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## A TRUE MISSION HILLER



Mission Hill resident 92-year old Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse (second from left) who graduated from English High School and Yale University is pictured receiving A Good Neighbor Award in early February during Black History Month from Mission Hill Main Streets. Also pictured are from left Richard Rouse, Executive Director of Mission Hill Main Streets, Board Member Charlotte O'Neill and Michel Soltani. Woodhouse is an attorney and he is a retired Lt. Col. in the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

## Rep. Elugardo announces House Committee assignments

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

State Rep. for the Massachusetts 15th Suffolk district Nika Elugardo has announced her committee assignments for the 191st legislative session. Placed on four committees, the representative's assignments include her top requests. She will serve on the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities; the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs; the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development; and the House Committee on Technology and Intergovernmental Affairs.

"I'd be happy to serve on any of

our committees, which all do great work," Rep. Elugardo said. "Still, I'm grateful to have received my top two choices, areas of deep and long-standing passion, the Tourism, Arts, and Cultural

Development Committee and the Elder Affairs Committee. I'm also honored to serve on a team of champions with other

*Continued on page 5*

## La Representante Elugardo Anuncia las Tareas de la Comisiones de la Cámara

La Representante Estatal para el decimoquinto distrito Suffolk, Nina Elugardo, ha anunciado sus tareas para la sesión legislativa. Ella servirá en cuatro comisiones que incluyen sus principales prioridades: la Comisión Conjunta de Niños, Familias y Personas Discapacitadas; la Comisión

Conjunta de Asuntos de la Tercera Edad; la Comisión Conjunta de Turismo, Arte y Desarrollo; y la Comisión de Tecnología y Asuntos Internacionales de la Cámara.

"Me complacería servir en cualquiera de las comisiones,

*Continued on page 5*

## City Council holds hearing on BuildBPS update

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The City Council Committee on Education held a hearing on Feb. 25 on an update from Boston Public Schools (BPS) regarding the BuildBPS plan. The BuildBPS plan was first announced in 2017 as a \$1 billion dollar 10-year facilities management plan. The overall sentiment at the hearing was that more concrete information about the plan was needed.

"Two years later, we are looking for a clearer picture about what this means," said Councilor and Chair of the Education Committee Annissa Essaibi-George. She said she was hoping to learn more about the financial plan and the changes that have been made to the plan

to date, as well as whether or not feedback from the community has been applied to the plan.

"We haven't had any updates in 20, 30, 40 years in many cases," said Councilor Ed Flynn, and many schools have become "money pits," according to Councilor Michael Flaherty, who called the BuildBPS plan "a breath of fresh air."

BPS Interim Superintendent Laura Perille and her team sat on the panel at the hearing to present what they call the second phase of BuildBPS. Everyone on the panel was either a current or former BPS parent or a BPS graduate themselves.

"BuildBPS exists at present in two phases," Perille said. She

*Continued on page 4*

## From Baton Rouge to Boston: Lemoine joins race for District 8 City Council

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Louisiana native Landon Lemoine has lived within District 8 since 2009, and is joining Kristen Mobilia and Helene Vincent in the race for the District 8 City Council seat currently held by Josh Zakim.

Lemoine was raised in Baton Rouge by a public school teacher and a bootstrapped metal fabrication business owner. He said that his parents instilled in him early on a "roll up your sleeves" kind of attitude and to help those who may not have the same opportunities. When Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, Lemoine worked for a few different non-profits to help

rebuild the community.

"New Orleans has such a definite character and a unique personality," Lemoine said, and compared it to that of Boston. Lemoine came to Boston to go to Northeastern University, where he studied communications and political science. He said he was drawn to the culture and history of Boston, and feels that the issues of his potential constituents are ones that are real for him as well.

"There's a pattern of not caring, and that pattern has to stop," he says of his reason for running for City Council. "Everyone can give back to their community, even if it's in a modest way."

*Continued on page 3*

Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

# BPDA, ISD discuss expanding Additional Dwelling Unit pilot program

BY JOHN LYNDS

Last year the Boston Inspectional Service Department (ISD) Commissioner William Christopher announced that several Boston neighborhoods that would take part in the Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) pilot program.

Christopher said the proposed program was ISD's way to respond to all the high-end condos going up across the city. The city found that a lot of larger older building in places like Jamaica Plain, Mattapan and East Boston could accommodate an additional unit without coming outside the building's footprint. This means no additions, no raised roofs, no structural changes of any kind but the opportunity for owner occupied homeowners, like empty nesters, to make a little extra cash and remain in the neighborhood.

This week the Boston Planning and Development Agency held a hearing to discuss whether or not the program should be taken citywide and into neighborhoods like Mission Hill.

According to Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) Bonnie McGilpin the BPDA, ISD and the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) are putting together recommendations to expand the ADU program that will be presented at the BPDA's March

board meeting. In order to expand the program some amendments to local zoning would need to be approved by both the BPDA board and the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

McGilpin said expansion of the ADU program would exclude Downtown and Downtown Waterfront neighborhoods but would include neighborhood's like Mission Hill.

McGilpin said if the BPDA accepts the package and changes to zoning to expand the program the ZBA will most likely vote on the issue in April.

During the pilot program in the three neighborhoods homeowners applied to for an ADU through ISD and submitted drawings that were reviewed by both ISD and the BPDA.

There were a few catches to the program. For one, you had to live in the house, you could not go above three units and there are building code requirements and issues that are not going to be compromised. Interested homeowners then submitted a set of drawing to be reviewed by ISD and the BPDA so the two agencies can make sure it is a real unit that is habitable and is up to code.

ISD Commissioner Christopher said the intention of the program is not to create high priced housing but to allow for a homeowner to build an additional

unit for a mother or father or a mother and father to build an additional unit for a son or daughter and a way of trying to keep people in the neighborhood without changing the look or fabric of the neighborhood.

The pilot program also provided additional resources to support homeowners interested in building an ADU. An online toolkit supported homeowners with information about applying for a permit, identifying the cost of building a unit and explaining the type of ADUs allowed. The city also provided a zero interest deferred equity loan up to \$30,000 for eligible homeowners through the Boston Home Center.

Under the pilot program, an ADU shall be an allowed use where it may be otherwise conditional or forbidden provided that it is the addition of no more than one dwelling unit to the existing structure, and will be exempt from all provisions of the Boston Zoning Code, provided that the ADU does not involve any bump out, extension or construction to the existing



Boston Inspectional Service Department (ISD) Commissioner William Christopher during Tuesday's BPDA meeting regarding expanding the Additional Dwelling Unit pilot program.

envelope of the structure which results in the addition of Gross Floor Area.

Mayor Martin Walsh supported the program saying ADUs will increase affordable housing options, create safer living arrangements and support multigenerational family arrangements and opportunities for aging in place so homeowners can remain in their homes. ADUs provide an opportunity to use existing infrastructure to

achieve the City's housing goals.

"We must be innovative and think creatively in order to accomplish our goals of providing more affordable housing options for those that want to live here," said Walsh. "Additional Dwelling Units are an important component in our efforts to create additional housing for our growing population while ensuring that our residents have the opportunity to stay in their homes."

## Walsh releases 2019 annual census

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the City of Boston Election Department today launched the City of Boston's Annual Resident Census to record individuals age 17 and older who live in the City, with mailers going out to households across Boston. The City of Boston's census helps Boston distribute resources evenly, helps voters keep an active voter status, allows residents to have access to a fair jury, and maintain an accurate voter list.

"Boston's annual census is an important tool to make sure we are reaching everyone across our city, and ensuring we continue to provide the resources our residents need," said Mayor Walsh. "I encourage all residents to participate -- and I encourage residents to consider taking part in our survey on childcare needs, language preference and disability status as we learn more about what our residents need, and how city programs can work for them."

Included in this year's census mailing is an optional survey related to childcare, language, and disability. This optional

survey is a collaboration between the Mayor's Civic Engagement Cabinet and the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement, and aims to better understand how individuals and households across Boston neighborhoods relate to language and disability access and the best ways to support parents and young children. Responses to the survey will be anonymous and unconnected to any identifying information. This optional survey asks individuals about their primary language used at home, English proficiency, disability status, and possible barriers that parents/guardians face in accessing affordable quality childcare.

"Access to affordable quality childcare is tremendously important for Boston's working parents, especially women," said Tania Del Rio, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement. "Boston will be the first city in the country to document local childcare needs and preferences through the census. As a result, the City will identify and learn how we can

best address the most critical challenges for families as part of a strategy that also intends to support early educators, without whom our economy would not function."

There are 4 ways for residents to respond if they live in the City of Boston:

1. Complete and Return the form mailed to your residence from the Election Department
2. Respond Online at [Boston.gov/Annual-Census](http://Boston.gov/Annual-Census)
3. Call the Election Department 617-635-VOTE(8683)
4. In Person (9am-4:30pm) at: Room 241 City Hall, 1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

New residents in the City are also able to register to vote, with more information at [Boston.gov/elections](http://Boston.gov/elections). Those who have moved within the City of Boston are encouraged to update their voter registration in addition to responding to the Annual Resident Census.

For more information, contact the Boston Election Department online at [Boston.gov/elections](http://Boston.gov/elections).

Black

### The Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust

requests proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

Visit [www.missionhillfenwaynt.org](http://www.missionhillfenwaynt.org) to access the on-line application.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 5PM on March 31, 2019.

Please email any questions to [hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org](mailto:hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org).



Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust

## Lemoine

Continued from page 1

"I have planted trees, painted the Knights of Columbus, worked for Rosie's place, volunteered for the Red Sox," he said, "always trying to do my part where I can."

Right now, Lemoine works for a healthcare startup as the VP of Growth. He is responsible for figuring out how the company can grow, which includes "getting hands on and involved."

Lemoine is also a member of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay technology task force, which is part of the reason why he wants to bring community innovation to District 8 should he be elected. "Community innovation can come in all shapes and sizes," he said. But he said he really wants to make sure that there are more women and minority owned businesses, and that new ideas are being brought forward.

"I don't believe the politics of the past are working," he said. "I do believe that Boston is such a fast growing city—policies have to align with the city so everyone can be successful."

Aside from community innovation, Lemoine says his top issues are affordable housing, education, and public safety.

He says that as far as affordable housing goes, "new construction can play around with the line for what is affordable. We have to make that process as clear and as straightforward as we can," he said. He said that the wage gap must be closed and more affordable housing for all needs to be brought to District 8.

Lemoine said his goal is to have a family in the city, but "there needs to be a new school in District 8," he said. He said that parents should not have to look to the suburbs for places to send their children to school. He said that he feels that "leveraging the leaders of industry in the area"—science, engineering, technology, medical—to create more programs for youth while

they're in school will help them further specific skills that will help to bridge the opportunity gap.

Lemoine said he has personally experienced a break-in and a shattered car window, so he sympathizes with those in areas where this is especially prevalent, such as the Back Bay. "I see the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and community," Lemoine said. He wants to make sidewalks and bike lanes safer, as well as educate homeowners about how to make their homes more secure. He said he would also like to hold landlords and property managers accountable for updating keypad locks and doors. He added that incorporating technology for keeping parks safer will "bring the neighborhood to the next stage."

He has also taken a look at the data for 311 calls regarding

potholes and unsafe sidewalks. Since 2014, over there have been over 18,000 requests for pothole repair and over 13,000 for sidewalk repair requests. He said when he goes to meetings, he only hears about new construction, but he feels that there is not enough being done to address the current infrastructure and its issues. "It doesn't take a tour around the city to see what's happening and what the problem is in the streets every single day," he said. He said that City Hall needs to pull more from data scientists and engineers, and that's something he would do as City Councilor. "Good data creates good policy," he said.

Lemoine also said that he doesn't think people should "vote for officials by default," and that people should be excited about new ideas. "Everything I do is going to be based in reality—real issues, real data that need to be

solved by real solutions," he said.

He said that he wants to keep his campaign as local as possible, and wants to "cut through the noise" of the plethora of issues that the community faces to "get to what people are complaining about every single day."

He said he admires the current administration's transparency, but looks forward to bringing new ideas and new solutions to the table through innovation. "I don't even believe in career politicians anymore—you have to live it to solve it," Lemoine said. "I am not afraid to work harder than anyone and roll up my sleeves, being on the ground, filling a pothole if I have to."

"We need somebody that's going to have the energy and be excited to get stuff done," he said.

Lemoine officially announced his campaign next Thursday, Feb. 21, in the Fenway.

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## BPS

Continued from page 1

said the first phase was the original launch in 2017, which included work in brainstorming and facilities analysis, but “approached a stalling point over much of 2018,” she said.

Perille said they have restarted in a second phase that began in October 2018, which includes the launch and public release of a plan. Before that, Perille said, there was no public framework or plan out for discussion.

As part of Perille’s presentation, she discussed the four principles of the plan. The first is the creation of more high-quality learning environments for students, closing the opportunity gap, Perille said. The second is equity of program placement for students with disabilities and English Language Learners. Historically, these programs have frequently been placed in underperforming and lower performing schools, Perille said. The third is new approaches to identifying schools using student need as the foremost indicator, and the last is fewer K-12 transitions for students and families by “narrowing the complications of those transitions” in schools across the city.

Perille said that there are four facts that BPS is looking at with “renewed focus” for this second phase: there are currently not enough elementary seats to serve students close to home in the southern half of the city, there are currently limited options for expanding Special Education, English Learner, and K1 programs, English Learner and Special Education programs are not evenly distributed across BPS high schools, and enrollment in standalone middle schools has declined by about 1,800 students over the past six years. Perille said all of these things are “key facts and principles that underline our plan.”

“We need to be very careful about unintended consequences as we make more enrollment shifts and feeder pathway changes,” Perille said.

BPS Chief Financial Officer Nate Kuder explained what he called the “five key buckets of work” for new builds within BuildBPS—new builds and expansions, real estate management, renovations and reconfigurations, districtwide investments and initiatives, and capital repairs to maintain existing buildings. The team wanted to make clear that while not every school will get a new building, “every building will be addressed.”

He also discussed the

BuildBPS cash flow, saying that Mayor Walsh has committed a billion dollars for the plan. Kuder said that \$744 million will come from city funds, and the rest coming from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). He added that \$147 million is budgeted for “projects currently in the pipeline,” including the Boston Arts Academy.

“We are working much more closely with the state than we ever have before,” said Chief Operating Officer John Hanlon. “Since 2015, we’ve accessed \$117 million in funds from the state,” he added. He said that Boston did not leverage funds from the state in the past but has started to do so.

Hanlon also discussed the current BuildBPS areas of focus. The first is the closure of the West Roxbury Education Complex, including Urban Science Academy and West Roxbury Academy. Hanlon said that they have been working closely with those communities over the months. The others are the reconfiguration of grade levels and the exploration of K-6 expansion, capital projects such as repairs, renovations, new builds, and real estate management, districtwide initiatives such as security and schoolyard improvements, and lastly, continued community engagement.

Monica Roberts, Chief Engagement Officer for BPS, talked about the community engagement that BPS has done since October of last year. She said there have been 113 community engagement meetings since October 2018, and over 937 people have attended the meetings. “We want to continue to have meetings” as the process continues, she said.

She said that what they have learned from these meetings is that people are happy to have a plan they can provide feedback on, and they are also eager to move to a K-6 configuration sooner.

Councilor Flynn wanted to know specifically how this plan is going to go about helping students with special needs. Perille said that the primary way will be through the principle of equity program placement and putting these students “in the forefront of planning.” She added that they are hoping to look past the distinction between open and

selective enrollment schools, as there are a large number of high schools in particular that serve a disproportionate number of these “vulnerable learners.” She said to expect to see an increasing number of schools looking at how they can serve some of these students alongside their current communities.

Councilor Wu asked if there was a central place people can go to see the status of the processes for their neighborhood. Roberts said that everything is currently on the BuildBPS website, and they are in talks of creating videos or other media that will help the information become more accessible to students and their families.

Hanlon added that “we will be very specific” as plans become more definite. He said it would be a “big mistake on our part to say here’s our crystal ball,” and said that the “plan will continue to be somewhat deliberative” as they work with the communities.

“There is a huge lack of information,” said Essaibi-George, and wondered when students and families will be “touched by this investment.” “It’s frustrating to hear that we’re making a timeline to conversations,” she added.

“When I think about BuildBPS...I’m thinking about significant renovations. Schools should be saved, locks should work. It is within BuildBPS that there’s an expectation that we’re making a real significant investment.”

Hanlon responded to Essaibi-George’s concerns by agreeing with her that some of this work is “work that ought to be done anyway, but hasn’t been done for a number of years.”

“We are very hopeful that through these investments we will be able to get ahead of some of the deferred maintenance.” The team said they do not want to rush the process, as they have to consult with the communities and be aware of more unintended consequences, because those contributed to some of the issues that currently exist within the system.

A couple of Allston-Brighton parents testified, saying that while the schools their children go to are not in as dire need of help as others, they want to have some attention paid to their district as there is some work that needs to be done. One mother said that they spent

a year fundraising for a new kitchen at her child’s school, but “are not being supported in that.” She said the new kitchen cannot be implemented because Allston-Brighton “is not a priority neighborhood” in this plan. Another mother said that her daughter is a student at the Jackson/Mann K-8 School in Allston, and the walls at the school bow out so badly that the roof has detached and it leaks, and the windows no longer fit. She said it is not on the list for a rebuild or improvements through the BuildBPS program, but she thinks that it deserves some attention.

Willie Bodrick, II, Associate Pastor at the Twelfth Baptist Church, said that the BuildBPS plan “lacks a clear and transparent ten year timeline,” as well as an analysis to understand the effects of the plan on both current and future students. Bodrick said the plan also lacks a financial report, and “does little to answer the questions we’ve been asking,” such as what the long-term plans of the schools are.

“The plan as written punishes schools with highly vulnerable populations,” he said, and “doesn’t address the burning issue of variable equality across our district.”

Bodrick said that the fact that certain schools that are slated to close in the next year and a half (like the West Roxbury Education Complex) does “active harm” to the students who attend those schools. He requested a moratorium of school closures and facility decisions “until there is a clear ten year plan,” he said, adding that he does not “want to continue to make plans to make plans.”

Essaibi-George said that she appreciates all of the meetings, and that one theme that has been consistent throughout the hearing was a “request for a clearer timeline for better understanding of what’s happening next, what’s happening over the next ten years.”

She said that they will hear more about this plan during the process for the school committee budget, as well as the City Council budgeting process.

“We need and require a deeper understanding of what’s next for BuildBPS,” Essaibi-George said. “Our families and kids deserve to know what’s next too.”

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## Assignments

Continued from page 1

members of the Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities and the Technology and Intergovernmental Affairs Committees. My colleagues across the House and Senate chambers are stoked and ready to work. It's going to be a banner year for justice and innovation."

These committees are critical in Rep. Elugardo's district and intersect with core areas of her legislative agenda, including housing, education, and public health. Creative cross-sector collaboration on issues of behavioral health and career development for youth and young adults, elders, artists, and the disability community are core to her district vision, along with equitable housing and public safety for all communities.

More information on Rep. Elugardo's committee assignments is below.

Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities

The Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities Committee considers all matters concerning child welfare, juvenile justice, public welfare, and children and adults

with physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities. The committee oversees the Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services, Transitional Assistance and Youth Services; the Massachusetts Commissions for the Blind, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.

Joint Committee on Elder Affairs

The Elder Affairs Committee considers all matters concerning the elderly, handicapped elders, nursing facilities, prescription drugs, reverse mortgages, senior pharmacy, and like matters as may be referred.

Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development

The Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development Committee considers all matters relating to tourism, arts, and cultural development in the Commonwealth.

House Committee on Technology and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Technology and Intergovernmental Affairs committee identifies technology concerns and federal funding opportunities for the Commonwealth.

Reach out to Representative Elugardo at [isabel.torres@mahouse.gov](mailto:isabel.torres@mahouse.gov).

## Anuncia

Continued from page 1

que hacen un gran trabajo", dijo Elugardo. "Dicho esto, estoy agradecido de haber recibido mis dos primeras opciones, prioridades de pasión profunda: la Comisión de Asuntos de la Tercera Edad y la Comisión de Turismo, Arte y Desarrollo. También me siento honrado de formar parte de los miembros de la Comisión de Tecnología y Asuntos Internacionales y la Comisión de Niños, Familias y Personas Discapacitadas. Mis colegas en la Cámara y el Senado están listos para trabajar. Va a ser un año excepcional para la justicia y la innovación".

Estas comisiones son esenciales en el distrito de Elugardo e se intersecta con las prioridades centrales de su agenda legislativa, que incluyen la vivienda, la educación y la salud pública. La cooperación intersectorial creativa en asuntos de salud de comportamiento y el desarrollo profesional para jóvenes, adultos, mayores, artistas y las personas discapacitadas son fundamentales para la visión de su distrito, junto con la vivienda equitativa y la seguridad pública

para todas las comunidades.

Más información sobre las comisiones de Elugardo se encuentra a continuación.

La Comisión Conjunta de Niños, Familias y Personas Discapacitadas

La Comisión Conjunta de Niños, Familias y Personas Discapacitadas se ocupa del bienestar del niño, la justicia juvenil, el bienestar público, y niños y adultos con discapacidades físicas e intelectuales. La comisión supervisa el Departamento de Niños y Familias (DCF), el Departamento de Servicios de Desarrollo, el Departamento de Asistencia Transicional, el Departamento de Servicios para Jóvenes, la Comisión para las Dificultades Auditivas y Visuales, y la Comisión de Rehabilitación.

La Comisión Conjunta de Asuntos de la Tercera Edad

La Comisión Conjunta de Asuntos de la Tercera Edad se ocupa de asuntos de las personas mayores, los ancianos discapacitados, los hogares de ancianos, los medicamentos recetados, las hipotecas inversas, la farmacia para mayores, y más.

La Comisión Conjunta de Turismo, Arte y Desarrollo

La Comisión de Turismo, Arte y Desarrollo se ocupa de asuntos de turismo, artes y cultura en Massachusetts.

La Comisión de Tecnología y Asuntos Internacionales de la Cámara

La Comisión de Tecnología y Asuntos Internacionales de la Cámara identifica problemas de tecnología y oportunidades de financiación federal.

Escriba a Elugardo a [isabel.torres@mahouse.gov](mailto:isabel.torres@mahouse.gov).



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# Mayor Walsh announces \$26 million to create affordable housing

By JOHN LYNDS

Using the North End's Knights of Columbus Hall as a backdrop, Mayor Martin Walsh announced \$26 million in money to create affordable units not only at the Knights of Columbus but in Mission Hill, East Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, Brighton and Roxbury.

The funding recommended funding from the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Neighborhood Housing Trust, and the Community Preservation Fund, to create and preserve 515 units of affordable housing.

"As Boston continues to grow, we want to make sure everyone has a place to call home, no matter their income," said Mayor Walsh. "It's important now more than ever that we use every tool in our toolbox to build more housing for working families in our City. This announcement is

a great example of how we're building strong partnerships in the housing community to create more affordable housing options across all of our neighborhoods."

In Mission Hill \$927,500 in funding has been recommended by Walsh for the Terrace Street Artist Apartments. The developer is proposing to build 13 home ownership units in City-owned land with live/work space for qualified artists earning between 70-80 percent of the Area Median Income or between \$60,000 and almost \$70,000 for a two-person household.

The project was approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency last October and consists of approximately 11,889 square feet of land that abuts a steep hill to the rear leading up to Parker Street.

According to the city, Terrace Street is undergoing a unique transformation as parcels



Mayor Martin Walsh announces \$26 million to create and preserve affordable housing in Eastie and Boston.

are being converted from underutilized industrial or commercial uses, to residential uses. For example, the Oliver



An artist rendering of the Terrace Street Artist Apartments project in Mission Hill.

Lofts project, also known as the Pickle Factory project, developed by Winn Companies, located at 166 Terrace Street, transformed an existing underutilized lot into 62 residential units, and the Parker and Terrace Street development, developed by Sebastian Mariscal, located at 77 Terrace Street, proposes to transform a vacant city owned parcel into 60 residential units

and commercial retail space at grade.

The developer is proposing to construct a new five story, 42-unit residential building with 21 parking spaces and forty-eight 48 bike parking spaces.

Before gaining BPDA approval the project was modified from its originally-proposed plans by reducing the number of units and total square footage proposed, stepping back the

fourth floor and fifth floor of the building to lessen the building height impacts at the front elevation and along Terrace Street, and specific design changes to better mimic an industrial loft style building.

The project also includes an artist live/work space and will be marketed as one of the affordable units and the City of Boston Artist Housing Guidelines.

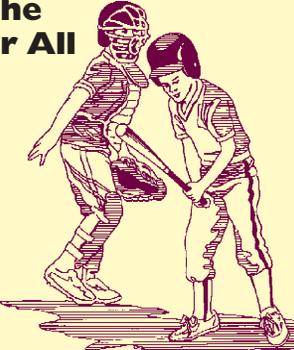
The project consists of a mix of studio units, one bedroom units and two bedroom units. According to the developer there will be approximately 12 studio units, ranging from 451 square feet to 577 square feet, 25, one-bedroom units, ranging from 631 square feet to 872 square feet and four, two-bedroom units ranging from 941 square feet to 1085 square feet. Some units will have access to private roof terraces or balconies located on the second, third, fourth and fifth floors. Five of these units will be designated as affordable units in accordance with the city's Inclusionary Development Program.

According to the city the new funding will create 459 new units and preserve 56 units of housing. As a result of requesting proposals with a

Continued on page 11

Black Magenta Yellow Black

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**Gazette Pet of the Week**  
 by Sarah Carroll



**BIG LADY**  
 Is your lap feeling a little cold, your bowls a little full, your heart a little empty? Enter: Big Lady. This sweetheart came to us as a stray, and all she wants in life is a cozy blanket to lay on, some yummy food to eat, and some of those nice scratches behind the ear. Big Lady has become a favorite amongst the volunteers and staff because of her friendly and laid back nature. Due to some medical concerns, she's looking for a very special home who feels comfortable working with their vet to keep her happy, healthy, and content in the years to come! Do you have room in your heart for this big-hearted lady? Come on down to the adoption center to meet her! Email [adoption@mspca.com](mailto:adoption@mspca.com) today for more information on Big Lady!



For more information about Big Lady and other animals in need of adoption, please contact:  
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# Applications are now available for the 2019 City of Boston Scholarship Program

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced applications are now available for the 2019 City of Boston Scholarship Program. The City of Boston Scholarship Program is designed to support higher education, and is available to Boston residents interested in pursuing an undergraduate degree or continuing education in Massachusetts.

"The City of Boston Scholarship Fund helps students achieve their dream of attending college, and I'm proud that through this program, we're able to give our residents the support they need," said Mayor Walsh. "I encourage residents throughout our city's neighborhoods to apply to this program, and look forward to our city's leaders gaining the opportunities they deserve to succeed."

The City of Boston Scholarship fund is a need-based scholarship that provides up to \$10,000 over four years towards tuition, and relies primarily on generous contributions from individuals, organizations and corporations to further the goal of having more Boston residents complete a post-secondary education. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the scholarship program awarded a total of \$290,000 to over 115 students representing almost every neighborhood of Boston, who went on to attend 30 local colleges and universities. This year, the Fund will award

30 new recipients.

This year's scholarships were supported by generous donations from Arbella Insurance Foundation, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, Herb Chambers Foundation, Pinnacle Leadership Foundation, and Rapid7 as part of their commitment to students of Boston.

"Investing in the education of our young people is paramount to not only their own success, but to the future of our local communities and businesses," said Corey Thomas, President and CEO of Rapid7. "We are thrilled to continue our contribution to the scholarship fund and commend The City of Boston for its tireless dedication to providing students the support they need to reach their educational goals."

The Scholarship Committee has worked in recent years to simplify and strengthen the application process. Highlights include an updated recommendation form that assesses college and career readiness, three short-answer questions in place of a longer essay, an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculator for students not eligible for FAFSA, and a clear recognition of financial need among continuing education students.

"This scholarship makes accomplishing my dreams a

little easier. A college education is very expensive," said Juliana Vazquez, a resident of East Boston and a 2018 City of Boston Scholarship Recipient, "The amount of debt that young college graduates accumulate over four years can be astronomical and I commend the City of Boston for recognizing this. Our great city is working tirelessly to find ways to financially support as many city kids as possible in receiving a college education and for this, I am extremely grateful."

The City of Boston Scholarship program is part of Mayor Walsh's commitment to ensuring that all Boston residents are able to access and complete their post-secondary education. In 2016, Mayor Walsh launched tuition-free community college for Boston Public Schools graduates, providing a cost-effective entry point into higher education for Boston's young people. Participating colleges include Bunker Hill Community College, MassBay Community College, and Roxbury Community College.

This year, as part of his legislative agenda, Mayor Walsh proposed replicating Boston's Tuition-Free Community College (TFCC) Initiative launched in June 2016, making it available statewide. TFCC was launched by Mayor Walsh and currently serves 295 students attending Bunker Hill Community College,

Roxbury Community College and MassBay Community College. Students enrolled through the program have an average graduation rate of 70 percent over three years, significantly higher than national averages.

In 2018, Mayor Walsh, in partnership with the Frieze Family Foundation, launched the GRAD Last Mile Fund, an innovative scholarship program designed to provide financial support to Boston students nearing college graduation. Additional resources for residents pursuing higher education can be found on Mayor Walsh's Education Cabinet's Higher Education Resource page.

Candidates for the City of Boston Scholarship Program must be Boston residents who

have graduated from high school or have completed G.E.D. programming by the time the awards are made. Additionally, candidates must be planning to attend, or currently attending, a two- or four-year accredited post-secondary institution in Massachusetts.

Residents who meet these eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply here. The deadline to submit applications is April 12, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. For applicants who are renewing their scholarship from a previous year, please email COBScholarship@boston.gov.

For more information on the City of Boston Scholarship, or to apply, please visit [Boston.gov/scholarship](http://Boston.gov/scholarship).

## Faris Alessa named to Dean's List

Faris Alessa of Mission Hill a Communication major at Lasell College, was named to the fall 2018 Dean's List.

Alessa, a Boston native, is a member of the Lasell College class of 2019. To be named to the Dean's List, they needed to complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

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# Hill Agenda

The deadline for Hill Agenda listings is noon, Tues., April 2 for the issue April 5. Email listings to reporter@jamaicaplaingazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.

## Meetings

**Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services board of directors**, first Monday of every month, 6-7:30pm, Mission Church Parish Center, 1545 Tremont St. Info: 566-6565.

**Mission Main Tenant Task Force**, the task force board requests residents' help and input, third Monday of each month, 6-8pm, Mission Main Community Room, 43 Smith St. Info: 708-8515.

**Mission Hill Neighborhood Crime Committee**, meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm, Mission Church Music Room, 1545 Tremont Street.

## Health/Fitness

**\$2 bag of produce, \$1** freshly baked loaves of bread, offered by Mission Hill Health Movement, no questions asked; as many bags as anyone wants to take, Wednesdays, 4-6pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Info: 427-6919.

**Walking for Our Health Group**, Thursdays 10 AM. Departs from

1534 Tremont St. Join the Mission Hill Health Movement's Walking Group for a weekly walk; for both beginner and advanced walkers. Call 427-6919.

**Boston Brakers power soccer**, practices 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays of the month, noon-2pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Info: facebook.com/bostonbrakers.

## Music /Art/Culture

**Recording Studio**, Sociedad Latina's Music Clubhouse has a high-quality recording studio and beatmaking lab available for the community. Tremont St. Info/Scheduling: Josh Snyder 617.442.4299

**Ballroom dancing**, offered by RTH, Sundays, 7:30-9pm, 2 New Whitney St., 1st floor. Info: 232-0400/hhui@roxburytenants.org.

## Museum of Fine Arts

Regular hours are Saturday through Tuesday, 10 am-5 pm, and Wednesday through Friday, 10 am-10 pm.

**In March, the Museum of Fine Arts**, Boston (MFA), presents concerts featuring musicians ranging in genre and influences:

**BELLS ATLAS** | The Oakland-based Bells Atlas performs at the Museum on March 8, blending R&B, psychedelia, jazz and pop. Channeling at once the lo-fi beats of Tune-Yards and the sighing lullabies of Sade, the band's alchemic music invites listeners to think and feel about life, death and the fluid in-between.

**DREAMERS' CIRCUS** | The Scandinavian trio Dreamers' Circus, which has emerged as

a force to be reckoned with in Nordic world music, make their North American premiere at the MFA on March 27. Approaching arrangement from the standpoint of innovation, the group's members—Nikolaj Busk and Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen of Denmark, and Ale Carr of Sweden—invent new forms from traditions of folk music in Denmark, Sweden and Iceland, and the far reaches of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

## Parker Hill Branch Library

**The Parker Hill Branch Library** has the following upcoming program:

**Percussion & Flute Duo** Saturday, April 6, 12:00 pm Boston Philharmonic Orchestra in partnership with the Boston Public Library presents the MOSAIC (Musical Opportunities Supporting Arts In Communities) Concert Series.

**MOSAIC concerts are 60-minute free**, fun, fresh, and educational musical experiences for everyone. Each session includes discussion of the music, opportunities to ask questions, meet the musicians, and a chance to try to play these instruments in our Instrument Petting Zoo.

## Book Discussion Group

The Parker Hill Branch Book Discussion Group meets on the third Thursday of every month.

**Yoga for Older Adults** The Parker Hill Branch Library presents Saturday yoga classes for adults ages 55 and older. Wear clothes that you can move in comfortably. Yoga mats and props will be provided. All experience levels are welcome. This program is made possible by the Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust and the New England Baptist Hospital. Saturdays, 10:00 am

## Youth/Families

**Sociedad Latina's Academy for Latinos Achieving Success** (ALAS), a program which provides students with transition coaching through their first two years of college. 1530 Tremont St. Contact: Laura Londoño, number is 617.398.7447 email: llondono@sociedadlatina.org

## Workshops/groups/talks

**Weekly Bilingual Mandarin-English chat**, practice Mandarin language skills with native speakers and others, must request Harvard building access permission 2 days in advance, Tuesday evenings, 6-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. Info: 615-9672 / Maynard.Clark@gmail.com.

**Weekly Bilingual Cantonese-English chat**, practice Cantonese language skills with native speakers and others, must request Harvard building access permission 2 days in advance, Friday evenings, 6-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. Info: 615-9672 / Maynard.Clark@gmail.com.

**ESOL and citizenship classes**, offered by RTH. Beginning ESOL, Mon. & Fri., 7:30-9pm. English for workplace, Tues. & Thurs., 7:30-9pm. Advanced ESOL, Fri 6-7:30pm, Sat. 7:30-9pm. Flynn conference room, 805 Huntington Ave. Citizenship class, Tues. & Thurs., 2:30-4pm, 2 New Whitney Street, 2nd floor. Info: 232-0400/hhui@roxburytenants.org.

## Office Hours

**Neighborhood Coordinator from The Mayor's Office** of Neighborhood Services, Shaina Aubourg, 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 3:30-5:30pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Info: 635-2679.

## Tobin Community Center

**1481 Tremont St.**, yearly membership: seniors 55+ free, family & adults \$20, teens 13-17 \$10, 12 and under \$5. Info: 635-5216/ TobinCommunityCenter.org.

**After-school**, ages 6-12, M-F, Sept.-June, \$60 per month plus membership. Homework help, tutoring, sports, arts, computers. Info: 635-5216.

**MissionSAFE**, leadership program for teens. Info: 319-0679.

**Sports Camp**, licensed sports for kids 6-13, M-F, 8am-4pm, \$65/week. Register: 635-5217.

**Adult/Family Fitness**, Family kung-fu: ages 6+. Info: 635-5216. Adult tai chi: Mon., 6:30-7:30pm. Info: 635-5216.

**Computer Lab**, Open Access, Wed., 10am-1pm. Info: 635-5216. Senior Activities, free for adults 55 and over. Tues. & Thurs., 10-11am. Info: Carmen Pola, 820-1089.

## Public Notices

**Sociedad Latina** has opened its doors as a BPSCares Pop-Up Welcome Center every Thursday and Friday from 10:00am-4:00pm. Newly-arrived families from Puerto Rico and the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Maria will receive assistance on registering for school, registering for FEMA disaster relief, Mass Health, SNAP benefits, and obtain access to other resources to get settled in Boston. For more information, contact info@sociedadlatina.org.

**\$5 Million Reward**, for information leading directly to the return of 13 works of art stolen two decades ago from the Gardner Museum. Anonymous tips can be mailed to 280 The Fenway. Info: Anthony Amore, Director of Security: 278-5114.

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# Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE "MOSSY" MARTIN  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

March is Irish history month and with St. Patrick's Day around the corner, I thought I'd mention a little known Irish hero, Jeremiah Mee, born in March of 1889 in Glennamaddy, County Galway. Mee was a Police Constable, starting his career in Sligo in 1911 and his police duties were fairly mundane. However, things took a violent turn in April of 1916, during the "Easter Rising", an insurrection, which began on Easter Sunday morning in pursuit of an independent Irish Republic. The violence culminated in 1920 when Royal Irish Constables opened fire at a Gaelic soccer match at Croke Park, Dublin, killing 14 and wounding 65, an occurrence forever known as "Bloody Sunday." At a meeting in Listowel, County Kerry in 1920, attended by Jeremiah Mee, Lt. Col. Gerald Smyth, in his pursuit of IRA members, addressed the Constables, saying; "If they don't immediately put their hands up,

shoot to kill. It's ok if innocent people occasionally get killed." The speech, which was later published in the Irish Bulletin, was too much for Constable Mee who summarily resigned, saying; "I see by your accent you are English and by your ignorance you don't realize you are speaking to Irishmen." Lt. Col. Smyth ordered Mee's arrest but another Constable stated: "If Mee is touched, this room will run red with blood." In what became known as the Listowel Mutiny, 13 Constables resigned that day and Mee joined with Irish patriot Michael Collins in pursuit of Ireland's independence, which would come in 1922. Meanwhile Mee was a wanted man and his family farm was burned to the ground by the "Black and Tan," a group of loathsome men who joined forces with the Royal Irish Constabulary. Mee died in 1953 and a memorial plaque at his birthplace in Glennamaddy reads that: "He exemplified courage and patriotism in the face of intimidation." I'm reminded

when I was a little boy in Mission Hill and my father, who lived in Ireland from 1909 until 1927, would curse the Black and Tan, the more Budweisers he consumed, the louder the curses. There is a spirited song about the Black and Tan (1991), called "Come Out Ye Black And Tan" by The Wolfe Tones, a terrific Irish music band. Speaking of Irish music, I often go to Brendan Behan's in Jamaica Plain. Normally I don't promote taverns outside of Mission Hill, but the Hill pubs, to my chagrin, are devoid of Irish music. Brendan Behan's has terrific Irish Sessions on Saturday from 4-8 p.m. My bottle of Coors Light is only \$3 bucks and served with a smile by bartenders, Mike Condon and pretty Jessica Murtha. I like to hang in the front corner of the bar, known as "Patsie's Corner" named for Patrick Long, an affable Irishman who spins interesting tales in that area while sipping his Corona.. It was nice meeting my neighbor here at the Charlesbank

Apartments, 92-year old Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse. Woody, who graduated from English High School and Yale University, has led a stately life. He is an attorney and he is a retired Lt. Col. in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Still sharp in the mind, Woody loves Mission Hill and this inspirational man said, "I wouldn't want to live anyplace else." City Councilor, Josh Zakim, who represents Mission Hill, stops by Mike's Donuts on a monthly basis to converse with his constituents. Last month I and others engaged in a compelling conversation with Josh about several issues including sanctuary cities, illegal aliens and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Councilor Zakim and several folks in the coffee shop believe ICE should be abolished. I disagree. A little more than a year ago ICE, targeting sanctuary cities, arrested 500 criminal aliens including 50 from Ma., several of whom were wanted for serious felonies. Josh argues that ICE

is targeting many people here illegally who are otherwise law abiding and if that is true, he has a valid point. Stop by Mike's for a coffee and a chat with Josh, who is a good guy and there are less-pressing concerns discussed, such as parking tickets, housing and normal City Council matters.

It was great seeing Mission Hill's Wayne Selden play well for the Chicago Bulls in their thumping of the Celtics last Saturday night. Wayne is a nice kid from a wonderful family. It doesn't seem too long ago when Wayne was my bat boy for Mission Hill Liquors in the local softball league. It was a packed house Saturday evening (Feb. 23) at the Squealing Pig for the "Unite Against Cancer" fundraiser. Thanks to Mission Hill's favorite band, "Jason Bennett and the Resistance," who performed marvelously. Among the notable pretty faces sitting bar side were Janet Earley, Anna Debenadictis and former Jamaica Plain Main Street Director Randace Raucher.



## PARTICIPACIÓN

El plazo para la sección de Participación es al mediodía, martes, 2 abril para la edición 5 abril. Mande eventos a [news@missionhillgazette.com](mailto:news@missionhillgazette.com). Los números telefónicos empiezan con el código 617.

### Reuniones

**Junta de directores de Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing**, primer lunes del mes, 6-7.30pm, Mission Church Parish Center, 1545 Tremont St. Información: 566-6565.

**Grupo de trabajo de los residentes de Mission Main**, la junta directiva del grupo de trabajo solicita la ayuda y los comentarios de los residentes, tercer lunes del mes, 6-8pm, salón comunitario de Mission Main, 43 Smith St. Información: 708-8515.

**Comité de delincuencia de Mission Hill**, los últimos jueves de cada mes, 7pm, salón de música de Mission Church, 1545 Tremont Street.

### Salud y bienestar físico

**Caminando para la salud**, los jueves, 10AM. Sale de 1534 Tremont St. paseo semanal del grupo de camino de Mission Hill Health Movement; principiantes bienvenidos. Llame al "tel:617-427-6919.

**Una bolsa de vegetales/frutas \$2 bag, \$1 barras de pan fresco**, ofrecido por Mission Hill Health Movement, sin preguntas; todas las bolsas que

quiera llevar, los miércoles, 4-6pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. 427-6919.

**Fútbol de Boston Brakers**, entrenamiento el primer, segundo y tercer sábado del mes, 12-2pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. [facebook.com/bostonbrakers](https://www.facebook.com/bostonbrakers).

### Música, arte, baile

**Estudio de grabación**, de alta calidad en Sociedad Latina, disponible a la comunidad. Tremont St. Info/Scheduling: Josh Snyder 442.4299  
**Baile de salón**, presentado por RTH, los domingos, 7.30-9pm, 2 New Whitney St., primer piso. 232-0400, [hhui@roxburytenants.org](mailto:hhui@roxburytenants.org).  
El Museo de Bellas Artes

**Horas: sábado a martes**, 10 am – 5 pm, miércoles a viernes, 10am – 10 pm.

**Conciertos: Rafiq Bhatia**, 1 marzo; Bells Atlas, 8 marzo; Dreamer's Circus, 27 marzo.

Charlas, discusiones gratuitas inspiradas por los temas en las exhibiciones actuales de MFA.

**Yoga para los adultos mayores**, los sábados, 10am. Adultos con más de 55 años, todos niveles. Usen ropa cómoda. Tenemos alfombras.

### Parker Hill Branch Library

**Dúo de percusión y flauta**, sábado,

6 abril, 12 pm, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra en colaboración con Boston Public Library presenta una serie de conciertos.

**Yoga para los mayores de edad**, los sábados, 10am

### Horas de oficina

**Coordinadora de Servicios de Vecindario de Boston**, Shaina Aubourg, 2º y 4º lunes del mes, 3.30-5.30pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Información: 635-2679.

### Jóvenes/Familias

**Academia para el éxito de los latinos (ALAS)** de Sociedad Latina, un programa que ayuda a los estudiantes durante sus primeros dos años de universidad. 1530 Tremont St. Contacto, Fernando Rodríguez, 398 7447, [fernando@sociedadlatina.org](mailto:fernando@sociedadlatina.org).

### Clases/Discusiones

**Charla semanal bilingüe**: mandarín-inglés, con hablantes nativos y otros, se requiere permiso de acceso al edificio Harvard con dos días de anticipación, los martes por la tarde, 6pm-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. 615-9672 / [maynard.clark@gmail.com](mailto:maynard.clark@gmail.com).

**Charla seminal bilingüe**: cantonés-inglés, con hablantes nativos y otros, se requiere permiso de acceso al edificio Harvard con dos días de anticipación, los viernes por la tarde, 6pm-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. 615-9672 / [maynard.clark@gmail.com](mailto:maynard.clark@gmail.com).

**Clases de inglés y de ciudadanía**, con RTH. inglés para principiantes, lunes y viernes, 7.30-9 pm. Inglés para la

oficina, martes y jueves, 7.30-9 pm. Clase de inglés avanzada, viernes 6 a 7.30 pm. 805 Huntington Ave. Clase de ciudadanía, martes y jueves, 2.30 – 4 pm, 2 New Whitney Street, Segundo piso. 232-0400/[hhui@roxburytenants.org](mailto:hhui@roxburytenants.org)

### Noticias Públicas

**Sociedad Latina**, centro de bienvenida cada jueves y viernes, 10 am – 4 pm. Familias de Puerto Rico afectadas por el huracán pueden recibir asistencia para establecerse en Boston. Info@[sociedadlatina.org](mailto:sociedadlatina.org).

**Recompensa de \$5 millón**, para información sobre la ubicación de 13

obras de arte robadas hace dos décadas del museo Gardener. Mande denuncias anónimas a 280 The Fenway. Info: Anthony Amore, director de seguridad Security: 278-5114.

### Centro Comunitario Tobin

**1481 Tremont St.**, membresía anual: 55+ gratis; familias y adultos \$20; jóvenes 13-17 \$10, niños con menos de 12, \$5. Info: 635-5216/[TobinCommunityCenter.org](mailto:TobinCommunityCenter.org).

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## EDITORIAL

# Massachusetts GreenWorks is an investment in our present -- and future

The announcement last week by House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo that the state will be investing \$1 billion over the next decade to help communities across Massachusetts adopt technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fortify infrastructure is welcome news to everyone who realizes that time is running out if we are to offset the inevitable effects of climate change that already are taking place all around us.

The proposal – known as GreenWorks – builds on a long-standing approach by the House under Speaker DeLeo's leadership to provide the means for our cities and towns (especially along the coast) to build sustainable and resilient communities that hopefully will prepare us for the impending threats posed by rising sea levels and catastrophic weather events.

Environmental groups and clean-energy businesses across the state have praised the plan. The \$1 billion investment envisioned by the GreenWorks proposal not only will provide cities and towns with the ability to cut greenhouse gases and lower their long-term energy and operating costs, but it also will adopt Massachusetts-made innovative technologies that will put people to work on clean-tech infrastructure projects.

These competitive grants, to be administered by the governor's Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, will provide funding for a wide array of projects, including energy-efficient buildings, solar, microgrids, energy storage, electric vehicle charging stations, and resiliency infrastructure.

Inasmuch as the GreenWorks plan presents an opportunity to pursue innovative approaches to funding clean energy and climate-change resiliency projects, the economic and environmental benefits of GreenWorks grants will be felt immediately, while also expanding the state's commitment to embracing cost-effective investments in leading-edge clean technologies.

In our view, the GreenWorks program represents a timely part of the overall solution that is essential if we are to address the imperatives we face from the looming catastrophe of climate change. We applaud Speaker DeLeo for taking the lead in advancing a plan that acknowledges this reality and the need to deal with it immediately.

*The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.*

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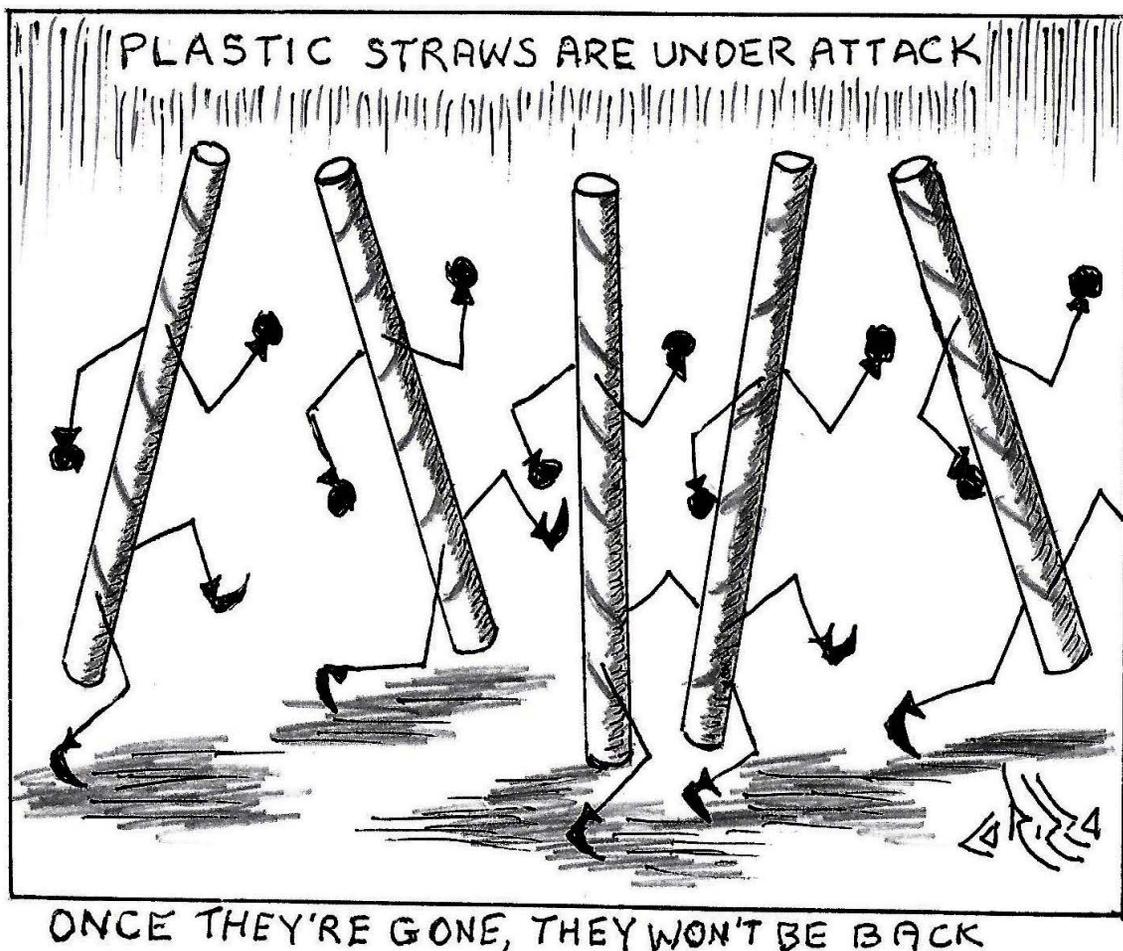
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## OP-ED

# My first few weeks as State Representative

BY REPRESENTATIVE  
NIKA ELUGARDO

Many have asked me about my first few weeks as State Representative for the 15th Suffolk/Norfolk District. Exciting. Challenging. Hopeful.

We had two weeks to file legislation, and two more weeks to review over 6,000 bills and select co-sponsorships. The new representatives are piled into a couple of hearing rooms with our brand new aides, learning all this together. It's amazing how collaborative my colleagues are, from first-term peers to leadership in both branches. That's been my most pleasant surprise.

My job is new, but the issues are familiar, from the work culture to policy. A team of champions has carried over from our campaign. Collaboration is key. I'm working closely with other reps, Republicans and Democrats. Equally important, I am working with you, my constituents who have entrusted me with

this awesome honor and responsibility.

Things are moving quickly on Beacon Hill. Many people work to translate our campaign platform into a legislative agenda that executes our "in-the-building" vision for equitable Housing, Health Care, and Education, and our "in-the-district" goals to expand early childhood education, youth and elder workforce development, and public safety resources. I am also working with my colleagues to respond to the climate crisis, and to protect our immigrant communities in the wake of the Trump administration's inhumane policies.

We filed 15 bills in Housing, Revenue, Elder Justice, Indigenous Rights, Public School Funding, and Anti-Nuclearization. Highlights include:

- Housing bills protecting elder housing, enabling locally-driven tenant protections, and empowering housing authorities to use the value of state-owned land to finance housing justice

projects and development.

- A resolution, based on a local ordinance drafted by the Roslindale and other Wetlands Task Forces in collaboration with Boston City Councilors Matt O'Malley and Michelle Wu, to enable conservation commissions to consider climate change within their conservation plans

- A bill establishing a commission to review health insurance shortfalls for medically necessary treatment in public schools.

- A bill providing process and oversight for reclaiming and redirecting dollars currently wasted on corporate tax credits that don't accomplish a clear and compelling public purpose.

I cosponsored nearly 400 bills in policy areas ranging from rights of incarcerated persons; to public health; equity for women and LGBTQ+ youth; immigration; climate change; education; workforce development; and animal rights. Collectively, these bills address structural changes so many have been

Continued on page 11

## OP-ED

# Joint Statement From Organizations Serving Communities of Color On The Lack of Diversity In The State Legislature, Particularly In The Education Committee

As members and representatives of African-American, Latinx and Asian-American serving communities and organizations, we are disheartened by the abrupt removal of Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz from the Joint Committee on Education at a critical time when the State Legislature is preparing to debate school finance reform. The decision to remove Sen. Chang-Diaz from this important Committee raises serious concerns about the State Legislature's commitment to our children, particularly English language learners, children from low-income families, and children of color. By removing the most visible and vocal supporter for communities of color from this Committee, we are left without an advocate who will champion the issues that impact our most vulnerable children during one of the most important education equity decisions of our time.

Political representation of African-American, Latinx and Asian-American residents is extremely low in Beacon Hill, even more so when it comes to women of color. In fact, the Massachusetts Legislature is one of the least diverse in the nation. Sen. Chang-Diaz is the only woman of color in the Senate. Of the 160 Representatives in the State House, only four are women of color. It is important to understand that when we elect people of color to represent us, they bring unique cultural and community perspectives to Beacon Hill that should be respected and embraced rather than sidelined and undermined.

In light of the significant challenges facing the Commonwealth to close pervasive racial achievement gaps, we are deeply dismayed by the removal of Sen. Chang-Diaz not only as Co-Chair of the Education Committee but from

the Committee itself. Sen. Chang-Diaz has been a highly visible and vocal leader on the issue of closing the Commonwealth's achievement gaps for students of color and ensuring equitable funding for our public schools. There is no stronger advocate for our children on Beacon Hill when it comes to educational access and opportunity. She was replaced by two senators who represent predominantly white and affluent suburban districts, creating higher stakes for ensuring that the issues facing low-income children and children of color are kept front and center. We see and feel this loss because her advocacy has consistently been on behalf of our children, families, and communities.

We are also deeply concerned with media reports that attempt to discredit Sen. Chang-Diaz's significant accomplishments on education reform. She has been unfairly characterized as being

too passionate, overly committed to equity issues, and lacking strategic heft. These character attacks — coupled with the disturbing notion that her advocacy for English language learners, low-income children, and children of color lacks pragmatism — have fomented a deeply racist and sexist narrative. This is a troubling narrative that women of color in leadership positions and public office all too often have to fight against.

To be clear, our concerns are not solely about Sen. Chang-Diaz. In this moment, she serves as the latest example of how people of color — especially women of color — are subject to rebuke for representing us too fiercely and too well. We were expecting bold change from the Legislature's leadership, but now we fear that this commitment has moved in the opposite direction, especially when it

comes to closing the opportunity and achievement gaps for the children in the diverse and low-income communities that we serve and represent.

We demand that the State Legislature immediately bring greater racial diversity, including women of color, to its leadership and to the Education Committee so we can be assured that our voices are heard, our issues are addressed, and that our Legislature is working for all of us.

**This joint statement was released by the following organizations and individuals: Alex Oliver-Davila and Vanessa Calderon-Rosado, Co-Chairs, Greater Boston Latino Network. Betty Francisco and Eneida Roman, Co-Founders, Amplify Latinx. Diana Hwang, Asian American Women's Political Initiative and Tanisha M. Sullivan.**

Black

## My First

Continued from page 10

fighting for over decades.

I'm thrilled to have been placed on my two top choice committees, Arts & Culture and Elder Affairs. I also received two additional amazing placements: Children, Family & Disabilities; and Technology and Intergovernmental Affairs, all with amazing colleagues.

I pledge to stay in touch, sharing stories from the District and the State House. Please keep in touch with me as well.

Together we're on a journey across a long arc of change. I need your input to do my part as an effective Representative. Please contact me at nika.elugardo@mahouse.gov. Find our mailing list sign up and social media handles at electnika.com.

Enjoy our last weeks of winter. Spring is coming soon.

Rep. Nika Elugardo represents 15th Suffolk/Norfolk District

## Housing

Continued from page 6

focus on creating affordable units, 290 units that will be created or preserved will be restricted to households with low, moderate, and middle income. The majority

of these units will be accessible to households with incomes up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI), which amounts to \$65,000 or less for a family of four. The new units are a combination of homeownership

and rental opportunities with some set aside for formerly homeless households, seniors, and artists.

"DND is excited that we were able to fund projects with such deep affordability, ranging from 50 percent of the Area Median Income to homeless individuals and the elderly," said Chief

of Housing Sheila Dillon. "I can't wait to see these projects completed, and I want to thank the Neighborhood Housing Trust, the Community Preservation Committee, and our partners in the housing community for helping us create more affordable housing in Boston."



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## What's Happening on Main Streets

BY RICHARD ROUSE  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Since a fire closed down the Green Tea Coffee shop two years ago, Brigham Circle business advocates have been hankering for a new first-class java spot. The clean and colorful Solid Ground Café is earning rave reviews since opening its doors in late January at the site of the shuttered Hollywood Cleaners at 742 Huntington Avenue.

"What a handy place to start my day when I reach the bottom of Wait Street hill" said Wentworth student Angus Johnston. "This area needed a convenient place with good food and excellent coffee," the WIT hockey team center added.

This breakfast and lunch spot is the cookery creation of Mission Hill residents Keith and Lucia Patrick, who met while they attended Le Cordon Bleu Culinary College. A Pennsylvania native, Keith first fell in love with Mission Hill as a Northeastern Husky; then with Lucia, a BC Eagle by way of New Jersey. They were married in the Mission Church, and are now pursuing their business dream preparing healthy food in a comfortable eighteen seat setting down the street from their home. This writer never tried a bacon scone before, but now I'm hooked. Their quiche, Panini and various salads have been selling out quickly with mid-day patrons. The hospital crowd starts lining up when the doors open on weekdays at 6 a.m. You'll find the atmosphere relaxing and tasteful while watching the barista teasing her customers while preparing perfect percolating performances. This is a cozy spot with reasonable prices that is destined to become a Mission Hill landmark. I bestow a terra firma "5 Stars" to Lucia and Keith's Solid Ground Café.

How's that horrible pun? Some of my readers have been complaining that mine were becoming too subtle. Did you hear about the columnist who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh? No pun in 10 did.

My rant last month about improper sidewalk shoveling prompted several comments from Gazette readers. Let me add to it by venting my distaste for graffiti renderings throughout our main streets. This expression of artistic egotism has always baffled me. I fantasize about being a District Court Judge for just one day in order to make an example of one of these spoiled reprobates with some novel penalty like those



Keith and Lucia Patrick.

imposed by our colonial ancestors. What a dream.

East Boston Savings Bank Executive Vice President Edward J. Merritt reported to me that their new branch at 1614 Tremont Street has "far exceeded all expectations" when I ran into him the other day. He told me that his employees love the neighborhood. EBSB now has 33 locations surrounding the City. My gut tells me that a friendly local bank that's been around since 1848 has to be doing something right. Main Streets is glad they're here.

Some fine applicants have come forth to apply to serve as my successor here at Mission Hill Main Streets this spring. Whomever the Board selects will enjoy working with a selfless group of dedicated volunteers who always strive to make our Main Streets the envy of the entire region. The joy I've experienced working in this special urban village is something I'll treasure always. The vigilant and upbeat citizens throughout this neighborhood affirm that the area's future will be bright.

Mother Nature provided dazzling weather to honor our gridiron heroes on the Tuesday following Super Bowl LVIII. Families and youngsters skipping school strolled through Mission Hill adorned in Red, White and Blue outfits in route to the Patriot's Duck Boat salute initiating on Boylston Street. It felt like one of those Spring Commencement Days around here. I was taking in this upbeat spectacle when suddenly the sirens of two BPD motorcycles escorting Tom Brady and his family alerted all heads toward Huntington Avenue. This prompted spontaneous well-deserved applause for the 40-year-old master of short slants and quick outs. Tom smiled and waved as he proceeded through the neighborhood before catching up to the official motorcade. It was a delightful scene. A prediction... Don't be surprised if Alex Cora's boys prompt another Duck Boat procession before this year is over.