council hearings that helped identify opportunities for further targeted investments and cost-savings.

In this budget resubmission, the City has accounted for a projected \$65 million in revenue loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, \$30 million of which was initially accounted for in the Mayor's original budget proposal in April.

Despite this lost revenue, and as a result of six consecutive years of proactive fiscal management that has positioned the City of Boston to continue investing in core city services and resident needs at a time of global economic uncertainty, the budget resubmission affirms Mayor Walsh's historic commitment made in his State of the City address in education and housing.

Through those commitments, the City will allocate \$80 million in new funding for the Boston Public Schools to both meet the challenges of COVID-19 and work towards closing achievement and opportunity gaps. This budget marks the first year of the Mayor's \$100 million commitment to new revenue for direct classroom funding, over and above cost increases. This funding will reach every school in the Boston Public Schools district, and will begin with intense support for underperforming schools.

The budget also protects

Mayor Walsh's unprecedented commitment of \$500 million over five years to create thousands of homes all across our city that will be affordable to residents at a range of income levels.

The FY21 budget fulfills the first year of the Mayor's commitment of City resources with an \$18 million investment in new operating and capital fundings. In the first year of this new housing investment, the City is dedicating new funds to create affordable homeownership opportunities, preserve and generate affordable rental opportunities including Boston's first City-funded rental voucher program.

"With this budget, we have an opportunity to seize the moment that is before us to make investments that are grounded in equity, inclusion and that are intentional about directing funding to places where we know it will have the greatest impact in benefitting our residents," said Mayor Walsh. "I am proud that thanks to years of careful fiscal stewardship, we are able to continue making smart and strategic investments at a time when many residents need it most. I believe that with responsible fiscal planning, with investments in the equity, health and wellbeing of our residents, and with our spirit of courage and collaboration, we will emerge together from these crises stronger and more resilient than before."

As part of his budget resubmission, Mayor Walsh will reallocate 20% or \$12 million of the Boston Police Department's overtime budget to make a significant investment in equity and inclusion across the City. These investments include:

- \$3 million for the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) to begin implementation of the eight strategies outlined in Boston's declaration of racism as a public health crisis,
- \$1 million to support trauma teams and counseling services at the Boston Public Health Commission
- \$2 million in new funding for community based programs and supports through City departments, such as violence intervention grants, youth programming, language and food access, Immigrant Advancement, the Age Strong Commission and the Human Rights Commission,
- \$2 million for additional public mental health services through a partnership between the Boston Police Department and Boston Medical Center Emergency Services Program or BEST,
- \$2 million to support economic

development initiatives to support minority and women owned businesses and;

- \$2 million to provide additional housing supports and youth homelessness programs.

While the City has a growing tax revenue base, the City also continues to find efficiencies and prioritizes investing in innovative solutions to provide world-class City services. The FY21 budget resubmission includes an additional \$35 million in cost-saving measures across City departments through the implementation of a hiring freeze on non-essential vacant positions for six months, revisions to fixed costs like debt service, non-personal reductions and a revised snow removal appropriations based on updated projections for average actual spending. All told, the City has identified and closed a \$65 million budget gap amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic while prioritizing bold investments and maintaining vital city services for residents.

For the sixth consecutive year, the City of Boston has received a AAA bond rating, reflecting the city's strong fiscal management and stable financial position. The City of Boston recently was named by Moody's as one of the best prepared cities to handle a national recession.

As part of his budget resubmission, Mayor Walsh is recommending the adoption of a Boston Public Schools budget of \$1.26 billion, representing an \$80 million or 7% increase over last year's budget. While this budget

marks the largest proposed BPS budget in the city's history, it is one that makes targeted investments in underperforming schools and has a baseline of equity across all investments. Public education spending remains over 40% of the City budget; education spending is up over \$440 million on an annual basis since FY14; and per-pupil spending at BPS will approach \$22,000, more than a 30% increase over the past six years.

As Boston vigilantly manages COVID-19 in our community, resources are embedded in all City departments in FY21 to continue the robust response and to keep our residents healthy and safe. Ensuring a well-funded Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is especially vital to maintain this response and the FY21 budget includes a \$13 million increase, and over \$106 million total for BPHC. This level of investment will ensure a fully funded BPHC, Emergency Medical Service and Office of Recovery Services for next year, continue to fight the effects of COVID-19 and fund the first costs associated with the Mayor's recent declaration of racism as a public health crisis.

Mayor Walsh's FY21 budget continues to invest in preserving and creating a strong middle class, and creating equitable opportunities for all those who live in Boston. The FY21 budget supports Boston's long-term plan, Imagine Boston 2030.

For more information about the budget, visit Boston's budget website at budget.boston.gov.

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Larceny - Shoplifting

06/06/20 - A male suspect stole food items from a Boylston Street store at about 7:52 p.m. Management stated the suspect is a habitual shoplifter from their store. The suspect fled on a bicycle towards Tremont Street.

Larceny

06/08/20 - A victim working on the Boston Common in the area of Boylston Street reported unknown suspect(s) stole his Samsung Galaxy Note 8 cell-phone at around 7:30 a.m.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDUP

Enrollment open for Beacon Hill/Back Bay Girl Scout Troop 65321

Girl Scout Troop 65321, covering the Beacon Hill and Back Bay neighborhoods, is accepting enrollment for new scouts entering Kindergarten and first grade (fall 2020). Meetings are held on Monday nights, approximately once or twice a month, at the Advent Church on Beacon Hill. To enroll your daughter or for information on enrollment for other grades, e-mail Jill Hauff at jill.hauff@gmail.com.

Hill House running free virtual family events

Hill House, Inc. located at 127 Mount Vernon St., has launched a series of free family events at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

On Wednesday, Family Fun events will include how to make your own Playdough, a Kitchen Fridge Art show and more. On Fridays, get your athletic juices flowing with live dance parties, camp sing-alongs and more.

These events are free, and registration links available at www.hillhouseboston.org. To register or

to learn more about Hill House virtual events, contact Meredith at madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org.

Face-Mask Drive for Rosie's Place

Hill House, located at 127 Mount Vernon St., is running a Face-Mask Drive for Rosie's Place on Harrison Avenue.

Participants can either make their own masks or purchase through a local shop, 4Good Vibes, based in Somerville. They have offered to sell their handmade masks to Hill House and then donate 50 more masks if the nonprofit can reach 100 masks donated. You can purchase masks on their special Rosie's Place site <https://4goodvibes.bigcartel.com/product/rosies-place-face-mask>.

After payment is received, 4 Good Vibes will send the masks directly to Rosie's, but if you plan to make your own, you can send them to: Rosie's Place, Attn: Sandy Mariano, 889 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118.

Contact Meredith Adamczyk at madamczyk@hillhouseboston.org with any other questions.

Walsh declares racism a public health emergency; calls for 20% of police overtime budget to go to communities

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Walsh announced at a press conference on June 12 that he has declared racism a public health crisis in the City of Boston, as well as that he will allocate 20 percent (\$12 million) of the Boston Police Department's (BPD) overtime budget to community programs for youth, food security, immigrant advancement, and more.

"We know about the inequalities in our country and we're working everyday in the City of Boston to eliminate them," he said. "Equity has been the center of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Walsh said that "the public conversation changed" when George Floyd was murdered on May 25.

"Young people refused and still refuse to accept that injustice," he said. "I've been listening to that movement...how racism shapes lives and hurts communities as we're seeing here right now."

He said that this announcement is "the beginning, not the end," and more announcements are to come.

An initial investment of \$3 million from the police overtime budget will go to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Walsh said.

"Racism is a driving force that shapes the access to the social determinants of health, like housing, education, and employment" Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez said at the press conference, "The executive order...is an important step in ensuring attention and focus on this work and resources that will allow us to do what's necessary."

He said an eight-step strategy led by the BPHC along with the Department of Health and Human

Services, which includes "policy and practice solutions that work to dismantle systemic racism and create barriers to strong public health," as well as an assessment of health inequity in all policies to see where there are gaps. He also said a Boston Inequity Health Now plan would be created that "gets to the root causes of these inequities, not simply just respond to them."

Martinez said that seeing where the gaps in the health system are will allow for the use of that data to "analyze the real facts" and "join advocacy at the state and national level for these policies."

Walsh said that "in addition" to declaring racism a public health crisis, he is also "taking steps in law enforcement accountability," such as strengthening the existing community oversight panel. "These steps call for a 10 point action plan put forward by the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and other elected officials of color in Boston and the Commonwealth."

The BPD has completed a review of its use of force policy, Walsh said, "outlined by the national '8 Can't Wait' movement."

He said as a result, the BPD is "clarifying rules to meet the standards, and has immediately implemented several reforms," such as use of force policies "proven to reduce the likelihood of violence," as well as a training program known as Ethical Policing is Courageous (EPIC).

"This means that officers will not only be required to intervene when they witness unnecessary use of force, they'll be trained with strategies to preventing abuses and intervening if they occur," he said.

Walsh also said that BPD "will no longer use the hair test for

evidence of drug use in officers or recruits."

Walsh said that the reallocation of 20 percent of the BPD overtime budget and the other measures announced are "certainly not enough," and the City will "continue to make and demand change."

He also announced what he called a "process for community input, review, and reform." He said that through this process, "all police use of force policies," will be reviewed, and communities will be engaged by including the voices of a "diverse range of input, experiences, and stories." He said the findings of the review would be reported to the community for feedback, after which all use of force policies would be reformed based on that feedback.

"Our process is not designed to delay change," Walsh said. A new task force, led by Bostonians from civil rights organizations and led by former US Attorney Wayne Budd, will "conduct an immediate review of all police force policies," as well as "provide guidance about how we strengthen the co-op board," Walsh said. He said that the City "will be accepting any changes that they recommend," and the task force is effective immediately.

"I pledge to make Boston a national leader in this work, and we are following through on our pledge," Walsh said.

"It's this kind of leadership that takes our whole City working together. I'm calling on all of us, every Bostonian, every elected official to be a part of the solution." He said that "we must continue to listen to the voices at the center of the conversation" and that "systemic change must go far beyond law enforcement."

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Hill House to open summer camp June 29, programming remains in flux
By Dan Murphy
When Hill House opens its summer camp on Monday, June 29, it's uncertain whether programming will fall under Phase 2 or 3 of Gov. Charlie Baker's plan for reopening the Commonwealth.
"We expect the majority of camp activities would operate during Phase 3," said Lauren Hoops-Schmieg, executive director. "But right now, we don't know, so we're planning on opening during Phase 2, just in case."
On Saturday, Hoops-Schmieg said they were still combing through a 30-page document to determine whether Hill House would be able to use city parks and how much of its Mt. Vernon Street base could be occupied by campers and staff.
During a typical summer, the camp serves 86 campers over 11
(CAMP Pg. 7)

WELCOME BACK SHOPPERS
Jennifer Hill, owner of Blackstone's of Beacon Hill, holds a sign that says it all, "Welcome Back to In-store Shopping." Mark Duffield helps her welcome shoppers to the store on Charles Street on Monday morning.

Beacon Hill Art Walk postponed until Oct. 4
By Dan Murphy
Although the annual Beacon Hill Art Walk was postponed this year from its traditional slot of the first Sunday in June because of the ongoing pandemic, it's set to return Oct. 4.
"We're postponing it instead of cancelling the event because it's so beloved and important for the neighborhood and artists," said Jen Matson, an Art Walk Committee member. "We very much feel having it in the fall is the safe thing to do."
Since 1990, residents on the Hill's North Slope have opened up their private gardens, alleyways, and courtyards once a year to allow artists to display and sell their original, handmade artwork.
Around 100 artists typically participate in the free event, which also features volunteer performers playing live classical, klezmer and folk music in residents' gardens throughout the day. Many artists have also returned while referring fellow artists to the event each year.
"It's a very unique event," Matson said. "There are a lot of craft shows, but this is one of only a few that focuses on painting and other 2-D fine art."
Leading up to it, Matson said a piece of artwork will be posted on the Art Walk's website at <http://beaconhillartwalk.com> each day, along with links to artists' websites, as well as on the Art Walk's Facebook and Instagram pages.
(ART WALK Pg. 2)

Neighborhood restaurateur proceeds cautiously as Phase 2 takes effect
By Dan Murphy
Before Phase 2 of Gov. Charlie Baker's plan to reopen the Commonwealth took effect last Monday, restaurateur Babak Bina had many questions about what it would ultimately mean for his Charles Street business, Bin 26 Enoteca, and other restaurants citywide.
"Whatever the Governor says won't impact what the Mayor [Martin Walsh] will say, which is somewhat frustrating for us," said Bina, who with his sister, Azita Bina-Seibel, also own and operate Jim Curley and Bogie's Place in Downtown Crossing. "Unfortunately for us, all indications are that we won't have indoor seating as part of Phase 2."
Bina feels like he's now left in limbo while receiving mixed messages from the city and state.
"I don't understand why there are two different standards potentially," Bina said. "We've heard nothing from the Mayor, but we're keeping up to speed with the Governor's mandate for reopening. It comes down to we can't hold our breath for Charlie Baker to make an announcement when we have to wait on top of that for the Mayor to make his decision."
Bina added: "In the restaurant industry, we rely on personal experience, as well as sales history and how many dishes we serve on a given night. But we now have no idea what the capacity will be for us, inside or out - never mind the fact we don't know if people will even come out to dine."
Bina feels as though he has a leg up, however, since his restaurants already adhere to stringent safety standards.
"Our restaurants already go
(BINA, Pg. 2)

BEACON HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY CORNER
Mask Update
Last Friday, June 5, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") changed its advice on face masks, saying they should be worn in public where social distancing is not possible to help stop the spread of coronavirus. The global body said new information showed they could provide "a barrier for potentially infectious droplets." The WHO had previously argued there was not enough evidence to say that healthy people should wear masks. However, WHO director-general Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday that "in light of evolving evidence, the WHO advises that governments should encourage the general public to wear masks where there is widespread transmission and physical distancing is difficult, such as on public transport, in shops or in other confined or crowded environments." Massachusetts has already had an order in place since May 6, 2020, requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public places where persons cannot socially distance from others to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
BHCA ED Patricia Tully sporting a BHCA cotton mask.
(BHCA Pg. 6)

For the latest news in Beacon Hill that you need to know, check www.beaconhilltimes.com

FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

FMCB approves four-year extension of Commuter Rail contract with Keolis through June 2026

With the goal of incentivizing better service now and providing cost certainty in a challenging market among other objectives, today the MBTA's Fiscal and Management Control Board approved of a four-year extension of the Commuter Rail Operating contract between the MBTA and Keolis Commuter Services, LLC, through June 30, 2026.

"Our main goals are to provide continuity and the best possible service for our Commuter Rail customers, as well as provide adequate time to plan for a future transformational procurement. With this extension in place, we look forward to continuing this partnership with Keolis," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. "This extension includes a number of additional benefits for riders, including further incentives for on-time performance, measures to address fare evasion, and flexibility and cost certainty in a challenging market."

"We're pleased the MBTA recommended and the board voted to extend Keolis' contract for four years, exercising the full term of the contract options," said CEO and General Manager of Keolis Commuter Services David Scorey. "This extension balances taxpayer and passenger needs as it keeps costs low while also enhancing the

passenger experience, including a focus on providing more capacity, further increasing on-time performance and accelerating capital delivery. On behalf of our Keolis Boston team, we look forward to continuing our collaborative work with the MBTA and building upon the successful initiatives we've delivered together for the Commonwealth and our Commuter Rail passengers."

Keolis Commuter Services is the MBTA's contracted Commuter Rail operating partner with Keolis currently providing all mechanical, transportation, and engineering services. The eight-year contract that began July 1, 2014, and is set to expire June 30, 2022, included options for two two-year extensions through 2024 and 2026. The MBTA's contract with Keolis is performance-based with the contract including a fixed price for a certain level of service and penalties related to on-time performance and passenger comfort. In collaboration with the MBTA during the current contract period, Keolis has added 10,000 more trains per year compared to 2014, including new weekend train service, piloted routes, and other services; deployed customer improvements that include technology that allows passengers to pay for tickets onboard with credit

and debit cards; and reinforced safety management protocols that include an expanded and updated Safety Department.

This four-year extension now also includes a number of additional benefits that include:

- Incentives for improved Commuter Rail service immediately through performance payments for on-time performance, train crew staffing, and seating capacity, which are designed to achieve service outcomes and promote continuous improvement. These incentives related to performance are worth a potential total of \$5 million per year in fiscal years 2021-2026.
- Measures to address fare evasion/non-collection through the continuation of the Revenue Share Agreement for fiscal years 2023-2026, including the installation of automated fare gates that will significantly reduce ticketless travel. Train crew staffing incentives will also result in additional conductors onboard trains to check tickets.
- Investments in MBTA railroad infrastructure and assets, including incentives to accelerate capital investments that include early phases of Rail Transformation.
- Increased fleet availability and reliability through improved management of Mechanical Parts in

fiscal years 2022-2026;

· Flexibility and time to develop transformational successor contract, with the possibility of re-procurement as early as 2025;

· Cost certainty in a challenging market with the MBTA paying less than the current market price for this contract;

· Extending this contract also avoids a potentially disruptive transition that might come with a re-procurement and followed by an uncertain multi-year transition to a new operator.

The four-year extension of commuter rail operating agreement with Keolis has been approved for contract years 9 through 12 (FYs 2023-2026) with the MBTA given the ability to opt out after option year 3 (FY 2025). The agreement accounts for contractual cost growth with inflation rates reflecting current railroad industry relevant cost increases.

The projected net total new cost per contract year, which assumes a minimum of \$100 million in capital work per contract year or a minimum general and administrative expense fee of \$6 million, is an estimated \$16,273,987 for CY7 /

FY21; an estimated \$34,704,927 for CY8 / FY22; an estimated \$35,063,511 for CY9 / FY23; an estimated \$43,398,524 for CY10 / FY24; an estimated \$46,833,816 for CY11 / FY25; and an estimated \$48,144,883 for CY12 / FY26.

During this four-year extension the MBTA will continue to plan for the future of the Commuter Rail with a new contract developed upon the completion of contract study and the development of additional contract objectives. The Rail Transformation capital plan will continue to be developed based on objectives for future Commuter Rail service with critical investments beginning to be made in infrastructure and rolling stock to better position the MBTA for a more competitive procurement. A new contract model will be identified based on information gained from the contract study, market sounding, and the commuter rail capital plan. Following the release of an RFI and a six-month public procurement, a new contract will be awarded by January 2026 that allows for at least six months of transition between contractors.

National leading grassroots organization, Indivisible, endorses Ed Markey for U.S. Senate

Indivisible, a national, progressive grassroots organization with over a million members across the country, today announced its endorsement of Ed Markey for re-election to the United States Senate.

"Senator Markey is a model progressive legislator: consistent, accountable to his constituents, and ready to fight for a more just and equitable future. He is a leader in the climate movement and a champion for a more just, sustainable, and livable future," said Lucy Solomon, IE Director for Indivisible. "Senator Markey consistently demonstrates progressive leadership and vision by prioritizing working people and marginalized communities, and we're excited to continue this work with him."

"It's an honor to receive this endorsement from such a grassroots powerhouse as Indivisible," said Senator Markey. "Progressive action starts at the grassroots level, and in order to defeat

Donald Trump, take back the Senate from Mitch McConnell, and keep our House majority, we need groups like Indivisible. I stand with Indivisible on the need to stop the dangerous effects of climate change, to increase access to health care, and racial and economic justice. I am grateful to them for their support."

Indivisible's mission is to educate and activate voters and hold elected officials accountable to the values of equality, justice, compassion, and inclusion and to elect progressive leaders.

The endorsement follows the recent announcements of support for Ed Markey from several major groups across the state, including American Federation of Teachers, Massachusetts Indivisible Northampton, Our Revolution Massachusetts, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice, Progressive Democrats of America, the NRDC Action Fund, the Jamacia Plain Progressives, American Postal Workers Local #4553, and UNITE

Here Local 26 labor union workers.

Indivisible is a grassroots movement of thousands of local groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. The organization is composed of thousands of group leaders and more than a million members taking action to resist the GOP's extreme agenda, elect local champions, and fight for progressive policies.

Senator Markey has served in the United States Senate since winning the special election in 2013 and has amassed a deep record on environmental, climate, gun safety, and consumer protection issues. He co-authored the Green New Deal, and his leadership has led to legislation to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border, protect LGBTQ+ rights, and ensure that Donald Trump cannot launch a nuclear first strike without Congressional approval. Raised in Malden, Ed Markey has always stood up for the priorities of Massachusetts.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN

Docket No. SU12P2443GD
In the interests of: Vera Ibobokive of Boston, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Department of Mental Health of Boston, MA and Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the

powers of a Guardian. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/22/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written

affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 10, 2020
Felix Arroyo, Register of Probate

6/18/20
BH

**ADVERTISE IN THE BEACON
HILL TIMES PLEASE
CALL 781-485-0588**

BHCA *(from pg. 1)*

munity planning on all projects or proposals affecting our neighborhood, as well as to improve the BHCA's relations with governmental officials and community groups.

The specific issues are varied and include such topics as: fostering dialogue between developers, institutions and neighborhood residents within our community, working together to safeguard our unique Beacon Hill Historic District; limiting the adverse effects of hotel-like, short-term rental uses; dealing with the effects of technologies that are changing traffic patterns on and around Beacon Hill; and increasing voter participation on Beacon Hill. The common themes are to ensure that Beacon Hill remains a thriving residential neighborhood into the future; and to maintain the quality of life for neighborhood residents and visitors.

The BHCA's leadership and the Planning Committee continued work with respect to the 1 million square foot project the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) has proposed for



*BHCA Director and Planning and Oversight Committee Chair
Bruce Kiernan.*

Cambridge and Blossom Streets. While not within the Beacon Hill Historic District, the project would significantly affect the neighborhood. Members of BHCA's board are also part of the BPDA's Task Force, which participates in public hearings and discussions with MGH and government officials.

The BHCA will seek additional participation from the neighborhood during 2020, after additional project details are released.

The state has announced plans to redevelop the Hurley Building, at Cambridge and Staniford Streets, into a large, high-rise office building. In the fall of 2020, the state is expected to issue a solicitation for a private partner to redevelop the site. The BHCA is working to ensure residents take an active role in shaping the guidelines and process for the redevelopment.

The BHCA is also now involved in monitoring other developments and projects on and around Beacon Hill, including the ongoing redevelopment of the Charles Street Garage and Suffolk University's Temple Street buildings; the proposed redevelopment of the West End Library; and the proposed expansion of Mass Eye and Ear.

In September 2019 the BHCA sponsored, along with the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay and the West End Civic Association, a "Downtown Neighborhoods Candidates



BHCA Masks. Our BHCA masks shown here are available to members and neighbors for a donation of \$10 each. E-mail info@bhcivic.org for details.

Forum" featuring the candidates for Eighth District City Councilor (who represents Beacon Hill, the West End, Back Bay, Fenway/Kenmore, and Mission Hill). The Forum, organized by Rob Whitney, was well-attended, and very engaging and informative. Your participation in such forums, as well as voting in the primary and final elections, helps ensure that issues important to our neighborhood are on the agendas of our elected officials.

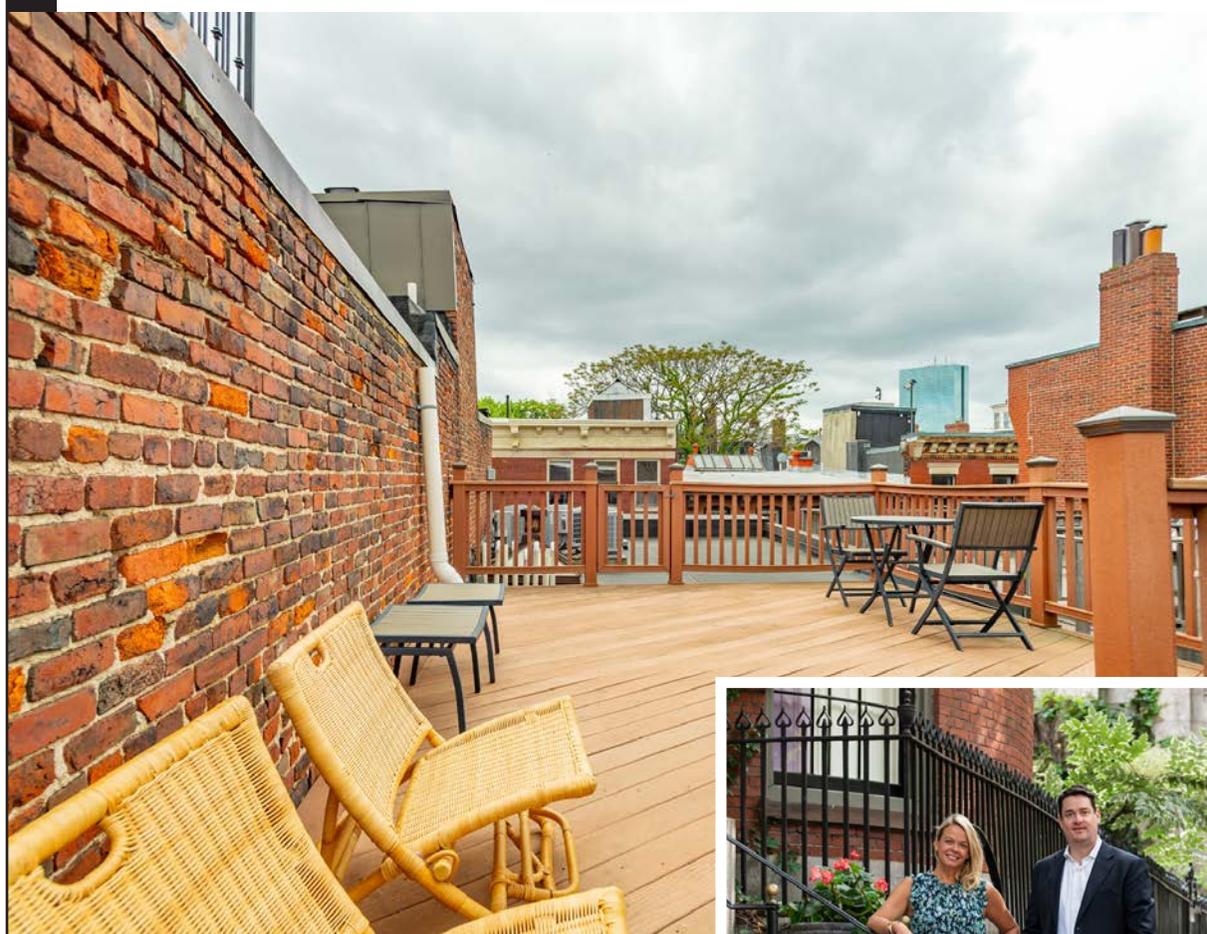
In November 2019, the BHCA again hosted "Downtown Schools Night" to allow families to learn

about six public elementary schools which serve students in the downtown neighborhoods. Current parents shared their views and experiences with the Eliot (North End), Warren-Prescott and Harvard-Kent (Charlestown), Quincy (Chinatown), and Blackstone and Hurley (South End) schools.

Join us!

If you haven't yet become a member of the BHCA, we invite you to join online at www.bhcivic.org/become-a-member.

Your input in quality of life issues on the Hill is important to us, and we rely on you our neighbors to bring your comments and concerns to our attention. By joining our membership, you strengthen our numbers and add credibility to our purpose as advocates for Beacon Hill. Please call our office at 617-227-1922 or email the BHCA Executive Director at patricia.tully@bhcivic.org with any questions, comments or concerns, or to learn more about how you can get involved in your community.



Just Listed

75 Myrtle Street #5, Beacon Hill

2 BD 2 BA 1,055 SF \$1,249,000

Amazing penthouse in the heart of Beacon Hill. This 1,055 square foot, floor-through home features an open kitchen/living area with granite and stainless appliances, in-unit laundry and a large master bedroom with en suite bath and custom walk-in closet. This home also features a huge private roofdeck with great city views.



REIG + LOSORDO

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