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JPNC HOLDS FIRST MEETING POST-ELECTIONS, PAGE 14

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Kate Sanetra-Butler, Founder and Executive Director of Dignity Matters, delivered the first donation of menstrual products to the Hennigan school in 2017. The organization continues to partner with the Hennigan School, as well as more than 50 additional public schools throughout the state.

Dignity Matters works to end 'Period Poverty' in state; virtual auction planned for September

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Over the past year and a half, discussion of food insecurity and housing insecurity has been at the forefront of many conversations as the pandemic impacted communities right here in Boston and around the globe. But what about menstrual care? A necessity for folks to lead healthy lives, many are not able to afford menstrual care products, which has only been made worse by the pandemic.

Dignity Matters is a nonprofit that partners with other nonprofits and organizations to provide

menstrual care to those who need it most. The Sun spoke with Kate Sanetra-Butler, Founder and Executive Director of Dignity Matters, as well as Director of Development Merryl Glassman to learn more about the nonprofit and how it serves women and girls across the state, including communities right here in Boston. The organization is also gearing up for its second annual Dignity Matters NOW Auction to raise funds to purchase these crucial items, and is hoping as many people as possible will bid on some exciting items up for auction.

Dignity Matters was started five years ago, as "an organization that's focused on providing free period protection as well as underwear and bras," Sanetra-Butler said, for adults as well as school-aged individuals.

"Our mission is critical because SNAP benefits do not cover period protection," she said. Additionally, "for most of these organizations and the vast majority of women we're supporting, we are the only source," Glassman added, saying that menstrual care products are not often donated.

Continued on page 9

Pickleball an unexpected hit in JP

BY LAUREN BENNETT

What started as an idea for getting out and moving around turned into more than 200 interested JP residents coming down to South St. tennis courts each Saturday morning to play pickleball.

Similar to tennis and ping

pong, the game of pickleball has not long been a common one in the City of Boston and the surrounding area, but over the past few years, the sport has gained traction, especially in Jamaica Plain.

Continued on page 10

Caballero is new mayor's liaison for JP

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Dorchester resident Tiffani Caballero has been appointed the new mayor's liaison for Jamaica Plain, taking over for Lindsey Santana, who is now the Commu-

nity Outreach Manager for the city's Environment Department.

Caballero was born and raised in Boston, attended the John D. O'Bryant School, and is current-

Continued on page 2

Caballero es el nuevo enlace del alcalde para JP

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Tiffani Caballero, una residente de Dorchester, ha sido nombrada el nuevo enlace del alcalde para Jamaica Plain, re-

emplazando a Lindsey Santana, quien ahora es la Gerente de Alcance Comunitario del Departamento de Medio Ambiente.

Continued on page 2

JP PORCHFEST 2021



PHOTO BY LAUREN BENNETT

Jamiece Shepard, J Cottle, and Aliza Franz worked the booth at the First Baptist Church to provide people with maps and information about JP Porchfest. See more photos on Pages 16 and 17.

Local artists and organizations receive city grants to increase public art in JP

By John Lynds

This week the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture awards grants to artists and organizations to create short-term public art projects and activations of public spaces through the Transformative Public Art program.

In Jamaica Plain artist Roberto Chao will create a mural at Mozart Park. Chao, an artist who received his Masters of Fine Arts in 1982 from the National School of Fine Arts. University of Mexico with a concentration in mural painting, is no stranger to creating community art in Jamaica Plain and Greater Boston.

Since 1986 Chao has led or been engaged in dozens of community-based art projects here.

In the summer of 1987 Chao was commissioned for the "Fresh Walls on Egleston Square" community mural project through a Heritage Grant from the Mass. Council on the Arts and Humanities.

Then in the winter of 1992-93 he hosted the "Rice & Beans/ Raza & Bravura" art workshops and shows in Jamaica Plain.

From there Chao created the "Peace Throughout History" mural with High School students from Jamaica Plain, the "Wake Up the Earth Celebration" Mural in Jamaica Plain, and, again with the help of Jamaica Plain high school students, created murals on the columns and walls at the Jackson Square Station Orange Line MBTA stop.

The city grants will also go towards funding Daniel Callahan's MassQ Ball 2022 at the Arnold Arboretum.

Callahan is a transmedia artist and designer living in Roxbury MA. His work has been featured in the Museum of Fine Arts, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Institute of Contemporary Art and has been featured in such publications as Believer Magazine, The Bay State Banner, and Words Beats & Life: The Global Journal of Hip-Hop Culture.

A graduate of UPenn School of Design Callahan received the Fine Arts Chair Award for outstanding work in a senior thesis exhibit, a current Graduate MFA Fellow in the Visual Media Art

Program at Emerson College, and co-founder of the artist collective Fear & Fancy out of Oakland CA.

"Imagine an art event where instead of looking at objects on walls we look at each other; where instead of going to see art, we become it; where people can convene, converge and celebrate what makes us both unique and unified," said Callahan in a statement about the ball.

Finally, these art grants will also fund Dunamis' Jamaica Plain Porchfest 2021.

The city has allocated a total of \$750,000 in funding for mural projects at 10 sites across nine Boston neighborhoods as well as another \$323,950 for 27 short-term projects.

"(Art) brings joy and inspiration to communities, and helps revitalize our neighborhoods," said Acting Mayor Kim Janey. "I hope Boston residents and visitors enjoy these beautiful works of art, and that these projects encourage those who pass by them to find creative ways to brighten

Continued on page 6

Caballero

Continued from page 1

ly a student at UMass Boston working towards a bachelor's degree in psychology. She's also a Spanish speaker.

Prior to starting this role at the Office of Neighborhood Services two months ago, Caballero was a Constituent Service Center representative for 311. She said her new position "almost goes hand in hand" with her previous work, and this new role will allow her to interact with constituents face to face.

Caballero said what attracted her to the Jamaica Plain liaison position was the "really tight-knit culture in Jamaica Plain." She also said she has family in the neighborhood, and appreciates the "different cultures and heritages in the JP community."

She added that JP is "very inclusive for everyone," and has also noticed the many changes the neighborhood has gone through over the years.

"That's really what attracted me to the position," Caballero said.

Since it's only her second

month in the role, she said she is still "getting acclimated" to the responsibilities, but is quickly catching up on Santana's proposals in the neighborhood.

Caballero recently held her first abutters meeting on Aug. 23, and worked at the Stop & Shop polling location for the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council election last Saturday. She also attended the Unity Day celebration at the Anna Mae Cole Community Center on Saturday, and several neighborhood association meetings.

The new liaison said one her biggest goals is to "amplify the community voices," and "make sure there's representation for everyone in Jamaica Plain, whether it's the neighborhood associations or their subcommittees, to make sure everyone is able to get their voices heard."

When she's not meeting constituents and organizations in the community, Caballero said she likes to "take a stroll down and go into a new business and introduce myself and support their business."

Caballero can be reached at tiffani.caballero@boston.gov, or by calling 617-635-2185.

Caballero

Continued from page 1

Caballero nació y se crió en Boston, asistió a la escuela John D. O'Bryant y actualmente es estudiante en UMass Boston, donde estudia para obtener una licenciatura en psicología. Ella también habla español.

Antes de comenzar este rol en la Oficina de Servicios Vecinales hace dos meses, Caballero fue representante del Centro de Servicios Constituyentes para 311. Dijo que su nuevo cargo "casi va de la mano" con su trabajo anterior, y este nuevo rol le permitirá interactuar con los electores cara a cara.

Caballero dijo que lo que la atrajo al puesto de enlace de Jamaica Plain fue la "cultura realmente unida". También dijo que tiene familia en el vecindario y aprecia las "diferentes culturas y herencias".

Agregó que JP es "muy inclusivo para todos" y también ha notado los muchos cambios que ha experimentado el vecindario a lo largo de los años.

"Eso es realmente lo que me

atrajo del puesto", dijo Caballero.

Dado que es solo su segundo mes en el cargo, dijo que todavía se está "aclimatando" a las responsabilidades, pero que rápidamente está realizando las propuestas de Santana.

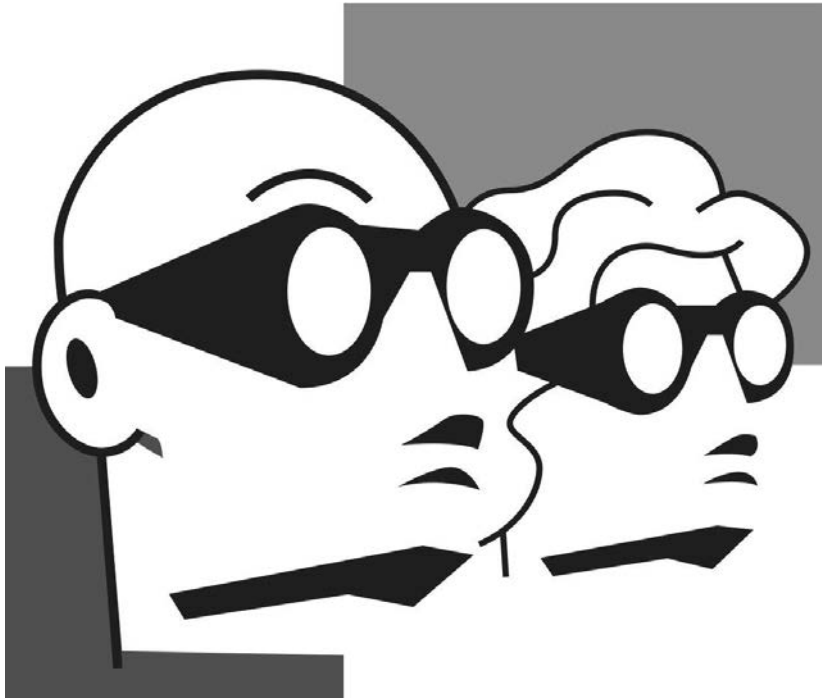
Caballero celebró recientemente su primera reunión de colindantes el 23 de agosto y trabajó en el lugar de votación Stop & Shop para las elecciones del Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council el sábado pasado. También asistió a la celebración de Unity Day en el Anna Mae Cole Community Center y a varias reuniones de asociaciones de vecinos.

La nueva enlace dijo que uno de sus objetivos es "amplificar las voces de la comunidad" y "asegurarse de que haya representación para todos".

Cuando no se reúne con electores y organizaciones de la comunidad, a Caballero le gusta "dar un paseo e ir a un nuevo negocio, presentarme y apoyar su negocio".

Puede comunicarse con Caballero en tiffani.caballero@boston.gov llamando al 617-635-2185.

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Two Haitian Americans running for At-Large City Council ask for help for their homeland in the wake of latest earthquake

By JOHN LYNDIS

Haiti was still recovering from the violent 2010 earthquake that killed 200,000 Haitians when another magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck the Tiburon Peninsula struck the impoverished country on Saturday, August 14.

The latest earthquake killed over 2,200 people, injured tens of thousands of others and the country is once again in need of relief.

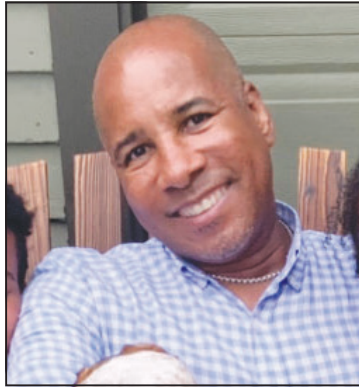
In Boston, two Haitian American At-Large City Council Candidates, James "Reggie" Colimon and Ruthzee Louijeune took a break from campaigning over the weekend to ask for help and support for Haiti.

Colimon, who emigrated to Boston as a teenager over 35 to join his parents, was shocked by the news over the weekend.



Candidate for City Council Ruthzee Louijeune.

"My heart, thoughts, and prayers go out to the people of my homeland of Haiti, reeling from yet another tragedy," said Colimon. "The devastating earthquake has rallied the Boston Haitian community together to immediately start the process of providing much-needed relief. Boston has



Candidate for City Council James "Reggie" Colimon.

the 3rd largest concentration of Haitians behind Miami and New York, and there are so many of us who are personally affected by this tragedy. We are a strong and resilient community that has always come together to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti, and let them know that we are here for them".

Louijeune, the daughter of Haitian immigrants, asked voters to donate to Haiti relief funds

"I'm saddened to hear about another earthquake in Haiti," said Louijeune, who lost a relative during the 2010 earthquake that devastated the country. "So far, all my family members are okay but not everyone can say that. At age of 23, I crossed the Dominican Republic border alone into Haiti three weeks after (the 2010 earthquake) to bring resources to my family. (Saturday's earthquake) brought all that back. Please keep Haiti and the Caribbean in your

thoughts and prayers."

Louijeune and Colimon said those wishing to help Haiti can donate to Haitian Americans United, a local nonprofit with many members from the affected area. They are organizing a donation collection effort. Donations can be sent to the "Haitian American United" via check by mail to HAU P.O. Box 260440, Mattapan, MA 02126 (memo: "Haiti August 2021 Earthquake") or by direct deposit at East Boston Savings Bank, Account # 07-774-15001 or on paypal at paypal.me/donatetohauinc.



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JP OBSERVER

Much-needed ordinance to protect our tree canopy is on the way

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Hooray! Tree removal from private as well as public property may finally be regulated in Boston.

After an initial hearing into District 5 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo’s “Ordinance Establishing Protections for the City of Boston Tree Canopy” on Aug. 24, work to review and edit the details and language to craft a final version now begins.

The ordinance went to the City Council Committee on Government Operations, originally cosponsored by District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon, and now by 12 of the 13 City Councilors. (Councilor Kim Janey, acting mayor, was not listed as having signed on as of this writing.)

The ordinance comes purposely, Arroyo said in an interview earlier this month, at a time when an Urban Forest Plan (UFP) “for the protection and expansion of Boston’s urban forest” is being developed by the Parks and Recreation Department with

a consultant team and a community advisory board. The UFP project will work in collaboration with designers of the final ordinance, Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods and Arroyo said at the hearing. Equity is a key goal of both efforts.

At a City Council hearing in 2018, local City Councilor and current Council President Matt O’Malley quoted a study that says every mature tree gives \$293 worth of benefits to its surroundings every year.

In addition to adding beauty and value to a community, trees help reduce bad stuff like storm water run-off, heat island effects, respiratory ailments and energy usage.

Most important, trees take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen—a much-needed double service in combatting climate change.

Seven councilors, several administrators from the Environment, Energy and Open Space

Department and members of the public noted those benefits in support of the ordinance throughout the hearing using words like “thank you,” “excited,” and “grateful.”

The Boston ordinance presented this week, like most, specifically deals with what are called “significant” trees in the city—both on public and private property. Significant trees are defined in Boston’s as non-invasive and 8 inches or more in diameter at chest level (4.5 feet).

A key provision is that no one would be able to remove a significant tree or trees from private property without first obtaining a permit from the Tree Warden. In most cases, before removal, the applicant would have to 1) show plans to replace existing trees with similar ones on or adjacent to the property or 2) pay the Boston Street Tree Fund an amount equal to the cost of purchasing, planting and maintaining similar trees.

Owner-occupants of 1-3 fam-



PHOTO BY MARK STOREY

Many mature trees were preserved, especially along the wooden fences of existing houses, during the development of a multi-acre subdivision in Austin, Tex. recently. New trees (not pictured) were planted throughout the development, as well. The photographer’s home is on the other side of the fence and down a few houses to the right.



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ily houses would have an easier time. They could be granted a waiver of the requirement to replant trees or make a payment with no need for a hearing. If the owner moves or sells within 18 months of getting a waiver, though, it would be revoked.

A fine of \$100 per day for every day until an application is filed would be levied against anyone who removes a significant tree without a permit.

The Boston ordinance adds to the responsibilities of the Tree Warden and creates of a Senior Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner position as well as an Urban Forestry Committee. It discusses public trees and many other details of regulations for protecting Boston’s tree canopy. For the full text of the ordinance presented, go to <https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/08/0858.PDF>.

Tree advocates who testified brought up real concerns about developers rushing in to quickly cut down trees and the advocated some kind of moratorium on cutting down trees for development until a tree ordinance takes ef-

fect. A large group of advocates, including environmental activist Sarah Freeman of the Arborway Coalition and others from JP, signed a letter to all the City Councilors last week, calling for one.

Suggestions made by the public and the councilors and administrators at the hearing will be taken into consideration during the workshop phase, Arroyo pointed out several times.

The goal stated in Imagine Boston 2030, developed by former Mayor Marty Walsh’s administration, is to increase Boston’s tree canopy to 35 percent. As of 2019, our canopy had held steady at about 27 percent for four or more years. Protecting existing trees will make the reasonable goal of 35 percent much easier to achieve.

“No one will be surprised to hear that I am very supportive of a tree ordinance,” Freeman said during her testimony. “The best time to enact it was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.”

Continued on page 5

AAPI action group endorses Murphy for City Council at-Large

STAFF REPORT

Asian Americans of different descents proudly endorse Erin Murphy to serve as At-Large Boston City Councilor, citing Erin's commitment to strong education, safe neighborhoods, and compassionate citizenship.

AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islanders) Action Group, the largest coalition of Chinese, Indian, Filipino, Nepalese, and Vietnamese grassroots organizations, gave its official backing to Erin's campaign as it develops tremendous momentum in the build up to the September 14 preliminary election.

"Erin is a candidate for all seasons. She is a breath of fresh air in the Boston political scene - an authentic voice with common sense and good heart," Sanjay Kaul, co-founder of AAPI Action

Group said. "Erin is the true Asian American candidate, even if she does not look like us. She shares our core values of engaged citizenship and strength thru togetherness," Joe Wong, a Chinese American civic leader and lifelong Chinatown resident said. "Erin is running for all the right reasons - giving back. She is a rising star in the political scene - a much-needed inspirational leader and a braveheart," Sandhaya KC a Nepalese American leader said. "As a former Boston Public School teacher, a single mom of 4, and an inclusive public advocate of long standing, Erin will bring Boston back - together. Boston needs Erin," Frank Celozza, a Filipino-American veteran said.

A lifelong Dorchester resident, Erin has centered her cam-

paign around being Boston's go-to call at City Hall.

Erin's vision for Boston and her campaign are built on her core beliefs:

Thriving, best-in-class public schools for every student in every neighborhood
A friendlier city for seniors, with a more compassionate policy focus
Stronger outreach to veterans, out of respect for their service and supporting their needs
Safer streets and policing across the City, prioritizing community policing
All hands-on-deck to pull us out of the pandemic, particularly our most vulnerable
Reducing income inequality by promoting good jobs for all Bostonians

AAPI Action Group strongly supports Erin Murphy as their



Candidate for City Councilor-at-Large Erin Murphy with a supporter.

one and only candidate for at-large Boston City Council. AAPI Action Group asks all Bostonians of different descents to get Erin Murphy elected in the

Sept. 14 primary. It's time to Bring Boston Back. Together. A vote for Erin is a vote for action not words, before and after the election.

JP Observer

Continued from page 4

She said that she sees not conflict between creating affordable housing and protecting trees. "A healthy community has both," she said.

"No tree ordinance existed," Arroyo said when I asked him why he drafted one for Boston in an interview earlier this month. He said when he learned Boston doesn't regulate the removal of all trees, he was "surprised."

He cited the heat waves here this summer and findings of a 2020 Tree Canopy Assessment by the City as specific reasons regulations need to be in place. The special aerial photography showed that Boston's tree canopy remained relatively stable 2014-2019. More tree canopy was lost on residential land than any other type, he added.

The report also showed that the neighborhoods that suffered the most tree canopy losses were Hyde Park, Roslindale, Mattapan and West Roxbury. Arroyo has represented parts of Hyde Park, Roslindale, Mattapan and Readville as District 5 City Councilor since he took office in 2019.

Arroyo noted that Cambridge, Lexington, Newton, Somerville

and Wellesley have tree ordinances. He said he and his staff looked at tree removal regulations in other cities and states around the country, including Austin, Tex. and Rhode Island, before crafting the proposed ordinance.

They sometimes even interviewed officials there about what they thought worked well and what didn't, Arroyo said. Atlanta, Palo Alto, and Portland, Ore. are just a few cities, in addition to Austin, that have had tree ordinances for quite a while. In some, the tree removal regulations are sprinkled among other about open space or development.

Speak for the Trees Executive Director David Meshoulam presented a list of requests for specific changes to the current ordinance during his testimony, and others who testified later said they supported them. Suggestions included "aligning" the ordinance with zoning and Boston Planning and Development Agency processes, "stricter enforcement," adding heritage trees and historical trees to the "significant trees" category, making the smallest diameter of a significant tree 6 inches instead of 8, and more.

When plans were announced to develop acres of property behind my brother and sister-in-law's house in Austin in 2016,

they first worried about what would happen to the small forest portion behind their back yard. But they realized Austin had a tree ordinance that applied to such situations since at least 2011. Many mature trees were preserved on the land, and new trees were planted scattered among the 35 single-family houses and condos and a new street.

Councilors and administrators at the hearing agreed with Arroyo when he said he thought additional resources would be needed to carry out the tree protection ordinance. Calling the ordinance "urgent," Chair of the Ways and Means Committee Kenzie Bok said she was hopeful that jobs money in the American Restoration Plan could be used. Many said the jobs money would ideally go to Bostonians.

The right spirit seems to be there. Now we just need the crafting of the final version of this mainly sensible ordinance to go smoothly and quickly and funding found. We've been without complete tree protections far too long already in Boston.

As Freeman said in an interview before the hearing, "Any city turning a blind eye to the fate of its trees is not doing its job."

Sandra Storey is the founder and former publisher of the Jamaica Plain Gazette.

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Council holds hearing on home rule petition for Mildred Hailey redevelopment

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The City Council Committee on Government Operations held a hearing on August 16 regarding a home rule petition relating to the Mildred C. Hailey housing development.

The docket was sponsored by Acting Mayor Kim Janey and the chair of the committee is Councilor Lydia Edwards.

“This home rule petition would authorize Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to participate in a redevelopment and revitalization of the Mildred Hailey Housing Development using federal funds,” Edwards said.

Additionally, it would permit “certain exemptions...to the state’s contract procurement and award laws. Chapter 149 requires a structured filed sub bid process that has separate requirements for general contractor and subcontractor selection.”

Edwards said that the Mildred Hailey development “is severely distressed,” and similar legislation has been approved by the city for such developments as Whittier St., Mission Main, Old Colony, Orient Heights, and many more.

“So this is a typical home rule petition that we’ve often done for

other neighborhoods,” Edwards said.

City Councilor Matt O’Malley said that “this is obviously easy....what we’re talking about today is going to really help facilitate something that will be life changing not only for the neighborhood of Jamaica Plain, but for the City of Boston as we talk about an incredible partnership with JPNDC, with Urban Edge, with TCB, and of course with BHA.”

Joel Wool, Chief of Staff at the Boston Housing Authority, was on hand to explain a little bit about the proposed project at Mildred Hailey.

BHA is seeking to move forward with Phase One of the Mildred Hailey Redevelopment Project,” he said. “This would cause for the creation of 673 homes and a new Anna Mae Cole Community Center.”

He continued, “this project is exciting for a number of reasons.” Wool said that 253 of the existing units will be replaced one-for one, “as is the BHA’s protocol to do one-to-one replacement of the units that are affordable at 30 percent of the income.”

Additionally, the project includes 420 additional units, some of which are “middle in-

come units” to cater to a variety of incomes.

The first phase of this project does not include the entirety of the housing development, and Wool said that the BHA and others “will have a continued conversation about what will happen with the rest of the units.”

The new Anna Mae Cole Center will be approximately 6,800 square feet, he added.

“The project itself is a partnership of multiple entities—Centre St. Partners—that includes three Boston-based nonprofits: JPNDC, The Community Builders, [and] Urban Edge,” Wool said.

He then talked about the “legislative relief” from state law that is required to move forward with this project. He said that Chapter 149 includes “somewhat antiquated provisions that really restrict the ability to move forward in the manner that is best suitable in this process,” adding that it “often restricts the BHA from moving forward.”

Johanna Hynes, a Charlestown resident, spoke during the public comment period about her concerns for the removal of trees as part of this project, though she said she does support the additional housing it will create.

“Can’t we do better?” she asked. “I mean, the BHA alone is responsible for the decimation of thousands of mature trees from its properties.” She said she wants to have more conversations on how trees can be saved.

“A one for one replacement of mature trees is not sufficient, especially when those trees are saplings.”

Councilor O’Malley responded by saying that “the folks that live there deserve better housing than what they have...the plan that we’re going to do here is absolutely going to be life-changing.” He added that the “work on the tree canopy is not in conflict with also providing individuals safe housing...wonderful and energy-efficient housing. I appreciate the feedback, but I think it’s being misdirected to be completely candid.”

Councilor Edwards said that she and Hynes “agree that trees should be centered,” and said that “how we develop has been one of the biggest reasons that we have emissions issues and climate change in Boston.”

Hynes had said that it is “not

housing or trees,” and Edwards said she agrees. “And it shouldn’t be,” she said. “This is about the process and making sure that it can continue.”

Sarah Freeman, a JP resident and climate activist, thanked the council “in advance for taking Johanna’s and others’ comments into heart.” She also expressed concern for planting new small trees, saying they are going to take 60 years or more to grow to the height of the existing ones. “We’re talking generations,” she said.

“I think we’re all on the same page here,” O’Malley said. “I think we know that we need more, better housing and deeply affordable and certainly looking at the guiding principles of environmentalism is something that I know Sarah and I have worked very closely on and we will continue to do that.”

At the end of the hearing, Edwards explained that if this home rule petition passes the City Council, it must be approved by the Mayor, after which it will move on to the State House “for further consideration.”

O’Malley to endorse Mary Tamer for Boston City Council - District 6

BY GAZETTE STAFF

On Saturday, August 21, Boston City Councilor Matt O’Malley endorsed Mary Tamer for Boston City Council District 6 outside of the Jamaica Pond Boathouse. O’Malley announced

he would not be seeking re-election late last year, and Tamer is one of three candidates running for his seat.

Mary Tamer is a former Boston School Committee member and past president of the League of Women Voters of Boston.

Art grants

Continued from page 2

where they live.”

Last year, Janey said 24 public art projects were awarded grants totaling \$35,000. The program relaunched as a key part of Janey’s Joy Agenda, which is a citywide invitation, opportunity, and investment in the City’s collective well-being.

In the spring Janey put out a call to artists and after an exhaustive application process the local artists were chosen by the city to create art around the city.

“Paying artists to integrate bold, new artwork throughout our neighborhoods is a step in the right direction as we focus

on reopening our city and coming back together around the notion of joy and renewal,” said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston.

The selected artists will also work with consultant Liza Quiñonez, a creative entrepreneur and founder of the award winning urban contemporary art and design agency Street Theory.

Quiñonez will provide project administration services and provide the artists with proposal development guidance, community engagement strategy and support, technical assistance, and logistical production and support.

“It’s an exciting time for Boston and I look forward to working with the selected artists on bringing their vision to life in big and bold ways,” said Quiñonez.



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Jamaica Plain COVID infections decrease as Janey updates mask mandate for indoor venues

By JOHN LYNDIS

Acting Mayor Kim Janey today announced face masks will be required in all indoor public settings in Jamaica Plain and the rest of the City of Boston, as part of a five-point plan for the delta variant, a more contagious COVID-19 mutation that is now the primary strain of the virus.

The public health order, issued by the Boston Public Health Commission, will go into effect at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 27 in the City. The City is implementing this proactive public health plan to mitigate community transmission of the Delta variant, ahead of the arrival of more than 50,000 college students from across the country and a return to school for more than 50,000 Boston Public School students. Most of the 100,000 children who live in the City of Boston are too young to be eligible for vaccination.

"There is nothing more important than Boston's safe recovery, reopening, and renewal from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said Janey. "We know that masks work best when everyone wears one. Requiring masks indoors is a proactive public health measure to limit transmission

of the Delta variant, boost the public confidence in our businesses and venues, and protect the residents of our city who are too young for vaccination."

On Friday, the city will require all people over age two to wear a mask or face covering, "whenever they are indoors on the premises of a business, club, place of assembly or other place that is open to members of the public, including but not limited to retail establishments, restaurants, bars, performance venues, social clubs, event spaces, and municipal buildings".

"The Delta variant continues to create an additional challenge to stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our community," said Interim Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission Rita Nieves. "Wearing a mask indoors along with getting more people vaccinated will offer more protection to all our residents, including children under 12 and those who are not able to get vaccinated."

While Jamaica Plain's weekly positive COVID test rate decreased after experiencing a 26 percent increase in the weekly COVID positive test rate between July 30 and August 6, the Delta variant of the virus is still

prevalent and triggered the city to update its mask mandate this week.

According to the weekly report released last Friday released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 1,805 Jamaica Plain residents were tested last week and 2.1 percent were found to be positive. This was a 38 percent decrease from the 3.4 percent that tested positive between July 30 and August 6.

Of the 42,580 Jamaica Plain residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 7.5 percent overall were found to be positive—this was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on August 6.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased 10 percent last week after experiencing a steady increase since early July. According to the BPHC 22,466 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive—this was a 3.5 decrease increase from the 3.9 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain's infection rate increased 2.8 percent since August 6 and went from 769.5 cases per 10,000 residents to 791.2 cases per 10,000 residents.

Eighty-eight additional Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 since August 6 and the number of total cases here went from 3,107 cases

to 3,195 cases in the neighborhood.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.3 percent since August 13 and went from 74,052 cases to 75,047 confirmed cases in a week. There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus and the total deaths from COVID is now at 1,404.

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Sept. 10, 2021

Deadline: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1

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- 7) Lunch
- 8) Dinner
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- 10) Asian Food
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- 13) Pizza
- 14) Cup of coffee
- 15) Retail store (not convenience)
- 16) Convenience store
- 17) Personal service (hair, dry cleaning, etc.)
- 18) Real estate service
- 19) Bank or financial service
- 20) Professional service (lawyer, doctor, insurer, etc.)
- 21) Home service (plumber, electrician, carpenter, cleaner, etc.)
- 22) Auto shop

BEST BUSINESS IN AN AREA (ANY TYPE)

- 23) South Street
- 24) Egleston Square
- 25) Hyde/Jackson Square
- 26) Centre Street (Monument to Canary Square)
- 27) Forest Hills
- 28) Washington Street (between Egleston and Forest Hills)

THE REST OF THE BEST

- 29) Community event
- 30) Playground/tot lot
- 31) Mural
- 32) Children's service or activity
- 33) Health service
- 34) Local school
- 35) Neighborhood association or group (no office)
- 36) Nonprofit service agency (office)
- 37) Gay/lesbian hang-out/meeting place
- 38) Storefront
- 39) Government service
- 40) JP environmental group or effort

CEDAC commits over \$11.5 million in second quarter of 2021

STAFF REPORT

The Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) approved \$11,578,537 in early stage financing to 16 non-profit community development corporations across Massachusetts in the second quarter of 2021. This lending supports affordable housing developments in cities and towns from Boston to Northampton.

"These commitments, which represent a strong second quarter of lending activity, support a variety of affordable housing projects that are tailored to the needs of the community," said Roger Herzog, CEDAC's executive director. "We are proud to support our non-profit development partners as they create affordable and supportive housing for families, seniors, and veterans. These projects will help ensure that some of our most vulnerable populations have a safe, affordable place to call home."

CEDAC's recent commitments include the following projects:

- Mildred Hailey Building 1A, Boston - The Community Builder's (TCB) Mildred Hailey Building 1A project in Boston is the first phase of a major redevelopment of this public housing in Jackson Square, which is being undertaken by Centre Street Partners, LLC, a partnership between TCB, Urban Edge Housing Corporation, and Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation. The full scope of Phase One will replace 253 existing public housing units and create an additional 425 new mixed-income units to be

constructed over a 10-year development schedule. Building 1A will create 100 affordable apartments, a community center, commercial space, and underground parking for three of the Phase One buildings. The development will include a 6,800 square foot community center with educational programming for children. The unit mix includes thirteen 4-bedroom units and five 5-bedroom units, which serves the needs of existing families and addresses the high demand for larger apartments. CEDAC, in partnership with its affiliate the Children's Investment Fund (CIF), has committed a \$1 million predevelopment loan for this project. In addition to improving the quality of and expanding access to early childhood education and out-of-school-time programs for children from low- and moderate-income families, CIF supports affordable housing for low-income families.

- 170 Cottage Street, Chelsea - The Neighborhood Developers, Inc. (TND) plans to acquire a vacant site one block from the MBTA Silver Line Station and create 66 affordable family units. All units will be affordable to households at or below 60% area median income, including 16 units designated for households at or below 30% AMI and five fully accessible units. The building will be designed to meet Passive House energy efficiency standards and universal design best practices. CEDAC has committed \$4.3 million in acquisition financing and \$500,000 in predevelopment financing to support this development.

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Dignity Matters

Continued from page 1

"They are needed every month, so it's a constant need." Dignity Matters is able to purchase these products at a discounted price.

The organization grew from a humble beginning, starting out of Sanetra-Butler's basement in Wayland, to now distributing products to more than 150 non-profit organizations in the state, 50 of which are in Boston. "They vary from domestic violence centers, shelters for the homeless population, medical centers, as well as just public schools with a high rate of poverty," she said.

About a year and a half ago, distribution was expanded to food pantries as well to help a "population that simply cannot afford to buy monthly menstrual care," she said.

In the Jamaica Plain area, Dignity Matters serves nine Congregate Family Shelters of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA), Women Connecting Affecting Change, Elizabeth Stone House, and City Mission Boston, as well as the James W. Hennigan School.

Organizations who partner with Dignity Matters have at least a one-year commitment from the organization to provide

them with menstrual care products. "That way, they can rely on it," Sanetra-Butler said.

Dignity Matters began by doing collection drives for products, running "hundreds" of them at a time, she said, but it was "simply not enough."

Sanetra-Butler said that after learning that New York provides free menstrual products in schools, she found out where they were getting the products from and reached out. "We've been using the same contract for four and a half years now," she said, adding that this has been extended to "big national brands like Hanes and Fruit of the Loom" for underwear as well.

"That's really about 80 percent of what we distribute," she said. "We can't purchase it without the help of our amazing development team."

Glassman said, "we support other organizations that help these women. These organizations know these women; they know their needs. They have their trust."

Sanetra-Butler added, "at the same time, they are experts in knowing their clients and what their clients need on a daily basis. We are experts on logistics, supply chain, and menstrual care. It just makes sense for the benefit of the women we serve that we partner with nonprof-

its. We secure funding, ordering, shipping, [and] delivering it to women in a timely manner."

The pandemic presented a challenge to Dignity Matters, not only with the additional women needing products, but also with production of the products themselves.

"A lot of the work we did had to be changed," Sanetra-Butler said, including working around not being able to have the several hundred typical volunteers together to help. Distribution went from monthly to bimonthly, which required more coordination, she said.

Glassman added that the manufacturers of the menstrual care products were also manufacturing PPE like gowns and masks during the height of the pandemic, but she was "we are really grateful that they were able to get it done for us" and provide the products needed. There were "a lot of moving parts," she said.

Glassman spoke a little bit about the upcoming auction, which will be accepting bids from September 16th to the 23rd. Items up for bid include an Ultimate Red Sox Tour and Tickets, an insider ticket package for Hamilton on Broadway, rounds of golf at Willowbend and the Hopkinton Country Club, rock climbing and zip-lining experiences, and various gift cards to restaurants, stores, spas, muse-

ums, and more.

"We have absolutely been blown away by the support from local businesses and organizations," Glassman said.

"We, unlike a lot of organizations during COVID felt like it was just the right time during COVID to raise additional funds," she said.

Glassman said that between March and June of last year, the number of people served "more than doubled" from 4,000 to 8,500 a month, so more funding was required to support the growing number of women in need.

The virtual auction was what they came up with to help raise additional funds to ensure these critical products could continue to be provided, while still ensuring the safety of everyone during the pandemic.

Last year, the goal was to raise \$15,000, and \$20,000 was raised. This year, the goal is to raise \$30,000, but Glassman said

that the hope is to get closer to \$40,000 or \$45,000.

"So far, we've had a really great response from folks registering and wanting to get involved in the auction," she said. "We're really excited about it."

Now, Dignity Matters serves nearly 11,000 women a month, with that number growing by the day with new requests from organizations. "We need people to step up," Sanetra-Butler said. "If every woman in the state donated \$1, we wouldn't even have this issue."

She continued, "without period protection, women can't even go get food. Of course, for us, it's one of the most important needs. It's like medication; you just have to have it."

To register to bid at the virtual Dignity Matters NOW Auction and support Dignity Matters' mission, visit bit.ly/dignity-matters-now. For more information about Dignity Matters, visit dignity-matters.org.

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SECTION 1.0 - NOTICE TO PROPOSERS CITY OF BOSTON/COUNTY OF SUFFOLK Boston Centers for Youth & Families

Request for Proposals

Services including the operation of the Thomas Johnson Community Center located at 68 Annunciation Rd. Roxbury, MA 02119.

EV00009610

Contact Information

Varnie Jules, Finance Unit Manager

617-635-4920 x 2149

The City of Boston, acting by and through its Boston Centers for Youth & Families Department and its Commissioner (the Official), invites proposals from non-profit groups for the performance of **Services including the operation of the Thomas Johnson Community Center, financial oversight, tennis instruction, staffing, provision of equipment, and maintenance** and particularly as set forth in the Request for Proposal Documents.

The City of Boston ("The City"), acting by its Commissioner of Department ("The Official"), requests proposals for the services and/or supplies described above, as particularly set forth in the Request for Proposals, which may be obtained by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at boston.gov/procurement/ and clicking on the supplier portal button to access event ID # **EV00009610**

Proposers must meet the following minimum qualification: MUST BE a Non-profit corporation authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and providing recreational opportunities and activities for youth and families. For information specific to this RFP, please contact William Morales at william.morales@boston.gov or 617-635-4920.

Requests for Proposals shall be available on August 23, 2021 until the proposal filing deadline. All proposals shall be filed no later than September 13, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

William Morales, Commissioner
(August 23, August 30, 2021)



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Pickleball

Continued from page 1

A group was formed by Karen McCormack and Colleen Scanlan of McCormack & Scanlan Real Estate in 2017 with just a few members from the office, and has now grown to around 200 people. McCormack said that Scanlan discovered the game of pickleball while on a trip to Martha's Vineyard, and thought it might be a fun way to get some exercise.

She said that they reached out to a Massachusetts pickleball ambassador, Peter Sullivan, who came to the South St. tennis courts by the McCormack and Scanlan office and "chalked off the lines for a pickleball court."

McCormack said even on the very first day they were at the courts, people walking by would stop and ask what they were doing and how they could get involved.

"We're right on the main street, so many people are walking by or coming to play tennis," McCormack said. "It's such a super fun sport that is really social also."

Paula Callaghan, a realtor at McCormack and Scanlan, has been a part of the group since its inception. She explained that the game involves four people on the court at once, two on each side of the net. The paddles are a squarish shape, and the court is about half the size of a tennis court. A wiffle ball type ball is used.

"It's all about hand-eye coordination," she said.



Karen McCormack returning a ball during a game of pickleball in 2019.

McCormack said that "one of the best parts of the sport" is that it's "open to so many age levels and athletic abilities." She said the group in JP includes people from ages 18 all the way up to their 70s and 80s.

She said some members have come out of retirement from tennis, and others have never played a sport in their life. Since the court is a fairly small size and no running is involved, it is a popular activity for many people.

"Some of them are feeling like they're athletes for the first time in their lives," she said.

"We now offer beginner sessions for eight to 10 weeks," McCormack said.

"We do it all for free. We didn't realize how many people were going to get into it."

Callaghan said that the average age in this league is about mid-40s up to about 70s, though there are some younger players as well.

"It's nice because the courts aren't taken over by young kids the whole time," she said.

The pandemic put a damper on the pickleball playing, however. In 2020, the group did not gather to play because of safety concerns.

But this year, with vaccines, more and more people are comfortable coming out again, especially since the activity is outside.



PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Naomi Rivera (right) reaches for the ball during a game with her teammate Julie Schaeffer during a game of pickleball in 2019 (left).

side.

"People were ready to get out of the house," McCormack said.

After asking the city to come down and paint more lines, she said there are now six pickleball courts at the South St. tennis courts. There are no permanent pickleball nets, however, so those looking to play the game outside of when the league is there will have to bring their own.

But show up on a Saturday morning, and all the equipment is there, including balls, paddles, and nets, all of which have been purchased by McCormack and Scanlan.

Beginners can learn the ropes of the game without having to worry about having their own equipment.

So many people have expressed interest, however, that McCormack has had to limit the number of people who can come each week to about 50 per Saturday.

urday, and people can only come every other Saturday to ensure all are given a chance.

"It's fantastic," McCormack said of the game. "It's become such a huge part of my social life." Before starting the league, she said she had never even heard of pickleball.

"It seemed like a retirement sport," she said. "It's big in places where there are a lot of retirees." But she quickly learned that that is not necessarily the case, and she said she feels it is a "good idea to bring to the community."

Though it was originally Scanlan's idea, "I'm the one who fell in love," she said.

She said she's also been encouraging the city to offer it to adults a couple of times a week, and she said that beginning in 2020, all tennis courts that are resurfaced will have pickleball lines added.

She said word of mouth about the game has spread extremely quickly in the neighborhood, and she said she gets three to four emails daily from different people who want to learn more about how they can get involved.

She also said the sport is not only fairly physically accessible, but also monetarily accessible. People can play in her league in JP for free, and other communities charge a small fee to play the game, unlike tennis, where many people belong to an expensive club to play.

Callaghan said that "it's amazing" how many people have connected with one another in the neighborhood through this game.

"The people you meet," she added, become "friends for life."

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Janey and JPNDNC cut ribbon on affordable housing units

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Last Tuesday, Mayor Kim Janey joined the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDNC), MassHousing and the residents of multiple affordable housing sites, collectively called the Pitts Portfolio, to celebrate the acquisition, preservation and renovation of 201 units in Roxbury and Dorchester.

JPNDNC utilized \$1.5 million in City of Boston Acquisition Opportunity Program (AOP) funding and \$26 million in permanent MassHousing financing to purchase and renovate the units. This funding allowed for extensive capital improvements across the 201 unit portfolio, as well as finance the long-term affordability of the properties. As part of the work, 11 units were made accessible to people with disabilities and 14 units have been set aside to house formerly homeless individuals and families.

"This is a great example of how community partners can work together to ensure Boston residents

have a place to call home," said Janey at the ribbon cutting last week. "The ability of the City to keep these units affordable into the future is a huge win for Boston. I look forward to continuing to work with our nonprofit organizations, MassHousing and other partners to protect and preserve Boston's affordable housing options."

The housing is located in 21 buildings in Fort Hill, Nubian Square and Grove Hall, purchased from the estate of Lorenzo Pitts. Mr. Pitts was a successful, Roxbury-based owner and housing developer. Most of the units were affordable to low-income families.

When JPNDNC acquired the Pitts Portfolio in 2018, only 64 of the 201 units had long-term affordability restrictions, and without a long-term preservation transaction, the remainder were at risk of being converted to market-rate housing. The City's \$1.5M in AOP funding helped to ensure that all 201 units will have long-term affordability.

"Welcome home to all the residents of the Lorenzo Pitts prop-



Acting Mayor Kim Janey shown with members of the JPNDNC, MassHousing and residents of the Pitts Portfolio building cutting the ribbon on the new apartments.

erties who now have renovated, modern homes where they can live affordably and prosper well into the future," said MassHousing Executive Director Chrystal Kornegay. "MassHousing commends the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation and the estate of Lorenzo Pitts – as well as the city, state and private partners involved in this project – for their commitment to preserving this important affordable housing portfolio in Dorchester and Roxbury."

Overall, there are 38 one-bedroom apartments, 87 two-bedroom apartments, 53 three-bedroom apartments, 18 four-bedroom

apartments, two five-bedroom apartments and three six-bedroom apartments. Renovations on the buildings and units included masonry repairs of building facades, roof and window replacement at selected buildings, accessibility upgrades, kitchen and bathroom upgrades, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing system upgrades.

Of the 201 units in the Pitts portfolio, 14 units are restricted to households earning 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) or less, 161 units are restricted at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) and 26 units are restricted at or below 80 percent of

AMI. A total of 165 units are supported by project-based Section 8 or MRVP rental subsidy.

"We are tremendously grateful to the City of Boston and to all the other partners who made it possible to keep these 201 families in our city," said JPNDNC CEO Teronda Ellis. "MassHousing played an essential role, and DHCD, HUD, the Boston Housing Authority and the Massachusetts Historic Commission all contributed. And I especially want to thank the residents for their tremendous patience throughout the renovation process, especially since most of it took place during one of our nation's most serious pandemics."

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PAID FOR BY THE WU COMMITTEE

JP Centre/South Main Streets seek artists for winter light show

By GAZETTE STAFF

JP Centre/South Main Streets has issued a Request for Proposals for their third Annual Winter Light Show. The organization seeks artists who will use JPCSMS' crowdfunded projector to create an artistic and dynamic light show with projection mapping that will project onto a local building within the district. Special preference will

be given to artists from Jamaica Plain. Details are available at <https://jpccentresouth.com/> or by contacting Ginger Brown at director@jpccentresouth.com or (917) 942-2439.

Proposals open September 6 and close on October 1, 2021. Artists will be selected by Friday, October 8, 2021. The show will debut on Friday, December 3, and continue until January 10, 2022. The location will be

selected together by JP Centre/South Main Streets and the artist/s. In the past, JPCSMS has featured projection shows onto the buildings at 670 Centre St (City Feed & Supply), the First Baptist Church, and J.P. Licks.

The projector is the result of a crowdfunding campaign in 2019, which raised over \$15,000 to purchase a projector that would innovate our holiday decorations campaign. In addition, the pro-

jector is available for community groups to use for additional art projects. These projects include Artists for Humanity, Black Lives Matter, and JP Together/JP Unidas.

JP Centre/South Main Streets is a volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to guide the growth of Jamaica Plain's Centre and South Streets' business district through the active collaboration

of residents, business owners, and others committed to a community-led initiative. In partnership with Boston Main Streets, we provide a direct conduit to the City of Boston and can provide technical assistance to help new businesses succeed. Our organization, with the help of businesses and residents, endeavors to sustain our lively community with economic vitality, arts, and advocacy.

JPNC Housing & Development Committee discusses equity proposals; Forbes Building

By LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Housing & Development Committee met on August 17 to discuss proposals from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee, as well as hear from Beverly Estes-Smargiassi, Assistant Director of Preservation & Community Development for the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) regarding the Forbes Building.

SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSALS

The DEI subcommittee has come forth with a two part proposal to include under-represented individuals in the Housing & Development Committee.

DEI subcommittee member Marvin Mathelier said that "this was something in the making for quite some time," and "we've acknowledged that this has been an issue."

He said that people of color, renters, people who live in income restricted housing, and who cover all areas of the neighborhood are not currently adequately represented on the committee. "The majority are white and homeowners now," he said of the current committee. "There is

room for improvement. There is room for us to have deeper and more thought-provoking conversations."

He continued, "our ultimate goal is to ensure people of color and renters are able to participate in the committee, which will then help shape the neighborhood that we want."

He said that the subcommittee will "do our homework" and conduct outreach to members of the community to get them to join the committee.

Sarah Horsley, another member of the subcommittee, explained a little bit about the proposal, which includes two parts. The numbers that the group came up with are "based on the desire to be in alignment with the demographics of JP as they are now," she said.

As written in the proposal, part one includes:

Part #1 - The Working Group recommends that the Committee set the following goals for participation of under-represented groups as members of the H&D Committee:

- 45% of Committee members be Black Indigenous & People of Color (BIPOC)
- 50% of Committee members be renters
- 20% of Committee members be renters in income-restricted

housing

- 33% of Committee members be from each of Areas A, B & C

Part #2 - The Working Group recommends that the Committee allocate designated seats for under-represented groups, in the percentages of the goals laid out above.

"We recognize that it takes time to do the outreach," Horsley said at the meeting. The group said they would also like this to be the case for the full JPNC in the future.

"I think we want to see these bodies be representative of the community, but at the end of the day, the seats need to be filled," said JPNC member Kevin Rainsford.

Pam Bender, a member of the subcommittee, said that she and others "feel a sense of urgency to fill committee seats," adding that the group is just "asking for a pause" on allowing anyone to fill the seats.

"I've tried my best whenever there's a vacant seat to do that outreach," Rainsford said "...with lack of success. I think there's a systemic problem that we need to look at ourselves. What's the systemic issue...that keeps us from being able to reach that goal?"

Mathelier said that "we do see that...there are friction points," adding that he believes the pause to allow for outreach will be beneficial. "You brought up a good point," he said to Rainsford. "We do realize it's going to be an uphill battle to some degree."

Others agreed that the pause would be helpful and would give the committee the time and space they need to do the work.

"I think I am a prime candidate for this kind of proposal," said JP resident Marvin Watkins. "It really comes down to

outreach." He said he did not know about the opportunity to serve on the committee until Mathelier had reached out to him.

Housing & Development Committee member Carolyn Royce asked if a time limit could be placed on the pause, as "it really does depend on the outreach," and "we're short people on the committee...I really don't like shutting off public participation."

After further discussion, the committee ended up voting to ask the full JPNC for this proposal as written with the seats held for underrepresented groups for six months. After six months is up, there will be a check-in, and the vacancies will be opened up to everyone. The full Council approved this request at its August 24 meeting.

FORBES BUILDING

The Forbes Building has often been a topic of conversation in the neighborhood recently, as the building is at risk of losing its affordability.

Beverly Estes-Smargiassi from the DND came to speak to the Housing & Development Committee about this issue from the city's perspective.

She said that the Forbes building is lumped in with other buildings that had mortgages run by MassHousing as part of a program called the 13A program. The mortgages were 40 years, and "all came due in the last decade." She said that there are approximately 13 developments in Boston with more than 100 units that were a part of this program.

Estes-Smargiassi said that there has been a "10 year scram-

ble" to maintain affordability in these buildings, but there has been "some success" with non-profits like the Fenway Community Development Corporation and others who have acquired these buildings and are "able to preserve those units in perpetuity." Additionally, she said that there are also "for-profit landlords who have stepped up to the place and extended affordability in their buildings."

She added that the city "thought the Forbes Building would be a no-brainer," as the owner has always "expressed interest" in preserving the affordability of the building, which is occupied mostly by seniors and people with disabilities.

"Unfortunately, it has been harder and harder to get a yes with this owner," she said.

The mortgage on the building matured in March of 2019, Estes-Smargiassi said, adding that "then the affordability became highly, highly at risk."

She said that the city is "making sure he is abiding by the rules for keeping buildings affordable for a three year tail after the loss of subsidy," but "we are coming up to that three year mark in this coming March."

Estes-Smargiassi said that MassHousing believed there would be a plan to preserve affordability, but she said there is none as of yet.

She said that the Forbes Building "never had city money so we don't have any easy leverage to get him to come to the table, so that's a challenge."

In Jamaica Plain, DND is currently tracking 21 developments, and Estes-Smargiassi said that only the Forbes Building is at risk right now.



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JPNC holds first meeting after 2021 election of members

By LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually for the first time since its election on August 21. Eleven members were elected, leaving nine vacancies between all areas of the neighborhood and At-Large seats.

The Council reported that there was low turnout at this year's election, chalking it up to the late summer date and the fact that all seats ran uncontested. The election has already been postponed several times because of the pandemic, and

was supposed to take place last year.

JPNC member Michael Reiskind said he recalls seeing between 300 and 600 votes in other years. Former JPNC Chair Kevin Rainsford, who no longer sits on the Council as of this meeting, said that there were about 350 ballots cast for the past few elections.

For this election, there were about six write-in votes, each of which was only voted for once so those people did not meet the requirement of 25 votes for nomination.

Currently, there are two va-

cancies in Area A, five in Area B, one in Area C, and one At-Large. Alexis Rickmers nominated herself for Area C, and Marvin Watkins nominated himself for Area A. A second announcement of vacancies is needed before voting on these nominations.

When it came time to vote for new officers, JPNC member Bernie Doherty said he didn't feel it was appropriate to elect them that night since about half the seats are vacant and whoever fills them in the coming months will not have had any input.

The group compromised and elected three interim officers:

Samantha Montano as chair, Bernie Doherty as Vice Chair, and Michael Reiskind for Secretary/Treasurer. In a couple of months, permanent officers will be elected.

ZONING COMMITTEE

After the officers discussion, the Council moved on to committee updates, starting with the Zoning Committee, chaired by Dave Baron.

Baron said that there was only one matter up for a vote, which was a proposal at 104-104B Jamaica Street, in which the owners want to build a three

unit residential townhouse building with off-street parking in the rear.

"That was the second meeting with the Zoning Committee," Baron said of the project. There are many violations involved with the project, including side yard setback, which caused the side yard neighbor to have some opposition.

Between the first and second times this project came before the committee, there were some design changes made and the neighbor eventually decided not

Continued on page 15

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JPNC

Continued from page 1

to oppose the new design, Baron said.

JPNC member Bernie Doherty expressed his frustration with the recommendation of approval by the committee. He said due to the many variances, "that is amazing that we're just letting this pass through."

The full Council did vote to approve the proposal.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Public Service Committee, chaired by Michael Reiskind, met to hear a proposal from Simpli Bar & Bites at 3840 Washington St. for a 7-day common victualer wines and malt beverages license, as well as take-out and an entertainment license for two TVs. The hours of operation are 6am to 11pm.

Reiskind said that an abutters meeting had not been held in time due to turnover in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, so the committee's recommendation to approve was contingent on no abutters being in opposition once the meeting was held. The abutters meeting did happen and no neighbors had concerns.

The Licensing Board met in July and requested a letter of approval before the last week in August, which Reiskind said would be sent once the full Council votes on this project.

He said that the outdoor patio is a "very nice patio that they added before," and it faces the orange line so no residents are impacted by it. He also said that the manager is "long standing" and "competent."

The Council voted to approve this request.

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Housing & Development Committee member Marvin Mathelier reported on the committee's August meeting, which consisted of a discussion of proposals by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee to gain more members of the Housing & Development Committee from underrepresented groups, as well as the group's discussion of the Forbes Building.

Mathelier explained the proposal, which includes specific percentages of people from

the BIPOC community, renters, those living in income-restricted housing, and a percentage of members to be from each area of the neighborhood in order for the committee to best reflect the neighborhood as a whole.

The full council voted for the subcommittee to move forward and conduct outreach to these groups for the next six months to recruit new members.

For the Forbes Building, no vote was going to be taken, but David Nollman, a member of the Forbes Building Tenant Association and the Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants (MAHT), along with Michael Kane, Director of the MAHT, came to this meeting to ask the Council for their support in preserving affordable housing in the building.

Nollman explained the background of the building, which includes the fact that the 40 year mortgage has ended, but a policy is in place to require the landlord to allow residents to stay in their apartments for an additional three years "in conditions fairly close to" what they have been for years. "Some people have been there for 30, 40 years," Nollman said, adding that many residents are elderly and/or disabled.

He said that any increase in rent, even five percent, would make a huge difference to many of the tenants in this building. A petition has been created that

has hundreds of signatures calling to keep the building affordable.

"If we could get the support of the JPNC, that would be a huge win for us," he said. He also spoke about several changes the landlord has allegedly proposed for the building and the neighborhood.

Kane said that the landlord has always talked about wanting to preserve affordability in the building, but right now no agreement has been made to do so.

"The bottom line is he needs to sign the contracts now that preserve affordable housing," Kane said.

"I think everyone wants to keep affordable housing," said Michael Reiskind, but he expressed concern that only one side had been heard at this meeting.

"We almost never vote on issues when we hear only one side, and we've heard only one side," he said.

A meeting has been scheduled for August 26 with members of the JPNC and the owner of the Forbes Building, the JPNC reported.

"I hear and respect the council's desire to hear both sides," said Pam Bender, a member of the Housing & Development Committee, but she said there is a "sense of urgency here. People

ELECTION RESULTS SIDEBAR:

At the JPNC election on August 21, there were 131 Ballots cast - 19 at Stop & Shop, 29 at Forest Hills and 83 at JP Licks. Of those who voted 25 were from Area A, 50 were from Area B, and 56 were from Area C. The breakdown of votes are as follows:

Area A

Marvin Mathelier - 21
Brandon Yu Iisuka Russell - 18
Trevor Wissink-Adams - 15

Bernard Doherty - 32
Micah Sachs - 32

At large

Michael Reiskind - 85
Dave Baron - 74
Will Cohen - 74
Samantha Montano - 79

Area c

Gert Thorn - 38
Peg Preble - 28

are going to lose their homes."

Bernie Doherty agreed. "The need is urgent. It is now, it is here," he said. "We need to deal with it now."

After further discussion and suggestions, the Council ultimately voted seven to one to sign the petition.

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES WITH JAMAICA PLAIN PORCHFEST 2021

PHOTOS BY LAUREN BENNETT

JP Porchfest was back in person for 2021, but Tropical Storm Henri forced the second day to be postponed until August 28. On August 20, music could be heard at 28 different locations

throughout the neighborhood from 11am to 4pm. “Thank you to every performer, porch host, sponsor, volunteer, partner and every person involved! Thank you to our community for opening your homes to us!” JP Porchfest wrote in a post



Christiana Goslin and Rabah Ameziane danced to the music on the lawn at the First Baptist Church.



Shown above, Many folks got up to dance to the upbeat music of School of Honk. Shown to the left, Noah Pettit, Ella Batty, and Leo enjoyed the music at Rogerson House.



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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

BEAR & CHLOE

Bear is looking for a home with his best friend, Chloe! They grew up in Texas with a loving family, but when the new baby was born there wasn't enough time for the dogs anymore. They moved into their "grandparents" farm for the time being, where Bear lost an eye trying to be friends with a not-so-friendly feral cat. He has not held a grudge and is still friendly with kitties, as well as other dogs. They love making new human friends and would do well with dog-savvy kids 12 and up.

For more information about Bear & Chloe and or other animals in need of adoption, please contact:

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on its Facebook page following the first day of performances. “Hearts were filled today and we have you to thank.” Dunamis Boston is producing JP Porchfest this year, and for folks who cannot or do not want to head out to various porches, JP Couchfest was also an option this year. From August 16 to August 20, performances were given virtually so people can enjoy from the comfort of their own homes. Additionally, this year a spotlight has been placed on BIPOC performers. “Porchfest is still open to anyone in terms of audience, performer or porch host but we wanted to make sure that we spotlighted artists who rarely have access to these opportunities,” a statement on the Porchfest website reads. This year, BIPOC performers have been centered, and performers are paid. For more information about Porchfest, as well as a map and schedule of performance locations for August 28, visit jpporchfest.org.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES WITH JAMAICA PLAIN PORCHFEST 2021



School of Honk performed at the Anna Mae Cole Community Center while many residents gathered to enjoy the fun.



Thom Dunn of The Roland Highlife performed some solo tunes at the Wenham Street Cinema before two of his other bandmates joined him.



Several groups gathered on the lawn of the Rogerson House to hear live music from artists like Emmanuel Ramirez, James Dargan, Amanda Shea, Miguel Landestoy, and DJ Rozey, all of whom performed throughout the day at this location.



Neighbors gathered at the Wenham Street Cinema to enjoy music from T.S. I Love You and The Roland Highlife.

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EDITORIAL

Make the most of the rest of summer

If nothing else, the Summer of 2021 has taught us an age-old lesson: The only thing that is certain about life is uncertainty. Remember when President Biden told the country in the spring that his goal was to have the pandemic restrictions lifted across the country by July 4? At that time, the Delta variant of COVID-19, though already responsible for a huge surge in deaths in India and other places, constituted only a tiny fraction of cases in the United States. But by July 4, almost all of the COVID cases in the U.S., among both the vaccinated and unvaccinated, were attributable to Delta, which is many times more contagious than original COVID and proving to be far deadlier among the unvaccinated, particularly for younger age groups. Today, COVID-19 is raging as never before and restrictions on our normal living are being reinstated. The extent of the tragic and sad situation that has been unfolding in Afghanistan (though foreseeable by some) caught the U.S. government and the American people completely off-guard. Afghanistan registered barely a blip on the news cycle at the start of the summer, but now it dominates the news. And although scientists have long warned us of the overall effects of climate change, the catastrophic weather events of this summer -- the floods, wildfires, and drought -- have been felt in every corner of the globe. Then, as if to place an exclamation point on the extent of life's vicissitudes, just this past weekend, the wonderful Concert in Central Park was cut short by a lightning storm. If the Summer of 2020 was notable for lockdowns, the Summer of 2021 will be remembered as a real-life version of Whack-a-Mole, when we never were able to regain our footing on the path to normalcy because of all of the obstacles that continuously sprung up along the way. There are just two weekends left in the Summer of 2021, our Summer of Uncertainty. We hope that all of our readers will make the most of the summer days that are left, but do so safely.

The unvaccinated are rebels without a cause

For the majority of our readers -- who are vaccinated (because we live in Eastern Mass.) -- the reasons being given by those who refuse to get the shot, even when they are dying in the hospital, are inexplicable. The most-often heard statement from the new COVID cohort is that they were exercising their "freedom" from the tyranny of government officials who have been urging Americans to be vaccinated. However, freedom isn't free, as those who are filling the critical care beds in our hospitals are learning the hard way. Further, their freedom to die affects the rest of us, both by spreading the disease among their fellow citizens and pushing our healthcare system to the brink. Ironically, getting a COVID-19 vaccination shot is among the least demanding of the many impositions on our freedom that all of us experience as Americans each and every day. Even in our free society, we live with restrictions on our behavior in everything we do. No one has the right to walk naked down the street, to drive a car as fast as they want, or to not pay taxes, to name just the most obvious examples of restrictions on our personal freedom. More to the point (no pun intended), many vaccines already are mandated from the time we are born in this country in order to attend public schools. In addition, unscrupulous politicians (Trump, Cruz, DeSantis, et als), together with disingenuous social and traditional media, are amplifying this corrupted notion of absolute freedom. Ultimately however, the decision to get the vaccine remains a personal choice. But as we watch the suffering among the unvaccinated, their pathetic plight brings to mind the title of the classic James Dean movie, Rebel Without a Cause. Yes, the unvaccinated may be exercising their "freedom." But in the final analysis, what was the point of it all?

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

LETTERS

Put Kendra Hicks in City Hall

Dear Editor,
I met Kendra Hicks when she was in the 8th grade. She was teaching basic Bachata steps at a street festival in the Latin Quarter of JP. I remember being impressed by her skills, confidence and patience, as she actually had me dancing in rhythm -- not an easy task. Over the next several years I had the opportunity to work with Kendra on a number of community projects and I witnessed the early stages of an evolving leader. During Kendra's high school years, there was an epidemic of youth violence in Boston's neighborhoods, including Jamaica Plain. Not only did Kendra directly feel the pain of this crisis through the loss of loved ones, but

she transformed her sorrow and anger into positive action as a young artist and activist. At age nineteen she put her passion to work by becoming an anti-violence street-worker. She was a relentless advocate. Her voice was authentic, it came from her heart, and people listened. Now, I am so pleased to see that Kendra is courageously running for elected office. At this moment in Boston's history, when so much that used to seem impossible is now possible, we need to put Kendra onto the City Council. Boston, per capita, is one of the wealthiest cities in the world, but centuries-old systems have prevented this wealth from being distributed equitably into the neighborhoods. With

her hopeful vision, youthful perspective, clear policy positions, her driving energy and charisma, Kendra will make a difference. I want Kendra to be in City Hall chambers when climate change, racial equity and housing are debated. I particularly want her voice to be heard when the related issues of arts and youth mental health are discussed. I know she will bridge the social justice movement to City Hall. Kendra, with her savvy team, is running a state-of-the-art campaign. But over the coming weeks, she needs and deserves our support, as she is in a tight race. We know she will work for us, and now is the time to work for her.

Ken Tangvik

Mandate is step in right direction

Dear Editor,
Mayor Janey's indoor mask mandate for Boston is a great first step in helping arts organizations and arts audiences find their way back together. As a sector, the city's arts community appreciates clear guidelines to help ensure the safest possible environments for performers, staff and audiences. But the requirements need to go further. In ArtsBoston's newest Audience Outlook Monitor survey, 98% of respondents report being fully vaccinated, or planning to be. Nearly 80% want assurances their health is

protected before they return to theater, dance and music performances. A vaccine requirement like the one announced recently by more than a dozen local theaters should be a mandate for indoor spaces where people gather to experience the joy of live performances. A corollary push to make vaccines more accessible to all communities will ensure equity as well as greater public health. Recovery of the arts means a recovery of jobs and an economic boost for Boston. After 18 months without income due to shutdowns, cultural or-

ganizations whose work has reliably realized an annual \$2 billion economic boost for Greater Boston can't continue to be hamstrung, forced to defend common-sense practices while getting back on their feet. Let's follow the science that vaccines and masks together offer the best protection, and require vaccination for all indoor Boston gatherings. Catherine Peterson is Executive Director of ArtsBoston, the marketing, research and advocacy group that supports arts and culture in Jamaica Plain and the Greater Boston region.

Janey announces winners of Garden Contest

By GAZETTE STAFF

Mayor Kim Janey announced the winners of the 25th annual Mayor's Garden Contest with a grand prize provided by JetBlue and prize packages donated by Mahoney's Garden

Centers. The Mayor's Garden Contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods. "I am proud to carry on Boston's tradition of

commemorating those who help keep our neighborhoods vibrant and inviting," said Mayor Kim Janey. "I first learned the joys of gardening from my grandmother and have

Continued on page 19

Garden Contest

Continued from page 14

continued in my own community. This contest is a great way to affirm our city's dedication to beautifying urban spaces, and plant a seed of interest in the next generation of gardeners."

First place winners received the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from Mayor Janey while second and third place winners were awarded certificates. First place winners were entered into a drawing for a JetBlue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston and also received a pair of tickets to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Gift certificates were provided by Mahoney's Garden Centers to the top three winners in each

category as well as the 2021 Hall of Fame winners.

This year's winners: Shade Garden

- First Place: Sally Reyerer - Beacon Hill
- Second Place: Errol and Jan Uys - Dorchester
- Third Place: Christa Comeau - Back Bay

Vegetable or Herb Garden

- First Place: Sunny Ha - Brighton
- Second Place: Pasqualino Cerro - Hyde Park
- Third Place: Amina Shabani - Brighton

Medium Yard Garden

- First Place: Jessica von Ammon - Roxbury
- Second Place: Linda Sklar - Jamaica Plain
- Third Place: Carey Moffitt-Jenkins and John Jenkins - Allston

Small Yard Garden

- First Place: Julia Fairclough - Roslindale
- Second Place: Doug Gifford - South End
- Third Place: Jill Christians - South End

Large Yard Garden

- First Place: Stephen Smith and Richard Allsbrook - Roslindale
- Second Place: Amy Galblum - Roslindale
- Third Place: Michael Bresinski - West Roxbury

Storefront, Organization, or Main Street District Garden

- First Place: Carroll Thomas Funeral Home - Hyde Park
- Second Place: Friends of Christopher Columbus Park - North End
- Third Place: Fairmount Hill Neighborhood Association - Hyde Park

Porch, Balcony, or Container Garden

- First Place: Alex and Stephanie Tsalagas - South End
- Second Place: Cindy Joyce - Back Bay
- Third Place: Bev Christians and Chris Hartmann - South End

Community Garden

- First Place: Craig and Kimberly McNulty - Fenway-Kenmore
- Second Place: John Ruiz - Fenway-Kenmore
- Third Place: Dionna Di Pierro and Steven Davy - Fenway-Kenmore

Age Strong Garden Category

- First Place: Janice Dunlevy -

Dorchester

- Second Place: Maria Termini - Roslindale
- Third Place: Arlene Simon - Dorchester

Gardeners who have won three or more times are automatically entered into the Hall of Fame and will be recognized at the awards ceremony. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers will be ineligible to enter as contestants but are welcome to return as judges. The 2021 Hall of Fame inductees are James Anderson, John Govoni and Dorothy Giarla, Miguel Rosales, and Julie Murphy.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P1196EA Estate of: Elinor Stone Date of Death 06/14/2020

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robin Solit of Montclair, NJ requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Robin Solit of Montclair, NJ be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 17, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
8/27/21
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU21P1594EA Estate of: Russell W. Sweeney, Jr. Also Known As: Date of Death: 05/09/2021

To all interested persons: Timothy Sweeney of Fairfield, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/23/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the

estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 10, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
8/27/21
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. C. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P1595GD Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 In the matter of: Steven Gowey Of: Jamaica Plain, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brigham and Women's F. Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Steven Gowey is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the

Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 09/09/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 29, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 8/27/21 JP

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