

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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New insights on stances from Reporter mayoral survey

Candidates grade Walsh, weigh in on role models, school board

We asked, they answered. The Reporter last month sent questionnaires to the five major mayoral candidates seeking to replace Marty Walsh. They are Acting Mayor Kim Janey, former Walsh economic development chief John Barros and City Councillors Andrea Campbell, Anissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu.

Walsh’s departure for the Biden administration catapulted Janey, the Boston City Council president, into the acting mayor’s chair, shaking up a race that already had two Walsh critics: Campbell, who represents Dorchester and Mattapan on the City Council, and Wu, who like Campbell launched her campaign last year, before Walsh’s promo-



tion to heading the U.S. Labor Department. Essaibi George, a city councillor at-large and former teacher, and Barros, who served as Walsh’s economic development chief, soon



followed in announcing their own candidacies. The Sept. 14 preliminary will winnow the field to two candidates. In order to help voters make a decision, the Reporter, much like we



did in 2013, sent the questionnaires to their campaigns. We asked them to let us know who their political role models are, how they would manage the historic Strand Theater in

Uphams Corner, grades for Walsh and Janey, their take on returning to an elected school committee, and more. **Read what they had to say on Pages 12-13.**



State and city officials joined children to cut the ribbon at the newly reopened playground inside Pope John Paul II Park in Neponset last Thursday. Mayor’s Office photo/Isabel Leon

Refurbished playground debuts in Neponset

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

State and city elected officials gathered at Pope John Paul II Park in Neponset on Aug. 12 for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of a \$600,000 playground project that has transformed the state-owned outdated structure, built in 2001. Construction of the project began in April 2021 and

was completed in July. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jim Montgomery was joined by Kathleen Theoharides, Gov. Charlie Baker’s secretary of energy and environmental affairs, Acting Mayor Kim Janey, State Rep. Dan Hunt and District 3 City Councillor Frank Baker.

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For many, debates over exam school policy distract from larger issues

By CARRIE JUNG
WBUR REPORTER

Just before dinner on most weekdays, one can usually find 9-year old Isabella Kim playing an American Sign Language game with her 12 year old sister Madeline in their north end home. “Who is this?” asks Madeline as she shows Isabella a photo of their father. She quickly signs the word for “Dad” by spreading out her fingers and putting her thumb on her forehead. Both girls are in the Boston Public Schools system. Isabella, who is hard of hearing, attends the Horace Mann School for the Deaf, and Madeline

just got into the Boston Latin School, one of BPS’ three exam schools. “In our family we have two very different things going on where the system is affecting the futures of our children and our family,” said Charlie Kim, the girls’ father. Kim watched the debate over exam school admissions, and which students had access to them, last year when his daughter was applying. But at the time, he was trying to deal with a more pressing issue in his eyes: the extensive water damage at the Horace Mann School for the Deaf.

(Continued on page 15)

Council hopefuls mostly support return to elected school committee

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

A group of Bostonians are petitioning to get an advisory referendum on the November 2 ballot that would ask voters if they support a return to an elected Boston School Committee. The body is currently composed of appointed members chosen by the mayor, a system that has been in place since 1991 when Boston sought and earned a Home Rule Petition to do-away with the elected school board. If it gets on the ballot and is passed, the non-binding ballot question will heighten pressure on the City Council and the next mayor to support that change, which would require approval from the state Legislature and the governor to actually happen. The ballot question, as put forth by the Boston Coalition for Education Equity, would read: “Should the current appointed school committee structure be changed to a school committee elected by the

(Continued on page 20)

City workers must get vaccine or test weekly, Janey says

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

City employees must get vaccinated or submit to weekly coronavirus testing, Acting Mayor Kim Janey said on Aug. 12. As Covid-19 transmission rises, an indoor mask policy could return to Boston. A policy for certain indoor settings is said to be under consideration by the Janey administration, according to a source. Gov. Charlie Baker has resisted calls for a state-wide mandate, pointing to Massachusetts having a high vaccination rate and a low hospitalization rate. As for the vaccine mandate for municipal employees, Boston City Hall, which employs 18,000 people, expects to phase it in over two months. Employees

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of 2021 elections
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Election
2021:
★ ★ ★

a YEAR of
Transition

at BOSTON
CITY HALL

Police, Courts & Fire

Man murdered on Almont Street in Mattapan

Boston Police report a man was shot at 37 Almont Street in Mattapan shortly after 3 a.m. He was declared dead at the scene. Earlier this month, on Aug. 2, a man was charged with brandishing a gun during a football game at Almont Park. On July 19, someone was shot in the arm in the park. BPD detectives have asked for the public’s help in the case. Please call 617-343-4470 if you can assist.

...
In a car jammed with eight people in Dorchester, two had loaded guns, police say, Boston Police report arresting two of the eight people they had exit a vehicle on Whitfield Street in Dorchester on the afternoon of Aug. 12

Police say gang-unit officers stopped the vehicle for unspecified traffic infractions around 4:35 p.m. “As Officers began to remove the vehicle’s occupants one by one, an Officer observed [Treiquawn] Couch clutching a backpack in his lap,” Boston police said in a statement. “As officers requested Couch exit the car, he left the backpack in the vehicle. Officers removed the bag and conducted a pat-frisk. As officers conducted the pat-frisk, a firearm fell out of an already open compartment in the bag. Officers placed Couch into custody without incident.”

The officers saw the handle of a firearm in the waistband of one of the car’s occupants, a juvenile male. Officers removed the firearm and put the male into custody.

A Ruger 9-mm gun with five rounds and a Ruger .22 caliber gun with nine rounds was seized. Couch, 18, was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition and unlawful possession of a loaded firearm, police say. The other teen, just 14, is too young to have his name released but was charged as delinquent for the same reasons as Couch, police say.

...
House shot at from behind on Stanwood Street in Dorchester— Police are looking for whoever fired a gun at the third floor of a house on Stanwood Street, from the rear of the house, a few doors in from Columbia Road, around 11:20 p.m. Sunday. One shell casing was found on Devon Street, which is behind the house.



The scene outside the Butcher Shop Market in Adams Corner on Tuesday morning. *Ed Forry photo*

‘Julia,’ series on famous chef, films in Adams Village

The HBO Max series on famous chef Julia Child returned to Dorchester this week.

Adams Corner Cafe and Butcher Shop in Adams Village said it’s closed Monday, Aug. 16 through Thursday, August 19 due to filming inside.

Within that same timeframe, the series is also filming in Fields Corner, on Adams Street, Lincoln Street, Park Street, Greenwood Park and Gibson Street.

The series, named “Julia,” was in Dorchester in July, filming inside the Hall Space gallery at 950 Dorchester Ave. in Savin Hill.

English actress Sarah Lancashire is playing Child, while David Hyde-Pierce plays her husband Paul.

The Cambridge-based series is focusing on her time as the host of the TV program, “The French Chef,” a cooking show produced by public broadcasting giant WGBH.

Child had other Massachusetts connections: She graduated from Northampton’s Smith College in

1934. She later joined the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA, and after World War II she graduated from the Cordon Bleu school in Paris. She died in California in 2004.

The HBO series runs eight episodes, according to Hollywood trade publication Deadline.

The show has also filmed in Wellesley, Lynn, and of course, Cambridge.

“Julia” is the latest production to be filmed in Massachusetts. The “Black Panther” sequel, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” is filming at MIT this week after a stint in Worcester, while Jon Hamm of “Mad Men” fame has been filming “Confess, Fletch” in Boston’s South End and the South Shore. The movie, featuring the same character played by Chevy Chase in the 1980s movie and based on the book series by the late Boston Globe reporter Gregory Mcdonald, is about a journalist investigating a murder. — REPORTER STAFF

Feds charge Dot sober home operator

Federal prosecutors have charged a Dorchester man who operates residential sober homes with sexually harassing female tenants.

Peter McCarthy, 49, runs sober homes through Steps to Solutions Inc. A lawsuit filed in federal court by prosecutors alleges that between 2012 and 2019, he “sexually harassed female residents of his sober homes by offering to reduce or forgive rent, granting extra house privileges, or waiving security deposits in exchange for engaging in sexual acts.”

The lawsuit also alleges that he asked for sexually explicit photographs, made “unwanted sexual comments” and lashed out at residents who reported his conduct.

“It is disappointing that a landlord who is supposed to be helping vulnerable women beat drug addiction was allegedly sexually harassing them and offering to reduce their rent in exchange for sex,” Acting U.S. Attorney Nathaniel Mendell said in a statement.

The lawsuit seeks to “prevent future discriminatory conduct, monetary damages to compensate victims of McCarthy’s conduct and civil penalties,” federal prosecutors said in a release.

His attorney told the Associated Press that McCarthy denies the allegations. McCarthy, on the website for Steps to Solutions, said the sober homes offer a “second chance at life.” He wrote he founded

Steps to Solutions “through my own struggles on the journey of recovery.”

According to the lawsuit, McCarthy was convicted of indecent assault and battery in 1992 and was on the state’s sex offender registry from 2004 through the end of 2015.

He created Steps to Solutions, with a business address at 51 Buttonwood St., in 2012. The sober homes, which are not licensed or funded by any state or city, rent out rooms by the month or for shorter periods of time, the lawsuit says.

There are seven existing homes with 85 beds, including ones located at 27 Lithgow St. in Dorchester and 9 Kearsarge Ave. in Roxbury. The rest are in Lynn. All of the homes are rented from the owners and sublet to residents.

There were seven locations which previously had sober homes, including 513 Washington St., 8 Boyd St., and 28 Seaver St. in Dorchester, according to the suit.

As an example, the suit alleges that McCarthy sent sexually explicit text messages to a female resident. “The female resident stated that she did text him a sexually explicit photograph because she was behind on rent and feared McCarthy would kick her out of the sober home if she did not do so.” — REPORTER STAFF

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The BPDA will host an Article 80 Public Meeting in connection with a proposed development project at 55 - 115 Hampden Street in the Newmarket area of Roxbury on Tues., Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The proposed project contemplates the construction of an approximately 66,000 sq. ft. F.W. Webb warehouse, distribution, and retail facility with approximately 24,000 square feet of subsurface parking. Please register in advance for this meeting through the registration link provided on page 20. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom with a link to join the meeting directly. The project manager for this proposal is Aisling Kerr, 617-918-4212, aisling.kerr@Boston.gov.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is teaming up with the Boston Bruins Foundation to host the Willie O’Ree Street Hockey Clinic Series for boys and girls ages 12 and under at five Boston parks in August, including Almont Park in Mattapan on Tues., Aug. 31. Learn or hone your street hockey skills

at these free clinics featuring giveaways with all equipment provided. All clinics begin at 3:00 p.m. To register, call Damien Margardo at 617-961-3083.

The mayor’s office will sponsor a movie night series in city parks this month, including a screening of “Raya and the Last Dragon” on Tues., Aug. 24 at Dorchester’s Ronan Park at dusk. See boston.gov for more details and other screening dates. The show starts at dusk.

We Sing Dorchester — a community singing event for families of all ages and skill levels— will take place on August 8 from 2-3:30 p.m. at Town Field in Fields Corner. Presented by Friends of the Public Garden and Boston Childrens Chorus in partnership with AD5L. Go to give.bostonchildrenschorus.org to register.

The Franklin Park Coalition and Boston’s Parks and Recreation Department hosts the Elma Lewis Playhouse in the Park — a series of free performances at the Playstead near the giraffe entrance of the zoo— on Tuesday mornings and evenings this summer. The children’s shows at

11o’clock for summer campers, families, and child-care programs. Evening shows, starting at 6 p.m., will offer classic R&B, Motown, Jazz, and Reggae bands with popular local performers and bands. For more information, call 617-908-4002 or visit franklinparkcoalition.org.

Applications for the upcoming FY ’22 round of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds are now available through the city of Boston’s website. There is \$28 million available for eligible CPA projects under three categories: affordable housing, historic preservation and open space or recreation. Interested applicants must complete eligibility forms by Sept. 3. Candidates deemed eligible will then be invited to submit an application for their proposed projects. Once approved, applications will open on Oct. 4 by invitation only and close on Nov. 12.

Applicants who would like to apply for affordable housing projects will need to respond to the joint request for proposals (RFP) released by the City of Boston Community Preservation Program

and the Department of Neighborhood Development. This joint RFP must be submitted by September 24, 2021.

The last round of CPA awards in February 2021 funded over \$25.5 million to 67 projects across the city, including affordable housing developments and programs, parks and open space, and historic preservation projects consistent with statewide guidelines. Examples of community projects that benefited from this investment include preserving historic elements on the Guild of Boston Artists building dating back to 1884, improving the tree canopy on the Charles River Esplanade, and adding 75 affordable housing units in Hyde Park. Got to boston.gov/community-preservation for more info.

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City employees to take vaccine or regular test, Janey says

(Continued from page 1) who work in the schools, the centers for youth and families, and the public libraries are required to comply by Sept. 20.

Contractors and volunteers who work with those city agencies and departments, as well as employees who work in public safety, parks, inspectional services, registry and parking departments, must comply by Oct. 4. All other employees, contractors and volunteers must comply by Oct. 18.

The vaccine and testing will be available for free and eligible city workers will have up to one hour of paid leave during a workday to get vaccinated or tested, according to the Janey administration.

“Our purpose is to protect our employees and the public,” Janey said during a City Hall press conference, which came days after mayoral rivals pressed her to make the move.

More than 400,000 Boston residents are fully vaccinated, and the city has seen a 17 percent increase in the Black vaccination rate, and a 23 percent increase in Latino vaccination rate, according to Janey. “We are making real progress,” she said.

The move drew an



Acting Mayor Janey: ‘Purpose is to protect’ array of responses from her rivals, who include former city economic development chief John Barros and City Councillors Michelle Wu, and Andrea Campbell.

Campbell said Janey has moved too slowly as the infection rate in Boston rises. A vaccination mandate is “the type of decision that should take hours or days — not weeks,” Campbell said in a statement.

Janey also drew criticism for again refusing to institute a mandate for proof of vaccination, as New York has done. Noting the lower vaccination rate among Blacks, Janey said at the press conference, “To suggest that half of Black residents couldn’t go to a grocery store I think is insane.”

Campbell said Janey was “once again spreading misinformation

about the vaccine by saying that proof of vaccination would be required” at a grocery store.

“No one has suggested that for Boston,” Campbell said. “Misinformation like this erodes trust in our public health system and will likely prevent people from getting vaccinated.”

Barros echoed Campbell in Janey in calling the vaccination policy for city employees “overdue.” “This should have been implemented last month when Acting Mayor Janey required employees to come back to City Hall full time,” he said.

For her part, Wu said the city needs “more than half-measures.” She add-

ed: “City Hall must set out regulations on vaccination for high-risk indoor spaces like gyms, salons, and restaurants to ensure protections for all our communities.”

Annisssa Essaibi George, a city councillor at-large, tacked to the other side of the vaccine mandate debate during an interview with GBH News.

“I’m certainly willing to explore it,” she told the public radio station, but would prefer to avoid a vaccine mandate.

The Boston Teachers Union voiced support for Janey’s move.

“We applaud Mayor Janey for proactively taking action to ensure the safety of students, the safety of educators

and the safety of the public,” Jessica Tang, BTU president, said in a statement Thursday. “This policy feels consistent with prior policies around vaccinating against other dangerous viruses and diseases.”

But another union, Local 718, the Dorchester-based group representing the city’s firefighters, which has a history warring with City Hall going back to at least the days of Mayor Thomas Menino, took a different stance. The union previously raised the prospect of a lawsuit over a vaccine mandate.

“Boston Firefighters understand the seriousness of the COVID virus because of the personal nature of our

work protecting the public,” John Soares, the union’s leader, said in an email to members. “Our concerns regarding mandated vaccination should not in any way be misconstrued to belittle the deadly effects of this virus. We have strived throughout this pandemic to maintain safe working conditions for our members, their families, and the public we serve.”

But the union deserves “opportunity to address our concerns with a meaningful dialogue on all sides of this issue,” he added. “As your President, I will continue to navigate this situation until a resolution can be reached.”

Two with Dot roots join Mayor Janey’s office

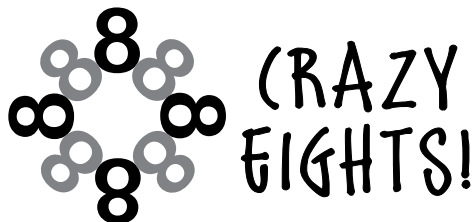
Boston Mayor Kim Janey tapped Caitlin Stapleton to serve as the Office of Neighborhood Services’ new neighborhood liaison for Charlestown and Tiffani Caballero as its liaison for Jamaica Plain. Stapleton, who grew up in Dorchester’s Adams Village, worked at Monument Restaurant & Tavern in Charlestown, which she said helped her build relationships across the neighborhood that she will use in her new role. Caballero is also a Dorchester native who previously worked as a constituent service center representative for Boston’s 311 line. She is working on a psychology degree at the University of Massachusetts Boston. “I am confident that their love for the communities they represent, and Boston as a whole, will help them serve our residents,” Janey said in a statement.



Tiffani Caballero to focus on Jamaica Plain.



Caitlin Stapleton will cover Charlestown.



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Reporter executive editor/publisher Bill Forry contributed to this report.

Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods

Mattapan's Leins now leads key BPS funder

Pamela Leins of Mattapan is the new leader of the Boston Educational Development Fund, the fiscal and fundraising partner to the Boston Public Schools. She started at the group's executive director on July 19 after six years as the director of Planning and Development for Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF).

A first-generation American-born Latina, Pamela is a proud product of Boston Public Schools and Boston Community Centers, now known as BCYF. In addition to her work for youth across the city, she is the owner of In the Cut Boston Barbershop and vice-president of the TAG Association, a non-profit whose mission is to

celebrate Latinx culture, educate our youth, and elevate our community. A graduate of Northeastern University, she is the proud mother of two boys - one incoming BPS kindergartener, and caretaker of two recent BPS graduates.

"There is so much talent and innovation in our BPS community," Leins said in a statement last week. "And in a resource-rich city like Boston, I am excited to lead a team that will make meaningful connections and partnerships to leverage all of our resources for the greatest impact, particularly as we recover from dual pandemics."

BEDF facilitates access to philanthropic funding and adminis-

ters these resources to sustain and expand educational opportunities for students, educators, and families. In the last 10 years alone, BEDF has administered nearly \$110 million in private external funding to support numerous educational initiatives and programs across BPS.

Prior to her work with the City of Boston, Pamela was Senior Education Manager at Junior Achievement of Northern New England (JANNE). Her resume also boasts positions at ROCA and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health & Human Services (EOHHS).

"BEDF is thrilled to welcome Pamela Leins as its first Executive Director and greatly looks

forward to Pamela's work to strengthen and implement our organizational vision, fundraising, and financial strategies, in furtherance of our mission," said Essence McGill Arzu, Esq., BEDF Board President and Partner at the Arzu Law Group LLC. "Her extraordinary enthusiasm and passion for supporting youth, education, diversity, and community, coupled with her strengths of engaging with people and building strategic partnerships will help drive BEDF forward into its next phase."

At right: Pamela Leins, executive director of Boston Educational Development Fund. Image courtesy BEDF



Arianna Callender and Tiffany Brown-Grier, Acting Director of Diversity & Inclusion/Compliance at Massport. Photo courtesy Massport

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) recently celebrated the recipients of the 2021 Diversity Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Scholarships, which include a young person from Mattapan among its recipients.

Scholarships are awarded to graduating high school students who have shown an interest in pursuing a degree that could be utilized in the transportation industry, have done community service, have been accepted to an accredited college or university and have submitted essays describing their career interests or how community service has affected their outlook on life.

Two Boston students, Arianna Callender and Djackyna Celestin, are each receiving \$3,000

awards for college.

"Everything we do here at Massport involves STEM. There are countless career paths in the tech and science industries for students to explore, and so many opportunities here in Massachusetts," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "We wish Arianna and Djackyna the best of luck at school, and hope these scholarships encourage even more students to take a serious look at the STEM disciplines when planning their career paths."

Callender, who graduated from the Boston Community and Leadership Academy in Hyde Park with a 4.37 GPA, will attend Bryn Mawr College of Pennsylvania. She volunteers with Boston Cares, preparing and distributing meals to children and adults.

While participating in the Student Scholar of Success Link Program, she received college credit and represented students on the Boston Student Advisory Council.

In her words, she "wants to come back to her community and help shape higher path for learning, improve health care, and help underrepresented families all over the world."

Djackyna Celestin of Jamaica Plain just graduated from Brighton High School with a 3.70 GPA. She will be attending University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall.

She has also completed ambitious and challenging internships that are deeply relevant to her career aspirations and values: organizing protests and policy discussions for the Boston Teachers

Union, and exploring the legal field by working at Burns & Levinson LLP.

To be considered for the Diversity STEM Scholarship, graduating seniors must be a student of color, a resident or school attendee in the City of Boston or one of Massport's neighboring communities, a high school senior with a minimum 3.0 GPA, accepted to an accredited college or university, involved in community service, and interested in pursuing a degree that could be utilized in the Transportation Industry.

The applications were judged by a committee of Massport employees. More information about the scholarship can be found at massport.com.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dorchester Daloz Drycleaning

Daloz Cleansers started in Boston in the late 19th century. It had retail shops in Boston although the actual work facility was located elsewhere, first in Roxbury, then South Boston, then in 1900 in Dorchester at 11 Humphreys St. The Dorchester building later became the Humphreys Street Studios.

Today's illustration comes from The Dorchester Beacon May 5, 1900 edition. In that issue, the paper published a couple of dozen puff pieces about various businesses in Dorchester. Excerpts from the text of the article follows:

"One of the latest establishments to come to Dorchester for a permanent location is the large dyeing establishment of Mr. L. H. Daloz. This

gentleman has followed the business in Boston for almost a quarter of a century and has become one of the leading and most prominent men in his line of business in the city. For over thirty years he has been engaged in the cleansing and dyeing trade and most of the time on a large scale.

"He began business in 1869 in New York City, and in 1877 he moved to Boston, opening a downtown office and establishing his works in Roxbury. In four years his business had grown so as to require larger and better quarters, and in 1883 he moved his works to South Boston, locating on Dorchester Avenue and Rawson Street. Here he remained for seventeen years, until recent

changes and improvements there forced him to move. He then turned to Dorchester and soon began the erection of a large plant at 11 Humphrey Street. This he has but recently completed and is just getting fully established in his new quarters.

"He has a large frame and brick building 130 feet long and 40 feet wide, with three floors, giving him a total floor space over 15,000 square feet. This larger building is completely equipped with all the machinery, apparatus and conveniences necessary for a thoroughly modern cleansing and dyeing plant, and Mr. Daloz is better prepared than ever to handle his large business. He does cleansing and dyeing of all kinds



and his methods are the most modern and improve, making it possible to treat the most delicate goods and colors successfully... At his Humphrey Street works, which are now in full operation, he

employs thirty people. He maintains two stores in the city, one at 510 Tremont Street another at 24 Bromfield Street. Mr. Daloz has been a resident of Dorchester for the last fifteen years

and has many friends in the district who esteem highly as a business man and citizen."

The archive of these historical posts can be read at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

Barros releases ad as super PAC forms to help his campaign

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR
Mayoral candidate John Barros released his first ad of the campaign, focusing on airing it online and eventually on television.

Called “The Table,” it was filmed in the Barros family yard in Uphams Corner, with supporters seated around a table as Barros, who served as former mayor Marty Walsh’s economic development chief, chats and shakes hands.

The campaign is putting \$100,000 behind the ad “to start,” a spokesman said Friday. The campaign declined to provide further details behind the spending.

“The ad will be posted all over social media, and hopefully on television,” according to a fundraising email to supporters.

“We hope it leaves you with the knowledge that you will always have a seat at the table when John is mayor,” the email adds.

Spotted in the ad: Walsh’s former tourism chief Ken Brissette; Dan Magoon, a Dorchester veteran who heads up a nonprofit focused on Gold Star families; and Rev. Jack Ahern, the pastor of St. Gregory’s Parish.

Barros ended July with \$194,000 in cash on hand, having raised \$48,604 that month and spent \$173,570, with more than half of that going towards digital advertising, according to publicly available campaign finance records.

Barros’ ad was released the same day a super PAC, calling itself “Unified Boston,” surfaced with the intent to spend outside money on

his behalf. The super PAC listed Antonio Teixeira as chairman and treasurer. Teixeira, whose voice-mail greeting identified him as working for Roxbury Latin School, did not respond to a voicemail and an email seeking comment. It has not filed any spending reports yet.

The super PAC’s entry now means every major mayoral candidate has at least one super PAC backing them. Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited amounts of funds, but they cannot coordinate with the campaigns they support.

The Sept. 14 preliminary will winnow the field to two candidates.

Separately, a super PAC supporting City Councillor Michelle Wu’s mayoral campaign swung into action this week. A public campaign finance filing showed the group, tied to the Environmental League of Massachusetts, spending \$47,000 on digital advertising in support of Wu.

Another pro-Wu super PAC, calling itself the “Boston Turnout Project,” has not yet publicly filed any campaign finance reports.

A super PAC supporting City Councillor Annissa Essaibi George, dubbed “Bostonians for Real Progress,” also hasn’t filed any reports.

Acting Mayor Kim Janey has two active super PACs supporting her, one backed by the hotel workers union UNITE HERE Local 26, and one from liberal group known as the Right to the City Vote.

City Councillor An-



A clip from the Barros campaign ad “The Table,” shot in the candidate’s backyard.

drea Campbell has the “Better Boston” super PAC, which has spent nearly \$1 million on ads on her behalf. She and Essaibi George have recently both gone up with their own TV ads.

Janey heads to Martha’s Vineyard for fundraisers

With a month to go before the Sept. 14 prelim, Acting Mayor Janey headed to Martha’s Vineyard on Saturday afternoon for a few fundraisers. She was scheduled to return by ferry in the evening.

According to a copy of the invite obtained by the Reporter, the host committee included Terrance Ankner, Alan Bilzerian, Joseph Carter, Denella Clark, Herby Duverne, Joyce Ferriabough Bolling, Greg Janey, Daryl Settles, and Richard Taylor among others.

Further details about the other fundraiser were not immediately available. As of July 31, her campaign had \$624,911 in cash on hand.

Councillor Campbell also had an August fundraiser early in the

month, hosted by Valerie Jarrett, a top adviser to President Obama, according to Politico Massachusetts.

Endorsement Corner

Roxbury state Rep. Chynah Tyler has endorsed Campbell’s campaign for mayor. Tyler, who also represents parts of Roxbury, Fenway and the South End, also chairs the Legislature’s Black and Latino caucus.

“Whether it was establishing pathways for workforce development, or ensuring public safety measures for our neighborhoods, Andrea has gone above and beyond for her constituents -- refusing to simply maintain the status quo,” said Tyler, who was first elected in 2016.

Campbell, a Roxbury native and Mattapan resident, said they were both “daughters of Roxbury.”

She asked voters to “do your homework” on distinctions between the people on the historic slate of mayoral candidates. All are people of color, and four out of five candidates are women.

Campbell pointed to her personal narrative, a public school student who went to Princeton while her twin brother Andre landed on a different path, and died in custody while awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, Wu picked up two Allston-Brighton area endorsements. Mike Moran, a Democrat who serves as the state House’s assistant majority leader, and Councillor Liz Breadon said they’re backing Wu at a Tuesday event.

Other campaigns also rolled out their respective endorsements. Julia Mejia, an incumbent city councillor at-large running for reelection, endorsed fellow at-large candidate Carla Monteiro. There are a total of 17 candidates running for four slots. The Sept. 14 preliminary will narrow the field of 17 to eight.

“Like many Bostonians, Julia and I share the lived experiences of being single mothers, growing up around gun violence, and struggling to get by,” Monteiro said



in a statement. “I look forward to working with her on the Boston City Council to make sure the needs of our residents are put first.”

Separately, Evandro Carvalho, the former state representative looking to win the District 4 seat Campbell is giving up in her mayoral run, announced a slew of labor endorsements.

The unions include UNITE HERE Local 26, Laborers Local 223, IBEW Local 103, United Auto Workers Region 9A, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, The Roofers and Waterproofers Local 33, The Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local 3, and The Mass Retirees.

There are a total of nine candidates running for District 4. Two will emerge from the Sept. 14 preliminary and head to the Nov. 2 final election.



Roxbury state Rep. Chynah Tyler, left, endorsed Andrea Campbell’s bid for mayor last week.



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P.J. Flavin Scholarship Fund hosts its 15th Annual Softball Tournament



The P.J. Flavin Scholarship fund provides high school scholarships to young Dorchester residents, giving the opportunity for inner city kids to play sports and possibly continue a private education throughout High School. P.J. Flavin was a Dorchester kid who passed away far too soon. His love for baseball and his community continues to live on year after year with a little help from his friends and family. Charlie Conners, your typical kid from St. Ann's has worked hard year after year earning money for the P.J. Flavin Scholarship Fund and this year he is working harder than ever. Conners says, "Covid took away our largest event last year that provides almost all of the funds to keep these kids scholarships going every year. It was tough because these kids and their families really depend on it". This Saturday and Sunday, August 21st-22nd, the P.J Flavin 15th Annual Softball Tournament will be held at local parks throughout Dorchester. Come watch the final game on Sunday at Hemenway Park around 4pm. If you are looking to get involved or learn more about the P.J. Flavin Scholarship Fund please reach out below.

Contact: Charlie Conners
Phone: 617-780-4540
Email: charlie.conners32@gmail.com
Venmo: @PJ-FLAVIN-TOURNAMENT

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Editorial

What might this election mean for the Strand?

Did you know that Dorchester’s Strand Theatre is the only (non-school) theatre space in the city that’s actually *owned* by the city of Boston? It’s been the case since the mid-1970s when Kevin White twirled the keys to the mayor’s office. White saved it from the wrecking ball. Since then, tens of millions of tax dollars have been pumped in to keep the lights on and to spruce up the old movie house that opened at the height of the last global pandemic in 1918.

It’s sort of surprising, then, that the Strand doesn’t factor into most of the platforms of the people who want to be elected this fall. We’ve been asking the question for many years: What do we want to do with the Strand? We asked it of the candidates who ran for mayor in 2013. Marty Walsh— who won that race— kicked off his campaign for mayor in the Strand— and held a big election eve rally there. But his team never quite nailed the landing when it came to revitalizing the landmark.

This summer, we’ve asked all the candidates for mayor and city council what they would do next. Everyone who responded agrees that the Strand is a “jewel” that we should preserve and improve upon. But, we’ve been hearing that song-and-dance since the 70s. What does that *mean* in practical terms, particularly in 2021 as we stumble still through Covid, which has been particularly unkind to indoor venues?

John Barros is clearly the most conversant person on the city ballot in this regard. He can see the Strand from his house. He’s the only candidate who name checks the Strand as an important city asset on his website. And his interest showed in his detailed response to our questionnaire this month.

In his role as Marty Walsh’s economic development chief, Barros was charged with “reimagining” Uphams Corner as an “Arts Innovation District.” Since 2015, there’s been a too-long series of meetings, some with a focus on creating an “RFP” to pick an outside operator to take over the Strand’s operations. That’s been tried before— and flopped— under the Menino administration. But Barros is committed to trying again if he wins. And, from this vantage point, it’s worth one more shot.

“A separate operator will have the staffing and budget to help the Strand fulfill its potential, while the City of Boston can focus on marketing the asset and attracting more patrons,” Barros said in part.

Michelle Wu called the Strand a “community treasure” that “should be the anchor for a thriving arts district right at Uphams Corner as well as integrated into a citywide elevation of arts and culture.” But there’s not much “there” there. Wu’s arts platform as outlined on her very comprehensive site never even mentions the Dorchester theatre.

Frank Baker, the city councillor whose District 3 seat includes the Strand, has clearly been paying attention. He urgently wants to link plans to build a new library in Uphams Corner to the theatre’s reuse and worries that if we don’t, we’ll face another “missed opportunity.”

“By connecting the library, with the senior housing above, onto the Strand Theater, we can create a hub in Uphams Corner that will ultimately be an economic driving force for the neighborhood,” Baker said,

None of the candidates for mayor or council should be judged solely on one issue in one corner of the city. But the Strand is a citywide asset — or, to some, a liability— that merits a more thoughtful approach.

The next mayor and council need to make a hard call on whether or not we want the Strand on the city’s balance sheets moving forward. And if we do, let’s start to see more action and less platitudes from the next administration.

-Bill Forry

The Reporter

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West Side Stories

Best things in life are just down the street

By SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

Just down the street this summer has been a great introduction of music into the neighborhood — kind of a continuation of something good that happened late last summer during the 2020 pandemic.

The organization Mad Music Mill has been laying the groundwork for a summer of laid-back outdoor music, and what a joy it’s been. This is significant because I can’t recall a neighborhood concert on this side of Washington Street, that wasn’t connected to a church gathering, in as long as I’ve been around.

Most of the outdoor concerts in Dorchester are in other places, and our family has always had to load up the car and drive to the other side of the neighborhood to enjoy those kinds of things. What a pleasure it is to walk down the street, hang a left, and find a group of young musicians playing their hearts out for anyone willing to lend an ear.

Neighbor Adonis Martin is the owner and director of the Mill — which got its start a few years ago in a church on the Glenway as a place to rent rehearsal space, and more importantly, for a weekly jam session. I’ve seen him walking the dog often in the neighborhood for some time, but it’s funny that you can see someone doing something like that year in and year out— yet not know they’re a great musician, writer, or whatever other good thing. The Mill, by my measuring stick, is a really talented group of musicians and singers from the area, and last September when everyone was looking for something to do outside — they brought the show to the Norwell Street lot (soon to be a park) for a laid-back open mic concert. A lot of credit goes to Laquisa Burke of the West Of Washington (WOW) Neighborhood Association for getting the engine revved up on this for a repeat performance in 2021.

This summer, they’ve returned for what’s being called “Sunday Service — Off the Cuff,” another open mic jam session on Norwell Street that happens every second Sunday. I attended the first one with my wife and neighbors, and it was just what the doctor ordered on a Sunday night before going back to the awful grind of a pandemic workweek. I didn’t contribute musically, thankfully, but I did provide the lawn mower to cut the grass — if that counts for anything.

This, of course, is how all good things start — just for fun — and with a group of very talented people. So it is, if you can play anything, recite poetry or rhymes, or carry a tune, stop by Sunday Service with the Mad Music Mill this summer. They’ll be altering the schedule to be at the WOW BBQ on Saturday, Aug. 21(1-4 p.m.), but then it’s back to the routine. I know I’m looking forward to it.

KICKING IT OFF WITH COFFEE

Acting Mayor Kim Janey kicked off her Coffee Hour series — a staple of Boston summer mayoral activities for decades — in Four Corners late last month at Mother’s Rest Park.

There was a spoken word artist, iced Dunks, the usual potted plant giveaway and Janey spoke about the importance of open spaces in her life, and the lives of all of us in the city.

The visit made me think a lot about the mayoral race before us, which is coming quickly. I happen to live in probably the lowest voter-turnout precinct in all of Boston, 17-1. That means there are never lines to vote, no matter how big the election might be. However, it also means that when you hear and see pictures of the mayoral candidates “canvassing”

the neighborhoods, they aren’t canvassing this neighborhood. It’s an economy of scale type of thing.

To date, I don’t believe we’ve had any of the five major candidates come up the front steps to pay us a visit, nor did any mayoral candidates in any of the previous races. Being all super-voters in our household, what we do get is the surrogate visit, which in Boston means a vast array of printed fliers that come in the mail at a clip one cannot imagine. Note to candidates: I toss those right in the recycling, and I know they’re expensive.

For my money, if I were running, I’d take out a series of regular ads in this and other newspapers around Boston — but hey, I’m biased.

Some people like not getting “canvassed” by the candidates. I tend to enjoy having the candidates come to the door and ask for my vote. It’s kind of like Halloween. They come up to the porch, knock on the door and — as it goes — they have to ask for candy, or in the case of politicians, for your vote. It’s the pageantry and the dance of it all that makes it fun in both instances. Then again, like the state of voting here, there also aren’t many kids that come around for Halloween to trick-or-treat either — leaving a giant bowl of unclaimed candy at our house.

That leads to why the day after Halloween is my second favorite day of the year. There’s a huge bowl of unclaimed candy left over, and somebody’s gotta’ eat it. With the final mayoral election on Nov. 2, just two days after Halloween, that might make waddling up to the voting booth a bit more challenging.

For anyone that’s interested, the WOW group and eight other Associations from the west side of Dorchester are having a mayoral forum on online on Aug. 30, 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in the Council at-Large race can catch the same coalition with the candidates at an online forum on Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m.

PAYCHECK IN THE ATTIC

I was chasing some squirrels out of the eaves in the attic of my house earlier this summer, which has become quite a task with how aggressive those little monsters have become. After the dust had settled and they ran outside, I saw an envelope that fell to the ground below and it contained a pay stub from a former owner of the home — who, incidentally, I do know. The stub was from the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown, and from November 1982. Shockingly, the total earnings on that holiday week (Thanksgiving) for 44.5 hours was \$114.40. In today’s dollars, that’s about \$323.64 — still way too low.

But the story only gets worse. I scanned the deductions for health insurance, dental, retirement, federal tax, state tax, this, and that — and by the time it was all done — the guy had only made \$33 bucks. Can you imagine? Some people nowadays spend that on lunch at a food truck.

TREASURING THOSE QUIET MORNINGS

Someone who moved to the neighborhood from another part of Dorchester noted to me that the afternoons, evenings and nights on the west side of Dorchester are just too loud. And after some thought, he’s right.

Too many loud backyard parties, too many ATVs ripping up and down the street, too much loud drama, too much loud fighting, and too many fireworks. Everything is loud and obnoxious, I now realize.

But morning, on the other hand, that’s God’s oasis. Crisp skies, no cars, and the sound of nature. I woke up the other morning quite early and you couldn’t hear anything outside. There was no sound. It was so quiet that I think I could hear the sun rising.

Letter to the Editor

D-3 candidate challenges Baker vote

To the Editor:

As states across this country work to roll back voting rights and make it more difficult for many - but especially for people of color - to vote, we have a responsibility to standup against voter suppression.

Which is why the Boston City Council meeting on July 21 was a revealing moment in city politics when the council voted 11-1 in favor of a resolution supporting election day voter registration.

The lone no vote? District 3 City Councilor Frank Baker. With no fanfare, no explanation, and no part in the hearings leading up to the vote, Councilor Baker cast a declarative “Nay”, cementing his position on the wrong side of history.

Councilor Baker’s lone opposition should not come as a surprise. He is, after all, ‘Councilor No’ and the voice responsible for the colorful language heard at a council meeting earlier this year.

At the beginning of the pandemic, he was also the only councilor to vote against a resolution for a moratorium on mortgage payments, evictions, and foreclosures and he has advocated for us to “take the cuffs off police, so to speak” regarding the crises we face at Mass and Cass.

Actions such as these are why I am running to

represent District 3 this November. The proposal was not particularly controversial. The council worked with the Elections Department to ensure that the bill would be feasible in Boston and that on election day, they would have adequate resources to validate voter registrations and changes. There was ample time to raise concerns or questions, as many other councilors did, but Baker remained quiet.

There is strong evidence that election day voter registration increases voter turnout, with states and municipalities often seeing an increase after implementation. The practice simply makes it easier for individuals to cast their votes and any effort to stand in the way of this should not go unquestioned.

Every Bostonian’s voice deserves to be heard. We should allow 16- and 17-year-olds as well as non-citizens the opportunity to vote.

I am a “Yes” on this resolution and I urge our representatives on Beacon Hill to act swiftly on the home rule petition in front of them. And I am committed to listening to and standing up for the voices across District 3 and look forward to the opportunity to represent them in City Hall.

**Stephen McBride
Dorchester**

Laments follow Reporter’s editorial on Gallivan Boulevard’s scruffy trees



Above and right: Three views of the current state of trees that line the median on Gallivan Boulevard in Dorchester this summer. In an editorial last week, Reporter co-founder and associate editor called on state officials to do something about the trees. Photos by Ed Forry



To the editor:

I often drive along Gallivan Blvd. and lament that those trees and other shrubs have either not been maintained or else lost to road salt and other road hazards. I also thought that over the years they would transform the island into a structure more like planters than what we initially did. In Quincy along Bergin Parkway heading to Braintree & Rte 3 you can see that the planters installed along that stretch of road are in great shape.

The City of Quincy under Mayor Koch’s leadership has just newly constructed two parkways to honor generals, including two with Quincy/Dorchester roots. The dedication is September 11.

The dedication of the roads and a bridge from Burgin Parkway will be the focus of a new Generals Park dedicated to several who came from Quincy.

**William J. Geary, Esq.
Quincy**

(The writer, as MDC Commissioner in the Dukakis administration, was in charge of planting the trees along Gallivan Blvd.)

To the editor:

I, too, have noticed the condition of the few remaining trees on the median on Gallivan Blvd., so I zoned in on Ed Forry’s editorial in last week’s Reporter.

As a resident of Uphams Corner with a desire to see some semblance of the Emerald Necklace brought back to Columbia Road, I once had an enlightening conversation with the City’s arborist about the challenges of planting and maintaining street trees. It started with my comment that the VFW Parkway has thriving, mature trees, so why can’t we have them in Dorchester?

Here’s what I learned: To survive, street trees need protection against road salt. On the VFW Parkway, the curbs are set really high so that salt is cast back onto the roadway, and not onto the median. This isn’t the case on either Columbia Road or on Gallivan Blvd.

Trees also need a certain amount of space, so the median needs to be wide enough to support them. Most of Columbia Road has a wide enough median but Gallivan Blvd. really doesn’t. Short of widening the median by narrowing the roadway, trees are likely to fail there. A more practical approach might be to install rectangular planters and consider trees along the sidewalks where there’s more space.

Maintenance is a separate but related issue. As

I understand it, the contractors who are hired by the City to plant trees are supposed to water the trees for the first year. If a tree dies within that year, they are required to replace it. The watering rarely happens (I would have said “never happens,” but I did hear one report recently of a tree actually being watered.)

More commonly, the contractor installs a water bag on the tree and that’s the end of it. It appears that it may be less costly for a contractor to replace a tree than to water it – assuming of course, that someone even notices the tree is dead and reports it to the City. After one replacement, they are off the hook. The incentives seem misaligned here.

Then there is the problem of infighting between the City’s Parks and Public Works departments over who is responsible for what. Don’t even get me started about the community’s failed pleas to get some agency to maintain the planters the City installed at Uphams Corner. If that weren’t enough, there is the division of turf between the City and DCR. Columbia Road Belongs to DCR for part of its length and to the City for the remainder. Go figure. Anyone who drives through Franklin Park and over to Forest Hills has probably noticed that roughly two-thirds of the trees planted where the overpass used to be are either dead or dying. The garden beds are choked with weeds along the entire stretch. This one belongs to the State – or at least I think it does. Or maybe only part of it does. How does anyone ever know for sure?

**Marti Glynn
Payson Avenue**

To the editor:

My gosh your editorial & Kilmer! I’m just staring at the probable site of Neponset Wharf on the front page. For a long time, I look, and I repeat over and over: “trees, trees, trees, trees, build a forest, not buildings.” I get to your editorial: “...a poem as lovely as a tree.” But it’s not about the Wharf or should Wharf be “Barf”?

What went wrong with humankind? Every tree destroyed for pavement, glass, steel, or concrete represents the destruction of earth by humans. Truly a stupid lifeform.

**John J. Madden
Mashpee**

Commentary

A five-pronged plan to improve our schools

By JOHN BARROS

Everybody agrees that public education is a right, a pathway out of poverty, and a great equalizing force. In Boston, we are failing thousands of children and families by not providing them with high-quality options in their own neighborhoods. It doesn’t have to be this way. Right now, Boston has an opportunity to lead the nation once again in educational excellence in the post-COVID era.

As families prepare for back-to-school, my campaign this week has been releasing plans, five over five days, that address some of our most pervasive challenges, and form the basis for a comprehensive, aspirational, and realistic proposal for fulfilling our obligation to the city’s children.

On Monday, I announced a \$4 billion investment in school buildings. In a city as wealthy as Boston, there’s no excuse that so many students attend school in aging, crumbling buildings with inadequate educational facilities. By leveraging the city’s bonding capacity, and the AAA rating that the administration I worked for earned because of strong fiscal management, we will rebuild our schools, starting with those that have been most overlooked. We can’t expect our children to learn science without labs and arts without theaters, or to excel in classrooms that are too hot or too cold. We began this work with the Dearborn STEM Academy, Boston Arts Academy and others, but I have a plan to expedite the process, in partnership with private developers, with plans for utilizing swing space and listening to community input.

On Tuesday, I shared my vision for what should be the crown jewel of our system: Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. My plan calls for an independent school board and budget, which will work in collaboration with the Superintendent and Friends of Madison Park. This structural change will catalyze the modernization of the school’s programs to prepare students for the jobs of today and the future. In addition, I will implement the Career Champions Network’s Madison Park Technical Institute concept, and establish an adult education and certification program.

On Wednesday, I detailed my plans to create a Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) pilot for our city’s early childhood educators. These low-income workers, the majority of whom are women of color and immigrants, provide a priceless service in caring for our children while teaching in the important early childhood development learning stages. Data from other GMI pilots around the country have shown promising early results, and my pilot will augment the early education and childcare plan I released this spring.

On Thursday, I will discuss my plan for establishing Education Innovation Districts in neighborhoods that have the infrastructure to support a cradle-to-career pathway. I will start in Roxbury along the Dudley Street corridor in an effort to scale existing partnerships and coordinate efforts between local educational institutions and human development agencies serving our students and families, and then engage communities in Charlestown, East Boston, and every neighborhood to find the right partnerships to support learning. And finally, on Friday, I will announce a plan to develop a City College system that knits together Boston’s designated Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to provide open doors to free post-secondary education and industry-informed programming that will help them build the skills they need for jobs of the future. Through investment in this system, I want to create sustaining resources for a set of colleges in the city that have already proven their commitments to Black and Brown youth, and have demonstrated their abilities to connect them to career opportunities and prepare them for civic leadership.

This is an ambitious agenda, but I have a proven record of implementing ambitious agendas. Throughout my career, I’ve helped design, build, and open new state-of-the-art schools like the Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School and the Dearborn STEM Academy. And I believe in the transformative power of public education. If we want to see dramatic improvements for our students, close the opportunity and achievement gaps, and build a prosperous and just future for Boston, it’s not just curriculum, instruction, and student support that needs to change. I have a plan to build world-class schools in every neighborhood, fully fund them, and deliver opportunities for the next generation in every corner of our city. We owe our city’s children the very best education we can give.

John Barros is former economic development chief under Mayor Marty Walsh. The Reporter has invited each of the five major candidates running for mayor to submit a commentary in August.



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Baker economic chief touts federal funds in Dot, Mattapan stops

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Gov. Charlie Baker's economic development chief last week stopped in Dorchester and Mattapan as part of an effort to tout the administration's \$2.9 billion proposal aimed at helping the state recover from the coronavirus pandemic. Mike Kennealy, who oversees housing and economic development, is taking the tour to small businesses and downtowns across the Bay State.

The funds are available to Massachusetts through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Baker is seeking to spend \$350 million on downtown development and reinvestment. Roughly a billion dollars is earmarked for housing.

"It doesn't mean people are completely out of the woods," he said of the pandemic. "If you want to see economic damage, look at our downtowns."

In Dorchester, Kennealy swung through 50Kitchen on Dorchester Ave. before a roundtable discussion at the Blarney Stone in Fields Corner. Earlier on Tuesday (Aug. 10), he stopped at America's Food Basket on Cummins Highway in Mattapan, as well as Frugal Furniture on Blue Hill Ave.

"We're here to listen and learn," he said.

The federal government handed Massachusetts nearly \$5.3 billion in pandemic relief, and state lawmakers have formed committees to determine how to spend it.

They're having their own listening sessions, including some this fall, and they're pushing for a slower timeline than Baker. The federal government wants the money spent by the end of 2026.

Dorchester state Rep. Dan Hunt, chair of the House Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight, said he was glad to see Baker administration officials seeking input from members of the public.

"The House is committed to a robust public process," he said.

Kennealy said he's heard from business owners about concerns whether they can continue to operate. "These small businesses make up the fabric of our communities," he said. "These are key employers, they employ our citizens, they serve their customers."

During the pandemic, the financial support from the government focused on survival and protecting employee paychecks. A year later, issues that previously



Mike Kennealy, Gov. Charlie Baker's economic development chief, shakes hands at the Blarney Stone in Fields Corner. He swung through Dorchester and Mattapan last week to pitch the Baker administration's \$2.9 billion spending proposal for recovering from coronavirus. Courtesy EOHED

surfaced before the pandemic are coming up again, according to Kennealy. "There's always been an issue around access to capital for small companies. So we're thinking about how we

can fill some of those gaps."

Companies also want to do more online, with businesses on main streets seeking to boost their capability for internet purchases, he added.

That's the kind of new perspective that the tour is going to give the administration, he said. "We're going to get a refined sense of what the needs are," he said. "Halfway into this,

some of these needs are urgent."

Material from State House News Service was used in this report.

Baker says state 'ready to assist' Afghan refugees

Gov. Charlie Baker on Tuesday warned that the government's collapse in Afghanistan had "needlessly endangered Americans and our allies" and pledged that the Bay State is prepared to help refugees fleeing the country now under Taliban control.

In a pair of morning tweets, Baker criticized "mismanagement" in the buildup to the crisis that has unfolded in recent days, when the Taliban seized cities in Afghanistan and evacuation flights departed Kabul. Baker, a Republican, did not specifically name who he believes is at fault for the situation.

"The mismanagement that led to the catastrophe

unfolding in Afghanistan has needlessly endangered Americans and our allies," Baker said. "I am deeply thankful for the men and women who have fought to protect the homeland and pray for the safety of all those now serving."

"Massachusetts is ready to assist Afghan refugees seeking safety and peace in America," he added. Dozens of state lawmakers have signed onto a letter urging their federal counterparts to make every effort possible to help Afghan allies evacuate the country.

- CHRIS LISINSKI, SHNS



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ELECTION 2021— MAYOR OF BOSTON

Read the candidates’ responses to the Reporter’s 2021 mayoral questionnaire in their entirety at DotNews.com.

BARROS— ‘DIVERSE COMMUNITY VOICES MUST BE AT THE TABLE’

JOHN BARROS
47, Dorchester resident
Boston chief of economic development, 2014-2021; executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, 1999-2013.

Political role models
Gus Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, California, and former executive director of Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. An advisor and mentor on community engagement, sustainable housing and neighborhood development and investment Mel King, mentor and advisor. Stacey Abrams, voting rights activist.

Top priority
To urgently provide more safe, stable, high-quality affordable homes for Bostonians in every neighborhood and every income level. From an early age, I appreciated how much it meant for my parents, who immigrated from Cabo Verde, to purchase their own home and build a stable financial foundation that allows us to stay in our neighborhood surrounded by family.

How would you seek to program, market and utilize the historic city-owned Strand Theater in Uphams Corner?
The Strand should be a performance venue for the region, but also have art and music studio space that can be rented out to local artists and performers. A separate operator will have the staffing and budget to help the Strand fulfill its potential, while the

City of Boston can focus on marketing the asset and attracting more patrons, and work with the neighborhood to continue plans to create more affordable artist and commercial space, as well as more mixed housing and neighborhood amenities. Once the redesign is complete we can begin to build more housing on top of the Strand.

Do you favor a return to an elected School Committee?
As a former School Committee member, I know how important it is to have diverse voices at the table when critical decisions are being made about our schools and our children. As Mayor, I will lead an inclusive discussion with all stakeholders to consider how a hybrid Committee could ensure geographic and racial representation of the BPS community. I will support the appointment of at least one additional student seat.

What is your assessment of the Walsh administration’s overall performance? Please offer a letter grade or pass/fail as part of your answer.
I’m proud to have served in the Walsh administration for seven years as Boston’s first-ever Chief of Economic Development, and believe we deserve a high grade. We helped to create 140,000 new jobs, increased revenue by millions for job training for local residents, and created real opportunities for women, people of color, immigrants, and veterans.



What is your assessment of acting Mayor Kim Janey’s performance since taking office in March 2021? Please offer a letter grade or pass/fail as part of your answer.
I give a grade of “needs serious improvement.” That being said, I am pleased that acting Mayor Janey is continuing a number of the programs I created and implemented, from procurement to workforce development to small business support, and am flattered that she plans to pilot a new approach to police and public safety that I proposed earlier in my campaign.

What in your experience to date will most help you to be an effective leader?
As a teenager organizer involved in

DSNI, then later as its Executive Director for more than a decade, I learned a lot about how to be both an effective leader and a grassroots organizer. To me, the biggest lesson I learned from DSNI was the importance and value of having a diverse set of community voices at the decision making table. Members of a community are best positioned to know the issues impacting their neighborhood and potential solutions to each issue. I have taken that lesson and those values with me into every role I have held, and I would continue to bring community voices to the table--and listen to these voices--as mayor of the City of Boston.

CAMPBELL— ‘A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF DELIVERING RESULTS’



ANDREA CAMPBELL
39, Mattapan resident
District 4 Councillor, former deputy legal counsel under Gov. Patrick

Political role models
Vice President Kamala Harris, who spoke at my law school graduation while DA in San Francisco.

Voting rights activist Stacey Abrams, who has modeled what it means to turn pain into purpose.

Top priority
If elected, I will lead through an equity lens and prioritize executing an

equitable Covid-19 recovery to ensure our public health and economic recovery reaches all our neighborhoods. I will also ensure every student has access to a quality, public education in the city of Boston.

How would you seek to program, market and utilize the historic city-owned Strand Theater in Uphams Corner?
I will work in partnership with community organizations in Dorchester and Roxbury to plan meaningful programming for the cultural community

that will also make the Strand and Uphams Corner a destination for residents across our city. I will prioritize and protect artist and performance spaces being threatened by displacement, promote the expansion of public art, and connect our arts and cultural institutions to our public schools, seniors and business community.

Do you favor a return to an elected School Committee?
The current all-appointed structure is not working. I believe a hybrid system is the way to get to a more equitable BPS system, with some elected and some appointed members. We should also empower our student representative(s) with voting power on the committee and the same stipend the adult members receive.

What is your assessment of the Walsh administration’s overall performance? Please offer a letter grade or pass/fail as part of your answer.
It’s no secret that I felt Mayor Walsh should have done more to tackle systemic inequity in Boston, particularly in our public schools, and more to address the public health crisis at Mass. and Cass. However, the Mayor led the city steadily through the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic, for which he deserves enormous credit. Grade: C.

What is your assessment of acting Mayor Kim Janey’s performance since taking office in March

2021? Please offer a letter grade or pass/fail as part of your answer.
Like many other Bostonians, I celebrated the historic transition of power to Acting Mayor Janey. However, since that moment, we have not seen concrete action from her on our most pressing issues, and her recent comments comparing requiring proof of vaccination to slavery and birtherism and her reluctance to implement these measures even for City employees is troubling and a failure of leadership. Grade: C.

What will make you an effective leader?
First, the work of being a public servant has always been purpose-driven by my own experience growing up in Boston and losing my twin brother Andre, who passed away in a state prison as a pre-trial detainee at the age of 29. I’ve experienced the possibilities in the City of Boston but also the pain of when our city doesn’t work for everyone, which allows me to work for systemic change with a sense of purpose, urgency, and clarity that makes my leadership distinct from any candidate in this race.

I also have a proven track record of delivering results to create more affordable housing, to make our streets safer, to reform our police and criminal legal systems, and to increase access to quality public education and youth programs for every student.

Mayoral debate set for Sept. 8

The Dorchester Reporter is partnering with NBC10 Boston and its affiliates, as well as the Bay State Banner, for a televised mayoral debate set for Wednesday, Sept. 8, days before the preliminary election.

The hour-long live debate will be broadcast beginning at 7 p.m. on NBC10 and New England Cable News (NECN) and Telemundo’s website. The debate will air in Spanish on Telemundo Boston at a later date.

The preliminary election is set for Tuesday, Sept. 14. The five major candidates running for mayor are Acting Mayor Kim Janey, former city economic development official John Barros, and City Councillors Andrea Campbell, Anissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu.

“The Reporter is pleased to partner with our colleagues at NBC10 Boston, NECN, Telemundo Boston and the Bay State Banner for this debate,” said Bill Forry, executive editor and publisher of the Reporter. “We intend to engage our readership to help bring a unique neighborhood lens

to the event, which could well be a decisive moment in this competitive election for the most powerful position in city government.”

The debate will take place at the NBCUniversal Boston Media Center in Needham. Morning news anchor Latoyia Edwards, a Dorchester native, will moderate.

Viewer questions will be solicited through social media and from readers of the Reporter and the Banner. Those who submit a question chosen for the program may be asked to pre-record a question on video.

About this section

The Reporter last month sent questionnaires to the five major mayoral candidates running for mayor of Boston. We asked them a range of questions, including the topics printed here in short excerpts. We also asked them about other major policy decisions, ranging from gun violence, choosing a new Boston police commissioner, housing, reforming the city’s zoning board of appeal, residency for city workers, admissions to city exam schools and how to best prepare Boston for issues relayed to climate change. We also sent the same questionnaire to candidates for district city council seats in Districts 3,4 and 7 and to at-large candidates, which will be summarized in next week’s edition.

Read the full responses online at DotNews.com

ESSAIBI GEORGE— ‘ I SHOW UP IN ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS’

ANNISSA ESSAIBI GEORGE
47. Dorchester resident
City Councillor At-Large, owner of Stitch House and former teacher

Political role models
My father who immigrated to Boston from Tunisia and, despite the challenges he faced, loved this city with every part of his being.

My maternal grandmother, who at a young age was taken from her home in Poland to work in a labor camp in Germany. My grandmother’s spirit, determination and focus on her family and building a better life for them reminds me how important this opportunity is for me to lead for her, and because of her sacrifice.

Top priority
As a BPS grad and former teacher, mom to four BPS students, one of my top priorities will be supporting and empowering our students, teachers, and families. This includes rebuilding trust, closing the achievement and opportunity gap and making sure we focus on literacy programs — especially in the early years.

How would you seek to program, market and utilize the historic city-owned Strand Theater? As Mayor, I’ll forge partnerships with local nonprofits and arts organizations to activate and utilize the Strand. I

also believe the Strand provides us with a unique opportunity and space for our BPS students — whether that’s hands-on experience with set design or lighting or a performing arts stage.

Do you favor a return to an elected School Committee?
No. I believe that its members need to be empowered to make the best decisions for students and families without the influence of politics or money, and that is impossible with an elected School Committee. Instead, I believe that the best model is a nine-member Committee with five people appointed by the Mayor and four appointed in partnership with the City Council.

What is your assessment of the Walsh administration’s overall performance? B+. Mayor Walsh laid a solid foundation for many of the policies and initiatives that I plan, as Mayor, to build upon. He was also extremely engaged. He was always willing to have tough conversations, even if we did not always agree, and as a result, I and many others were able to work with him to make real progress.

What is your assessment of acting Mayor Kim Janey’s performance? D. Acting Mayor Janey has failed to meet our expectations and has demonstrated that she is more



willing to celebrate her time in office than to work alongside others to get things done.

What will make you an effective leader? As an At-Large City Councillor, I represent the entire city. I have worked on issues ranging from housing and homelessness to education to mental health. While I am proud of my legislative accomplishments, I am most proud of the relationships that I have built throughout my time on the Council. I take the responsibility of representing every resident in the City of Boston very seriously. More than any other experience or accomplishment, I believe the fact that I show up in all of our neighborhoods is what has made me an effective City Councillor, and it is what will make me an effective Mayor. I know that I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish half of the things I have on the Council if I didn’t show up, have the tough conversations, and give everyone a seat at the table. I take pride in the fact that I bring residents’ experiences to the table just as much as I bring my own, and that is what I will continue to do as Mayor.

JANEY— ‘ ONLY PERSON IN FIELD WITH MAYORAL EXPERIENCE’



KIM JANEY, 56, Roxbury resident
Acting Mayor since March 2021, Boston City Council President

Political role models
President Obama. His 2008 election was such an important victory for people all across the world, but especially for children, like my own two grandsons, who could finally see themselves represented in the highest office in America. Ayanna Pressley. I worked with her over the years as a community leader and education

advocate and then in 2018, I worked alongside her as we served together on the City Council. Mel King. As one of the architects of the Rainbow Coalition, he brought people together from all walks of life. I had the opportunity to learn from him first-hand and pass out flyers when he ran for Mayor decades ago.

Top priority
My top priority will be to continue the fight against Covid-19 in Boston and to lead the City in its recovery,

reopening and renewal.

How would you seek to program, market and utilize the historic city-owned Strand Theater? It should be an arts and cultural hub for the city and economic booster for the Uphams Corner and Grove Hall communities. Its programming must reflect the cultural diversity and artistic talents of Dorchester.

Do you favor a return to an elected School Committee? I support exploring a hybrid model, to include appointed, elected, and additional youth members with voting power. It is long past time to give residents more of a voice in our schools.

What is your assessment of the Walsh administration’s overall performance? It’s no secret I’ve inherited a number of controversial issues, whether the Patrick Rose case, former police commissioner Dennis White, or the School Committee. As Mayor of Boston, I am focused on creating a hopeful, equitable future for our city, so we can’t afford to spend our time looking back. I will say that the former mayor worked tirelessly on behalf of this city he so loves and he has been a champion for labor and working people in Boston and nationally.

What is your assessment of acting Mayor Kim Janey’s performance since taking office in March 2021? I think the only grades that matter are the ones that come from the residents of Boston, and since I have become Mayor I have been so humbled and appreciative of the support they have shown me. In the four most recent public polls, I’ve been in the lead or in a statistical dead heat.

What will make you an effective leader? I am uniquely equipped to lead as the only person in this race that has actual experience being a mayor and leading a major urban city with more than 680,000 residents, 18,000 employees, and a \$3.75 billion budget. As the first woman and first Black Mayor of Boston, I bring to City Hall, and to this race, a life experience like none of my predecessors. As a daughter of Roxbury and the South End, I understand the challenges so many of our residents are facing — from structural racism, food and housing insecurity, failing schools, and faltering public transportation, hurdles to home ownership, and fear for Black and Brown people’s safety in our communities.

WU— ‘ I KNOW HOW TO MOVE THE LEVERS OF GOVERNMENT’

MICHELLE WU, 36, Roslindale resident; City Councillor At-Large since 2014, constituency director for Elizabeth Warren campaign, special assistant to Mayor Tom Menino

Political role models
Mayor Menino. I saw up close how Mayor Menino knew every inch of the city and was always focused on people. Congresswoman Pressley. I’m so proud to be represented by our Congresswoman as a fearless advocate for equity and justice. Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Our Senator fights for working people and focuses on tackling root causes of inequity.

Top priority
My top issue is keeping families in Boston. We are in a housing crisis, and residents all across the city face an urgent need for affordability.

How would you seek to program, market and utilize the historic city-owned Strand Theater?
I’m eager to work with community organizations to bring new arts programming through connecting local artists and organizations, opening up affordable performances, and stabilizing neighborhood organizations in the space. I would look to maximize the Strand’s impact on surrounding

communities and citywide.

Do you favor a return to an elected School Committee?
I support a majority-elected school committee, with elected members for democratic accountability and additional appointed members to ensure representation of Boston’s diversity and expertise, and mayoral accountability. I also support giving full voting power to the student representative. I would appoint members with expertise and lived experience in early childhood, school facilities and vocational education.

What is your assessment of the Walsh administration’s overall performance? In recent years, Boston has seen higher housing costs than at any other time in our history, exacerbating the racial wealth gap and fueling a displacement crisis. To meet the moment, we need transformative city leadership that works to reshape what’s possible and make Boston a city for everyone.

What is your assessment of acting Mayor Kim Janey’s performance since taking office in March 2021? I celebrate this historic moment for Boston with the barriers that Mayor Janey has broken. I was



the first candidate to announce my mayoral campaign, back in September 2020, because this was never about any assessment of political opportunity, but about bringing the citywide leadership, vision and experience to deliver for Boston families.

What will make you an effective leader? I’m a mom with two kids in the Boston public schools, a regular MBTA rider, and I live in a multigenerational two-family home in Roslindale with my husband and boys upstairs, and my mom downstairs. I’ve raised my sisters in this city when my mom was struggling with mental illness, so I’m living the stakes of policy and know the gaps our families face. After nearly a decade in City Hall, first working for the Menino administration, and now in my eighth year on the City Council, I know how to move the levers of government to close gaps and make our systems work for our neighborhoods and families. Through building coalitions and reshaping what’s possible in our city, we’ve taken on big challenges and transformed policies and politics to be more responsive, urgent, and inclusive of all our communities’ needs.

BY KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

All shows are on Sundays at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 for adults, \$18 for students, \$3 for EBT cardholders, and children under 18 are admitted free. For more information visit ahchambermusic.org.

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Pina-Barros, Rita M		Bynoe, Sonya D		71 Whitfield St	Dorchester	07/30/21	514274
Cleggett, Thomas J		Flex Investments LLC		4 Westville Ter	Dorchester	07/27/21	550000
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Reim RT	Kaplan, Marc A	Vega, Julian		101 Pleasant St	Dorchester	07/26/21	1300000
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Ortega, Cesar		Corcoran, John R		21 Eastman St	Dorchester	07/30/21	300000
Freeman, Brittany B	Freeman, Michelle C	Gilpin, Mary	Gilpin, George	24 Lenoxdale Ave	Dorchester	07/30/21	945000
Campot, Joseph D	Campot, Taylor B	Betty Jean Conway IRT	Conway, Betty J	42 Cedar Grove St	Dorchester	07/28/21	750000
Milton, Troi		Townsend, Stecey P		11 Leston St	Mattapan	07/26/21	975000
Turbyfill, Matthew	Dupuis, Genevieve	Holland, Patrick R	Holland, Hannah L	166 Boston St #2	Dorchester	07/28/21	640000
Castellanos, Justin		Perry, Scott	Perry, Lindsay	7 Granville St #2	Dorchester	07/29/21	485000
Joyce, Steven M		Kavanagh, Kenneth C		91 Dix St #3	Dorchester	07/28/21	495000
Rice, Edward P	Rice, Elizabeth A	Forino, Jason	Jaenicke, Leah	15 Edison Grn #1	Dorchester	07/30/21	515000
Graziano, Brian		Thomhill, David A	Thomhill, Chilser C	74 Sawyer Ave #1	Dorchester	07/30/21	605000
Stella, Leo M		Downey, Michael	Downey, Marissa L	20 Mellen St #3	Dorchester	07/29/21	610000

Some voters want broader focus on BPS beyond exam schools

(Continued from page 1)

Water damage has been an issue at the school for years. When WBUR toured the building in 2019 the district had recently announced plans to close the building at the end of the 2022 school year, citing major structural issues.

“There are sharp rusty things coming out of the walls,” explains Kim of the current conditions inside the school. “You see water leaking in on electrical things like overhead projectors.”

It frustrates Kim that the Horace Mann School — at the brink of a building closure — hardly gets noticed. And yet, the exam schools get an abundance of attention from the school committee and the public.

“I think it’s wrong, the amount of time and effort and political capitol that is placed into an exam school,” he says. “We understand it’s a jewel, but it should be a model of what should happen throughout the rest of the district.”

While the district’s three exam schools don’t get more city funding than other district schools, Kim believes that all the attention they receive comes at the expense of other issues at BPS. Most district buildings lack air conditioning and 40% don’t have a functioning library.

City councilor Lydia Edwards believes the exam schools’ long, storied history, especially the Boston Latin School, is a major reason why it attracts so much consideration.

“You’re dealing with institutions that have existed for hundreds of years and there’s a whole rich history that comes with that — good, bad or whatever,” Edwards says. “It’s almost like asking ‘Why is Harvard an elite institution’... It’s unfair to say ‘Why are you guys focused on this now.’ It’s never not been focused on.”

But Edwards adds a lot of pressure around exam school policy also comes from parents.

“Families believe that that’s a golden ticket in some cases,” she said. That golden ticket mentality cuts through socioeconomic circles, from poor to affluent families.

“I was with one of my friend’s daughters when she found out she got into Boston Latin School, and she was crying because she knew that her kid’s entire life changed by getting into that school,” remembers Back Bay resident and former chair of the Massachusetts Republican Party Jennifer Nassour.

Barbara Fields, a public education advocate and retired BPS office of equity director, adds that parents in lower income households feel the same way about



Madeline Kim, 12, shows her younger sister Isabella, 9, flash cards as they play the American Sign Language vocabulary game in the kitchen at their home in the North End. *Jesse Costa/WBUR photo*

getting into the exam schools too, especially Boston Latin School. “It opens doors,” explains Fields. “You become a part of an exclusive club and also a club that has many many benefits ... People who have attended Boston Latin sit in high places.”

Superintendent Brenda Cassellius concedes that discussions around the district’s three exam schools take up a lot of oxygen, especially considering only one in eight Boston Public Schools students are enrolled there.

“I do agree that we do spend a disproportionate amount of time talking about exam schools overall when we really need to be talking about the overall health and wellness and opportunity and access for all of our students in BPS,” said Cassellius.

But she defends the amount of time and effort the district spent on the exam school entrance policy this year, which will now consider socioeconomic factors in addition to grades and test scores. She says it was a huge step toward improving diversity, especially at the Boston Latin School.

“I think it was time well spent,” says Cassellius. “I think it was an important equity decision for our district. It was very symbolic.”

The five major candidates for mayor have weighed in on the exam school admissions policy debate and they’ve also promised to invest equal time on bigger issues like updating district buildings and expanding

access to rigorous material. UMASS Boston political science professor Paul Watanabe said these promises tend to surface every election.

“I think it’s a perennial accompaniment of every mayor’s race that I can remember that people have claimed, candidates on both sides, that one of their number one priorities is the success of the Boston schools,” he explained.

But Watanabe argues that Boston voters don’t usually end up holding mayors accountable for the promises they make about schools. Which is why he believes elected officials in Boston almost always end up shifting their focus to exam school policy more than the success of the whole system.

For parent Charlie Kim that’s a frustrating cycle, because it leaves parents fighting for resources.

“You don’t want to be the squeaky wheel that gets everything,” he says. “Because you look at all of Boston Public Schools and realize that there are so many other schools, so many other students, that are not getting that type of advocacy.”



The effort to improve his daughter’s school building ends up feeling like a competition, he said. That’s not something he feels great about.


WBUR 90.9FM published this story on August 16. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF DORCHESTER

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER





BGCD Hosts BeachFest 2021 with Save the Harbor / Save the Bay: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Hosts BeachFest 2021 with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay: During the last week of our summer program, in partnership with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, BGCD hosted BeachFest 2021 as part of the Better Beaches program. Youth from BGCD and the Leahy Holloran Community Center enjoyed a variety of onsite games, interactive activities, food and a fun day at Malibu Beach.

Many thanks to our friends at Save the Harbor Save the Bay, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Police Department, Fresh Food Generation, GreenCrab.org and the Boston Circus Guild for their support of the event.

For more information on BGCD Partnerships, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Safe Summer Streets Program Holds Exciting Activities All Summer Long: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
Win an Xbox at BGCD & Upham's Corner Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics On Thursdays: BGCD is in the midst of hosting a 6-week COVID-19 vaccination clinic in partnership with the Upham's Corner Health Center. Vaccines will be offered on Thursdays through August 26 from 3-5pm on our outdoor court. The team from UCHC will be on hand to accept registrants and administer the shot for those ages 12 and older. Please note, all 3 vaccines will be available. Another exciting opportunity is that each participant in the vaccine clinic will be entered into a raffle to win an Xbox game. There will be three winners drawn at each Clinic. To pre-register please go to [https:// uphamscornerhealthcenter.org/ covidpatient/](https://uphamscornerhealthcenter.org/covidpatient/). To find our location site please select "Other" as a site and enter BGCD. For more info, please contact mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

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AG sues for records about BPD’s White

By ALLY JARMANNING
WBUR REPORTER
Attorney General Maura Healey on Aug. 12 sued the Boston Police Department over the agency’s refusal to release documents about fired police commissioner Dennis White. It’s only the second time in memory the attorney general’s office has gone to court to enforce the state’s public records law. “Our state’s public records law is in place to ensure an open, accessible, and accountable

government, especially important when it comes to promoting public confidence in law enforcement,” said Jillian Fenimore, a spokesperson for Healey, said in a statement. “Following repeated failures by the Boston Police Department to produce these records, we are seeking an order from the court that they must be turned over.” The suit stems from a public records request NBC10 made in March for internal affairs records concerning Dennis White. At the time, White was on administrative leave while the city investigated decades-old domestic violence allegations against him. Boston police refused to provide any information about two investigations into White. They cited both laws intended to restrict records in the state’s criminal offender database and safeguard reports of rape and domestic violence filed by victims. The attorney general’s office argues the department could provide the records by simply redacting any confidential information. “The Police Department has made no showing that the requested records cannot be redacted to conceal the identity of any victims, enabling the release of the remaining portions of the records,” the suit states. In a statement, Acting Mayor Kim Janey said she instructed the city’s law department and director of public records to determine what can be released from the White files. “I thank Attorney General Healey for taking this step. I greatly value the public’s right to know the actions of its government, and I recognize the need to protect the right to privacy for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault,” she said.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P0367EA
ESTATE OF:
MARY BELL MARSHALL
A/K/A: MARY B. MARSHALL
DATE OF DEATH: 12/03/2020
To all interested persons:
Kenneth Moore of Randolph, MA and Cornelius Marshall of Appling, GA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Kenneth Moore of Randolph, MA and Cornelius Marshall of Appling, GA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/17/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 06, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: August 19, 2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L.c. 190B, §5-304, & §5-405
Docket No. SU21P1173PM
IN THE MATTER OF JAMES JORDAN of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Stephen Jordan of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that James Jordan is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With out Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this 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 09/09/2021. 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.
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: August 06, 2021
Published: August 19, 2021

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Refurbished playground debuts in Neponset’s Pope Park

(Continued from page 1)

“Parks play a critical role in making our communities more sustainable and resilient against climate change. These open spaces are an example of how we can create opportunities despite the challenges that we face from climate change. I am so excited to add another place where our children can play freely and parents can feel safe,” said Janey.

The playground is now equipped with new state-of-the-art play areas and surfacing, new fencing and entrance gates, installation of fencing and two gate entrances, upgraded rubber safety surfaces, new bike racks, fully-accessible pathways, repaired curb ramps and other accessibility features, and fresh landscaping.

“A household name in the neighborhood, the Pope John Paul II Playground at the Neponset River Greenway is an important urban recreational area for all of Dorchester,” said Montgomery.

“Importantly, the Baker-Polito Administration remains committed to enhancing the Commonwealth’s invaluable environmental, cultural, and recreational resources, and today’s ribbon cutting serves as a great example of these efforts.”

“Local parks such as neighborhood playgrounds provide important opportunities for children and their families to get outside and socialize, play, and live a healthy, active lifestyle,” added Theoharides.

“Pope John Paul II Reservation and this new playground serves as an important space for the local neighborhood, and investing in these resources advances critical priorities for the Baker-Polito Administration, including improving community resources and expanding access to outdoor recreational assets.”

The original Pope John Paul II Playground was built by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) in 2001. After hearing safety concerns from community members and local elected officials, DCR kicked-off a public outreach campaign in fall 2019, incorporating feedback from neighbors in the new playground’s design process.

“I am grateful for the DCR’s investment of a brand new playground at the Pope John Paul II Park,” said Hunt (D-Dorchester).

“After a trying year and a half, much of it spent cooped up indoors, it is more important than ever to have clean and safe space for our children, families and residents to enjoy outdoors.”

“This brand-new children’s playground at Pope John Paul II Park is a welcome addition and will bring enormous value to our neighborhood,” said Baker.

“I am grateful to DCR and to our leaders at the state level for working together on this significant investment and I am looking forward to seeing the playground utilized for many years to come by the residents and children of Dorchester and beyond.”

NOTICE

The Dorchester Historical Society is always looking for photographs and high school yearbooks from Dorchester’s past.

Due to the pandemic, the Society is closed to the public at this time.



William Clapp House, 195 Boston Street
Lemuel Clap House, 199 Boston Street
James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

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District council candidates weigh in on merits of rent control

By REBECA PEREIRA
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

From coast to coast, rent control, or rent stabilization, has taken many forms, and now interest is swelling among candidates and constituents alike in restoring a municipal version of the law. Almost thirty years after a statewide referendum repealed rent control in Massachusetts, a Dorchester Reporter/WBUR/The Boston Foundation poll shows more than three-quarters of Boston voters support the measure, which advocates say would ameliorate housing unaffordability for tenants.

The same survey demonstrates 72 percent of respondents view the cost of housing in Boston as either somewhat unaffordable or very unaffordable.

Against the backdrop of the pandemic's broader economic downturn, homelessness and a tidal wave of evictions have roused support for rent stabilization from current At-Large Councillor Michelle Wu and Acting Mayor Kim Janey, who is endorsed by Right to the City VOTE, a displacement and housing justice advocacy organization.

Its implementation has also drawn a lukewarm rebuke from Councillor Andrea Campbell, who, in her response to a Progressive Massachusetts questionnaire in April, said that the city should prioritize "tools in our current toolbox" in pursuing housing stabilization.

But discussion around rent control has also begun filtering into more localized races.

The *Reporter* spoke to candidates vying to represent District 4 and District 7, two areas that encompass Dorchester along with parts of Mattapan, Roxbury, Roslindale, and Fenway, about rent control and the pathway towards more affordable and accessible housing.

In District 7, the issue hits home for candidate Tania Anderson, who overcame homelessness in her youth, when her family faced forced eviction from a Roxbury housing project.

Anderson cautioned against implementing rent control without expanding affordable housing availability, a delicate balance she said rent control risks disrupting by pushing developers to prioritize luxury condos, resulting in "working families being squeezed out by a shrinking supply of affordable units."

Said Anderson: "We must take stabilizing actions like building more affordable housing and equity building actions like expanding rent-to-own pro-

grams before considering rent control."

Similarly, in the abutting race, District 4 candidate Leonard Lee said he fears that deploying rent control could misfire.

Lee has walked back his previous support for rent control after "looking into it more." As a small landlord who owns a three-decker in Roxbury, he said his priority is creating incentives for landlords to treat tenants ethically, noting that he hasn't increased the rent on his property during nine years.

"Housing, as a principle, is very simple, because, you know, everyone deserves a home. The cost of housing is extremely high and only increasing," he said. "It's about stabilizing the market so people can afford to buy and can afford to live."

Also unequivocal in his rejection of rent control is Joao DePina, who said his priority is implementing a municipal AMI — or Area Median Income — formula with the aim of promoting a more accurate and precise calculation of the cost of affordable housing in the city.

"I don't support rent control, it has negative effects on people who've worked hard to purchase their homes and on small landlords, too," said DePina.

He also suggested increasing the Inclusionary Development Policy from 13 percent to 25 percent. The IDP dictates the threshold requirement of affordable housing units in new housing developments.

Of the candidates populating the field of city council hopefuls, Santiago Leon Rivera has pitched perhaps the sharpest increase, a leap from 13 percent to 40 percent.

Rivera said he's currently exploring different models for rent control implemented in other major American cities. "We should be looking at the AMI, reassessing the IDP, creating incentives for 100 percent affordable housing," he said. "That's not something we're seeing in Boston, yet — and we should eliminate parking minimums, too."

He added: "We need to look at options that we know will work for everyone in the long term."

Another candidate, Angelina "Angie" Camacho made a staunch declaration before delving into alternatives to creating "structural safety for [the elderly] and homeowners."

Said Camacho: "I have been vocal in stating that we can be more creative than the rent control that we abandoned in the early 90's. We cannot hang our cap on that model as a blanket solution."

Instead, Camacho advocated for "solutions that help everyone, from early entrants into the housing market to our elders."

On the other end of the spectrum, rent control has drawn unequivocal support from District 4 candidates like Joel Richards and Deeqo Jibril, as well as former state representative Evandro Carvalho, who outlined a three-prong approach to housing stabilization that also includes an increase to the IDP and subsidies of rents, mortgages, and affordable housing developments that utilize federal pandemic-relief funds.

Boston is poised to receive approximately \$500 million in American Rescue Plan funds with another \$400 million disbursement set aside for Boston Public Schools.

"I support rent control because no one deserves to be forced out of their home," said Jibril in a statement. "I know first-hand how difficult it is to find and keep affordable housing in Boston. We cannot allow Bostonians to move outside the City of Boston because they cannot find an affordable place to live."

In expressing his support for rent control, Richards said: "Dorchester and Mattapan are facing an affordable housing crisis. An increasing share of our community is paying 50 percent or more of their income on rent, pricing out many of our neighbors that have built this city."

...

For more detailed information on the candidates for city council and mayor who will appear on the Sept. 14 preliminary ballot in Boston, go to DotNews.com. The Reporter is posting the full answers of all candidates who responded to a Reporter questionnaire.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU20D1234DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
AICHA ABUBARDAR
vs.
RAHEEM ABUBARDAR
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Stephanie Marie Duggan-Lykes, Esq., Casa Myrna, 451 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02120 your answer, if any, on or before 09/23/2021. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 25, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: August 19, 2021

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More council candidates signal support for elected school board

(Continued from page 1) residents of Boston?” The question is meant to support a proposed home rule petition filed by District 5 Councillor Ricardo Arroyo and at-large councillor Julia Mejia that would re-structure the committee.

In recent weeks, the Reporter asked candidates for mayor and for Boston City Council at-large, as well as for Districts 3, 4 and 7 to share whether or not they would support the return to an elected school committee.

All five of the mayoral candidates favor some form of change to the current appointment system, but none favor a return to a fully elected school committee as pitched in this petition. Most— including acting Mayor Kim Janey, Councillors Michelle Wu and Andrea Campbell and John Barros— are open to a hybrid of majority-elected with appointed members and expanded roles for student representatives. Councillor Annissa Essaibi-George said she would seek to give the city council more oversight to appoint four members of the nine-member board “in partnership” with the mayor.

But, many candidates for district and at-large seats— including two

incumbents running for re-election— are far more supportive of making the composition of the school board totally up to the will of city voters.

Of the 12 at-large candidates who responded to Reporter inquiries— 17 will appear on the Sept. 14 ballot— the majority are in favor of a fully- elected school committee, or would at least be open to a hybrid model. Incumbent at-large councillors Mejia and Michael Flaherty, Carla Monteiro, Ruthzee Louijeune, Kelly Bates, Nick Vance and Brigid Nee-Walsh all support a fully elected school committee.

Flaherty, who was first elected to the council in 1997, said that a hybrid model won’t go far enough to enact change, adding that committee members should be “held accountable to our school system’s end users: Boston’s school children and their parents/guardians.”

“While a hybrid committee may appeal to some as a compromise measure, I believe Boston voters can and should be trusted to exercise good judgement in the best interests of their children and grandchildren,” said Flaherty, a South Boston native who challenged the late Tom Menino for the mayor’s

job in 2009.

Mejia, who is running for re-election to an at-large seat, agrees.

“We’ve seen over the past year how a solely-appointed school committee is dramatically unrepresentative and unaccountable to the needs of their constituents,” said Mejia. “An elected school committee gives greater voice to the parents, students, and teachers of our school district to see the future of BPS placed in the hands of the people who are living the day-to-day realities.

“I believe that the members of the school committee should be accountable to people in Boston rather than the Mayor, whoever it might be,” said Bates, a first-time candidate who lives in Hyde Park.

Nee-Walsh, a South Boston resident and union Ironworker, said that “an elected School Committee will allow more parent and community input into the BPS decision making process.”

Flaherty, Colimon, Halbert and Monteiro said they would support reserving at least one seat on the committee for a student representative, with full voting rights and stipends.

Monteiro, a Dorchester resident, called the appointed structure

“archaic and anti-democratic.”

“I support a fully elected school committee complete with two seats for student members who are given full voting rights and a stipend,” she said, “Student voice on the council for too long has gone undervalued and under-appreciated, these young leaders deserve better and adding an additional seat for our student members will empower them to be even more vocal advocates for their needs.

Other at-large candidates David Halbert, Said Abdikarim, Erin Murphy, Alex Gray, and James “Reggie” Colimon favor a hybrid model— a mix of elected and appointed seats. Spillane said that the council should be responsible for reviewing and approving the mayor’s appointments.

“I am open to an elected school committee if at least we try a hybrid model that includes accountability on both sides; those appointed and those elected,” said Abdikarim.

Louijeune, who supports either a hybrid or fully-elected committee, said a “hybrid structure allows for power-sharing and greater accountability, while accounting for the issue of low name-recognition in municipal elections.”

Murphy, a Dorchester resident and longtime public school teacher, said that a hybrid makes the most sense.

“There is value in having the mayor appoint some members, but I also see value in having some be elected... Elected members have to answer to the public more,” said

Murphy.

Gray said he would support half of the members being appointed by the mayor, but “open to a conversation on whether the second half should be elected directly by voters or should be voted on by specific groups such as the City Council, students, teachers, etc.”

“My fear is that if all of the positions are elected, certain community voices will be left out and not have a seat at the table,” he added.

Rather than returning to a fully elected body, Spillane said: “The City Council needs to be given the responsibility to approve all appointments and reappointments to the School Committee.”

District 3 City Councillor Frank Baker from Dorchester, who is running for re-election, said he’s been advocating for a hybrid committee since his first election in 2011.

“The school committee needs to be held accountable, not just by the mayor or the school department but also by the people of Boston, who trust them with their children,” said Baker. “A hybrid school committee seems like a fair way to do that. At a bare minimum, City Councillors should have confirmation powers on the school committee members.

Stephen McBride, Baker’s challenger in November, also supports a hybrid model.

“I favor having over 50 percent be elected so that a majority of the committee is responsible to the people. To ensure that partisan politics aren’t the only factor, retaining an appointed component will keep the committee grounded,” said McBride.

Out of the eight candidates qualified to appear on the ballot in the Sept. 14 primary for District 4, the seat that will be vacated by mayoral candidate Andrea Campbell, six said they would support a fully elected school committee: Evandro Carvalho,

Joel Richards, Brain Worrell, Leonard Lee, Josette Williams, and Deejo Jibril.

“I believe community leaders, residents, and youth should be able to nominate potential committee members and those nominations must be reflective of the BPS student and family body,” said Williams.

“Once members have been nominated by their community, then a board consisting of the Mayor, sitting council president, BSAC and Mayor’s youth leadership, BPS parents, community leaders and school committee alumni should be assembled as a board, to discuss and come up with the final decision.”

The City Council seat in District 7 now held by Acting Mayor Kim Janey, which includes parts of Dorchester, Roxbury and the South End, is sought after by a field of eight candidates: Brandy Brooks, Marisa Luse, Joao Depina, Lorraine Payne Wheelerm, Santiago Leon Rivera, Angelina Camacho, Roy Owens Sr., and Tania Anderson.

Anderson is on record supporting an elected school committee, saying that “residents deserve to have their voices heard.”

Brooks supports a fully elected committee, saying that “opponents of an elected School Committee have a tendency to conflate the old totally at-large elected Committee with the at-large and District School Committee that Boston voters approved in 1983.”

Camacho, who serves as a member of the Citizens Nominating Panel, said she sees “first-hand how the appointed process can serve as an example of the access that many residents demand for everyday people to have a strong voice in leadership,” and thinks the process should be left as-is.

Read full responses to the Reporter’s Election 2021 questionnaire at DotNews.com.

 **Virtual Public Meeting**

Hampden Street Development Project

Tuesday, August 31
7:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/HampdenStreet831
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 194 0274

Project Description:
BPDA-hosted Article 80 Public Meeting in connection with the proposed Hampden Street Development Project at 55 - 115 Hampden Street in the Newmarket area of Roxbury.

Please register in advance for this meeting through the registration link provided above. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom with a link to join the meeting directly.

Please be advised Spanish interpretation will be provided for this Public Meeting. Should you require interpretation in a language other than Spanish, please contact Aisling Kerr through the email address/phone number available below to submit your request.

mail to: **Aisling Kerr**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4212
email: Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304, & §5-405
Docket No. SU21P1164PM
IN THE MATTER OF: REGINA M. JORDAN of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Stephen Jordan of Jamaica Plain, MA and Shelley Oakes of Quincy, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Regina M. Jordan is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Shelley Oakes of Quincy, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With out Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this 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 **09/09/2021**. 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.
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: August 06, 2021
Published: August 19, 2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU21P1376EA
ESTATE OF:
DOROTHY A. KEVENY
A/K/A: DOROTHY KEVENY
DATE OF DEATH: March 25, 2021
SUFFOLK DIVISION
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Kristin O'Keefe Neal of LaVergne, TN, a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Kristin O'Keefe Neal of LaVergne, TN has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
Published: August 19, 2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU21C0297CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
ANA MIA TORRES CACERES
A petition to Change **Name of Adult** has been filed by Ana Mia Torres Caceres of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Leo Elias Torres
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **09/29/2021**. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 12, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: August 19, 2021

Population surge points to “significant” district changes

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

After months of pandemic-induced delays, the U.S. Census Bureau on Aug. 12 released the local-level population and demographic data from the 2020 count of the nation’s population, triggering a sprint to redraw the boundaries of the state’s legislative and Congressional districts over the coming months.

The 2020 Census counted 7,029,917 people living in Massachusetts, a 482,288-person or 7.4 percent increase over the last decade that outpaced the 4.1 percent average in the Northeast and equaled the growth rate of the country as a whole. The state’s growth has been uneven, likely requiring the western Massachusetts districts represented by U.S. Rep Richard Neal and U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern’s western/central district to be expanded in size to meet the 781,497-constituent target set by Census officials, while the footprint of eastern districts close to Boston may need to shrink or shift west.

Armed with the detailed local data showing population gains in all 10 of the largest Bay State cities -- Boston (+58,053), Worcester (+25,473), Springfield (+2,869), Lowell (+9,035), Cambridge (+13,241), New Bedford (+6,007), Brockton (+11,833), Quincy (+9,365), Lynn (+10,924) and Fall River (+5,143) -- and decreases in Holyoke (-1,642), Pittsfield (-810), North Adams (-747) and Westfield (-260), the Legislature can truly begin the process of reshaping voting districts to account for shifting population centers with a few sometimes-conflicting priorities in mind, like maximizing minority representation and protecting incumbents.

Outside the 10 most populous cities, Lawrence saw the greatest population growth (+12,766) followed by Revere (+10,431), Everett (+7,408), Haverhill (+6,908) and Malden (+6,813). Secretary of State Bill Galvin said Thursday afternoon that Massachusetts now has nine cities with more than 100,000 residents and Worcester, the state’s second-largest city, has surpassed 200,000 residents for the first time.

“We’ve had significant changes within our state. We’ve seen cities grow dramatically ... Many of the suburban communities grow as well,” Galvin, the state’s liaison to the Census, said. He added, “Particularly gratifying was seeing some of the communities that we were most concerned about, where we knew there were significant populations of non-native born persons, being fully counted. So, for instance, the city of Lawrence is now at 89,000, a dramatic gain. The city of Revere had the greatest percentage gain. The city of Chelsea, one of the concerns we constantly expressed, is now at 40,000 people. The city of New Bedford is at 102,000 people. These are all communities that, even to the last days of the Census, we were constantly struggling to make sure people were counted in those communities.”

The only two counties in Massachusetts to shed residents over the last decade were Berkshire (-2,193) and Franklin (-343). Every other county saw population growth, led by the gains of 128,917 people in Middlesex County, 75,913 people in Suffolk County and 66,670 people in Essex County. By growth percentage, Nantucket County led the way with a 40.1 percent gain (an increase of 4,083 people).

That’s at odds with the national trend, the U.S. Census Bureau said Thursday. Across the country, less than half (47 percent) of the nation’s 3,143 counties gained population over the last decade.

Galvin said the new numbers from the Census mean that Congressional districts will include 781,000 people, state Senate districts will include more than 175,000 people and state House of Representative districts will include almost 44,000 people.

“So, all of these districts are going to have to change. And there’s going to have to be some significant adjustment made,” Galvin said. “Just to take Boston because it’s the largest city as an example, Boston appears to have gained -- did gain -- 58,000 people. That means it probably would gain an additional, potentially an additional, seat in the House of Representatives.”

The Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, led by Assistant House Majority Michael Moran and Senate President Pro Tempore William Brownsberger, has already held more than 18 hearings on the redistricting process and is expected to hold more public hearings once its proposed district maps are available.

Moran told the News Service that the committee’s third-party vendor is working now to put the latest Census data into a format that meets the committee’s parameters. Once it is, lawmakers will begin diving into the numbers and digesting it with the testimony from redistricting hearings.

But he is also mindful of the Census Bureau’s plan for another data release — the Census says it will be the same data but presented in different formats— by Sept. 30. Moran said the committee has to use official Census data and “given the Census’ credibility in the last year and a half,” he is



Secretary of State William Galvin gestures to a county-level map showing the 2020 Census results while offering his first take on the local-level population and demographic data released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Sam Doran/SHNS

not considering the data released Thursday to be the official numbers.

“My job isn’t to be first on this stuff, my job is to be correct,” Moran, who led the last round of redistricting for the House, said. He added, “As far as I’m concerned and the House is concerned — and I think you’ll see Senator Brownsberger is in a similar position — our job is to get it right. And we’re going to look at these numbers when they’re in a safe space for us to look at them.”

There could be other proposed maps in the mix as well. Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr and Republican Sen. Ryan Fattman plan to oversee the redistricting process for the Senate minority caucus and are leaving their options open as they scrutinize the fresh data, a Tarr spokesman said. For the House Republicans, Rep. Paul Frost will serve as the redistricting point person.

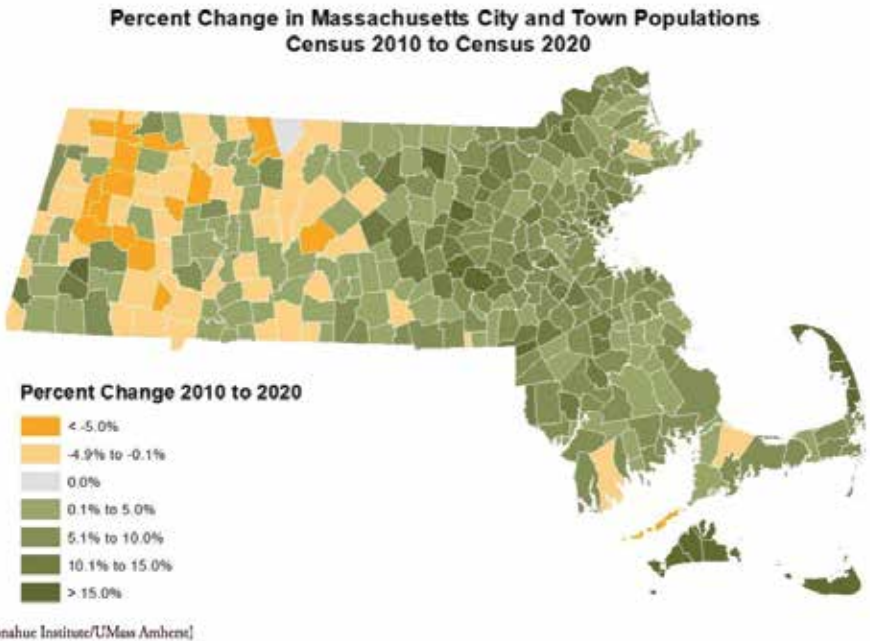
“Whether the caucus produces its own proposal will be dictated in large part by what the preliminary maps look like, but we certainly plan to offer our input throughout this important undertaking and will be working to ensure that the entire process remains open and transparent,” House Minority Leader Brad Jones said.

Shortly after the data was made available, advocates with the Drawing Democracy Coalition said they plan to use it to produce the organization’s own “unity map” that would keep communities together and ensure equitable representation for Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian-American communities, people of color, immigrants, and low-income communities. The group said it plans to eventually submit its map to the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting.

“Redistricting is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to better ensure authentic representation and open new opportunities for building power for BIPOC, immigrant and low-income communities,” the coalition said in a statement. “Especially as efforts are underway across the country to restrict access to voting, it is more important than ever to ensure that voters can elect representatives of their choice. While today’s release of the redistricting data is several months delayed, the Drawing Democracy Coalition is confident that, along with the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, we have a strong plan in place to ensure that the process remains fair and transparent and that the new district maps are approved by the November 8, 2021 deadline.”

State representatives planning to seek reelection in 2022 must reside within their district boundaries for at least one year ahead of time, making Nov. 8, 2021 a soft deadline for the new maps that would give candidates a chance to ensure they can be eligible for next year’s election.

Drawing Democracy said it has already received and shared with the Special Redistricting Committee 99 “community of interest” map submissions “providing valuable insight from local residents into what areas of their communities are most important to keep together.”



Once the group’s unity map is drafted, it will go through “extensive legal review” to make sure that it is in compliance with the Voting Rights Act, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, the Massachusetts Constitution and state laws. Drawing Democracy plans to solicit input from its coalition members at five virtual listening sessions, make any necessary tweaks and then present it to the legislative committee for consideration.

“During redistricting in 2011, the final maps approved by the legislature closely resembled the unity map presented by Drawing Democracy,” the group pointed out Thursday in its announcement.

Thursday’s data release from the U.S. Census Bureau follows its April release of congressional apportionment data, which provided total state headcounts to be used to determine each state’s number of U.S. House of Representatives seats and in funding formulas. Massachusetts added 482,288 people since the last Census in 2010, ensuring that its delegation to the U.S. House will remain the same size rather than shrinking by one as happened after the 2010 count.

But that April data was not enough to draw maps of voting districts within states because it did not get into the granular details like where in a state people live, or their age, race and ethnicity.

The redistricting data released Thursday gets down to the individual Census block, counts only residents (the apportionment data also includes “federally-affiliated” people living overseas), and includes race, ethnicity and some housing information. It became available Thursday in what the Census called a “legacy format” that states, redistricting software vendors and groups like the National Conference of State Legislatures are familiar with.

The Census plans to release the same data in manners more accessible to the public by the end of September, including through the data.census.gov platform.

Governors, state legislative leaders and any redistricting commissions around the country will get DVDs and flash drives with an integrated data browsing software by the end of next month.

But by then, the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law said, “many states are expected to start and potentially even complete their map-drawing processes.”

RECENT OBITUARIES



CALLAHAN, Michael Patrick of Dorchester, 68 passed unexpectedly, loving son of the late Donald D. (MSP) and Genevieve M. (Gillis) Callahan of Dorchester/Florida. Survived by his siblings Donald D. Callahan (BPD) and his wife Jean, Donna J., Stephen J., Daniel J. Callahan and his wife Irina all of Dorchester. Father of James F. Callahan, his wife Jess and their daughters Zoe and Piper of Arlington. Loving uncle of Danielle, Nicole, Melissa, Elizabeth, Elena and Boris Callahan. Mike was a good athlete and exceptional carpenter. He was a true craftsman who was most proud of his work in Florida and the Carolinas, rebuilding houses due to flood and hurricane damage. He loved the woods and the beach where he was always with one of his many dogs.



CAMPBELL, Claire T. (Yeager) Age 88, a resident of Avon for the past 50 years, August 5, native of Dorchester, daughter of the late Edward & Catherine (Feeney) Yeager; devoted to her family & home, Claire loved thrifting. She enjoyed day trips, visiting Maine, Carson Beach, her old Dorchester neighborhood, & the ocean. Claire was the wife of the late Joseph E. Campbell; mother of the late Catherine L. Campbell; beloved grandmother of Joseph

Hannan (& Meredith Fields) of Avon; loving mother-in-law of Jerry Hannan; longtime companion of the late Carl Buckner; sister of the late Robert & Edward Yeager. Private burial.



DIGGIN, Gerard M. "Bubba" Of Holbrook, formerly of Norwood and Braintree, and originally from Dorchester (OFD), passed away unexpectedly on August 11 at the age of 67. Born and bred in Dorchester, he graduated from So. Boston High School. He had worked for many years as a computer technician for Sun Life Insurance company, prior to his retirement. Bubba was an avid Boston sports fan who had season tickets to the Patriots for many years. Bubba had many lifelong friends, along with his family who were blessed to know him and will sorely miss him. Bubba was the son of the late Edward and Alice (Thornton) Diggin. Devoted brother of Michael Diggin and his wife Charlotte of Scituate, Kathleen Cahalane and her husband James of Walpole, John Diggin of Holbrook and the late Joseph Diggin and Edward Diggin. Dear "Uncle Bubba" to Jennifer, Paul, Melissa, Kristina, Elizabeth, Jessica, Erin, Greg, Edward, Daniel and Sean.



LENANE, Michael Of Dorchester, died suddenly on August 10, 2021. Beloved father

of Micayla M. and her husband Ryan Bickerton of Dorchester and Michael Lenane and his fiance Casey Gover of Dorchester. Devoted "Papa" of Mallory, Jack, and Graham Bickerton. Son of the late Gerald F. Lenane, Sr. and Joan E. (Coughlin) Lenane. Loving brother of Deborah and her husband William O'Neill of Cohasset, Robert Lenane of South Boston, Jay and his wife DeeDee Lenane of Dedham, Joanne and her husband James Moore of South Carolina, Karen and her husband John Admirand of Marshfield, and the late Gerald F. Lenane, Jr. and Donna Marie Lenane. Michael is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was a pressman at the Boston Globe for over 30 years, and especially enjoyed playing golf, watching movies, and spending time with his family.



SULLIVAN, Patricia A. (McGuinness) Of Milton, formerly of Dorchester and Plympton, died August 7. Beloved wife of the late John "Franny" Sullivan. Loving mother of Kevin M. and his wife Jeanine A. Sullivan of Canton, Kathleen M. Sullivan of Hawaii, and Daniel F. and his wife Allison L. Sullivan of New Hampshire. Devoted "Grammy" of Olivia Katherine Sullivan, Kalili Rose Sullivan Kinney, and the late Declan Harrison Sullivan. Sister Bernice McGuinness of Medford and the late Marion Patch. Sister-in-law of Nancy Cronin of Quincy, and the late Paul Sullivan, Eleanor Rota, and Thomas Sullivan. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Patricia was a retired employee of State Street Bank for

over 20 years and Ryder Bus Company for over 15 years, and a volunteer advocate for learning disabled children and participated in the senior Olympics in the swim competition.



WALSH, Joseph J. Of Plymouth, Massachusetts and Palm Harbor, Florida, formerly of Dorchester, died peacefully surrounded by his loving family on August 10. Beloved son of the late Dudley and Mary (McDonnell) Walsh. Devoted husband to Patricia (Murphy) Walsh. Dear brother of Mary Collins of Weymouth and her late husband, James. Loving father of Tara and her husband Jonathan Russell and Fiona and her husband Frank Grosso, both of North Wales, Pennsylvania. Cherished "Grandad" of Sean, Mollie, Declan and Clare. Joe is also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Joe was an avid Boston sports fan and particularly loved the Boston Red Sox. He enjoyed following the stock market, Irish music, telling jokes and spending his winters in Florida.



COLEMAN, Lorraine M. Of Plymouth and formerly of Dorchester and Milton, died peacefully at the Dr. Ruth McLain Hospice in Braintree, MA on Friday, August 13. Lorraine was born in Boston, the third child of Margaret (McLaughlin)

and Joseph F. Coleman, a Boston Fireman. She used to say that she was a sickly child, but she lived to be 97 years old—longer than her three siblings. She went to Dorchester schools and lived in Dorchester most of her life. She was the kindest most generous person, always asking if she could help with anything, and would give you \$5 if she only had \$5, if she thought you needed it more. After completing high school, she worked at the Federal Reserve Bank, Estabrook & Co, Burlington Industries, Wilson CO, Thurman Wool Co, and Channel 5. She retired from the local UAW office. She traveled throughout the United States and Europe with her two friends, Kaye Rehs and Barbara Welch who both predeceased her. Her siblings who predeceased her were Joseph F. Coleman of Holbrook, Virginia M. Kennedy of Milton, & Stephanie Novell of Woodstock, GA. When Lorraine retired, she went to live with her sister Virginia Kennedy in Milton. A devout Catholic, she attended St. Agatha Church from 1986 through 2019 when she and her niece Jeanne moved to Plymouth. She leaves many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Georgia, North Carolina, and West Palm Beach, Florida. A Private Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Saint Agatha Church. Burial Milton Cemetery. Donations in Lorraine's memory can be made to: Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley St., West Bridgewater, MA 02379 or via oldcolonyhospice.org For further information or to leave the Coleman family a condolence message, please visit dolanfuneral.com.



LIND, Catherine D. "Kay" Of Hingham, formerly of Cotuit, died peacefully on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. She was 99. Born in Dorchester on February 7, 1922, she was the

daughter of the late Michael and Theresa O'Hare, both formerly of Co. Clare, Ireland, and was raised in Belmont. She graduated from Regis College, Class of 1943, where she made lifelong friends. Kay was a fifth grade teacher with Billerica Public Schools for many years, retiring in 1984 to spend more time with her family. In her early years, Kay loved summers at Hampton Beach, being captain of the girls' basketball team at Belmont High, and skiing at Mt. Cranmore. She continued an active life while raising her family. In later years, Kay volunteered at her church and library, enjoyed winters in Naples, FL, and traveled abroad. Throughout her life, Kay had an immense love for her family, her Irish heritage, and her many, many friends. She was full of gratitude for her full and beautiful life. Kay was the beloved wife of the late Frank A. Lind, who died in 2003. They shared 57 loving years of marriage. She was the devoted mother of Amy L. Corbett (William) of Winchester, Anne L. Marcks (Kent) of Hingham, Betsy Mellors (Robert) of Hingham, Robert J. Lind (Barbara Hough) of Dorchester, Paula Bitner (John) of Boston, and the late Susan J. Lind (KC Mitkevicius) of Newton. Kay was the loving grandmother of 14 and great-grandmother of 17. She was the dear sister of Ann O. Smith of Watertown, the late Sister Jeanne d'Arc O'Hare, CSJ, the late Margaret B. O'Hare, and the late John F. O'Hare. Kay is also survived by her brother-in-law, Rev. Msgr. Joseph G. Lind of Boston, and her dear nieces and nephews. Visiting hours were held on Monday, August 16 in Hingham.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, August 16 at St. Paul's Church, Hingham at 10 AM. private interment will be at a later date. Memorial contributions may be sent to: St. Vincent de Paul Center - Christ the King Parish, 4463 Falmouth Rd., Cotuit, MA 02635. See www.Keohane.com for directions and online condolences.

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