

Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons, a native of South Boston, faces hometown backlash

By DEBORAH BECKER
WBUR

As Massachusetts proposes action to rein in federal immigration agents, the Boston native who now leads them is under scrutiny. People who know Todd Lyons from his days working in the state say he's taking a harder line than he once did.

Before he became acting director of US Customs and Immigration Enforcement last year, he ran enforcement and removal operations at the agency's Boston office. In President Trump's first term, Lyons had said that ICE was improving public safety, using specialized officers and fo-

cusing on dangerous criminals.

In a 2020 interview with WBUR, Lyons had said he wanted to change the perception that agents were targeting non-criminal immigrants. "We're painted with a very broad brush in a very bad way," he said. "I think by us getting out there and showing the public safety threat that we can work on and what we actually do — and that we're not rounding up everyday people just going about their business."

Haitian TPS holders get
reprieve — for now: Page 4

But since taking the top job in Washington, Lyons has led national ICE operations that have deployed aggressive tactics in cities across the country, including around his hometown of Boston.

The Trump administration's crack-down has drawn widespread public outrage and recently has faced criticism even by some in law enforcement, after federal agents fatally shot two US citizens in Minneapolis.

In Massachusetts, Gov. Maura Healey has filed legislation and issued an executive order to curtail some of ICE's operations in the state. ICE did not respond (Continued on page 15)



Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons took questions at a press conference during a month-long immigration enforcement surge in Massachusetts last June. Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

MY GOODNESS, MY SPOT



Space savers have long been a part of life in Boston's neighborhoods, but someone on Richmond Street in Lower Mills may have been pondering a snowstorm in the after-life when re-purposing this stout-guzzling character and his porch furniture to preserve a hard-won parking spot in Lower Mills last week. For much more on the ever evolving arsenal of space savers in Boston's neighborhoods, see Pages 16-17. Photo courtesy Lower Mills resident

Red Line fleet was frozen in place by winter temps and trade dispute leading to US hold on new car parts

By CHRIS LOVETT
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

At Gov. Maura Healey's State of the Commonwealth address on Jan. 17, the MBTA and her administration's pick for general manager, Phillip Eng, won a standing ovation. Within ten days, in the frigid aftermath of a two-day snowstorm, the MBTA's Red Line service—despite almost three years of recovery—was being rated at its worst level in eight years, and a former state transportation official was calling for emergency steps to break the impasse on long-awaited replacements for the line's aging trains.

After almost two decades of periodic campaigns for recovery and improvement, the MBTA in 2026 is still vulnerable to weather, and increasingly buffeted by stiffening headwinds in global trade.

The storm on Jan. 25-26 dropped two feet of snow on Dorchester, with the worst service disruptions on the Red Line, and more limited problems on the Mattapan-Ashmont trolley line.



A old Red Line train as seen in a snowy Fields Corner MBTA station platform on Jan. 29, 2022 The Red Line fleet largely comprises older rolling stock that performs poorly in cold temps. Chris Lovett photo

Though many US transit systems were hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath, the Red Line has been plagued by winter service troubles that even predate the MBTA's near system-wide shutdown in 2015, which was triggered by a barrage of storms that hit Boston with a record snowfall of more than 100 inches.

According to the advocacy group TransitMatters, service on the Red Line, normally at 80-95 percent of scheduled levels, plunged

dramatically after last weekend's storm. On Jan. 26-28, service levels were between 29 and 38 percent, climbing to 67 percent by Jan. 30, before regaining normal levels over the past weekend.

In Twitter posts for Jan. 27 and 28, the MBTA alerted riders to Red Line delays and "residual delays" of anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes. Most were caused by disabled trains, but one hold-up caused by a train near Ashmont Station on Jan. 28

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Boston Uncornered's new leader was once a target of the program

By CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

Francisco DePina has a vivid memory of the moment his life changed. He was running down Dorchester's Norton Street in pursuit of a rival gang member. He was out for revenge, a gun in his hand.

Then he heard someone shouting his name from the porch of the Log School on the corner of Bowdoin Street. "I looked and saw Bob on the porch, and I ran back down the street. I'm telling everybody, 'Oh, I'm about to go to jail,'" DePina said.

"But nobody showed up. A few days later, I walked up the street, and it was like Bob was sitting there waiting for me."

Bob Flynn, a GED instructor at what was then College Bound Dorchester and is now called Boston Uncornered—knew what DePina was up to that day, but rather than calling the cops and having DePina locked up behind one door, he opened another one and invited him into the world of the College Bound program.

On Jan. 1, DePina—who has worked his way up from entry-level

jobs in the organization—became its first-ever president.

Uncornered provides people who are engaged in street violence with educational resources, mental health and spiritual support, and work that can change the trajectory of entire families, communities, and cities.

Co-founded by Michelle Caldeira and Mark Culliton, Uncornered's mission is to eliminate violence by working with Boston's most violent, disruptive, and neglected residents.

"I pay shooters to stop



Boston Uncornered's first president Francisco DePina. Courtesy photo shooting," DePina told The Reporter. "We're solely going after the one percent who are responsible for 80 percent of homicides and shootings in the city. With everything else that's been talked about and invested in, like healthcare, childcare, education, for all (Continued on page 18)

Night time I-93 work vexes residents, electeds

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Neighbors and elected leaders are pushing state highway officials to alter plans for a \$21-million repair project on a Dorchester stretch of the I-93 expressway that is set to start in April and continue for the next two years.

The project, which was made public last week, was a hot topic at Monday evening's meeting of Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association (CSHCA). In particular, residents are concerned that the project—which is focused near Columbia Road's on and off ramps at JFK/UMass station—will mainly include noisy work

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All contents
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Police, Courts & Fire

The Boston Police Department is seeking the public’s assistance in locating Mela Rosario, 17, who was reported missing from her residence on Thornley Street in Dorchester on Jan. 29.

She “has not returned home or been in contact with family since approximately 11:30 a.m. earlier that day,” police reported. “She was last seen in the vicinity of the Brockton Family Courthouse following a scheduled court appearance and was expected to return home by 10 p.m.”

She is described as approximately 5-foot-1 inch tall, with brown skin, a medium build, brown eyes, and brown, medium-length hair with a blonde streak. She was last seen wearing a pink jacket, black leggings, brown Ugg boots, and glasses with clear black frames.

BPD urges anyone with information regarding her whereabouts to call 911 or contact District C-11 Detectives at 617-343-4335.



Two people suspected of breaking into a garage on the Carney Hospital campus on Sat., Jan. 26, are being sought by Boston Police, who posted an image showing them and asking for the public’s help.



“The individuals reportedly used a tool to access the rear door of the Boston EMS bay” around 3:20 p.m. - only to be promptly confronted by EMTs who made them scam before they could take anything, police said. Although the hospital itself was shuttered in August 2024, Boston EMS still uses a bay to house the P3 paramedic ambulance and its staff.

Police say, “The first suspect is described as a white male, in his late 20’s with a slim build, long brown hair, and a mustache. He was seen wearing glasses and a green Carhartt jacket.

“The second suspect was described as a white female, in her late 20’s, with a slim build, medium length dirty blonde hair. She was seen wearing a black North Face jacket and blue jeans.”

If they look familiar, you can call detectives at 617-343-4335 or contact the anonymous tip line by calling 800-494-TIPS or by texting TIP to CRIME (27463).

Two men were arrested— one of them an 18-year-old who was allegedly carrying a Smith & Wesson handgun on him— after a late night car stop near Four Corners last Sunday (Feb. 1). The 28-year-old operator of the car was arrested for driving with a suspended license. The other young man— who was said to be carrying the gun with an obliterated serial number and nine rounds in a loaded magazine— was to be arraigned this week in Dorchester court.

MBTA buys Polish Triangle site that sits next to Red Line tracks

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

With an eye toward operational expansions, the MBTA spent \$9.8 million last month to buy a former industrial site next to the Red Line tracks on the South Boston-Dorchester line.

The Jan. 9 transaction involving property at 71 Von Hillern St. includes a vacant 58,591-square-foot building listed in a limited liability corporation controlled by W. Scott Tregoning, of Florida, and Lori Tregoning Donnellan, of Hingham that once housed busi-



Photo shows property that the MBTA has purchased for its expansion plans.

nesses like Trexor Wire and Cable, First Electronics Corp., and M&J Trading.

MBTA’s Red Line operations,” the agency noted in a statement and added, “The previous owner listed the property for sale after it became vacant.”

The site, which is only feet from the Red Line tracks and an existing MBTA maintenance and operations yard, is uniquely suited to expand in the area so that it is less constrained and to more easily responsive to service needs on the line, the statement said.

The property, which has an active truck pad, is also adjacent to I-93. Being next to active commuter rail tracks and the major Red Line junction at JFK/UMass Station makes it well suited for expanded transit operations.

New fare gates at South Station have been taken out of service

A little more than a month after they first went into use, the fare gates at South Station were out of service Monday and covered with tarps and shrink wrap.

The MBTA referred questions to its commuter rail operator Keolis Commuter Services, where a spokesperson said that the gates were “taken out of service last week in the wake of a major winter storm that delivered heavy snow accumulations and bitter cold temperatures.” He did not respond to a follow-up asking what about the storm required the fare gates to be taken offline.

“Keolis and [fare gate manufacturer] Scheidt & Bachmann are assessing the impacts from the snow and taking necessary actions to return the gates to service,” the spokesman said.

The fare gates are located outside, under the new residential and office tower being built on top of the station. While they



The idle fare gates at the tracks at South Station.

are under cover, they are exposed to the bitter cold that has affected some of the T’s train and subway operations over the last week.

On Monday morning, the gates were left wide open to let passengers through without scanning a ticket. Users on Reddit were posting Saturday about the gates similarly being out of use and covered.

The T began on Dec. 30 to require commuter rail passengers to tap or scan a train ticket to enter the track area at South Station and to require

change caused frustration for some commuters, but the T phased in their use and did not have all gates active on all days over the last month.

Fare gates went into use at North Station in 2022, and more are expected at Back Bay and Ruggles stations in 2026.

When the South Station gates were introduced, MBTA General Manager Phil Eng said it marked “another demonstration to our riders that we are committed to ensuring fares are collected and reinvested into the transit system to better serve the public.”

—COLIN A. YOUNG
SHNS

February 5, 2026

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The **Cedar Grove Civic Association** meets next Wednesday (Feb. 11) at 7 p.m. at the McKeon Post, 4 Hill Top Street. More info at cedargrovecivic.com.

UMass Boston will host a community meeting on Thurs., Feb. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Integrated Science Complex, 100 Morrissey Blvd., for updates on campus highlights, 2026 planes, safety, traffic, and community partnerships. Light refreshments will be served.

Voting for Ideas into Action, the city’s participatory budgeting initiative, is now open. More than 1,200 ideas were submitted earlier this year. Boston residents can vote until Feb. 15 to select their top

five projects to help guide how \$2.2 million of the city’s budget will be spent on community-driven projects across the city. Go to boston.gov/departments/participatory-budgeting/ideas-action to vote. The Boston Planning Department will be sharing **updates and engagement opportunities** with the public online and via email beginning this month. Please subscribe to the mailing list at bosplans.org/GetInvolved.

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate plans a **free open house** on Tues., Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with programming planned throughout the day. Register at emkinstitute.org.

The **Mayor’s Youth Summit** is set for Sat., Feb. 21, at 3 p.m. at Artists for Humanity in South Boston. Go to boston.gov/youth-summit for info.

Mayor Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Franklin Park Coalition, will host the **2026 Winter Festival at Franklin Park**, a free, family-friendly celebration on Feb. 19, 20, and 21. The event features music, dancing, crafts, giveaways, winter recreation, and programming with the Boston Park Rangers. Attractions throughout the festival will include a synthetic ice skating rink, inflatables, winter activities, and opportunities to explore Boston’s largest

park and meet members of the Boston Park Rangers Mounted Unit. See boston.gov/winterfest for more info.

The Boston Public Quartet will stage its third annual **A Radical Welcome concert** at the Strand Theatre on March 22, at 3 p.m. A set of three of quintets written by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Amy Beach, and Somerville-based composer Melika M. Fitzhugh will be featured. Go to bostonpublicquartet.com for info and tickets.

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Red Line fleet frozen in place by winter temps, trade dispute

(Continued from page 1)

was compounded by a frozen switch that prevented a bypass for other trains. By 8:26 p.m. that day, the MBTA’s estimated time spans reports were replaced by a more general Twitter advisory: “Riders will continue to experience longer wait times due to reduced service on the Red Line after the winter storm.”

Seth Kaplan, the co-lead for the TransitMatters labs, ranked last week’s 52 percent of scheduled service on the Red Line as the lowest since the 43 percent in February 2017, after 15 inches of snow. On Jan. 28 of this year, after the city’s eighth-highest recorded snowfall, the line had only six sets of trains in operation.

One factor in the breakdowns singled out by Kaplan was the US government’s halt in the shipment of parts for new Red Line cars that were being assembled in Springfield, Massachusetts by a subsidiary of the Chinese state-owned China Railway Rolling Stock Corp. (CRRC), the world’s largest producer of passenger rail cars. Most leading global producers of railcars are based in Asia or Europe.

“Last week’s 29 percent service low is a direct symptom of a stalled fleet replacement,” Kaplan observed in an email response. “We are trying to run a major transit line using 30- to 50-year-old trains that are physically incapable of handling a Boston winter. Every day the CRRC contract remains stalled is a day we gamble with the commute of thousands. Until those new cars arrive, the Red Line will remain at the mercy of the thermometer.”

The MBTA’s deputy chief operating officer, Deirdre Habershaw, said this week that steps are already underway to prevent hold-ups caused by frozen switches and rail ties. “We are working through with vehicle maintenance if there’s anything that we can do on the older fleet in terms of components that we might be able to upgrade,” Habershaw added. “But we’re really in early days of that as we continue to look at the likelihood of receiving new cars.”

Habershaw also noted that new CRRC cars on the Red and Orange Line performed well after the storm, despite earlier problems. “They’re outperforming their contract or the requirements in their contract in terms of mean miles between failure,” she reported. “And when our car count was extremely low last week on the Red Line, we were predominantly running the [new] Red Line cars.”

The MBTA’s deputy press secretary, Lisa Battiston, said the agency is “really committed to working with CRRC on getting more of the new Red Line cars,” but only 60 of the 252 cars on order had been put into service as of January.

According to initial reporting in Contrarian Boston, the shipments of parts for the new trains were confiscated last year by Customs and Border Protection on grounds that they violated a US law meant to protect China’s ethnic minorities from being placed into forced labor. According to WGBH, CRRC’s subsidiary in the US maintained that it was in compliance with the law.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, concerns were raised in 2019 about cybersecurity vulnerabilities of CRRC trains when the firm was trying to secure a contract with the subway system in New York City. Among those expressing concerns were members of Congress, including a high-ranking Democrat and current Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer.

CRRC had secured contracts to build trains for systems in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Los Angeles in the five years or so before 2019, with the MBTA awarding the contract for new Red and Orange Line cars in 2014. But CRRC’s claims of compliance with US law have been disputed by the Rail Security Alliance (RSA), a trade group representing the manufacturing segment of the North American rail industry for freight cars



One of the 60 (of 252 ordered) new Red Line cars is ready for a run to the next stop. Chris Lovett photo

and railcar components.

Last March, in a letter to the US Trade Representative, RSA reiterated its call for including rail in Trump administration tariffs on Chinese goods. “We deeply appreciated President Trump’s focus on Chinese bad actors during his first term,” the group wrote, “and were proud to work alongside his administration to start the process of blocking CRRC from further entering the North American market.”

Last October, the RSA hailed a Trump administration investigation of a 2019 trade agreement with China. In a Feb. 2 letter, the RSA also opposed CRRC contracts in Europe, accusing the company and a subsidiary of benefitting from “massive Chinese state subsidies, below-market pricing, and anti-competitive tactics.”

According to the Commonwealth Beacon, concerns about human rights violations by the CRRC’s forerunner were raised by former state Rep. Byron Rushing (D-South End) as early as 2014, when the state’s contract was announced by former governor Deval Patrick and his transportation secretary, former MBTA general manager Richard Davey.

Within weeks of succeeding Patrick as governor, Charlie Baker was faced with a collapse in MBTA service triggered by the record snowfall of 2015. According to *The Boston Globe*, a leading factor in the breakdowns was that train motors were still running on direct current, an older technology more vulnerable to moisture from snow that had already been phased out by many other US transit systems.

Baker formed a commission that later called for reforms and new investment in the MBTA for repairs, upgrades, and expansion. But serious problems in the system had already been cited during Patrick’s first term, in the 2009 “MBTA Review,” whose lead author was David F. D’Alessandro, the former chairman and CEO of John Hancock.

When D’Alessandro’s report was released, one-third of the Red Line fleet was already 40 years old, having outrun its “useful life” by 15 years. By 2015, another 27 percent had outrun its span, as had the entire fleet by 2019.

Jim Aloisi, a consultant, author, MIT professor, and transportation secretary under Patrick, reflected in an email on Monday about setbacks in the subway car procurement process under the current governor and her predecessor. As reported in recent years, the process had also been slowed by production problems and supply chain gaps resulting from the pandemic.

“Despite best and good faith efforts, there seems no end to barriers to the timely delivery of new subway cars. At some point, the state needs to assess

the heavy cost of further delay,” Aloisi wrote, arguing for possible legal action to break the impasse, as well as emergency legislation.

“Sometimes you have to cut your losses and move on – and we may well be there with this procurement,” he concluded. “I am thinking of a two-pronged effort: Have the legislature enact into law emergency legislation that makes a new Red Line train procurement fast and efficient, exempting it from the usual procurement rules that tend to take too much time. Put money from the Millionaire Tax on the table and fast-track a new procurement with a new provider. Treat this like the emergency situation it is.”

Habershaw acknowledged that the MBTA was contending with a “complex global situation” that “extends beyond the current administration,” she said, “and I think we are trying at the ‘T’ to work the best we can through our legislative channels to advocate for what we need, but there is no simple solution.”

A Red Line commuter who lives in Dorchester, Habershaw also compared the current state of the MBTA to its year-round struggles three years ago, with more slow zones for trains and longer waits for riders.

“It has been life changing for me personally and for my family in terms of getting home earlier, a shorter commute, more reliable,” she said. “Even in the storm, we did preemptively shut down Mattapan because of how the trolley has challenges in the adverse weather, but our track department managed very well to remove that snow and get the trolley back into service pretty quickly.”

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Collins, Fluker-Reid lead coalition urging TPS extension for Haitians

A group of Massachusetts legislators led by Sen. Nick Collins and Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid last week urged federal officials to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals ahead of a Feb. 3 deadline that would end the designation for more than 350,000 people now living legally in the US.

The letter, authored by Collins and Fluker-Reid,

was addressed to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, US Senate Majority Leader John Thune, and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. It was co-signed by more than 70 other lawmakers, including State Sen. Liz Miranda and state Reps. Dan Hunt, Rep. Chris Worrell, Rep. Russell Holmes, and Rep. John Moran.

“The Haitian community is woven into the fabric of Massachusetts,” Collins said in a statement making the letter public last week. “They are our neighbors, colleagues, caregivers, and contributors to our Commonwealth. There is no justification to end TPS for Haiti given the facts on the ground. Not only would it be inhumane, but our state, our

economy, and especially our health care system would suffer a massive blow if TPS for Haiti is not extended.”

In the letter, Collins and Fluker-Reid urge Congressional leaders to take action to extend the TPS designation if Noem failed to act.

“The prospect of terminating TPS for Haiti would place more than 300,000 individuals na-

tionwide at risk of return to a country that the United States government itself continues to recognize as unsafe,” the letter noted.

“The US Department of State has issued its highest-level travel advisories for Haiti, citing widespread gang violence, political instability, kidnappings, and the collapse of basic infrastructure, including

health care and public safety systems. Humanitarian organizations report that large portions of the country remain inaccessible and that conditions necessary for safe return do not exist. Forcing individuals to return under these circumstances would expose them to serious harm.”

-REPORTER STAFF

Haitian TPS holders get reprieve – for now – via US court ruling

BY REPORTER, SHNS STAFF

The state’s elected officials on Monday night celebrated a federal judge’s decision to stay the Trump administration’s plan to end Haiti’s Temporary Protected Status (TPS), applauding its impact on Haitian workers and families here in Massachusetts. The administration reportedly plans to appeal the ruling.

The decision, out of the US District Court for the District of Columbia, came on the eve of the scheduled end to Haiti’s TPS, which was set to expire Tuesday.

The ruling by Judge Ana Reyes represents a “resounding win for the tens of thousands of hardworking Haitian TPS recipients in Massachusetts who deserve fairness, dignity and opportunity,” Attorney General Andrea Campbell said in a statement, noting the key role that Haitian residents play in health care and elder care across the state.

At a hearing in Boston on Jan. 20, US Sen. Ed Markey and Reps. Ayanna Pressley and Seth Moulton knocked the administration’s plan to let TPS expire for Haitian immigrants, saying it would put roughly 350,000 people nationwide—including about 45,000 in Massachusetts—at risk of deportation. Pressley, of Boston, said that her district “represents the third largest Haitian diaspora in the country.”

Markey said this on Monday evening: “Today’s ruling is a victory for the roughly 350,000 Haitian TPS holders whose status was set to expire tomorrow. By providing safe haven to those who cannot return home safely, TPS embodies the American promise as a land of freedom and refuge. Haitian TPS holders are deeply rooted in our Massachusetts communities—from Mattapan to Brockton. They are our friends, our family members, our neighbors, our colleagues. I will keep fighting to protect the Haitian community.”

TPS is granted to people from countries facing conflict, natural disaster, or other extraordinary conditions.

Gov. Maura Healey’s office said on



Pictured at a press conference in Mattapan’s Jubilee Christian Center on Jan. 20 were, from left, State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid, Congressman Seth Moulton, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Senator Ed Markey. *Reporter file photo*

Monday night that it planned to “immediately” notify employers across the state that Haitian TPS holders remain eligible to work.

“Tonight, Haitian families across our state and country can breathe a sigh of relief. Many Haitian TPS holders have been in the United States since as early as 2010,” Healey said in a statement. “If President Trump had his way, thousands of nurses, home health aides, and other essential employees would not have been able to work tomorrow, and patients and families who are dependent on caregivers would have suffered.”

Boston City Councillor Ruthzee Louijeune hailed the ruling in a statement. “We are relieved for now and breathing a bit easier,” she said. “As we’ve said time and time again, ending TPS would be devastating for Haitian families and a serious blow to Boston’s economy.”

“The judge recognized what our communities have been living every day: the vital contributions TPS holders make through the billions of dollars they pay in taxes and the essential work they do.

They are part of our communities in every way—neighbors, hospital workers, business owners, and so much more.

Louijeune added: “The Trump Administration’s attempt to end TPS is cruel and destabilizing, ignoring the real human and economic harm it would cause. Since the ruling, my office has been flooded with calls and texts from constituents expressing relief. This is one step forward, but we will continue fighting until Haitian families have the permanent stability they deserve.”

In her ruling, Judge Reyes noted a racially motivated animus against Haitians in the Trump White House: “President Trump has referred to Haiti as a ‘shithole country,’ suggested Haitians ‘probably have AIDS,’ and complained that Haitian immigration is ‘like a death wish for our country.’ He has also promoted the false conspiracy theory that Haitian immigrants were ‘eating the pets of the people’ in Springfield, Ohio. Even after that (ridiculous) claim was debunked, he claimed they were eating ‘other things too that they’re not supposed to be.’”

“About two weeks after the Termination, he again described Haiti as a ‘filthy, dirty, [and] disgusting... shithole country.’ He stated: ‘I have also announced a permanent pause on Third World migration, including from hellholes like Afghanistan, Haiti, Somalia and many other countries.’ Then continued, ‘Why is it we only take people from shithole countries, right? Why cannot we have some people from Norway, Sweden, just a few, let us have a few, from Denmark.’

“It is not a coincidence that Haiti’s population is ninety-five percent black while Norway’s is over ninety percent white,” Reyes wrote.

Advocates of the administration’s decision have said it is part of a broader push to enforce immigration laws and return TPS to its original temporary intent, with the Department of Homeland Security arguing that permitting Haitian nationals to remain temporarily in the United States “is contrary to the national interest.”

Said a DHS spokesperson in a June announcement about the termination of the status, “This decision restores integrity in our immigration system and ensures that Temporary Protective Status is actually temporary,”

Brian Concannon, the executive director of the Marshfield-based Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, told WBUR that he worries the reprieve for Haitians under TPS could be brief with the administration widely expected to appeal.

“Supreme Court, here we come,” DHS spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin wrote in a social media post responding to the ruling on Monday night.

The government could file an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court via the “shadow docket,” which it has used this term to bypass lower appeals courts.

“They may seek to have the Supreme Court issue a stay of the judge’s injunction,” Concannon told WBUR. “If they do that, then TPS will be ended for Haitians as soon as the Supreme Court can issue that order.”

Reporter staff added to the original report by Michael P. Norton of State House News Service.

What the US judge said from the bench

Following are excerpts from US District Court Judge Ana C. Reyes’s decision.

On December 2, 1783, then-Commander-in-Chief George Washington penned: “America is open to receive not only the Opulent & respected Stranger, but the oppressed & persecuted of all Nations & Religions.” More than two centuries later, Congress reaffirmed President Washington’s vision by establishing the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program. It provides humanitarian relief to foreign nationals in the United States who come from disaster-stricken countries. It also brings in substantial revenue, with TPS holders generating \$5.2 billion in taxes annually.

Plaintiffs charge that Secretary Noem preordained her termination decision and did so because of hostility to nonwhite immigrants. This seems substantially likely... Her conclusion that



Ana C. Reyes

Haiti (a majority nonwhite country) faces merely “concerning” conditions cannot be squared with the “perfect storm of suffering” and “staggering” “humanitarian toll” described in page-after-page of the Certified Administrative Record (CAR).

She ignored Congress’s requirement that she “review the conditions” in Haiti only “after” consulting “with appropriate agencies.” Indeed, she did not consult other agencies at all.

Her “national interest” analysis focuses on Haitians outside the United States or here illegally, ignoring that Haitian TPS holders already live here, and legally so. And though she states that the analysis must include “economic considerations,” she ignores altogether the billions Haitian TPS holders contribute to the economy...

Kristi Noem has a First Amendment right to call immigrants killers, leeches, entitlement junkies, and any other inapt name she wants. Secretary Noem, however, is constrained by our Constitution ... to apply faithfully the facts to the law in implementing the TPS program. The record to-date shows she has yet to do that.

Night time I-93 work vexes residents, electeds

(Continued from page 1)

between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m., in close proximity to many homes. MassDOT officials awarded the contract to McCourt Construction last month.

“It’s a two-year project to fix the problems and good for them,” said civic president Bill Walczak. “The problem for us is they plan on doing construction between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. We have to stop that. If they’re going to work on it they can’t do it when people are trying to sleep...There’s no way people are going to tolerate work overnight for more than two years.”

Boston Collegiate Charter School’s lower campus will be one of the abutters most impacted by the project. In a statement to The Reporter, a spokesperson said the school wasn’t aware of the plan.

“One of Boston Collegiate’s main school parking lots is under the overpass where work will take place, and several of our classrooms are situated directly beside the highway,” read the statement. “We are concerned about possible disruptions to staff parking and



A state highway project long in the works for I-93 abutting Columbia/ Savin Hill surprised many by moving quickly to the construction phase this spring. *Seth Daniel photo*

student learning.”

At this point, MassDOT said in a statement sent to The Reporter on Tuesday, it “plans to proceed with overnight work on this project to minimize traffic impacts on I-93 and nearby roads and will keep all abutters informed throughout the construction process. In addition, the contractor will

implement noise controls to limit disruptions to nearby residents.”

State Rep. Dan Hunt and state Sen. Nick Collins say they will be working to change that decision.

Hunt said that many people were unaware of the project, but that it has been planned for more than 10 years.

“I was a little surprised,” he said. “We’ve been talking about this project a long time, but normally there would be some sort of public notice.”

“My strong feelings and desire is to always have a robust community process, and we want to meet with the project manager and Highway Commissioner to express our

concerns about overnight work, lights, and noise. It’s work that needs to be done, but not to the detriment of neighbors and the neighborhood.”

Collins told the civic association members that he and Hunt were in early meetings with MassDOT about alternatives.

“We are meeting with them to find out the options,” he said. “Usually they have a plan A, B, and C and we’re talking with them about what those other options might be. They’re feeling like this time is the most beneficial for their workforce and everyone is asleep, but it won’t help people in the neighborhood to sleep next to this work. I can’t promise anything but we’re meeting with them.”

The work, while not glamorous, is seen as necessary to keep the I-93 corridor safe. It focuses on repairing existing bridge deck joints to eliminate water leaks into the steel structures below – which can be observed from the ground to be heavily rusted and worn. Work is expected to be completed by fall 2028.

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Teachers fear special education staffing is in peril as BPS budget trims play out

BY YAWU MILLER
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Weeks in advance of this week’s announcement of the Boston Public Schools budget, schools had begun receiving notices of impending cuts — \$1.6 million at the Curley K-8 in Jamaica Plain, eight-to-ten teaching positions at Brighton High, nine positions at the Roosevelt K-8 in Hyde Park. In total, the district could lay off as many as 400 staff, a BPS official told *The Boston Globe* last week.

The projected cuts have come as no surprise — the district’s budget is projected to be short by \$53 million for this year – and more budget trimming could be on the way with the Trump administration expected to slash Department of Education funding and the Massachusetts budget expected to take a hit from the loss of an estimated \$3.7 billion in federal funding.

Like other school districts with a large percentage of immigrant students, Boston’s, which last year announced the closure of five schools, has seen its student population shrink, with a drop of more than 1,600 last year from 2024. Teachers from two schools reached this week by The Reporter say the hits to their students will significantly impact their ability to provide adequate instruction to students with special needs.

“Any time a school loses staffing, we lose the ability to have flexible groups, small groups, and more support for students,” said Danielle West, a teacher at Brighton High School. “I don’t know whether it will be feasible to keep co-teaching in my classroom, and that is what we see benefits students the most.”

Co-teaching is the model adopted by BPS as it has shifted away from schools with high concentrations of special needs students to educating such students in what state officials refer to as “the least restrictive environment.” Under that model, educating students in general education classrooms who are learning English or who have special needs often requires that a teacher be accompanied in the classroom by a paraprofessional or another teacher licensed to work with the students.

At the Roosevelt, budget cuts will likely force the layoffs of nine positions, including special education

teachers, paraprofessionals, and one reading specialist. Teacher Noah Patel says he fears the layoffs will imperil the school’s model for teaching special needs students in regular education classrooms. Currently, the school has two classrooms per grade, two general education teachers and inclusion teacher who splits time between the two classrooms and a special education paraprofessional who goes to whichever room the inclusion teacher is not in, ensuring two teaching staff in each class at all times.

“We have found it to be something that works well,” Patel said.

With fewer staff to cover classes, Patel suspects the district may attempt to revert to its previous model, where a single teacher with dual certification as a general education teacher and special education teacher covers a classroom alone.

“It would create an untenable situation, where kids aren’t getting what they need because they don’t have the full attention of the teacher whose attention is split different ways,” he said. “It’s not really fair for the students.”

In a letter to BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper and Budget Director Serena LaRocque, Patel said the cuts aimed at the Roosevelt would undo years of work the school did perfecting its model of inclusive education.

“The proposed budget for next year will effectively dismantle everything that was so carefully and thoughtfully built over nearly two decades,” he wrote. “A community which has had myriad success stories for students. Intention that has produced impact. I fear that Boston will be losing a beacon for inclusive education, at a time where so many school communities building their inclusion programs are looking for models of success to aspire to.”

A BPS spokesperson emailed a statement in response to a request for comment for this story.

“Over the last several months, Boston Public Schools has been carefully reviewing each school’s budget alongside school leaders as we plan for SY26-27,” the statement reads in part. “This process has mainly been guided by enrollment trends and the specific needs of each school community. As the district anticipates an enrollment

decline of approximately 1,300 students for next school year, bringing the total to 3,000 students over two years, staffing and resources must be realigned to reflect this decrease.”

Mayor Michelle Wu last year approved a Boston Teachers Union contract that included guarantees that classrooms with students who have special needs would be staffed by more than one teacher. BTU President Erik Berg said he expects the city to keep to that contract.

“Now is not the time to pull back from the commitment for our students, particularly in classrooms that serve multilingual learners and students with disabilities,” he said.

Berg acknowledged that the district has lost students and could lose state and federal funding, but he said the district must maintain its commitment to the students.

“We as a society need to think about how we’re funding schools,” he said. “If we can fund massive tax cuts to billionaires, if we can fund Elon Musk’s and Peter Theil’s defense contracts, we as a society can also fund public schools,” he said. “We will be advocating at the district, state, and federal levels to make that happen.”

In its statement, the BPS spokesperson said the district’s commitment to its students remains unchanged.

“BPS remains committed to providing equitable access to a high-quality education that meets their needs,” the statement reads. “We are investing in the continued implementation of inclusive education, bilingual and multilingual programs, early college and career pathways, and instructional resources to support academic success.”

The school budget comes out earlier in the year than the city budget and often reflects city officials’ confidence in revenue projections for the coming fiscal year. This year, the city budget could take a hit if shortfalls at the state level affect local aid.

At-large City Councillor Julia Mejia, who heads the council’s Education Committee, said she will advocate for fully funded schools this year.

“We want to ensure that our students who need it the most and our educators have adequate staffing from paraprofessional support to mental health and that the district is not making cuts to positions that will ensure the quality of our programming,” she said in a statement. “We urge the district to center the voices of those most impacted as we continue to navigate these difficult conversations.”

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If the Legislature does not pass the measure by the first Wednesday in May (May 6), petitioners must collect 12,429 additional signatures by June 17. If certified, the question will appear on the 2026 ballot.

A photograph of three students in a laboratory setting. They are all wearing light blue lab coats and purple nitrile gloves. The student in the center is using a pipette to transfer liquid from a small vial into a larger container. The student on the left is looking on, and the student on the right is also observing. In the background, there are shelves with various lab supplies, including boxes and bottles. A Siemens Multitest kit is visible in the foreground on the right.

Haitian dance, folklore center sets up shop in Nubian Square

‘An invitation to young people to find joy, to find culture, to find a place to call home.’



Funders and partners of the new center include the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture, the Barr Foundation, DREAM Collaborative, the Klarman Family Foundation, the Mass Cultural Council, New Atlantic Development, and the Yawkey Foundation, many of whom were on hand for last week’s ribbon cutting. *Kelly Broder photos*

**BY KELLY BRODER
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**

Jean Appolon Expressions, the Haitian folkloric and contemporary dance organization, celebrated the grand opening of its new dance center in Roxbury’s Nubian Square last Tuesday (Jan. 27).

The JAE Dance Center, a 2,846-square-foot studio and black box performance space on Washington Street, is the group’s first permanent location. For co-founder and Artistic Director Jean Appolon, the opening was “a dream come true,” marking the completion of “phase one” of JAE’s expansion planning.

“Phase two” will introduce full theatrical lighting and the ability to use projection art, said Meg McGrath, the

center’s executive director and company dancer.

JAE focuses on sharing the “liberating power of Haitian-folkloric dance to cultivate hope and healing towards a more expressive and socially just world,” according to the group’s website.

The group has centered Haitian folklore, Black expression, and immigrant stories through dance since 2013, when Appolon incorporated the organization as a nonprofit within his summer dance institute in Haiti. JAE puts on about 25 shows per year and has grown to include five full-time staff members and 15 part-time dancers and drummers.

A Haitian immigrant, Appolon said his mission is to represent his homeland’s legacy of hope, resilience and



Velouse Joseph, left, and Mcebisi Xotyeni performed an excerpt from the JAE dance “Traka,” meaning “Troubles” in Haitian Kreyòl.

freedom. “The biggest thing for me is to have a home where I can share Haiti with a lot of people. Now it’s happening.”

City Councillor At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, interim city arts and culture chief Kenny Mascary, and Haley House Executive Director Reginald “Reggie” Jean hailed the new center as a “home” for dancers and Haitians as well as a physical space to practice art as healing.

“What we’re celebrating is more than just a ribbon cutting,” Mascary said. “It’s an invitation to young people to find joy, to find culture, to find a place to call home. History is being erased, history is being retold, but it’s going to take a lot more for Roxbury and the Haitian community to not stand together.”



Co-founder and artistic director Jean Appolon with Meg McGrath, executive director and company dancer with the JAE Dance Center.

Live traditional Haitian folkloric drumming, played by Arnaud Lauture and Josil Rebert, and homemade soup greeted the more than 30 opening attendees before they watched a dance performance.

Appolon said he hopes this new space will be used by young people, with whom he hopes to share Haitian culture and history.

“My idea is really for the young kids that always wanted to do something with movement, to know that they have a center where they can come in and experiment,” he said.

The center can be a place for young people to learn how to run lights, build choreography, and create art and later emerge as artists with the skills to sustain their passion, McGrath said. “This new home is not just for us,” she said. “This is for everyone in Boston. We view this space as an incubation space for JAE.”

JAE members are hoping that the space will give young dancers a new setting where they can freely express themselves.

“This is an opportunity for people that didn’t really have chances like this. Spaces like this, as an artist and a dancer in the city, this is like major,” said Mcebisi “Bisi” Xotyeni, JAE’s artistic manager.

Xotyeni, who has been dancing since 2016, performed at the ribbon-cutting alongside Velouse Joseph in a two-minute excerpt from “Traka,” or “Troubles” in Haitian Kreyòl. The dance premiered at Boston’s Institute of Contemporary Art in May 2022.

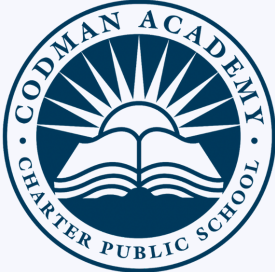
JAE offers a weekly Haitian folkloric dance class with drumming as well as a “Liberation Drumming” class. Prior to the center’s opening, classes were taught at The Dance Complex in Cambridge.

Funders and partners of the new center include the Mayor’s Office of Arts & Culture, the Barr Foundation, D/R/E/A/M Collaborative, the Klarman Family Foundation, the Mass Cultural Council, New Atlantic Development, and the Yawkey Foundation.

“When we invest in our people and we invest in our community, everyone wins,” Reggie Jean said.

Louijeune said Haitian culture is something to be celebrated, not erased or silenced. “Today,” she added, “let it be marked in history that in Nubian Square, we are affirming that Black expression, that Haitian culture, and immigrant communities are essential to Boston’s past, present and future.”

This story is the product of a partnership between the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism.



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Reporter's

People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Dot woman's actions earn her a 'Logan Star' award

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) last month celebrated Dorchester's Isobel Dagon's "Logan Star" award for her quick action in assisting an elderly person who had fallen on an airport escalator in December.

Dagon, who serves as a project administrator for Skanska, witnessed the incident inside Terminal C and "immediately jumped into action" to help the woman. "Her quick thinking and decisive action prevented further injury to this passenger and underscored the shared commitment



Dagon was one of 30 people recognized during a ceremony on Jan. 27.

Massport photo

to safety among all partners at Boston Logan," the authority said. The "Logan Star" award honors non-Massport employees at Boston Logan who "demonstrate exceptional customer service and/or perform acts of courage in their roles."



Members of the Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester showed off their swag gifted by the Boston Celtics and IBEW Local 103 and the union's steward Brian Burke. The Dorchester youth had an unforgettable night cheering on the Boston Celtics at TD Garden on Wednesday, January 8, where the Celtics played the Denver Nuggets.

Thanks to the continued partnership between IBEW 103 and NECA Greater Boston, the Celtics' Kids Corner initiative once again brought together an energetic group of kids from the Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester for an exciting night of basketball, teamwork, and community spirit. Photo courtesy IBEW

1000 FOR HOLLAND HOOPSTER



Caleb Florence, a senior guard on the Holland Tech boys' basketball team, scored his 1,000th career point on Monday evening (Feb. 2) during a 91-60 win against English High School. Florence is shown here with head coach Joe Chatman, left, and assistant coach George Chatman. The team from the Holland (formerly known as Jeremiah E. Burke High School) is 12-3 on the season to date.

Patrick O'Connor photo

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Siege of Boston - Part 1

After the battles at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, the Massachusetts militias began planning their response, which included blocking land access to Boston, resulting in a shortage of food, fuel, and other supplies for the British. In June of that year the British seized Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill, breaking the Continental Army's circle of positions around Boston. With that, the British controlled the shipping lanes into Boston Harbor.

George Washington took over the Continental Army in Cambridge in July 1775, and in early December, he chose Henry Knox to travel some 300 miles to Fort Ticonderoga in New York to bring cannons from there to Cambridge. Knox returned in late January 1776 with much needed artillery and gunpowder for Washington's forces.

That January was also the month when Generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold led separate forces into Canada with the hopes



Top row: Washington, Ward, Putnam
2nd row: Sullivan, Gates, Spencer
3rd row: Heath, Thomas, Greene

of taking Quebec. The attack failed. Arnold was wounded, and Montgomery was killed.

With his new supplies, Washington considered options for an assault on the British in Boston. Come February, the water around Boston had turned to ice. One option was to attack by marching across the frozen Charles River, leaving the troops fully exposed to defensive fire from muskets and batteries of artillery. On February 16, 1776, Washington convened eight generals, none of whom had ever held rank in a professional army, in a council of war at his headquarters, the Vassal House in Cambridge. They were: Major Gen. Artemas Ward, Major Gen. Israel Putnam, and Brigadier Generals John Sullivan, Horatio Gates, Joseph Spencer, William Heath, John Thomas, and Nathaniel Greene. They considered another option: Take possession of the Dorchester peninsula known as Dorchester Neck or the cow pasture, now South Boston.

At the time, the peninsula was a no-man's land, occupied neither by the British nor by the colonists. If the latter could move into and hold the peninsula, they would gain a defensive position to annoy the British and give them a space from which they could directly bombard the British army and naval forces near and on the Boston waterfront.

Washington and Generals Ward, Putnam, Thomas, and other staff had visited Dorchester Neck a few days earlier. They were noticed by the British who could turn their artillery toward the Neck, so they left the area.

NEXT: Siege maneuvers - Part 2

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org, from which The Reporter derives, often through editing for space, this weekly feature. The Society's William Clapp House and James Blake House are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

US v. Donald Trump, our racist-in-chief

A decision rendered Monday by US District Court Judge Anna Reyes that blocks— at least temporarily—the Trump regime’s plan to strip 350,000 Haitian people now living in the US of their legal status and ability to work is a thrill to read. Judge Reyes masterfully details all of the legal arguments for why the Haitian TPS order should be stayed— most of it “letter of the law” failures of Secretary Kristi Noem to adhere to clearly outlined requirements necessary to rescind the group’s status.

But she also sand-blasts this filthy administration’s moral corruption and lays bare the white supremacist impulses that animate the regime’s ravenous purge of Black and brown people, *including those who are living here lawfully.*

In one particularly damning section of her 83-page ruling, Reyes turns Trump’s own hateful rhetoric back on him like a gaudy West Wing mirror smeared by his own vomit.

“To start,” she writes, “he has repeatedly invoked racist tropes of national purity, declaring that ‘illegal immigrants’—a category he wrongly assigns to Haitian TPS holders—are ‘poisoning the blood’ of America. He has, Plaintiffs allege, complained that recently admitted nonwhite Africans would ‘never ‘go back to their huts’ in Africa.’ He has complained further that nonwhite immigration is an ‘invasion,’ creating a ‘dumping ground’ that is ‘destroying our country.’ He has described immigrants as ‘not people,’ ‘snakes,’ and ‘garbage,’ who have ‘bad genes,’ He has also stated that he prefers immigrants from ‘nice’—predominantly white—countries like Norway, Sweden, and Denmark over immigrants from ‘shithole countries.’” The judge duly notes that while Trump and Noem have unleashed their purge of non-whites, they have given “special priority” to white South Africans as “refugees.”

“Taken together,” she writes, “the record strongly suggests that Secretary Noem’s decision to terminate Haiti’s TPS designation was motivated, at least in part, by racial animus.”

The jurist concludes her decision thusly: “There is an old adage among lawyers. If you have the facts on your side, pound the facts. If you have the law on your side, pound the law. If you have neither, pound the table. Secretary Noem, the record to-date shows, does not have the facts on her side—or at least has ignored them. Does not have the law on her side—or at least has ignored it. Having neither and bringing the adage into the 21st century, she pounds X (f/k/a Twitter).

“Kristi Noem has a First Amendment right to call immigrants killers, leeches, entitlement junkies, and any other inapt name she wants. Secretary Noem, however, is constrained by both our Constitution and the [Administrative Procedure Act] to apply faithfully the facts to the law in implementing the TPS program. The record to-date shows she has yet to do that.”

Reyes’ ruling will be challenged by Trump’s attorneys and will, most likely, land in the Supreme Court. But, as it stands, her powerful arguments offer new hope that this wicked regime’s white power agenda will be permanently crushed by jurists who lean on the US Constitution rather than failed Confederate-era tropes to guide American public policy.

Donald Trump is a virulent racist. His sycophants— JD Vance and Kristi Noem at the lead—who’ve parroted his hateful slurs and attempted to expel Black and brown peoples—our neighbors—are just as vile. It’s a great pleasure, then, to see and hear patriotic Americans and exceptional jurists such as Anna Reyes and Fred Biery put them in their places.

-Bill Forry

‘With a judicial finger in the constitutional dike, It is so ordered,’ the US judge ruled

Following are excerpts from the opinion of US District Judge Fred Biery of West Texas ordering the release by the Trump administration of five-year-old Liam Arias and his father on Jan. 31.

Before the Court is the petition of asylum seeker Adrian Conejo Arias and his five-year-old son for protection of the Great Writ of habeas corpus. They seek nothing more than some modicum of due process and the rule of law. The government has responded.

The case has its genesis in the ill-conceived and incompetently implemented government pursuit of daily deportation quotas, apparently even if it requires traumatizing children. This Court and others regularly send undocumented people to prison and order them deported but do so by proper legal procedures. Apparent also is the government’s ignorance of an American historical document called the Declaration of Independence. Thirty-three-year-old Thomas Jefferson enumerated grievances against a would-be authoritarian king over our nascent nation.

- Among others were:
1. “He has sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People.”
 2. “He has excited domestic Insurrection among us.”
 3. “For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us.”
 4. “He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies



Judge Samuel Frederick Biery, Jr. of the US District Court, Western Texas.

without the consent of our Legislatures.”

“We the people” are hearing echoes of that history. And then there is that pesky inconvenience called the Fourth Amendment: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause,

supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and persons or things to be seized.

Civics lesson to the government: Administrative warrants issued by the executive branch to itself do not pass probable cause muster. That is called the fox guarding the henhouse. The Constitution requires an independent judicial officer. Accordingly, the Court finds that the Constitution of these United States trumps this administration’s detention of petitioner Adrian Conejo Arias and his minor son, L.C.R.

The Great Writ and release from detention are GRANTED pursuant to the attached Judgment. Observing human behavior confirms that for some among us, the perfidious lust for unbridled power and the imposition of cruelty in its quest know no bounds and are bereft of human decency. And the rule of law be damned.

Ultimately, Petitioners may, because of the arcane United States immigration system, return to their home country, involuntarily or by self-deportation. But that result should occur through a more orderly and humane policy than currently in place.

Philadelphia, September 17, 1787: “Well, Dr. Franklin, what do we have?”

“A republic, if you can keep it.”

With a judicial finger in the constitutional dike, It is so ORDERED.

Former Boston Police leader recalls when Boston gang members put the city in peril

By LEW FINFER
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

A forum sponsored last year by the Boston Foundation and MassINC explored how, and why, young people join gangs — and why they eventually leave them.

The event focused on the experiences of Paul Joyce, who once headed the Boston Police Department’s Youth Violence Strike Force and has written a book titled, “It Started with Hats: The Life Experiences of Boston’s Founding Street Gang Members.”

Joyce interviewed 30 former gang members for his book, many of whom he had personally arrested. While they trusted him, some talked of other Boston Police officers beating them or planting evidence during arrests.

Joyce tells how the crack epidemic in American cities was partly responsible for a surge in municipal violence in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He notes that that period also saw a big rise in gangs here in Boston’s neighborhoods, with as many as 15 specific organizations made up of more than 450 members.

One of those members was Roy Martin, who is featured in Joyce’s book. Martin went on to run the Boston Public Health Commission’s Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, which aims to build relationships with young people through street workers who work at persuading young people to leave gang life.

“I was good student in elementary school,” Martin recalls in the book. “I was in METCO [one had to have good academics to get into METCO]. Freshman year I had an altercation....I was disaffected from my parents then and they had plenty of their own issues. I went back to a Boston high school. The first day a kid was stabbed in the eye. The second day there was a shooting outside the school. I went home with my book bag and threw the books away.”

Martin thought the money that he made selling

drugs with fellow gang members made him an asset, not a liability.

“We thought we were the good guys, we helped our parents with money...I dressed better than others. Made sense to us.”

Martin and his friends were “neighborhood stars” until reality caught up with them through violence or incarceration.

“Street life is a waste, led to bad places; shot, killed, prison,” he notes.

His sentiments echoed those of many of his now-adult peers who are featured in the book, which also offers many of Joyce’s insights on how BPD officers and officials and political leaders managed the crisis.

“We were siloed at first just as police, and we had no strategic partnerships,” he said at the forum. “We learned the importance of partnerships and became better for it.

On nights in which BPD responded to multiple shootings, he said, there was “no shortage of arrests. But arrests alone is not the answer. You need police suppression....and intervention with youth and prevention

and partnerships. It helped that Mayor [Thomas] Menino and Police Chief Paul Evans supported this and held office for many years.”

Larry Mayes, now a vice-president with Catholic Charities, is a former street outreach worker who led the Office of Human Services under Menino. He said that few understood the degree to which the violence of that era left people and families traumatized.

Gang violence continues, though it’s less of a problem than it was 35-40 years ago. Our youth need prevention programs, intensive outreach, and wrap-around services. Joyce’s book is a timely reminder of how far we’ve come— and how important it is that we stay focused on those efforts.

Lew Finfer is director of Massachusetts Action for Justice and a Dorchester resident.



IT STARTED WITH THE HATS
The Life Experiences of Boston's Founding Street Gang Members
Paul F. Joyce
Foreword by J. Larry Mayes

The Reporter

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Healey targets ICE, immigrant stance with an executive order – and a bill

By Sam Drysdale and Michael P. Norton
State House News Service

Gov. Maura Healey last week signed an executive order intended to ban new 287(g) immigration enforcement agreements “unless there is a public safety need,” prohibit ICE from making civil arrests in non-public areas of state facilities, and ban the use of state property for immigration enforcement staging. Healey also announced she is filing legislation that her office says is designed “to keep ICE out of courthouses, schools, child care programs, hospitals and churches; make it unlawful for another state to deploy its National Guard in Massachusetts without the Governor’s permission; and allow parents to pre-arrange guardianship for their children in case they are detained or deported.”

The governor’s office called the measures “the most comprehensive effort in the country to protect against ICE activity in sensitive locations.” President Trump’s administration over the past year has gone on a deportation offensive, riling immigrant communities, splitting up families and drawing backlash over ICE agent tactics.

“Over the past year, President Trump has sent federal agents into communities, cities and states around the country, and what we have seen week after week, month after month, are federal agents instigating antagonizing and, yes, causing violence in communities,” Healey said at a press conference at the State House.

“People have been killed. Others have been shot. We see mothers and fathers ripped out of cars and from the arms of their children. United States citizens have been stopped, arrested and detained.”

Republican candidates for governor knocked the governor’s initiatives, alleging the moves make Massachusetts a “sanctuary state” and would thwart federal efforts to apprehend “criminal” undocumented immigrants.

The executive order states that Massachusetts is home to over 1.2 million immigrants “who are workers, parents, caregivers, business owners, and essential contributors to the Commonwealth’s economy and civic life.” It further states that the Massachusetts Constitution “guarantees that every resident is afforded equal treatment under the law, regardless of national origin or immigration status.”

Under the order, no executive-branch office or agency may execute a new 287(g) agreement to partner with ICE “unless the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security certifies in writing that the agreement ... is based on a specific, articulable public safety risk or need” and that the agreement sunsets within 12 months of it being issued.

The order also provides that “civil arrests by federal immigration officers shall not be executed in nonpublic areas of state facilities” without a judicial warrant, and that state facilities “shall not be used by federal immigration officers to facilitate civil immigration enforcement efforts, including but not limited to use as a staging area, processing location, or operations base.”

Letter to the Editors

Property rights are being violated on Culbert Street

To the Editor:

Like many of my neighbors, my family has lived on Culbert Street for close to 60 years. We all know each other, grew up together, and have built our lives here, preserving homes that represent both decades of care and generational wealth.

When the Zoning Board of Appeal chair stated in 2023 that “the rights of the many outweigh the rights of seven houses on Culbert Street,” the framing suggested that the long-time Black homeowners of modest means who live on that street are somehow less entitled to the protection of their property rights than the low-income renters who would occupy the proposed development at 1471 Blue Hill Ave.

Property rights are not contingent on wealth, political influence, or the size of the group asserting them. They are a protected trust and a moral boundary that public officials are obligated to uphold.

Individuals’ property cannot be taken or diminished without their willing consent. This principle applies with even greater force when the owners are long-time residents of modest means who have maintained their homes through decades of disinvestment, redlining, and structural inequity. Their rights are no less important simply because they are few. The dignity and security of a small, historically marginalized group cannot be sacrificed for the convenience of others.

Mattapan’s Black homeowners on Culbert Street have lived through generations of discriminatory

The governor has previously called for private airline companies to stop providing chartered flights for ICE to deport residents who have been detained in Massachusetts out of Hanscom Field airport in Bedford. The airport is operated by the Massachusetts Port Authority, but Healey spokesperson Karissa Hand said this section of the executive order would not prevent these deportations, as it is a federal base.

Healey’s immigration legislation was filed not as a standalone bill but as attachments to a \$411 million budget bill that her office says includes “time sensitive” appropriations for the Legislature to consider. That bill also speaks to Joint Hazard Incident Response Team work associated with the upcoming World Cup and Tall Ships. By attaching the policy proposal to immediate spending needs, the Legislature, which has resisted calls for it to delve into immigration policies, may soon be forced to reckon with the proposals.

According to the governor’s office, the legislation would restore protections previously provided under a Department of Homeland Security “protected areas” policy that discouraged immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, which the Trump administration rescinded last January.

“Our action today is actually in line with what was long established federal policy,” Healey said. “It used to be that federal agents and partners in law enforcement recognized those sensitive spaces, and they, in fact, used to designate them as sensitive locations that were protected from enforcement action.”

She continued, “The Trump administration threw out that common sense policy at the start, on the very first day of taking office, in fact, and made the way for what has been extreme and downright un-American tactics. Their goal has been to intimidate, to instill fear, and that’s what they’ve done, and we’re here today to restore trust in government.”

The bill would prohibit warrantless civil arrests by ICE inside courthouses, which the administration says has deterred witnesses and victims from appearing and disrupted criminal cases. Schools, licensed child care programs and after-school programs would also be barred from allowing immigration agents into nonpublic areas without a judicial warrant and would be required to adopt formal policies governing interactions with ICE.

Essex County District Attorney Paul Tucker, a former state representative, said ICE activity in courthouses has deterred witnesses and victims from appearing.

“Access to justice cannot coexist with a threat of civil arrest looming over those who enter a courthouse to assert their right to defend themselves or to fulfill their civic obligations,” Tucker said, adding that Healey’s actions “will help to relieve that fear and enhance public safety.”

Hospitals, community health centers, nursing homes and substance use disorder treatment programs would similarly be prohibited from granting ICE access to nonpublic areas without a judicial warrant. The administration said providers have

housing policy. There should be heightened protection for them, not diminished consideration. Their rights stand on equal footing with the rights of the low-income renters who would live at 1471 Blue Hill Ave.

If the proposed development imposes traffic, safety risks, environmental burdens, or destabilization on a small residential street, our city should prevent that harm – even if the project promises broader benefits.

The modest-means Black homeowners of Culbert Street are not an acceptable collateral cost. We expect our leaders to uphold justice even when it is politically inconvenient.

That includes the rights of low-income renters and the rights of long-time Black homeowners of modest means. One group’s need for housing does not nullify another group’s right to security, stability, and the quiet enjoyment of their home.

The long-time Black homeowners on Culbert Street are entitled to full protection of their rights. Protecting these homes is also preserving the generational wealth that these families have struggled to secure, often in the face of systemic barriers. Public interest cannot be used to justify disproportionate harm to a small, historically marginalized community. Justice requires that the city safeguard these residents rather than treat them as expendable in the pursuit of broader goals.

David Venter,
Culbert Street, Mattapan



Gov. Maura Healey at a press conference at the State House last Thursday (Jan. 29).
Sam Drysdale/SHNS photo

reported patients delaying or avoiding care out of fear of detention.

The bill would further allow parents to pre-arrange temporary guardianship for their children in the event they are detained or deported, without terminating parental rights.

“Our bill will also allow parents to pre-arrange guardianship with their kids in case they’re detained or deported. And I’m really sorry to even have to utter those words, but at the end of the day, we’ve seen here in Massachusetts and around this country, little kids taken away from their parents, left alone or in the care of maybe a neighbor, maybe the state. It’s wrong” Healey said.

Another provision would make it unlawful for a military force under the control of another state’s governor to enter Massachusetts without the governor’s permission, referencing recent out-of-state National Guard deployments in other states.

The legislation would also codify a privilege against civil arrest in churches and other houses of worship while individuals are attending services.

At the press conference, Healey was joined by Senate President Karen Spilka, other lawmakers, district attorneys and community leaders. House Speaker Ron Mariano was not present. A spokesperson for Mariano said he was in his office for meetings. While Spilka and Attorney General Andrea Campbell were both quoted in the governor’s press release in support of the effort, no House members were quoted.

Spilka said the Senate would try to move the legislation quickly. “I want to go on record that the Massachusetts Senate stands firmly with you in these efforts and when this legislation reaches the Senate, and hopefully that is very soon, we will engage thoughtfully with the details,” Spilka said. “Let me be clear, the Senate will also do everything in its power to return these proposals to your desk for your signature soon.”

Mariano’s spokesperson Max Ratner said the speaker supports the executive order.

“Speaker Mariano supports Governor Healey’s executive order and continues to be engaged in conversations with the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and House Leadership on this issue,” Ratner said.

The Black and Latino Legislative Caucus are championing a just-filled bill called the PROTECT Act aimed at boosting protections for immigrant communities, that also has language around barring ICE from courtrooms. Caucus members on Wednesday signaled that “robust” talks were occurring over a potential policy push. However, the governor’s office says these are different pieces of legislation.

Republican candidates for governor criticized the executive order and legislation. Mike Minogue said in a statement, “I’m disappointed to see Massachusetts politicians prioritize political headlines over keeping communities safe. State and local officials need to work together with the federal government to get criminal illegal immigrants out of our communities.”

Mike Kennealy said the actions amounted to declaring Massachusetts a sanctuary state. “Yesterday, Maura Healey claimed Massachusetts is not a sanctuary state. Today, Maura Healey announced a series of executive actions that definitively make Massachusetts a sanctuary state,” Kennealy said.

Healey rejected the sanctuary-state label when asked whether her actions were turning Massachusetts into a sanctuary state. Healey said, “Massachusetts is not a sanctuary state. I’ve said this time and time again.”

Brian Shortsleeve, Republican candidate for governor, said in Thursday’s announcement Healey “admitted cooperation with federal law enforcement is necessary and proper. Then she banned it. She claims Massachusetts is not a sanctuary state while issuing orders that block law enforcement from courthouses and stop basic law enforcement at the very touchpoint that would best ensure a peaceful and orderly transition of custody of criminal illegal immigrants.”

Massachusetts Republican Party Chair Amy Carnevale said “recent immigration apprehension efforts in Minnesota have been tumultuous and this has led to tragic results,” before criticizing Healey’s initiatives.

The executive order takes effect immediately.

BC High welcomes young, competitive swimmers to first-ever February clinic

**BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF**

BC High’s brand-new indoor swimming pool will be the scene for a gathering of young athletes who will participate in the school’s initial February School Vacation Swim Clinic later this month. The four-day, co-ed program— set for Feb. 17-20— is intended for competitive swimmers who want to take their skills to the next level.

“I think the clinic is a really good opportunity, especially for kids who know how to swim, but might not necessarily be doing it correctly,” said Sara Feloney, BC High’s director of aquatics and auxiliary programs.

The eight-lane pool setting — the school calls it a “natorium”—is located inside the school’s Patrick F. Cadigan ’52 Foundation Wellness Complex, which opened for students and faculty on the Morrissey Boulevard campus last October.

There are no age restrictions, but Feloney said that participants must be able to swim several laps in a 25-yard pool. Kids and teens can sign up for individual days at \$65 a session or enroll for the four days for \$240.

On Tues., the 17th, the focus will be on freestyle, while Wednesday will be all about the breaststroke. On Thursday, participants can perfect their backstroke, and on Friday, they can wrap up with the butterfly.



BC High’s director of aquatics and auxiliary programs, Sara Feloney, is ready to make a splash in the school’s new pool for the Eagles’ February School Vacation Swim Clinic.

Cassidy McNeeley photo

The swimmers must bring a bathing suit, towel, and goggles, and be ready to work out from 9 to 11 a.m.

“I’ll talk them through what it should be like, and then they will get in the water and practice,” said Feloney, who plans to break down kick techniques, arm mechanics, and breathing.

“They’re going to get first-hand instruction,” she said. “I

will watch them and say this is what you need to fix.”

She wants each swimmer to leave stronger than they arrived. “Sometimes you’re swimming,” she said, “and you feel like, ‘I got this, I’m going from one end to the other, what else is there?’” Feloney wants to teach each participant what exactly they’re doing right and wrong. She said it’s all about the “little things you never thought of,” adding that “a tiny adjustment will make a huge difference.”

This clinic marks one of the first times that the greater community has been invited to use the new facility, but Feloney says it won’t be the last.

“It’s super important to us, we definitely want community engagement,” she told The Reporter. “Just having the Boys and Girls Club here or having different local schools here, whatever it might be. I don’t have that planned out yet, but it’s definitely something that we are interested in.”

Another series of swim lessons is planned for April, she noted. “They are open to the community. Anyone, anywhere can come to our lessons, and we would love to have them.”

To enroll in the clinic or future events visit, bchigh.edu/summer-camps. All questions can be directed to Feloney@bchigh.edu.



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BC High's Winter Baseball Clinic sets up Dot youth for spring games

**By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff**

Baseball practice? At 15 degrees? Well, yes, if balls, bats, and gloves are in play inside Boston College High School's Cadigan Gym, where players in the Dorchester Baseball program have been welcomed to get into the swing of things before the spring thaw.

The school's Winter Baseball Clinic, a six-week program, kicked off this Sunday (Feb.1) and will continue every Sunday evening from 5 to 6:30 p.m. into mid-March.

For Dorchester kids ages 9 to 12, that will mean working out with BC High's team and their coach, Steve Healy.

The plan is to tune up the youths' hitting, fielding, throwing, and running skills, according to David Blandino, who is organizing the effort for Dorchester Baseball. He played in the league as a kid, and now he's excited for his 9-year-old son, Benny, to get to work.

"I believe that kids sitting around waiting for baseball to happen and trying out for a baseball team [while] touching a glove for the first time in seven months, is not ideal," Blandino said this week. "This is an opportunity for them to refresh their skills and be the true baseball versions of themselves."

"They are absolutely capable of being confident baseball players with a little bit of warm-up or practice time before tryouts start."

The clinic, which costs \$60, can also serve as an introduc-



Dorchester Baseball players participated in the first Sunday session of a six-week baseball skills clinic hosted by Boston College High School last Sunday (Feb. 1).

tion to the Dorchester Baseball community. "It's an easy way to make new friends; it's an easy way to have fun," said Blandino, who also coaches multiple teams in the league.

"Some of my closest long-time friends are from baseball. I would have never known them if I hadn't played for Cedar Grove at the time," he said, adding:



The Dorchester Baseball clinic was held inside the school's Cadigan Gym on BC High's Dorchester campus.

Photos courtesy Dorchester Baseball

"Dorchester Baseball is a combination of [what used to be] Cedar Grove and Savin Hill Little League programs. I am still friends with those people to this day, and their

children are now friends with my children."

For questions and registration, reach out to dorchester-littleleague@gmail.com.





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Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons, a native of South Boston, faces a hometown backlash

(Continued from page 1) to requests for comment for this story.

Lyons, 52, is a South Boston native who attended Boston College High School. He holds a master’s degree from New England College in New Hampshire and served in the US Air Force.

He began working for the New England ICE office in 2017 and later became Field Office director for ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations in Boston. He was appointed acting assistant director of field operations for ICE in October 2024. Last March, he was made the acting head of ICE.

On his watch, the agency has been at the center of almost constant controversy. ICE and border patrol teams have smashed car windows to make arrests, detained many people without criminal records, sparked chaos in neighborhood arrests — and in Minneapolis, killed American citizens.

‘A different persona’

Most recently, the chief federal judge in Minnesota ordered Lyons to appear in court — and threatened to hold him in contempt for refusing court orders to release a man who claimed he was unlawfully detained.

Judge Patrick Schiltz called it an “extraordinary step” to order the ICE chief to personally defend himself in court. But Schiltz said it was necessary because “the extent of ICE’s violation of court orders is likewise extraordinary.”

Schiltz, who was appointed to the federal court by Republican President George W. Bush in 2006, said Lyons had to appear before him unless ICE held a hearing for or released the detained man. ICE ultimately released him, and Lyons’s Jan. 30 hearing was canceled.

Several local political and law enforcement

leaders, as well as immigration advocates in Massachusetts, described Lyons as communicative and accessible when he was in New England. One advocate said Lyons sought to ease tensions after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis sent about 50 migrants from Texas to Martha’s Vineyard in a campaign stunt in 2022.

But about a month after his appointment as acting ICE leader, many of those same local leaders were shocked to hear Lyons talk about modernizing the agency to run more like a business. At a border security conference in April, media reports quoted Lyons as saying he wanted to see ICE run trucks rounding up immigrants for deportation the same way Amazon trucks deliver packages across the country.

Lyons has defended ICE agents wearing masks, a much-criticized practice that blew up in controversy after the March arrest of Tufts University graduate student Rümeyza Öztürk in Somerville. Lyons told reporters in an angry exchange that agents need to protect their identities because immigration protesters have publicly identified and doxxed agents to try to intimidate them.

“It does surprise me that Todd Lyons is acting director of ICE during this time of very aggressive activity,” said Kerry Doyle, a former deputy general counsel for the Department of Homeland Security who’s now an immigration attorney. “He is a different persona in this position now than the experience I had working with him when he was field office director.”

Doyle said while Lyons’s job likely requires him to follow White House directives, she’s surprised he’s been such a staunch defender of the crackdown.

Lyons has said local officials and politicians

are interfering with ICE and prompting protests, which have fueled hostilities in Minneapolis and other cities. He maintains ICE’s actions are designed to target “the worst of the worst” and to identify dangerous criminals, even though it’s been acknowledged by Trump administration officials that far more people without criminal records are being arrested.

Last June, federal immigration enforcement officials announced in Boston the arrest of 1,400 people in Massachusetts in what they called “Operation Patriot.” At the press conference, Lyons said agents wouldn’t have to surge into cities if local officials would cooperate with ICE.

“Boston is my hometown, and it really shocks me that officials all over Massachusetts would rather release sex offenders, fentanyl dealers, drug dealers, human traffickers, and child rapists back into the neighborhoods,” Lyons said without offering specific evidence of that.

Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden is among the local authorities who dispute Lyons’s claims. Hayden says state and local law enforcement do cooperate with ICE in criminal matters — not civil ones.

“Historically, there has never been an issue regarding a collaboration between federal authorities and state and local authorities,” Hayden said. “This is a completely different level and a completely different time that we’re seeing ourselves in now.”

Hayden and several other local law enforcement officials say the high tensions in Minnesota and the deployment of ICE agents to cities in Maine have harmed public safety. He said victims and witnesses in Suffolk County are not going to courthouses because of fears of being deported.

“That has a chilling

effect on our ability to do justice,” Hayden said. “It has a chilling effect on public safety and our ability to hold offenders accountable.”

The laws of ICE intervention

Healey, a former prosecutor and former attorney general, has said the conduct of federal agents in Minnesota runs counter to law enforcement standards and poses a threat to public safety.

The governor has called on Lyons’s boss, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, to resign.

Healey also has taken aim at an ICE memo, leaked by whistleblowers and apparently signed by Lyons, that gives agents broad authority to enter an immigrant’s home to make an arrest without a judicial warrant, something immigration lawyers and advocates say violates the Constitution.

“That basically said, ‘Throw away everything we’ve done for 250 years. Throw away the Fourth Amendment. You have the right to go into someone’s home,’ ” Healey said at a press availability January 26.

The memo, dated May 12, 2025, said:

“Although the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has not historically relied on administrative warrants alone to arrest aliens subject to final orders of removal in their place of residence, the DHS Office of the General Counsel has recently determined that the US Constitution, the Immigration and Nationality Act, and the immigration regulations do not prohibit relying on administrative warrants for this purpose.”

For years, immigrant advocates advised people not to open their doors to immigration agents unless there is a warrant signed by a judge. The memo undercuts that advice.

The Boston-based group Lawyers for Civil Rights filed suit last

Friday (Jan. 30) over memo, naming Lyons as a defendant. The group’s executive director, Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, questioned its legality and said he’s concerned about the “lawlessness” of ICE policies.

“All of this is intertwined in ways that not only make it unsafe for immigrants, but that impoverishes the rights of everyday Americans,” Espinoza-Madrigal told WBUR.

The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association said it has advised local police about handling public demonstrations involving ICE. Its main message to local departments is to de-escalate and keep the peace.

“We are stuck in the middle,” the association’s executive director, Chief Michael Bradley, said. “We certainly don’t want to see anybody from the public get hurt, and we don’t want to see any federal officers get hurt that have a mandate to do a very difficult job.”

Bradley said he’s hopeful federal officials will meet with police associations to discuss best practices for collaboration when ICE agents are working in US cities.

As protests against ICE continue, Lyons has defended his agency in recent interviews, saying ICE is keeping the country safe and following the nation’s immigration laws. He promised the White House will target those states with so-called “sanctuary” policies that limit cooperation with federal

immigration authorities.

Massachusetts isn’t backing down. The bill Healey announced this week would prevent ICE agents from going into courthouses, schools, child care programs, hospitals, and churches.

Healey also signed an executive order prohibiting the state from entering into any new 287(g) agreements to hold detainees on behalf of ICE, unless there is a public safety need. The order also bans ICE from making civil arrests in non-public areas of state facilities and prohibits the use of state property for immigration enforcement.

Lyons told the *Boston Herald* that Healey’s actions are “reckless” and “inflammatory,” and they “mislead the public and deliberately undermine federal law enforcement.”

This story was published by WBUR on Feb. 2. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

LEGAL NOTICES

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. SU25C0214CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
SAVANNAH
MARIE WASHINGTON

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Savannah Marie Washington of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Savannah Yolanda Marie Katherine Battle

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 day of **02/26/2026**. 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. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 2, 2026
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: February 5, 2026

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 APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU20P1799EA
ESTATE OF:
HAROLD BARRETT
DATE OF DEATH: 02/19/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by:
Charmaine Barrett of Norwood MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that Beverly Jones-Davis of Randolph MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 **03/03/2026**. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 15, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: February 5, 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

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 TO EXPAND THE
POWERS OF A GUARDIAN
Docket No. SU14P2926GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
SHEIK ABBRAHIM
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Beth Israel Deaconness Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court Expand the powers of a Guardian. The petition asks the Court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/18/2026**. 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. Janine Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Date: January 22, 2025

Published: February 5, 2026



The Dorchester Historical Society presents

The History of the Suffolk Registry of Deeds

An illustrated talk by Attorney Tom Ryan, First Assistant Register, Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

Sunday, February 22, 2pm
at 195 Boston Street, Dorchester

The Suffolk Registry of Deeds dates from 1643, when the General Court divided the Massachusetts Bay Colony into four shires, or counties, but the size and jurisdiction of Suffolk County has changed over the centuries. Learn the history of the county from its origins to the present day, with a focus on how expansions and contractions have affected Dorchester, from the original land grant for the Town of Dorchester to its 1870 annexation to the City of Boston. Also learn how land recording has evolved over the centuries, useful information for anyone engaged in historical research.

Don't touch those space savers, but you're free to laugh at them

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Whether in Dorchester, Mattapan – and, of course, other cramped neighborhoods like South Boston, Charlestown, Roxbury, and Mission Hill – the wintertime “space savers” are like sacred stones on city streets. They come in all forms— orange traffic cones, broken toys, beach chairs, or some other pseudo-garbage item unearthed from the cellar for a single purpose: to preserve a coveted parking space a homeowner or resident has diligently dug out after a snowstorm.

Touch one, and you're certain to get the side-eye. Move one, and there will be consequences.

This intensity of purpose taps into the creative juices of residents who can always be counted on for humor in the midst of snowbound life.

“I will say I do enjoy seeing when people put old toilets out as space savers, because it's unlikely that anyone will dare try and move your space saver,” said Jim Doyle of Fields Corner. “Another good move is using a city-issued recycling bin, because when the city comes around to remove space



Someone on Windemere Road in Savin Hill was willing to go to the mattresses to protect their shoveled-out spot last week. Photo courtesy Chris Vella

savers, they'll leave the bin alone. Just don't have your house number on it; the city will ticket you for putting your garbage out early.”

Edverette Brewster, the executive director of Neighborhood House Charter School (NHCS), said he has seen any number of household items used for keeping a space. “I think my favorite is always seeing a full-size ironing board,” he noted with a laugh.

That was shared by Brian Chavez, a Dorchester resident and owner of Antonio's Hi-Fi Pizza in Fields Corner who favors ironing boards.

Mary-dith Tuitt, commander of the Carter Post in Mattapan Square, list-

ed the whackiest things she has seen over the last week or so to save spaces to include “a Barbie Doll house.”

Phil Carver, of Pope's Hill, said he has seen it all, from folding chairs to traffic cones to trash barrels to indoor furniture, but he appreciates the strategy. “The wildest part is not always the object, but the intensity with which people defend it,” he said. “Nothings says winter in Boston like a heated debate over a lawn chair in the middle of the street.”

But, he added, as the days go on, he gets a laugh at how space savers change.

“One thing I've also noticed is that the real creativity shows up when

the city ends the space saver amnesty and starts collecting them,” he said, noting the 48-hour rule enforced by city officials.

“That's when you suddenly see things people clearly had no plan for disposing of, like old window A/C units, broken furniture, or scrap lumber, pressed into service as ‘temporary’ space holders. At that point it feels less about saving a spot and more about avoiding a trip to the dump.”

Of course, that line of thinking is mindful of classic urban lore in South Boston and parts of Dorchester many years ago, when during one long winter, the late Mayor Tom Menino got irritated with space

savers and announced that Public Works crews would be collecting them and throwing them away.

As the story goes, residents took to the phones and coordinated the largest trash disposal effort the city had ever seen as residents tucked their real space savers on the porch and deposited old televisions, paint cans, and other undesirable items from the cellar to be picked up off the street for free by the Public Works “space-saver hunters.”

Over the past week, The Reporter has noted baby carriages, sweater drying racks, thousands of orange cones, and even a leftover Halloween skeleton sitting on a patio chair and table on Richmond Street with a Guinness stout can in his “hand.”

But Dorchester's king of the space saver community is conceded to be Paul Doherty, of Clam Point. Years ago, Doherty – a retired carpenter – made wooden cutouts of cartoon characters like Bugs Bunny, Barney Rubble, and Bart Simpson and used them as his space holders. They were so popular that neighbors asked him to make some for them, including Napoleon, the Pope, and a happy alien.

“I think a lot of people know about them because I've been making them for 12 years,” Doherty said late last week, noting he has Barney Rubble out this year alongside a freshly built snowman.

“It started because people were putting out chairs and I thought I could do better. I'm not an artist by any stretch, but

I look up a character and copy it...It's what I do. I made them for myself and for my neighbors.

“When it used to snow more, I'd say there could have been eight of them saving spaces all down Mill Street. I enjoyed making them and neighbors liked them, and it was fun...The Pope [John Paul II] is still a couple streets over and he's been there forever.”

Doherty said the infamous “Menino Crackdown” brought the demise of several of his creations, which he responded to with some humor. After Public Works crews moved through Clam Point and absconded with Bart Simpson, the happy alien, and Napoleon, he set up a “character protest” on his front lawn with Lego man, South Park kid, and Bugs Bunny holding signs that read, “We Will Miss You: Bart Simpson, Alien, and Napoleon.”

In addition, he created a burly looking Public Works guy hovering over them ready to snatch them up. “It was a great joke,” mused Doherty.

But before making an exit to the dump, the Bart Simpson space saver caused quite a controversy in Clam Point, he said.

“The guy next door liked it, and I gave it to him and it's the picture of Bart bending over with his ass out. Another neighbor came to my neighbor's house and felt Bart was inappropriate, so he went out and put a cloth over [the rear end] Later, I went out and painted some pants on Bart. We all enjoyed that.”



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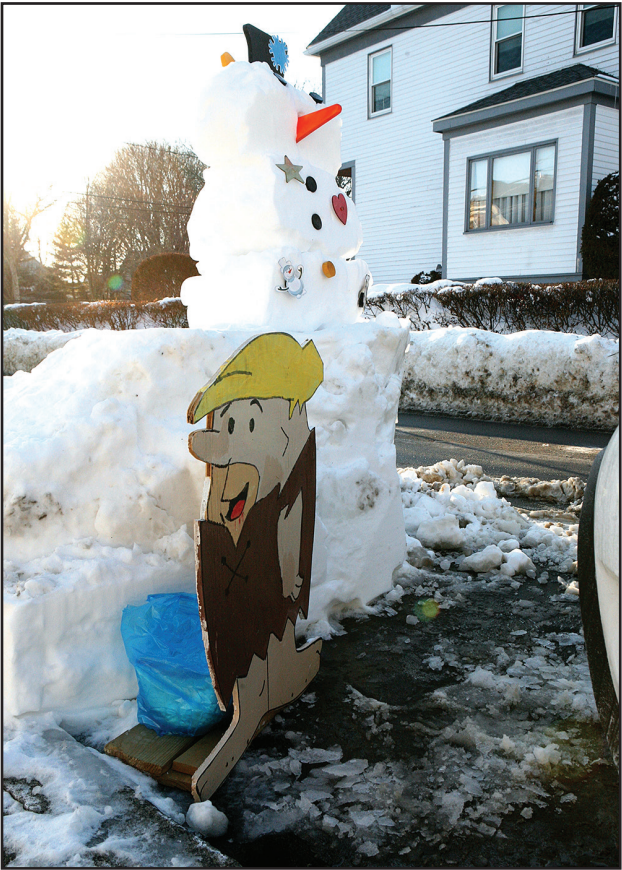
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Catulle, Angly	Briggs, Sarah J		See Forever Prop Ltd		25 Fessenden St	Mattapan	01/14/26	1,100,000	
Shannon, Brian	Shannon, Caitlin		Nicholas, Christopher		181 Manchester St	Mattapan	01/15/26	610,000	
Catulle, Angly	Catulle, Marie V		See Forever Prop Ltd		23 Fessenden St	Mattapan	01/14/26	1,100,000	
Nguyen, Trung T	Chau, Courtney		Nunes, Melanie		8-10 Howell St #4	Dorchester	01/12/26	575,000	
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Raghunathan, Krishnan	Arvamudhan, Pavithra		Schrom, Steven		183 Fuller St #1	Dorchester	01/14/26	770,000	
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On Mill Street, Paul Doherty saves his spot now-days with a Barney Rubble wooden cutout from the Flintstones, and he added a fresh snowman on the pile of snow for good measure.



Bugs Bunny was a favorite in Clam Point.



The tried and true hockey net doubled as a space saver and a street hockey game waiting to happen.



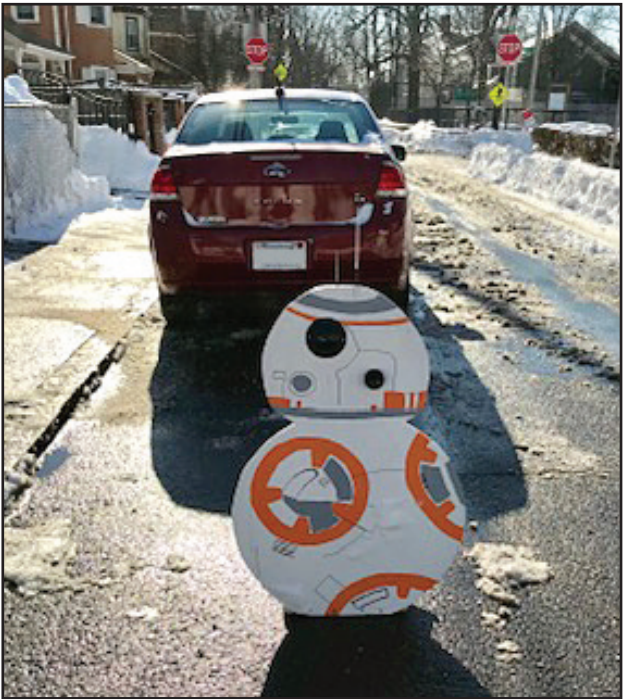
A baby carriage and stroller have become common items used to save a space these days.



The Pope space saver has been in Clam Point for more than a decade, making his appearance every major snowstorm.



Lego man saves a space for a resident.



A wooden cutout of a rocket ship saves a space in Clam Point.



The fancy kitchen chair was spotted in West of Washington last week.



A smiling whale children's toy helped to save a space on Thane Street in Dorchester for days and days this week.



Napoleon was another Paul Doherty space saver creation, but the dictatorial leader met his doom during a crackdown many years ago by late Mayor Tom Menino.



During the infamous space saver crackdown by Mayor Menino years ago, several cutouts in Clam Point were confiscated, prompting Doherty to stage a space saver protest in his front yard while a hulking DPW worker lurked near them.



In South Boston, the Tommy Bahama lawn chair was as common as the snowdrifts.

Boston Uncornered’s new leader was once a target of the program

(Continued from page 1) this to work, that one percent needs to work.”

While DePina’s life at age 40 is much different now, he was once part of that one percent. At age 11, he moved from Cape Verde to Dorchester with his mother and four siblings. Trouble soon followed. He was expelled from multiple schools for fighting, and then told he could no longer attend any Boston Public School. He was given the option of enrolling in the Job Corps or going to jail.

DePina didn’t last long in that setting, either. Kicked out of the Grafton Job Corps in Worcester at age 16 for selling weed, it seemed that he’d run out of options.

“I came home to Norton Street and joined a gang, CV Mob, Cape Verdean Mob, and thought that was it for me,” he said. “I remembered having this math teacher telling me that by the time I was 18, I was either going to be dead or in jail. I started to believe that that was going to be my life.”

His encounter with Bob Flynn interrupted those plans. “He started to invite me to come check out his classes to get my GED, and I basically brushed him off,” said DePina. “Somehow, somehow, he saw something in me when I couldn’t see it



The Boston Uncornered leadership team— as seen in 2022— includes (front, left) Mark Culliton and Michelle Caldeira, the group’s co-founders and co-CEOS, and, in rear, Francisco DePina, the new president.
Photo by Romana Vysatova

for myself. Next thing I know, he’s ringing my doorbell and asking me to come downstairs to play chess or basketball. Then I started to meet some of the guys working here at the time.”

Though DePina wasn’t convinced that school was for him, he accepted Flynn’s offer. He started with cleaning work after

hours before transferring to the front desk. He was far from the perfect employee, but the organization didn’t quit on him.

“The thing about Uncornered that has worked for me was this door,” he said. “No matter how many times I walked out, no matter how many times I came in and smelled like weed, my

teacher told me go home, put it away, come back. I would leave and that door would still be open on the day I decided to come back.”

On one of those “come back” days, he decided to go back to the classroom and, eventually, he earned his GED. From there, he was made an Uncornered recruiter, meaning he was charged with identifying active gang members, who the program calls “Core Influencers,” and persuading them to leave the streets.

That’s when “I found my passion,” DePina said, “because they gave me an opportunity to go back into my own neighborhood, Norton Street, and talk to them about what Uncornered was doing.”

“My family was involved in a gang, my family was getting killed, my friends was getting killed, and Uncornered gave me an opportunity to change that, and I took it.”

He added, “Once I started working with my family and friends and bringing them into the program, it became more about the community. It was working for my family, so how do I do this for the Norton Street community? “Then it became how do I do this

for my Bowdoin/Geneva community? How do I do this for the city?”

Eventually, De Pina was given a “Lead” position as a specialized staff member who mentors recruiters and Core Influencers.

“That’s when I got my case load, I had over 50 people,” he said. “As a Lead, what I was doing is I was looking at maps of the city, and I would see where the hotspots are, and then I would go into them.”

“I walk every day on these corners where there’s a hotspot, and that’s my intention. I want the ones who are most active, who are shooting all over the city. I want to invest in that individual.”

The job of president is a new position at Uncornered. “Mark and Michelle would say I created the position,” DePina said. “President at Uncornered never existed, neither did Director of Core Influencer. They would say I paved my own way.”

Culliton, also a Dorchester resident, calls DePina “the embodiment of all we hoped for in creating Uncornered.”

“A leader from within the violence who has taught us all about the path to peace being driven by a humility of spirit,

a passion for learning and the courage to believe in a world others can’t see. Michelle and I are grateful that the work of Uncornered is what makes his heart sing. The city and country is better because of it,” said Culliton.

Before Mark and Michelle, there was Bob.

“Until this day, whenever I see him, I ask him, ‘Out of everybody, what made you choose me?’ He says to me the same thing I say to my guys. The only one who’s going to change the community are the ones who are destroying the community.”

DePina says his goal for 2026 is to help Boston realize a 50 percent decrease in shootings and homicides. His own story, he argues, is evidence that it can happen. “I was the kid everyone would point their finger at and say, ‘That’s the bad guy, the Cape Verdean gang member.’”

He now knows it’s not too late for the generation coming up: “You still have an opportunity to do something different. You are brilliant, and you have the power to make changes, whatever changes you want to make. Uncornered is here to support you through that.”

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BGCD Family Engagement Program Brings Learning, Play & Community Together: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Family Engagement Program Brings Learning, Play & Community Together: BGCD's Family Engagement Program continues to engage and connect our families in play-based learning opportunities and community partnerships! Joshua Aldwinckle-Povey, who is the Children's Librarian at Boston's Field Corner Library, leads one of these literacy-based movement activities during a playgroup offered in collaboration with the Boston Family Engagement Network (DFEN). BGCD is currently enrolling families in Growing Together, a new program supported in part by a grant from the M&T Charitable Foundation, where parent leaders and family specialists create interactive environments that empower parents and caregivers as active partners in their child's growth and development. For more information, contact Family Engagement Specialist Huang Vu at hvu@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Inclusion Builds Healthy Habits Through Fit & Fresh Program: BGCD's Inclusion Program energizes Monday nights with Fit & Fresh, an evening enrichment experience for teens and young adults that combines movement, nutrition, and connection! Members start with a 60-minute, all-abilities workout focused on building strength and confidence, followed by hands-on healthy snack preparation they can enjoy together and take home. This engaging program helps participants build practical nutrition skills and healthy habits they can carry into everyday life while encouraging confidence, and teamwork. Fit & Fresh is designed to be approachable and accessible in a welcoming environment where everyone feels comfortable trying new things and growing at their own pace. For more information, contact Erin Kelley at ekelley@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Inclusion Builds Healthy Habits Through Fit & Fresh Program: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
Join Team BGCD for 36th Annual Rodman Ride for Kids on May 16th: In partnership with Rodman for Kids, the Club has the unique opportunity to participate in this collaborative event which helps raise critical funds for BGCD. The Ride partners with 42 other charities who all support at-risk youth across MA. The event features a 25 or 50 mile route that begins and ends in Foxboro. The post ride features a BBQ celebration with food, beer tent and DJ for all. If you can't Ride in May, you can "Choose Your Own Adventure" and become a virtual participant. The options are unlimited: run, walk, bike or whatever you like to do to still help support BGCD. Please note, in-person riders must commit to a \$1,500 fundraising minimum with virtual riders committing to raising \$300. To join our team, please visit bgcdorchester.org/rodman-ride. Help us create brighter futures today!

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February 7

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February 14

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VIRTUAL
INFO SESSION
FEB. 17

Mattapan neighbors frustrated by building project, tech difficulties

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

Serious concerns from residents about blasting and overall construction management on a Blue Hill Avenue residential housing project in Mattapan were left unaddressed when an online community meeting set for last Wednesday night (Jan. 28) was cut short due to technical difficulties, a move that infuriated neighbors who had planned to sign on to air months' worth of grievances.

Officials promised to reschedule the session, which was cancelled after about 15 minutes of discussion with city officials. A new online meeting will be Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Developers are looking

to build out 44 units of rental housing in one building, with parking, on a vacant lot at 1471 Blue Hill Ave., but the project faces challenges as workers will have to blast through a large outcropping of Roxbury Puddingstone so that the foundation can be laid.

"We have people seriously affected by what's happening now," said Culbert Street neighbor David Venter at the end of the brief session. "If blasting – which is only one topic of concern – continues today, tomorrow, and the next day, we are going to continue to have impacts, and our houses could have impacts with shaking and vibrating and we haven't been able to talk about that. We want to reschedule

ASAP because we're in a situation that's very concerning."

Before the meeting was derailed, Derek Skeffington, of Dellbrook Construction, said, "We are still in our drilling and blasting phase. That is realistically expected to last another 20 days to a month. After that part, we'll start the foundation excavation and go through mid-April. You'll see dump trucks exiting with materials."

He added that the building should be out of the ground in the summer with a completion date of May 2027.

Before the technical difficulties arose, Matt Shaughnessy of Maine Drilling and Blasting, located in Milford, gave a detailed review of the



The site at 1471 Blue Hill Ave. as seen on Monday this week. A California-based development firm is building a structure that will include 44 units of rental housing.
Seth Daniel photo

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blasting and drilling processes. He explained the procedures for getting a blasting permit from the state and the Boston Fire Department – and noted that pre-blasting surveys of abutters is part of that process. He said Boston requires them to offer the surveys to those within 325 feet of activities, but didn't indicate if any had been done on this project.

"The work is very structured and for good reason," he said. It "is dangerous...and especially in an urban environment so it's important we are safe."

A neighbor, Dane Fletcher wrote in an email afterward: "I don't mean to sound overly disrespectful toward anyone in particular, but I have to say that was an obnoxious display of

unprofessionalism. It demonstrated disregard for extremely concerned residents who wanted to be reassured that their legacy homes are not going to be further damaged from the blasting in frigid temps."

He added, "There are well-documented dangers in blasting in such cold temperatures. We've had one of the coldest Januarys on record and you are blasting within a proximity to homes that were built mostly in the 1930's with field stone foundations."

Said meeting moderator Mohammad Missouri, executive director of the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS): "We're not trying to cut people off. We're not sure why this happened. We will make sure everyone can attend another meeting."

Issues arose before the meeting began, when the provided passcode didn't work. After a new online meeting was started, about 39 people were able to sign into the new session, which was set to last 40 minutes – but after about 20 minutes, the presentation stopped. Attendees were then advised to click a link in the chat to start a new session, but that meeting ended before many were able to access it via the new link.

That third session attracted just a handful of neighbors, resulting in the call to reschedule a better-organized presentation.

Officials in attendance included developer Lincoln Avenue Communities of California, Dellbrook Construction, the Boston Fire Department, National Grid, the Boston Transportation Department, and Maine Drilling and Blasting.

After the shortened meeting, neighbors told of their lives being upended by the blasting activities, which they said

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Moment of Paws



Tennis balls can make for great fetch toys for new furry friends like Tito. ARL Boston photo

New Year, New Pet: Tips, resources for welcoming home your new pet

For people who have opened their homes to a new furry friend, the first few weeks are so important. ARL is here to guide families through those important first weeks, providing the resources and care needed to make every new beginning a success.

Tips for early days with dogs and cats

- Have a ‘safe space’ for your new pets set up and ready for them – somewhere they can call their own that may contain their special toys, bedding, scratching trees for cats or a crate for dogs. This space helps them get comfortable.
- Less is more when introducing your pets to their new lives, so be aware of all the new things your pets are experiencing and recognize when they might be overwhelmed and need a break
- Go back to basics with house training for dogs and provide easy access to food, water, and litterboxes for cats until they get used to their new spaces.

Tips for daily routines

- Create them for both of you right from the beginning.
- Routine for your new dog is a key to success. There should be set times for potty breaks, meals, walks, playtime, and independent time in their own space with special toys and treats, which get put away till the next time they are back in their safe space.
- Routines can help ensure that cats have the opportunity to follow their instincts, which includes their need to hunt, catch, eat, groom, and sleep. There are many ways to accomplish this with many homemade items such as boxes, egg cartons, paper bags, toilet paper and paper towel rolls for treat puzzles.

Tips for relationship building

- Get active!
- On walks– let your dog stop and sniff!
- Explore new neighborhoods. The usual neighborhood walks can get boring and routine.
- Two-toy fetch – alternate tossing two toys to your dog while walking
- Keep them engaged. Use a snuffle mat or wrap some treats up in a towel and let dogs use their nose to snuffle around and find all the food, or make a “licky mat” with canned food, peanut butter or cream cheese – smear it on a lick mat and they can spend time licking it until it’s all gone
- Enroll in dog training classes and teach your dog new skills, ARL has a variety of offerings at our Dedham Campus.
- Interactive play for cats can be done with wand teaser cat toys, chasing little play mice or balls with bells or make a small investment for automated toys that move if the cat walks past them or interacts with them.

At ARL, we believe that positive reinforcement, reward-based training methods are the best course of action, especially when teaching dogs new things or desensitizing fearful dogs to new experiences.

More resources, including new dog and new cat guides, are available at ARL’s website. Our Pet Behavior Helpline is another resource. It is a free service that can answer basic pet behavioral questions. Whether it’s excessive barking, crate training, house soiling, or another issue, pet families with questions can call the Pet Behavior Helpline at (617) 226-5666 or via email behaviorhelpline@arlboston.org.

Dr. Edward Schettino is the president and CEO of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. He holds a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

Comments take harsh turn at meeting about development of Little House site

By Truman Dickerson
Special to the Reporter

Opinions were split among Dorchester residents who participated in a virtual public meeting last Tuesday (Jan. 27) set up for a review of a proposed development on East Cottage Street that would demolish the Little House, a building historically used for youth and community services, and replace it with a 6-story, 42-unit “extended-stay” hotel. The meeting was hosted by the Boston Planning Department.

The project’s developer, Adam Sarbaugh, several proponents, and an architect used the setting to that the hotel will support business interests in Dorchester and draw tourists to the area.

Sarbaugh also owns an adjacent property at the corner of East Cottage and Dorchester Avenue that includes condos, a vacant restaurant space, and the Dorchester Market.

Hotel rooms with kitchenettes, he said, would occupy floors two through five of the proposed new building, which Sarbaugh believes will match the demand for short-term rentals in the area that “are not being regulated properly,” he said.

“This is what we think will work best in a synergy for both small business and economic growth, for the neighborhood and the community,” he said.

The architect involved with the project, Tanya Carriere, said there will be a lobby on the first floor with a trash room and a bike room. She said there will also be “two commercial spaces” on that floor, which Sarbaugh said will hopefully become restaurants.

The hotel rooms, Carriere said, will range from 360 to 690 square feet in size. The sixth floor will house another commercial space, with a “green roof” on top, she said.

Reactions from abutters and other neighbors from the wider Columbia-Savin Hill area who were on the call varied.

Martin Brunswick, an immediate abutter who lives on Howes Street, said he was leaning toward supporting the plan.

“They’ve worked hard on details with us, but a couple things need to be ironed out,” he said.

“We’ve got a housing crisis here in this city,” resident Chris Fung said. “I just kind of question that this is the place where this particular site ... needs to be developed.”

Savin Hill resident Donna McColgan was strongly opposed to the plan.

“I find this to be an abomination and not what you said you would do when you bought Lit-



A view of East Cottage Street looking east toward Dorchester Avenue shows the Little House and a small house in the foreground. Both would be bulldozed to make room for a six-story building to house a hotel and restaurant space under a plan advanced by a team led by Adam Sarbaugh. Seth Daniel photo

tle House,” she said. “It’s a big cash grab by you and we have to live with it.”

McColgan’s critique drew a warning from Planning Dept. project manager Nick Carter, who moderated the Zoom call. He said she might be ejected from the call.

“Won’t be the first time,” she shot back.

Aisling Kerr, a former city planner who grew up on Raven Street and lives in Dorchester, liked the hotel idea.

“I do believe in this kind of use,” said Kerr. “I think it shows how difficult it is to make anything work in this climate. If you look online there’s a major increase in apartments available in 02125... It’s a use that doesn’t exist and could satisfy someone’s need for housing.”

Don Walsh disagreed, calling it the wrong type of use for a residential street.

“The city should be ashamed of itself for even telling them not to take this plan and put it somewhere else on Dorchester Avenue,” he said. “This is a very clear example of what is wrong. This is individual developers’ self-interest impacting the residential character of the neighborhood.”

Brunswick disagreed. “I think of Beacon Hill, and it has lots of little hotels and boutique hotels and I think this could be the start of something good, where creating a little more density creates a little more services like restaurants and stores and interesting things happening on Dorchester Ave.,” he said.

Retorted Walsh, “So if you like Beacon Hill, go move there.”

Carter again stepped in to moderate the disagreement, and cautioned Zoom members that “telling someone to move to a different neighborhood is not about the project.”

The Little House building has historically operated as a youth and community center, and has more recently been utilized by Uncornered, an organization aimed

at reducing gun violence and gang involvement.

The building still houses the Dot Art program, a crafts camp for children. Sarbaugh told *The Reporter* last month that the program will continue there through the summer, and he said in the meeting that he has been “keeping them updated on this entire process.”

There is only one planned parking space, which would double as a driveway. Some residents said that would put a strain on street parking in the area.

With guests checking in and checking out, “I think that has the potential for creating more of a ruckus or traffic issues with the neighborhood,” said resident Kristine Hoag.

But the developers countered that the “extended stay” model of the hotel would encourage guests to use public transportation and bicycles rather than cars.

“Check-in being 11 a.m. with check-out by 4 p.m. ... Those are times that aren’t the same as a residential or the 9 to

5,” added Joe Hanley, a zoning lawyer.

Sarbaugh said that he attempted to find other community uses for the Little House, including building out a gym for nearby Boston Collegiate Charter School, but none worked.

“This isn’t the greedy developer trying to shove things in,” he said. “That is why the purchase was in 2021 and we’re sitting here in 2026 talking about this now... We’ve tried and explored options, and this is what we feel works best in synergy for the businesses and community.”

The project’s status is still “under review,” according to the planning department. The “comment period,” when residents can submit questions and comments about the proposed hotel, ends Feb. 8.

Reporter news editor Seth Daniel contributed reporting to this article, which is the product of a partnership between the Dorchester Reporter and the Boston University Department of Journalism.

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
NOTICE AND ORDER:
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN OF A MINOR
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
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Docket No. SU25P2276GD
IN THE INTERESTS OF
JAYDEN DEVON SINGLETARY
OF Boston, MA
MINOR

Notice to all Interested Parties
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 10/03/2025 by Catherine V Alejnas of Waltham, MA will be held 02/11/2026 09:00 AM Guardian-ship of Minor Hearing. Located 24 New Chardon Street, Boston, MA 02114.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
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Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: the Minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filing out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: November 13, 2025
Stephanie L. Everet, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: February 5, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU26P0043EA
ESTATE OF:
RONALD W STAPPEN
DATE OF DEATH: November 7, 2025
SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Russell Stappen of Whitman, MA. Russell Stappen of Whitman, MA 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 the 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: February 5, 2026

RECENT DEATH NOTICES



AHERN, Cynthia
“Cindy” Ann (Lamb), 62, of Rockland, formerly of Mattapan. Wife of Gerard T. Ahern. She was the daughter of the late Edward and Alice (Megarry) Lamb. Mother of Katelyn Ahern of Pembroke; Gerard and Ally Ahern of Whitman; Andrew and Leah Ahern of Mattapan; and Michael Ahern of Dorchester; grandmother of 2, and two more grandchildren on the way. She is

survived by her siblings, Edward Lamb, Kenneth Lamb, June Morrissey, Brian Lamb, and Nancy O’Brien. Consider playing a 5-spot Keno game in her memory with her numbers: 04, 07, 11, 22, 63.



DAVIS, Daniel, 75, of Dorchester. Son to Levia and Cora Davis. After high school, he went to work at Plymouth Rock Insurance, becoming

the manager of the mail room. Daniel is survived by his wife, Eileen, son, Joel, daughter, Danielle, and granddaughter, Jasmine.



DAVIS, Ralph E., Sr., 82, of Boston. Ralph, Sr. was predeceased by his parents, the late Vera Davis Thompson and James H. Davis Jr., his sisters; Sylvia Mitchell and Florence Taylor and his brother James (Jimmy) H. Davis III. Ralph, Sr. is survived by his wife, Dorothy of Hyde Park, MA, his son, Ralph E. Davis, Jr. (Felicia), of Brockton, his daughters, Angela Davis (Percy) of Dorchester, and Lianne Davis of Dorchester; his 4 grandchildren; and his 4 great-grandchildren. Ralph, Sr. is also survived by his brothers, Leon Chester Davis (Cora) of S.C., and Paul Davis of Boston, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. US Army veteran. Ralph also served in the National Guard. Ralph, Sr. worked with the Sand Blasting Company, and a company with his brother Leon. He worked under Mayor Kevin White with Model Cities as a city housing inspector. Ralph was also a State Delegate and a Mason for a period of time.

DILLON, Luke A. III, 73, of Dorchester Lower Mills and Brewster. He is survived by his wife, Karen Barhoff Dillon; and his son, Christopher James Dillon. He leaves a brother, Daniel F. Dillon, and his wife, Mary; sister, Jo-Anne (Dillon) Gretemeyer, and her husband, Gregory; brother-in-law, Jeff Barhoff, and his wife, Julie; sister-in-law Jane Barhoff Ypsilantis,



and her husband, Mark; as well as several nieces and nephews. Son of Luke A. Dillon, Jr. and Gertrude Dillon. Luke had a five-decade career in financial services in Massachusetts, joining the Massachusetts Legislature’s Joint Committee on Insurance as staff counsel. He worked on significant reforms of the Massachusetts life, health, automobile and property and casualty insurance systems. Over the next several decades, Luke later engaged in the private practice of law, representing insurers on regulatory and legislative matters and served as General Counsel of the state life insurance association culminating in his appointment as President & CEO of the Life Insurance Association of Massachusetts in 2010 until his retirement in 2023. operations to make the team a success. Luke was involved in several charitable causes, including the Cardinal Cushing Center in Hanover. Donations may be made to Saint John’s of Shrewsbury, The Brewster Whitecaps, or The American Cancer Society.



FONTANA, Dorothy Alice (Wesley), 78, of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. Daughter of Dorothy Alice Wesley (Reardon) and Robert Ellis Wesley; sister of Mark; and granddaughter of Alice Reardon (Danehy). Wife of John J. Fontana. Soon after having their daughter, the family moved to their home in Quincy, where their son was born, and where Dorothy resided for the rest of her days. Mother of Melissa Quiñones and her husband Ivan of Roslindale, and Jason Fontana and his wife Christine of Braintree. Grandmother of 6. Sister of Mark E. Wesley, and his companion, Michelle Ponte of Saugus. Sister-in-law of Joseph Fontana and his wife Penny (McLeod), and her sister-in-law, Joan O’Neill (Fontana) and her husband Arthur “Tip”. She had a career at John Hancock Insurance Company. She returned to the workforce a year later at the MBTA as a Red Line Train Operator. Please consider a donation to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Dorothy’s memory.

RYAN, William M. “Rhymo”, 66, of Dorchester. Father of Michael and his wife Caro-

Aaron M. Jerome

Aaron M. Jerome, lovingly known as “Ace,” was born on December 11, 1986, in Boston, Massachusetts to the late Maxi Jerome of Port-au-Prince, Haiti and Rosalind Charles of Sumpter, South Carolina. Aaron was the fraternal twin of his sister Ava, and the fifth of six siblings. Aaron attended Patrick O’Hearn Elementary School, John McCormack Middle School, South Boston High School, and completed his studies at Egleston High School.

Aaron was known for his bright smile, outgoing personality, and free spirit. He was active in the community and was always willing to help where he could, including landscaping and carpentry work. Aaron loved his family, loved to look good, and was remembered for the way his presence lit up a room. Above all, Aaron was loved deeply and will never be forgotten.

Aaron Jerome is survived by his loving mother Rosalind Charles; his five siblings: Anton Montgomery, Chervon Montgomery Williams, George Montgomery, his fraternal twin sister Ava, little sister Cherla Jerome Igbinedion; and his beloved grandmother Eva Montgomery; nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Though his earthly journey has ended, his memory will forever remain in our hearts.



line Tuffo of Dorchester. “Papa” of 2. Son of the late Walter M. and Christine M. (Murphy) Ryan. Brother of Linda and her husband Joseph Webber of Salem, MA, Walter Ryan of Braintree, and the late Richard Ryan and Paul Ryan. Uncle of Joseph and his wife Rachel Webber, Brian and his wife Jessica Webber, and their daughter Rowan, and Christopher and his wife Arielle Webber, and their daughter Rory. William is also survived by many cousins and friends.



SPELLER, Darrell Tyrone, 55. Born in Dorchester, he was the son of the late Edna Mae and Buck Speller. Darrell leaves his wife, Danielle McNeil-Speller; his children, Darrell T. Speller and Darien T. Speller; his daughter-in-law, Samariah Batts-Speller; his 4 grandchildren; his mother-in-law, Mary McNeil; his siblings Curtis Speller, Sandra Speller, Edna J. Speller, Ray and Terri Speller, Ronnie Speller, Eric and Sheila Speller, Rhonda Scott, Kevin and Anna Speller; his brothers-in-law William McNeil, Daniel McNeil, and Tramont McNeil; along with a large circle of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother

Dale Speller, his father-in-law Daniel McNeil, and his brother-in-law Curtis McNeil. Music was a part of Darrell’s soul. He first sang in a gospel group called Soul Revivals with his brothers, cousin, and sister. Later, he joined The Master Keys, a gospel group formed with his father and brothers, where he played the drums. Darrell produced music for various artists and became part of several rap groups, including 3-D Crew, Krush MCs, Down By Law, HQB, and Joint Ventures. Through music, he built lifelong friendships and helped uplift the Boston hip-hop scene. During his 21 years at RJV, Darrell was respected for his dedication, dependability, and strong work ethic.



WILSON, Elizabeth M. “Liz” (Davis), 67, of Dorchester. Wife of Ralph F. Wilson. Mother of Patrick and his wife, Catherine Wilson, Timothy Wilson and his partner, Sarah Malone, and Matthew Wilson, all of Dorchester. Grandmother to 2. Daughter of the late Lillian P. Wilson. Sister-in-law of Catherine and her husband, Michael O’Brien, Frankie and his wife, Jill Wilson, and Tommy and his wife, Nancy Wilson, all of South Boston. Liz is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Liz was a longtime waitress and event coordinator at Philips Old Colony House Restaurant for many years. Donations in Liz’s memory may be made to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, 1135 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA 02125 or at bbgcdorchester.org

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Cedar Grove Cemetery

A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River
Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs, memorial benches and memorial trees.
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2026 TAX CLINICS

FREE TAX PREPARATION



Codman Square Health Center
Mayor's Office
BOSTON TAX HELP COALITION

WHEN:

MON: 4 PM – 8 PM
TUES: 4 PM – 8 PM
SAT: 9 AM – 12 PM

TAX CLINICS WILL OPEN
MON., FEBRUARY 2

WHO:

BOSTON RESIDENTS WHO WORKED
IN 2025 AND QUALIFY FINANCIALLY

WHAT:

GET YOUR TAXES PREPARED
AND FILED **FOR FREE**

WHY:

ENSURE THAT YOU GET THE
EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT.
MONEY IN YOUR POCKET!

WHERE:

450 WASHINGTON ST.
NEXT TO HEALTHWORKS

HOW:

DROP BY ANY TIME
THE CLINIC IS OPEN.
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Join us for a UMass Boston community meeting where we will share campus and community updates.

Refreshments and Parking will be provided

Thursday, February 19
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Intergrated Science Complex
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard

Register Online:



UMass Boston



26.2382 CP



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Savin Hill Apartments, Dorchester, MA



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Kids and Family

February
Vacation Week

▶ 2/18–2/21

\$5 Third Thursdays

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- ▶ Thursday 2/19
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