



# CHARLESTOWN

P A T R I O T - B R I D G E

## Biden taps Walsh for U.S. Labor Secretary in Washington, D.C.

By Seth Daniel

President-elect Joe Biden has called on Mayor Martin Walsh to join his Cabinet and lead his incoming Labor Department – and Walsh has answered the call for his long-time ally and friend.

Rumors had been swirling all last week, particularly in the State House, about Walsh's impending departure – which most thought would be announced last Wednesday. National events at the U.S. Capitol seemed to postpone that, and on Tuesday it was first officially reported by Politico.com. On Friday, Biden held a television press conference to make the official announcement.

"I am nominating a good friend and a stand-up guy – Marty Walsh of Boston," said Biden on Friday. "The son of Irish immigrants, his only downside is they're not from Mayo, they're from Galway. They left Galway and moved to Boston. Marty was born and raised in Dorchester. People who know him know he's tough as nails...He's



Mayor Martin Walsh shown here being sworn in on Jan. 1, 2018 at the Cutler Majestic Theatre as his mother, family and President-elect Joe Biden look on. Biden was the keynote speaker at the Inauguration event and spoke about the close friendship with Mayor Walsh – which has now budded into what looks to be a close working relationship as Walsh heads off to become a member of the new Presidential Cabinet.

in his second term a successful time as mayor of the iconic city of Boston and always puts working people first...Marty understands that the middle-class built

this country and unions built the middle class. He sees how union workers have held this country

(WALSH Pg. 9)

## Who's Running? More like who isn't running for mayor

By Seth Daniel

In the wake of Mayor Martin Walsh deciding to join the Biden Administration in Washington, D.C., everyone quickly wondered who would be a candidate in any Special Election, which would be required if Walsh left office before March 6 – which he is expected to do.

That said, the proper question this week wouldn't be who is running, but rather who isn't running.

Filling Mayor Walsh's seat could likely mean a workout for voters at the polls in 2021. Were there a Special Election in June as required by the City Charter, that would mean there would also be a Preliminary Election in September and a General Election in November. The City could potentially have four mayors in one year in some scenarios. Were things to change after November

with the shifting political sands nationally and at the state level, it could even mean another Special Election thereafter.

In Charlestown, the big story is who isn't running and that includes both elected officials qualified to run – Councilor Lydia Edwards and State Rep. Dan Ryan.

Edwards confirmed almost immediately she will not run in a Special Election.

"I am not running for mayor in no way, shape or form," she said. "I'm interested in the City staying stable and focused and getting it through one of the most difficult times ever, which is the pandemic and a potential economic recession. People need to stay focused and do their jobs now."

State Rep. Ryan also said he isn't interested in running either.

Already in the race are At-Large Councilor Michelle Wu, who announced last fall that she was

running. District 4 Councilor Andrea Campbell also entered the race last fall, and has shown great momentum lately in gathering support and raising money.

Potentially jumping into the race on Monday was Police Commissioner Willie Gross, who said he is giving deep consideration to a run. Gross would be an intriguing candidate who has been popular in the neighborhoods and would generate lots of law enforcement support. Gross has been routinely visible in Charlestown over the past year and would have a lot of support in the Town. Having grown up in Boston and spent most of his adult life in the Boston Police Department, he has made a recognizable name for himself. However, in the current police-community climate, it is uncertain if his support would

(RUNNING Pg. 4)

## A safe return

### BPS announces tentative schedule for re-opening additional school buildings

By Seth Daniel

As Boston Public Schools (BPS) Supt. Brenda Cassellius and Boston Teachers Union (BTU) President Jessica Tang announced on Monday an update to the timeline for re-opening school buildings to students, a prominent grass-roots parent organization in Charlestown had its doubts about the sincerity of the plan.

Officials announced an update to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the union and the district to extend

key health, safety, and staffing protocols to the future reopening of all school buildings for the remainder of the school year on Monday. That allowed a new timeline for a return to in-person, and hybrid in-person education in the schools. The timeline starts on Feb. with high-needs priority students, and concludes on April 1 with the return of high school students. The detailed timeline is as follows:

- Monday, February 1: All stu-

(SCHOOLS Pg. 11)

## Arroyo files Council order to waive Mayoral Special Election

By Seth Daniel

City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo has filed a Home Rule Petition before the City Council to waive any Special Mayoral Election that would be triggered if Mayor Martin Walsh were confirmed as the new U.S. Secretary of Labor and would leave before March 6.

The City Charter indicates that a Special Election would occur sometime in June if Walsh were to leave before the cutoff date

of March 6, which most expect will certainly happen. The Charter indicates that if there is a vacancy in the mayoral seat within 16 months of the last Municipal Election, a Special Election must take place. With the current timeline in Washington, D.C., in overdrive, it is highly likely that Special Election mandate would be triggered.

That has been a gift from

(ARROYO Pg. 4)

## STATE OF THE CITY



Photo courtesy City of Boston/Jeremiah Robinson

Mayor Martin Walsh delivers the State of the City address virtually on January 12, from the new Roxbury branch of the Boston Public Library. See story on Page 5.

# EDITORIAL

## WE MUST NEVER FORGET

### THE LEGACY OF

### DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

As we were watching on TV the dramatic events unfold in Washington last week when the Trump Mob stormed the Capitol, threatening the lives of the Vice President, members of Congress, and the police who tried to hold them back (and actually murdering one of the members of the Capitol Police), the image of a gathering 58 years earlier in August, 1963, illuminated our mind's eye.

We are referring to the March on Washington, when more than 250,000 Americans from all across the country gathered at the Lincoln Memorial on a steamy summer day to demand "jobs and freedom," an event that was climaxed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s immortal "I Have a Dream" speech.

The March on Washington was famous not only for Dr. King's iconic words, but also because the unprecedented mass gathering of Americans was completely peaceful. Pundits and others had predicted rioting, but there were no arrests, no incidents, no violence -- a stark contrast to the events of last Wednesday perpetrated by Trump's Mob.

The March on Washington and Dr. King's subsequent peaceful protests galvanized support for the goals of "jobs and freedom," eventually resulting in laws such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act that ended segregation in the South and discrimination in the North.

We would note that even the best efforts of a revered figure such as Dr. King could not stem the tide of violent rioting that marked the 1960s, most notably Watts in 1965, Detroit in 1967, and Chicago in 1968.

Yet Dr. King's legacy of peaceful protest is what endures today.

For those of us old enough to remember the 1960s, it's hard to believe that it has been almost 53 years since Dr. King was assassinated while he was standing on a balcony in a motel room in Memphis. Dr. King was in Memphis to show his solidarity with striking city trash collection workers.

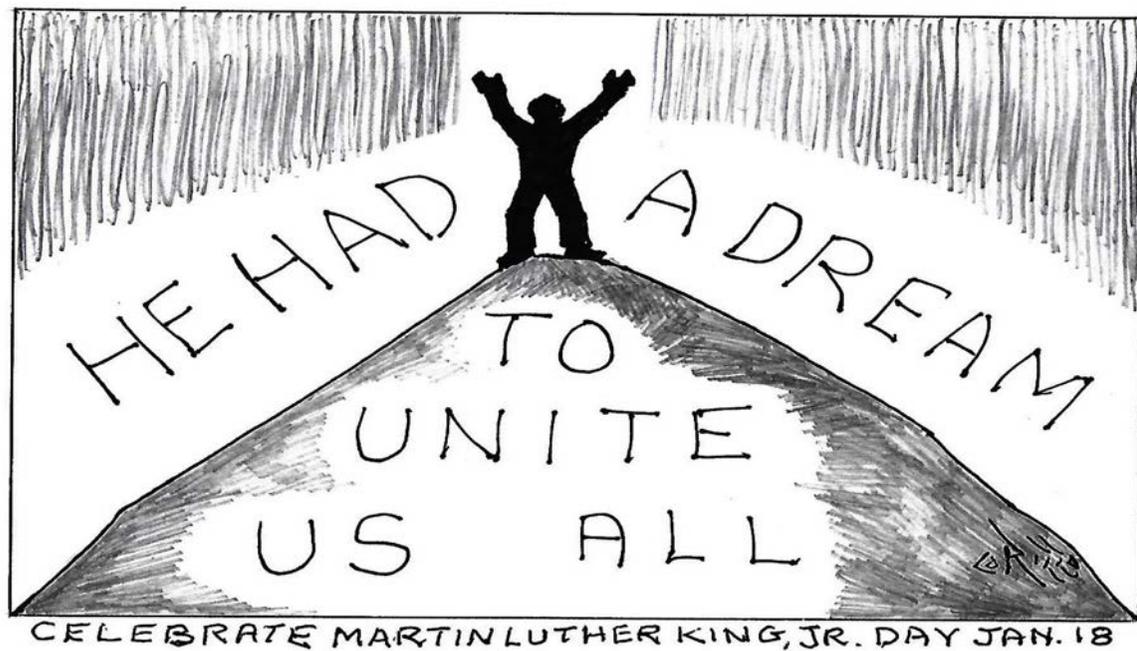
Every school child for the past generation knows well the story of Dr. Martin Luther King. But an elementary school textbook cannot truly convey the extent to which he brought about real change in our country. To anyone under the age of 50, Dr. King is just another historical figure.

But for those of us who can recall the 1960s, a time when racial segregation was lawful throughout half of our country and a stealthy racism prevailed throughout the other half, Martin Luther King stands out as one of the great leaders in American history, a man whose stirring words and perseverance to his cause changed forever the historical trajectory of race relations in America, a subject that some historians refer to as the Original Sin of the American experience.

However, as much as things have changed for the better in the past 53 years in terms of racial equality in our society, the events of last Wednesday also made it clear that we still have a long way to go before it can be said, as Dr. King put it in his speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"What would Dr. Martin Luther King do if he were alive today?" we often ask ourselves. We can't say for sure, but we do know that although King accomplished much in his lifetime, he would be the first to understand that the work for which he gave his life still is far from done.

Dr. King advocated for non-violent protest and he practiced what he preached. That's a lesson that must be re-learned by each succeeding generation. We can only hope that his spirit and courage can continue to inspire this and future generations to bring about a world in which all persons are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.



## GUEST OP-ED

### Important legislation for Boston at the State House

By Councilor Lydia Edwards

With everything happening in the world I want to thank my state-house colleagues for taking action on some amazing housing legislation last week that I introduced, led, and worked on. I was excited to work with them and a broad coalition of advocates on these laws that will protect residents and move us closer to housing justice.

I initially filed the HOMES Act with Senator Joe Boncore and Representative Mike Moran to seal eviction records in certain cases. I am thrilled to have partnered with them and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute on this legislation. The version approved by the State House last week will give residents across the state a second chance at finding stable housing after the pandemic. Residents with "no-fault evictions" will now be able to seal those records. No fault evictions are very common, but can have lasting impact on people's ability to find housing. Examples of no fault evictions include landlords evicting tenants to raise rent or to turn a building into condos. The law will also allow tenants who have satisfied their judgement or worked issues out with their landlord to petition the court to seal the record and "ban the box" on eviction records. This means that once sealed, prior eviction records don't have to be disclosed

on any future applications for housing.

The law will also prevent minors from being named as defendants on eviction cases and expunge any current records that people were named on as minors. This will

clear the records of thousands of residents that are having a hard time finding housing because of things that happened when they were children and had no control over. I want to thank the Chelsea Collaborative for their leadership in advocating for minors' eviction records to be sealed.

In addition to eviction sealing, the legislature passed a home rule petition to update Boston's linkage policy. I first filed a home rule petition to update the policy in March of 2019. With approval from the state house, Boston will now have much greater control over its development dollars. This update will generate millions of dollars that will go to the Neighborhood Housing

Trust that I sit on and will help house Boston residents.

Finally, the statehouse approved Tenant Opportunity to Purchase. I've been advocating for this since

I worked in the Office of Housing Stability in the City of Boston. This new law will give tenants and nonprofits the opportunity to purchase apartments when buildings go on sale. This will help preserve long-term affordability and prevent massive displacement.

I'm very grateful to all of my statehouse colleagues for working hard to make these victories a reality. I'm also grateful for the partnership of Mayor Walsh, the Department of Neighborhood Development, and the BPDA in advocating for these causes. We know there is more to be done, but these new tools along with local victories like the new fair housing amendment I proposed will go a long way to providing everyone in Boston and Massachusetts with the right to housing.

*Lydia Edwards is a Boston City Councilor.*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

To the Editor,  
Statement on Mayoral Transition and Overwhelming Public Support for Elected School Committee

The Boston Coalition for Education Equity (BCEE) believes the appointment of Marty Walsh as Labor Secretary presents a timely opportunity to promote equity and accountability to the Boston Public Schools through the restoration of an elected School Committee. We call on the City Council and on Council President Kim Janey, who will take over as acting mayor, to start the process by affirming their support for an elected School Committee and beginning public discussions on the board's new formulation. Boston is the only municipality in the Commonwealth without an elected school committee; recent events have proven that this governance structure has failed and must be immediately reformed.

A recent poll conducted by Poll Progressive indicated that 60% of eligible voters would support the reinstatement of an elected school board, with just 14% expressing opposition (the remaining respondents had no opinion or were neutral). The voters cited the appointed board's lack of responsiveness to the parents and students whose interests it is supposed to represent. In recent years the school committee has made several decisions that went against the wishes of BPS families, including the expropriation of the McCormack Middle School's athletic fields, the closure of both the Mattahunt Elementary and the West Roxbury Educational Complex, and instituting drastic changes in start times at schools throughout BPS (this decision was later rescinded after unprecedented levels of pushback).

In 2019, the Boston Herald analyzed a year's worth of School Committee votes and found that the committee approved all 111 action items put before them, with just four abstentions and no votes against. Then-Chairman Michael Loconto refused to comment on the body's voting record and told a Herald reporter not to reach out to other committee members. In 2016, School Committee member Regina Robinson was the only

member not to vote in favor of closing the Mattahunt Elementary School. She was also the lone member not to vote to close the West Roxbury Education Complex in 2018. Less than two weeks after her second abstention of her four-year term, Mayor Marty Walsh announced that he would replace Robinson with Quoc Tran, a state official and civil rights lawyer.

These are just a few examples of how a mayorally appointed school committee is responsive directly to the mayor, and through the mayor to the power elite of the city, rather than to the students, families, and educators it is intended to represent. BCEE finds the School Committee's performance particularly galling in a system made up of more than 80% students of color, reinforcing structural racism.

Returning to an elected school committee is a necessary and critical action Boston must take toward dismantling this undemocratic and racist power structure. A majority of Boston City Councilors support electing at least some of the School Committee members, as seen in BCEE's 2019 City Council Candidate Questionnaire. (<https://www.bosedequity.org/city-council-questionnaire-responses>). The Coalition will be releasing a new questionnaire later this year for the 2021 election cycle.

In the recent Poll Progressive poll, support for an elected school committee was consistent across demographic groups, including age, gender, education level, and racial identity. For a full breakdown of the poll results, visit Poll Progressive's website at <https://www.pollprogressive.com/>.

**The Boston Coalition for Education Equity is a collaboration among civil rights, education, and community organizations from across Boston that are committed to dismantling education inequity.**

**BATHROOMS VERY NEEDED IN PUBLIC PARKS**

To the Editor,

We cannot deny that bathrooms are necessary for a basic human need. This need for bathrooms in public space is denied now more than ever. I am not alone in this concern. I am a volunteer with Common Cathedral and Common Art. I have heard

from many homeless people about the difficulty and often the impossibility of finding an open public bathroom on the Common and at Copley Square. I have also heard about the horrible indignities they suffer when they can't find a bathroom, indignities which no human should have to suffer. I cannot ignore this and I beg you not to ignore it.

This lack of accessible, safe, clean bathrooms continues to be a serious public health problem which affects us all: homeless people who sleep outside as well as the many residents and tourists who enjoy these beautiful parks. Many homeless people formerly used the bathrooms at the Copley Library, now closed since last March. Hotels won't let non-guests use the facilities. Burger King on Tremont Street won't even let customers use their bathrooms. Currently there is no place for them to go since so many places are closed because of the virus.

We do not need to re-invent the wheel. I think there are some simple solutions. There already are some great bathrooms on the Common: at The Frog Pond and at the Visitors Information Center. However, the City of Boston doesn't manage them. The Frog Pond bathrooms are managed by the Skating Club of Boston and are open currently from 10 to 4 Saturday through Thursday and from 10 to 5 on Fridays. I think the Frog Pond bathrooms could stay open all night. Or even at the least they could be open the hours that the Common is open to the public - which are 6 AM to 11:30 PM. The Visitors Information Center on the Common next to Tremont Street also has great bathrooms. It is managed by the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, but sadly their bathrooms are now closed until further notice. They had to furlough some employees as a result of the pandemic.

I am sure that if the Skating Club and the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau had more funding they could be able to be open longer hours. The extra staffing needed to supervise and maintain these bathrooms could be quickly hired. I believe money can be found in the city's budget and also raised from local businesses.

Other cities have responded to the bathroom crisis. Cambridge has public bathrooms in Harvard Square and in Central Square.

Why can't Boston just get the bathrooms it already has open longer hours and/or put up some porta potties and supervise them? For about \$1500 a month five porta-potties and a hand sanitation station can be rented and installed with weekly maintenance included. San Francisco has 24 supervised San Francisco Pit Stop stations, most of which are open 24/7. Why does Boston continue to ignore the problem? If there is a big event, like the Boston Marathon, there's no problem having porta-potties at Copley. But now with everything shut because of the virus and with the need for public bathrooms greater than ever, the city of Boston has its head in the sand and ignores the problem.

Bathrooms are a necessity in

public spaces. Simply put: The city can and should collaborate with the Skating Club and the Greater Boston Convention Bureau so they can extend their hours and hire the staff needed to maintain and supervise these bathrooms. Or install some porta-potties which can be supervised and used in a safe and clean manner. This is not impossible given the combined resources of the city, the Skating Club and the Greater Boston Business and Convention Bureau. A workable solution must be found and implemented as soon as possible to have bathrooms on the Common and at Copley Square 24/7. All people should be able to take care of a basic body function and keep their dignity.

Maria Termini

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# Council President Janey starting transition to Acting Mayor

By Seth Daniel

Council President Kim Janey appears to be about ready to make history in becoming Acting Mayor of the city – thus also becoming the first African American mayor of Boston.

Janey said in a statement she would be ready to take the reins if Mayor Walsh were confirmed.

“I want to start by congratulating Mayor Walsh on his nomination for U.S. Secretary of Labor,” she said. “His deep love for the City, and his dedication to working people and good jobs, have

left a remarkable impact, and his legacy will show that dedication. Should Mayor Walsh be confirmed by the Senate, I am ready to take the reins and lead our city through these difficult times. I look forward to working with the Walsh administration and my colleagues on the Council to ensure a smooth transition, as we address the unprecedented challenges facing our city.”

In his State of the City Address on Tuesday night, Walsh expressed confidence in Janey’s ability to lead the City through the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges.

“If confirmed by the United

States Senate, I will step down as Mayor, and City Council President Kim Janey will become Acting Mayor,” he said. “I have spoken with Councilor Janey. I am confident that the operations of City government, including our COVID response, will continue smoothly. And I want you to know, the work we have done together for the past seven years has prepared Boston to build back stronger than ever.”

Sources on the City Council said if Janey were to become Acting Mayor, she would also remain Council President and District 7 Councilor at the same time.

Her staff did not immediately return a message this week to confirm if that were the case.

Janey won election as the District 7 Councilor when the seat opened up as long-time Councilor Tito Jackson ran against Walsh for Mayor in the 2017 General Election. After serving one, two-year term, she was elected to the Council President position in January 2020.

Her late father, Cliff Janey, was a noted educator and taught at the Bancroft School in the South End from 1974-77 in the turbulent busing era.



*Council President Kim Janey would become Acting Mayor if Mayor Walsh were to be confirmed as the next U.S. Labor Secretary.*

## ARROYO (from pg. 1)

Heaven to many considering a run in the Special Election, particularly for those already in office, as they could run without having to give up their existing seats in state or City government. For already announced mayoral candidates Michelle Wu and Andrea Campbell, the Special Election plays well for them in that they have a significant head start on campaigning and fundraising.

However, Arroyo said he believes a Special Election would be too dangerous and could sup-

press the vote of minority communities in Boston.

“Holding an unnecessary and redundant Special Election for the position of Mayor of Boston would endanger the health of Boston residents during a deadly pandemic, exacerbate an already uncertain financial future for the City, and contribute to existing inequities often seen in special elections that contribute to the disenfranchisement of immigrant, low-income, disabled, Black, and Latinx communities,” he said.

The order was on the Council Agenda for Jan. 13, and the results of that came after newspaper deadlines.

Councilor Lydia Edwards said the matter would go to her Committee, and she would act quickly.

Edwards said she wouldn’t comment on anything that she hasn’t read or will be before her Committee, but she does plan to have a hearing sooner rather than later on the matter.

Such a call has a steep hill to

climb to become reality.

With so many on the Council anticipating a Special Election run, it would be a difficult task to get it out of the Council in the first place. Were it to pass the Council, it would have to go to the State Legislature as a Home Rule Petition to be approved by the full body.

That would also be a large task, as many in the Boston delegation, including State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (North End), State Rep. Jon Santiago (South End)

and State Sen. Nick Collins (South Boston), are seriously considering a run. The likelihood of them voting against their best interests, said those close to the issue, would be unlikely.

The Special Election date would depend on when, or if, Walsh is confirmed by the U.S. Senate and leaves his mayoral seat. Most estimate the date of a Special Election would figure to be in June.

## RUNNING (from pg. 1)

spread to other neighborhoods.

“It’s an honor for people to think of you in that capacity when you’re Police Commissioner,” he said on Monday afternoon. “There’s a lot of anti-police sentiment. We know why. We’re working on reform. It’s such an honor to be thought of in that capacity. I can’t give you an answer 100 percent. Out of respect, I’m going to give this deep consideration. If there’s one thing that is true, I would never be as presumptuous to throw my hat in the ring when the mayor just made his announcement...I will talk to my family, the mayor and my friends about this. You can’t decide this in three days.”

Another candidate that told the newspaper he is seriously weighing his options is South End State Rep. Jon Santiago.

“I am weighing my options,” he told the newspaper on Sunday.

On Monday, he also told television news stations that, as an Emergency Room doctor, leading the City through the pandemic is appealing.

“This election will be the most

consequential race in the city of Boston,” Santiago told Boston 25 news. “And we are in a crisis of epic proportions that has ravaged the economy and the public health system. And I think the opportunity to lead the city through this end of this crisis is incredibly appealing. And I also think that my experience in government, medicine and the military really lends itself towards that.”

Santiago is a shooting star type of candidate in that he has succeeded in so many arenas, including politics. Just starting his second term as a state representative whose territory includes the South End, Lower Roxbury, and parts of the Back Bay and Beacon Hill, he is also a captain in the Army National Guard and returned from a deployment to the Middle East in mid-December. Also an Emergency Room doctor at Boston Medical Center, he chronicled on social media his walk through a blizzard in December one day after returning from his deployment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Through his deployment, he said he had never missed a vote

in the State House.

Prior to that, he also worked the front lines during the surges of COVID-19 at BMC and also at the South Boston Convention Center’s Field Hospital.

His interest draws into question the reported interest of North End/South End State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz – chair of the powerful Ways & Means Committee and a potential Speaker of the House in the future. Michlewitz was said by sources close to him on Thursday evening that he was interested in making a run for mayor in a Special Election.

However, some sources have indicated that Michlewitz wouldn’t run if Santiago were to run. With Santiago seemingly very interested, some say that counts Michlewitz, who is positioned very well at the State House, out.

Michlewitz didn’t respond to the newspaper on Wednesday after confirming his potential interest late last week.

An experienced mayoral candidate is at-Large Councilor Michael Flaherty, who told the newspaper Wednesday he is also consid-

ering a run for mayor. Flaherty ran against the late Mayor Tom Menino in 2009, and said he isn’t ruling out another run this year.

“I can say on the record that I am weighing all of my options,” he said. “There are a lot of factors to consider, including who enters the race and whether we have a Special Election or not. Our City needs a Mayor and leaders in each elected position that are fully committed to both bringing our City through this pandemic and continuing the work of making Boston a better, more resilient and equitable place for all its residents.”

Meanwhile, others on the Council, and some others in the Boston state delegation, are at first-glance considered potential candidates.

Some names floated around off the bat are Council President Kim Janey, South Boston State Sen. Nick Collins, Councilor Anissa Essaibi George, Beacon Hill/Back Bay State Rep. Jay Livingstone, and former Dorchester State Sen. Linda Forry.

State Sen. Sonia Chang Diaz

– who represents Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, and the South End – had been rumored to be lining up support in her part of the City, but on Friday she told the newspaper it wasn’t true.

She is not running.

“I am focused on state-level policy and implementation as a lever for tackling the big challenges facing us—from coronavirus response, to racial and economic justice, to climate change, to economic growth,” she said. “I haven’t been making calls about running for mayor and I’m not planning to run for mayor. I congratulate Marty Walsh on this exciting new chapter, and I’m overjoyed that the City of Boston will get Kim Janey—who’s been my sister in service since before either one of us was in elective office—as its next mayor.”

Any Special Election would mean candidates could run without consequence of losing their Council or Legislative seats, which prompts what is expected to be a large field for any Special Election.

# In final State of the City address, Walsh speaks of Boston's resiliency

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Martin Walsh delivered what was probably his final State of the City address virtually on January 12 from the new Roxbury branch of the Boston Public Library.

Last week, President-elect Joe Biden nominated Walsh for Labor Secretary, and on Tuesday night, Walsh told Bostonians that he has accepted the position. The position still needs confirmation from the United States Senate, but if that happens, Walsh will step down and City Council President Kim Janey will become acting mayor.

"2020 was a tough year. 2021 is a year for healing," Walsh said in his speech, which, at times, became emotional as he teared up speaking of his life in Boston and his seven years as the city's mayor.

In his 2020 address, the mayor made promises to the city regarding affordable housing, education, transportation and more, but the COVID-19 pandemic came out of left field last March and shifted the way the Walsh administration had to think about the city.

"COVID has affected all of us, but there's no doubt, it hit some harder than others. In Black, Latino, and immigrant communities, inequities in health, housing, and work opportunities caused more illness and job loss," Walsh said. "Older Bostonians and those with disabilities face the highest risk and the most isolation. Most students have been out of classrooms since March, and families have struggled with childcare."

Walsh honored the 1,060 Boston residents who have lost their lives to the virus, and praised those who stepped up to help during the crisis, including EMTs, doctors, nurses, firefighters, police officers, and more.

"As mayor, I made decisions I never thought I'd have to make: to close schools; pause construction; turn our convention center into a field hospital; and cancel the Bos-



Photo courtesy City of Boston/Jeremiah Robinson

*Boston Mayor Martin Walsh delivering the State of the City address.*

ton Marathon for the first time in its history," Walsh said.

He also spoke of other achievements in 2020, including the creation of a Health Inequities Task Force and the Boston Resiliency Fund, the distribution of more than six million meals to Boston residents, providing 40,000 laptops to Boston Public Schools (BPS) students, and the distribution of permanent rental vouchers to more than 1,000 families at risk for homelessness.

"We may be hurting, but the state of our city is resilient; the state of our city is united; the state of our city is hopeful; and the state of our city is deep-down Boston strong," Walsh said.

Looking forward, Walsh said that "there will be more hard decisions to make," but everyone must keep playing their part by wearing masks and following all other guidelines to help stop the spread of the virus. The city will continue to provide free COVID testing, Walsh said, as well as access to the vaccine once it becomes available for more and more people.

Earlier this week, BPS announced a new plan for reopening school safely for hybrid learning, and Walsh said the distribution of food, laptops, clothing, and housing supports will be expanded.

"We've been hit hard by the COVID recession," Walsh said. "For seven years, we built one of the most dynamic and resilient economies in the world."

He said that jobs can be brought back to every neighborhood as part of economic recovery in the city.

Walsh also provided a special message to the city's small business owners. "You are the soul of our economy, and you sacrificed so much for the safety of our city," he said. "I will never forget it."

He added that \$26 million has been provided to almost 4,000 small businesses so far, and small business will be "at the center of our recovery," he said.

Walsh also said that construction on new affordable homes will continue, as Boston has "stayed the national leader in subsidized, affordable housing."

Boston is also now the first city in the nation with a requirement for Fair Housing in the zoning code. "It's a powerful tool to protect residents from displacement," Walsh said.

Walsh also addressed recovery services, which he said have remained in place since March, as well as climate work. He said that he "made sure that Boston never strayed from the Paris agreement—even when the White House did."

Boston has already issued its first Green Bonds, which will fund projects related to energy efficiency, and Community Choice electricity will become a reality next month.

Walsh also spoke about racial equality in the city. "The urgency of our work has never been more clear," he said. "Last summer, George Floyd's murder sparked a long-overdue reckoning with racism. I thank Black Bostonians for the way you made your voices heard. And I thank everyone who joined the movement — Black, white, Latino, Asian, and indigenous peoples standing together."

He said that he has "listened to those who have been there to tell their stories and speak their truth," from Black youth on his team to leaders, clergy, and activists. "They described lifelong anxiety around being pre-judged and denied opportunities," Walsh said. "I heard grief, not just over lives lost -- but over children's futures limited."

Last year, Walsh declared racism a public health crisis, allocated millions of dollars into youth and other programs, and "we enacted historic police reforms, with Black and Brown Bostonians leading the work," he said. The city is now in search of a Chief of Equity to lead the work.

He said that though he is "proud of the work we've done in Boston," he added that "doing better than before isn't enough," and systemic racism needs to be addressed on all levels in the city.

"No city is better prepared than Boston to meet this moment," Walsh said, adding that the city has "set a new standard for fiscal management," and has earned triple-A bond ratings for seven consecutive years.

"We made the right decisions in the good times, so Boston has the strength to move forward now." He mentioned many new investments, such as historic investments in parks, libraries, a brand new fire

station in Roxbury, the renovation of Boston City Hall plaza, and many others.

"I believe in Boston," Walsh said. "This is the city that welcomed my immigrant parents. This is the city that picked me up when I needed a second chance. This is the city where I fought side by side with you for marriage equality, immigrant rights, addiction treatment, criminal justice reform, education funding, and good middle-class jobs."

He said that as part of the Biden Administration, he "will work to make sure it's the best federal partner Boston and America's cities ever had."

He continued, "the truth is, I'm not going to Washington alone. I'm bringing Boston with me. This city is not just my hometown, it's my heart." He mentioned many people who have helped and guided him over the years, including his parents, teachers, priests, the kids he coached in Little League, those he met in recovery, his colleagues at the State House, and other elected officials he currently serves alongside, among many others.

"Seven years ago, at my first inauguration, I said 'I will listen, I will learn, I will lead. We are sworn in together and we are in this together — all of us.' I meant it. Every minute of every day in this job, I spent listening to you, talking with you, working with you and working for you. I will never forget it, and I will forever be grateful."

Walsh finished his speech by saying that Boston still has "tough days ahead of us. But we've been knocked down before, and we always get back up. In 2021, Boston will rise up again. We will leave no one behind. And our city will be stronger than ever."

The full text and video of Mayor Walsh's address can be found at: [www.boston.gov/news/state-city-2021](http://www.boston.gov/news/state-city-2021).

## CONGRATULATIONS SECRETARY MARTY WALSH!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE IN BOSTON!

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For assistance with a government agency or other questions, please contact my office 617-722-2370, and press #2. Or email: [Dan.Ryan@MAhouse.gov](mailto:Dan.Ryan@MAhouse.gov)



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# LOOKING BACK AT MAYOR MARTIN WALSH IN CHARLESTOWN



Photo by Katy Rogers

Mayor Martin Walsh celebrated St. Patrick's Day with the DiDomenico Foundation in 2019, always ready to crack a joke with and about host, Senator Sal DiDomenico.



Photo by Derek Kouyoumjian

A mainstay at the Battle of Bunker Hill Day Parade for nearly every year of his tenure, and usually mobbed by fans, Mayor Martin Walsh is greeted by the Bishop Family in 2019 as the Parade makes its way up Bunker Hill Street.



Photo by Marianne Salza

Mayor Martin Walsh in 2018 presenting Marine Corps Sgt. Lynn Alexis with gifts for Toys for Tots at the Warren Tavern during the annual Toys For Tots kick-off.



Councilors Michael Flaherty, Annisssa Essaibi George, Lydia Edwards and Michelle Wu join sponsors Mayor Martin Walsh and State Rep. Dan Ryan for a photo at the Spring Fling in April 2019.



Police Commissioner William Gross and Mayor Martin Walsh (3rd from left) with Charlestown Mothers Association President Katie Darci and board members Laura Carroll (2nd from left), Marcie Miller, and Becky Adamonis during the 2019 CMA Gala. Mayor Walsh was a long-time attendee of the event most every year and supported the organization.



Photo by Marianne Salza

Mayor Walsh speaking with Helen Kane at the Knights of Columbus Hall last year. At most every Charlestown event, Mayor Walsh took time to visit the elderly in the room.



The Enchanted Trolley Tour was always a huge favorite for Mayor Walsh, getting to talk to kids and pal around with Santa Claus. Here, in 2019, kids joined Mayor Walsh and Santa Claus in pressing the button to light the Charlestown tree in Thompson Square.



Warren Tavern's Tom Nolan with Mayor Martin Walsh and Kim Mahoney of the Warren Tavern during the 2019 impromptu annual Coffee Hour at the Warren Tavern, brought inside due to rain.



Mayor Martin Walsh poses with Charlestown Residents Alliance (CRA) officers Phil Rodgers, President Nancy Martinez, Vice President Tina Goodnow and Secretary Karla Wert. The scene came in April 2019 when Mayor Walsh made the unprecedented move of pledging \$30 million from the four-year Capital Plan to the project to get it moving again.



Photo by Derek Kouyoumjian

State Rep. Dan Ryan and Mayor Martin Walsh in 2019 give Eduardo Henrique a chance to start the Battle of Bunker Hill Day Parade while his mom, Maria Matos, looks on.

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# MAYOR MARTIN WALSH IN CHARLESTOWN



Mayor Martin Walsh visited with Harvard Kent Elementary students in 2019 before the Harvard Kent Leadership Scholarship ceremony. Mayor Walsh always attended the event each year, which was something handed down to him from the late Mayor Tom Menino before him.



Photo by Keiko Hiromi

Mayor Martin Walsh and AgeStrong Director Emily Shea are shown chatting with Judy Burton and several of the seniors in 2019 at the Mayor's St. Patrick's Day Senior Luncheon at the Warren Tavern.



Photo by Joe Prezioso

In this epic photo from 2016's Charlestown Open House – one of our favorites from the Walsh era – resident Elaine Donovan discusses the former One Charlestown project with the mayor, who later agreed to give the project a 90-day pause. Donovan later reported there was no animosity in the conversation, but simply a difficult point being made, and the mayor listened.



Photo by Marianne Salza

Edward Wellington, Mayor Martin Walsh, Elaine McCarthy, and Boston Corporate Counsel (and former State Representative) Gene O'Flaherty during Mayor Walsh's fundraiser in 2019 at the Charlestown Knights of Columbus Hall. Walsh and O'Flaherty were confidants for the entirety of the Mayor's tenure in office, with O'Flaherty leaving his state representative seat to join the Walsh Administration.

# Elected officials, organizations fondly remember Walsh's tenure

By Seth Daniel

With all signs this week pointing to Mayor Martin Walsh being confirmed as the next U.S. Labor Secretary for President-elect Joe Biden, many in the Town said they would miss the mayor's leadership and attention to Charlestown.

Walsh was not the favorite of the Town when he first ran, with his opponent John Connolly prevailing in Charlestown. However, key supporters like State Rep. Dan Ryan stuck by him and, in time, Walsh was welcomed and appreciated in most every corner of the neighborhood.

Rep. Ryan was an early supporter of Mayor Walsh in the contentious 2013 Municipal Election, and said the mayor remains a great ally of his and of the neighborhood.

"Mayor Walsh has been a long-time ally and friend," said Rep. Ryan. "I want to congratulate him on being appointed Labor Secretary in President-elect Biden's cabinet. We will miss him in Charlestown and Boston. He has served us well locally and will do the same on a national stage."

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico said they will be losing a friend and a political ally in the neighborhood.

"I want to congratulate my friend, Mayor Marty Walsh, on his nomination to Labor Secretary," said DiDomenico. "Marty has been a champion for working families throughout his lifetime and has always stayed true to his roots. He has been a great Mayor for the residents of Boston and he will be a fantastic Labor Secretary. Lifting up working families has not been a talking point for Marty,

it has been his mission. Workers throughout the United States will have a fighter working on their behalf each day. I am so happy for Marty and his family and also happy for our country. He will be an integral part of President elect Joe Biden's team that will help our country recover after the pandemic."

The Kennedy Center said the mayor has been a champion for their work, and pointed to his support via the Boston Resiliency Fund during the pandemic.

"Marty Walsh has been a tremendous ally in the work of assisting our vulnerable neighbors in Boston—especially during this pandemic," said Director Thara Fuller. "The Kennedy Center will never forget how quickly he launched the Boston Resiliency Fund to get assistance out directly to those in need. This allowed us to jump into serving food to the hungry and ensuring people could get critical supplies. We are counting on him to go to Washington and push for an economic recovery where people of all backgrounds cannot just survive, but thrive."

Most poignant was, in fact, that of Councilor Lydia Edwards – who often publicly butted heads and disagreed with the mayor during his time here.

She said she first met Mayor Walsh when he was a state representative and she was an organizer for the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. Later, he hired her to work in the newly created Office of Housing Stability. She said one of his greatest attributes is his kindness, and she said she often saw

(TENURE Pg. 9)

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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# DIDOMENICO SWORN INTO STATE SENATE



State Senator Sal DiDomenico (pictured above and center right) was, once again, sworn into the Massachusetts State Senate last week outside the State House. DiDomenico has served the Middlesex and Suffolk District for the past 10 years and this ceremony was a little bit different than what he and his colleagues had experienced in the past. Because of the many COVID-19 precautions, the Senators took the oath of office from Governor Charlie Baker outside in a socially distant event.

Senator DiDomenico said that it is special each time he is sworn into office. "It is an honor and privilege serving the residents of Allston, Brighton, Cambridge, Charlestown, Chelsea, Everett and the West End of Boston," stated DiDomenico. "It is a humbling experience each time I raise my hand and take the oath, and I am extremely grateful to the residents of my district for their trust and confidence. I want to thank my family, staff and friends for their unwavering support, and I am excited to continue working with my colleagues to move our Commonwealth forward."

After the ceremony the Senate met in a remote session and DiDomenico cast his vote for his friend, Senator Karen Spilka to continue as Senate President for this upcoming term.

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## Little League registration is open for spring/summer

Registration is now open for Charlestown Little League. Register is online via the League's website. Max Gomez, of Charlestown Little League, reports the League is planning for a "normal" season with practices and games at the moment. However COVID may cause them to have an adjusted program which will be evaluated over the next few months.

The breakdown of the league will include four divisions with age groups established by Little League.

- Tee-ball: ages 4-5 - learning the basics.
- Rookie ball: ages 6-7 - Coach

pitch - learning the fundamentals.

- AAA ball - ages 8-9 - Player pitch - continue to learn fundamentals with introduction of player pitching.

- Majors ball - ages 10-12 - continue to learn fundamentals with skill development for all players.

A preliminary schedule is posted on the website and the season will run from late April to the end of June.

There is also a volunteer option during registration, and the League will definitely need coaches. Anyone interested in coaching please register as a coach while you are registering a child.

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**WALSH** (from pg. 1)

together in crisis...They are literally keeping this country going and they deserve a Secretary of Labor who knows how to build their power of workers. He knows that when I say our future is built in America, it will be a future built by American workers."

He noted that the Free Labor Standards Act didn't say one could only have unions, but said unions should be encouraged. Some of the issues Biden identified for Walsh to work on was a \$15 minimum wage, pension protection, worker safety, wage theft, union participation in trade policy and paid family leave. In a bit of a surprise, Biden said he gave "serious consideration" to putting Sen. Bernie Sanders into the position, but the two decided it would be best for Sanders to remain in the Democratically-controlled Senate. He would be the first union member to serve as Secretary of Labor. He would need to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate

"This is one of the most important departments to me," said Biden. "I trust Mayor Walsh and I am honored he accepted."

Walsh spoke during the press conference also, but his most poignant comments came during Tuesday's State of the City Address - where he often got emotional at the parts where he spoke about leaving his hometown and his job as mayor, which he has called his "dream job."

He told the online audience Tuesday that he had accepted the job of Labor Secretary and was just waiting for Senate confirmation.

"In eight days, we'll have friends and allies in the White House who believe in cities and share our values," he said, beginning to choke up. "As a member of that Administration, I will work to make sure it's the best federal partner Boston and America's cities ever had. The truth is, I'm not going to Washington alone. I'm bringing Boston with me. This city is not just my hometown, it's my heart. It's my mother and father at the kitchen table on Taft Street in Dorchester, talking about helping people...In the end, I carry with me the people of Boston, from every neighborhood: every child who shared a dream with me; every senior who shared a memory; every business owner who welcomed me in; every nonprofit or community leader I worked with; and everyone watching right now who cares about their family and the future of this city."

It wrapped up a surprising few days in City politics where many loyal Walsh supporters felt there was no way he was going to leave

for Washington, D.C., though others - primarily in the State House - felt it was an absolute given. The news first came on Thursday around 1:30 p.m. when Politico.com broke the official news.

However, Councilor Michelle Wu - who is running for mayor - enjoyed breaking the news somewhat before it became official in issuing a statement shortly after the Politico story. That, of course, is something the mayor did for her last fall when he "outed" her mayoral campaign to The Boston Globe before she officially announced it.

"Congratulations to Mayor Marty Walsh on his nomination as Labor Secretary for the Biden Administration," said Wu. "He will be the first union member to serve in this role in nearly 50 years, and his leadership will come at a critical time for the labor movement. There is much work to do to clean up the backwards, anti-worker policies of the Trump administration that have hurt so many here in our city, and Boston needs a partner to fight for working families at the federal level."

The other announced mayoral candidate, District 4 Councilor Andrea Campbell - a former Council President - also issued a statement Thursday afternoon.

"Congratulations to Mayor Walsh on his nomination as Secretary of Labor - a fitting role for someone who has spent his entire career fighting for working people in and out of public service," she said. "The realities of deep division in our country and city have never been more clear than they have this year - amidst a pandemic and yesterday's domestic attack on our democracy. For Boston, there's so much at stake in 2021 as we look to recover from this pandemic and reimagine what our city can be without persistent inequities. I know Mayor Walsh will be a partner in that work in this new role."

Others that had been sug-

gested alongside Walsh were Congressman Andy Levin of Michigan, former Deputy Labor Secretary Seth Harris, California Labor Secretary Julie Su and AFL-CIO Chief Economist Bill Spriggs, according to the Politico.com report and other previous media reports.

Local trade unions immediately gave their support to Biden picking Walsh.

"IBEW Local 103 has seen firsthand that Marty Walsh is a champion for all working people," said Business Manager Lou Antonellis. "We share his values that every worker deserves access to great training, great careers, and a chance at the American dream. As an organizer, legislator, and Mayor, Marty Walsh has demonstrated his profound commitment to making stronger communities and safer workplaces."

The state AFL-CIO also commended the pick, noting they have worked closely with Walsh and believe he will be a great Secretary of Labor.

"Marty Walsh is a champion of working people and is a perfect pick to lead the Department of Labor," said Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Steven A. Tolman. "From my time working side by side with Marty Walsh both in the legislature and as the President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, I have seen the unmatched level of care and passion he brings to fighting for working people every day. His service and record as a dedicated labor leader, legislator, and Mayor of Boston provides overwhelming evidence that he will be a terrific Secretary of Labor."

There haven't yet been any announcements as to when confirmation hearings would begin, but certainly they would be after the Jan. 21 Inauguration Day, though many believe confirmation could come quickly with the U.S. Senate soon being controlled by the Democratic Party.

**SWEARING IN**



Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon

Mayor Martin Walsh swears in Charlestown's Michael O'Neill to the Boston School Committee on Jan. 4 at City Hall. In November, O'Neill was elected by the Committee as Vice Chair.

**TENURE** (from pg. 7)

that first-hand working for him and as a Councilor too. She said many may not realize how sensitive he is to the pain of others, and that his loyalty is strong.

"What I admire most about him is his ability to humbly admit his imperfections," she said. "He is an admitted alcoholic who turned his 'weakness' on its head and showed me and so many others the strength of recovery. Beyond the politics I have laughed and cried with him. Within the politics we have butted heads, fought

good fights, but never questioned each other's heart or dedication to service. I feel like we were just starting to bring the best fights, policies and service out of each other. I feel a little robbed as I had so many more jokes to say, pranks to pull, and laughs to have. I'm sure D.C. has plenty of good people. But nowhere will you find a group as strong, loyal, humorous and ferocious as Boston. DC can have him for a bit but Marty will always be ours."

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**NOTICE OF THE KENNEDY CENTER'S ANNUAL MEETING**

The John F. Kennedy Family Services Center will hold its annual meeting on **JANUARY 25TH, 2021 FROM 6:30 TO 8:00PM** via Zoom teleconference.

The agenda includes annual election of directors of the board as well as other necessary business. **Members of the public are welcome to attend using a phone or computer. A link to the meeting will be sent to those who register in advance.**

**To register or to ask questions about this meeting, contact Thara Fuller - [tfuller@kennedycenter.org](mailto:tfuller@kennedycenter.org) 617-241-8866 x1312.**

# Charlestown Ferry schedule changes take effect January 23

The MBTA is announcing this week that ferry schedule changes will take effect on January 23, as approved by the Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) in December 2020.

The changes include the temporary suspension of all Charlestown (F4) service, the temporary suspension of direct Hingham (F1) ferry service, and reduced week-

day Hingham/Hull ferry service frequency.

These changes are part of Forging Ahead, the MBTA's plan to preserve transit access and quality of service available to transit-critical customers and were approved last month along with other service adjustments to other modes of travel in the MBTA system. These short-term

service changes for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) help match service levels with current and near-term low ridership demand.

It was a plan opposed by the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard and Boston HarborNOW – as well as some elected officials.

However, with ferry ridership approximately 12% of pre-COVID levels, these changes in

ferry service effective January 23, 2021, aim to align service with the lower ridership levels experienced during the pandemic. On January 23, 2021, the following changes will occur to ferry service:

- Direct Charlestown (F4) and Hingham (F1) ferry service will be temporarily suspended.

The FMCB will assess service needs again on all modes by no

later than March 15, 2021, and will allocate additional resources to meet ridership demand if feasible. The timing of all service restoration will also depend on public health guidance (including guidance on the continued need for social distancing) and the timing of the Commonwealth's post-vaccination re-opening plan.

## For the Record

### COASTAL FLOOD RESILIENCE ZONING MEETING

There will be two public meetings to review the draft Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District zoning article, on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 from 6 – 8 p.m., and Friday, January 15, 2021 from 10 AM – 12 PM. Please visit this link for the Friday meeting ([http://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2021/01/15/coastal-flood-resilience-zoning-overlay-public-mee?mc\\_cid=4f1a129b46&mc\\_eid=677d31e68f](http://www.bostonplans.org/news-calendar/calendar/2021/01/15/coastal-flood-resilience-zoning-overlay-public-mee?mc_cid=4f1a129b46&mc_eid=677d31e68f)).

- Friday, January 15, 2021 from 10 a.m. – noon. M

From the Jan. 12 Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, online:

- 229-231 Bunker Hill Street Ward 2 Applicant: Patrick Mahoney Purpose: Demolish existing one story restaurant and erect a new 4 story 3 unit residential building with enclosed garage and roof deck. \*Private roof deck

From the Jan. 14 Public Improvement Commission hearing, 10 a.m., online:

- Arlington Avenue; Charlestown – Grant of Location – On a petition by NSTAR Electric Company (d/b/a Eversource Energy).

From the Jan. 14 School Committee Nominating Panel, 4 p.m., online:

- Review and approve minutes from previous meeting.

- Discuss application process and deadlines to fill the current School Committee vacancy due to resignation (term expires 1/3/22).

- Review School Committee application.

### BOSTON POLICE CADET VIRTUAL INFO SESSION

BPD will host a virtual info session in order for future cadets to learn more about the Boston Police Cadet position and experience, the selection process/application, and the anticipated hiring and timeline.

When: Thursday, January 14, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Virtual meeting

### ABUTTERS MEETING, 6 MOUNT VERNON AVE

A second meeting to discuss a proposal to remove a portion of front roof to create inset roof terrace. Remove portion of rear roof to construct new shed dormer with roof deck on portion of dormer as shown on the drawings.

When: Thursday, January 14, 6 p.m.

Where: Virtual Meeting

From the Jan. 19 Community Preservation Committee meeting, noon, online:

- Discussion of FY21 Historic Preservation and Open Space and Recreation Applications.

### HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

All wreaths, lighting fixtures, wires, and other related items must be removed from City property no later than February 2, 2021. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eric Prentis at [Eric.Prentis@boston.gov](mailto:Eric.Prentis@boston.gov), or Rob Lewis Robert.LewisA@boston.gov, if you have any questions.

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Christmas trees will be picked up during the first two full weeks of January on the first recycling day of the week to be shredded for compost. Place your trees on the curb by 6 a.m., without ornaments or lights. Check your pickup schedule: <http://boston.gov/trash-day>

### SCHOOLS INFO

- BPS Priority Registration Begins This Week – Priority registration for school year 2021-22 began on Jan. 5 for students entering grades K0, K1, 6th, 7th and 9th grades. Priority Registration for those grades ends on Jan. 29. Assignment notifications are on March 31.

Students entering K2 and all other grades have priority registration on Feb. 8 and ends on April 5. Assignment notifications for those grades is on May 28.

There are informational Zoom sessions about registration on Weds. Jan 20, 4 p.m.; and Sat., Feb. 27, at 10 a.m.

BPS Welcome Centers are temporarily closed to the public, but registration can

be done online and via phone. Call (617) 635-9010 to schedule a phone appointment with a specialist.

- P-EBT Cards - All BPS students will have more P-EBT funds for this school year. If you received P-EBT funds in the past, look for funds to be allocated the last week of December. New to P-EBT? You will get a P-EBT card in January or check your existing EBT card for funds. Learn more at [www.MAp-EBT.org](http://www.MAp-EBT.org) or call the Assistance Line at 877-382-2363.

- MLK Virtual Celebration – On Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m., all are invited to attend the 39th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration featuring dance, visual art, and music from BPS students. The performances celebrate and reflect on Dr. King's words and legacy as we live it today and connect with a passage from one of the civil rights leader's speeches or his overarching themes of non-violence, justice, hope, community, and equality.

- Princeton Summer Journalism Program – Applications are due Monday, Feb. 22. PSJP is a free journalism and college preparatory program for high-achieving current juniors from low-income backgrounds who are interested in journalism. Over seven weeks, students attend virtual workshops led by professional journalists and Princeton University professors. After the program, students work with a volunteer college adviser, a professional journalist or program alum, to complete their college applications.

- Free Pre-K Spaces Available - There are still spaces available for free, in-person, high-quality Pre-K at community-based organizations across the city for the 2020-21 school year for children who are 4 years old as of September 1, 2020. More information is available at [bostonpublicschools.org/upk](http://bostonpublicschools.org/upk).

### •SUPER SITES FOR BPS MEALS

Beginning October 26, BPS Super Sites open for Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. BPS families can pick up free breakfasts and lunches. Some locations also provide free toiletries and free groceries on select days.

- \*Edwards Middle School – 28 Walker St.

- \*Harvard/Kent Elementary – 50 Bunker Hill St.

### KENNEDY CENTER ANNUAL MEETING

The John F. Kennedy Family Services Center will hold its annual meeting on

January 25, 2021 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

The agenda includes annual election of directors of the board as well as other necessary business. Members of the public are welcome to attend using a phone or computer. A link to the meeting will be sent to those who register in advance. To register or to ask questions about this meeting, contact Thara Fuller [fuller@kennedycenter.org](mailto:fuller@kennedycenter.org) 617-241-8866 x1312.

### •REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

### •HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.

**SCHOOLS** (from pg. 1)

dents who have qualified for high in-person priority\*

•Monday, March 1 & Thursday, March 4: Students in K0 - Grade 3 (Group A & B)

•Monday, March 15 & Thursday, March 18: Students in Grades 4 - 8 (Group A & B)

•Monday, March 29 & Thursday, April 1: Students in Grades 9 - 12 (Group A & B)

“The best learning environment for our students is in their classrooms, with their peers, under the care of our educators and staff,” said Supt. Brenda Cassellius. “This agreement charts the course for the rest of the school year and establishes a safe return to in-person learning for additional students and staff.”

The hybrid in-person learning model remains an opt-in process for parents and any parent can still choose to keep their students all-remote and not return in-person.

The Charlestown-based Voices of BPS Families said they staged a protest at City Hall once again on Tuesday, and weren’t totally sold on the plan unveiled one day before Mayor Martin Walsh’s State of the City Address.

“I think we’re glad they finally said something, but it’s not specific enough,” said parent Corey Zehngebot. “We’ve been down that path before...The language is vague – things like ‘tentative’ and ‘pending public health numbers.’ That doesn’t provide a lot of assurance to families that the timeline will transpire as it is laid out. Frankly, the students should be in school before this timeline suggests. The overwhelming evidence is that school is safe and Gov. Baker’s announcement last week that pool testing is available now. We’re exhausted and parents all over the city are exhausted.”

Parent Erica Haydock said the



Charlestown students, and their parents in the grass-roots Voices of BPS Families, took to City Hall Plaza on Tuesday to call for a quicker return to in-person learning. School leaders and Mayor Walsh unveiled a plan on Monday that would start bringing back kindergartners on March 1.

youngest learners should be in school now, and getting them back starting on March 1 is just too far from now.

“The other thing to consider is these are concrete dates and all, but it still means seven more weeks of remote learning for Kindergartners,” she said. “March 1 isn’t a long way away, but it is still seven weeks away. We think the timing of this is suspect given the State of the City Address (this week)...The plan seems like it was rolled out the door for the speech on Tuesday.”

Haydock said they are also worried that the change in leadership will mean further delays as Mayor Walsh potentially leaves. While they said Council President Kim Janey has stood up for education, they are worried things could get lost in the shuffle.

“We’re worried that having this change in leadership could further delay the timeline,” she said.

Through the system-wide agree-

ment, BPS, BTU, and the Boston Public Health Commission will be working collaboratively to take key building preparedness steps in order to further cultivate trust and codify our commitment to implementing the same health and safety protocols currently in place at the 32 schools currently open across all school buildings, including:

- limiting the number of students and staff in a building at one time to ensure social distancing,
- instituting creative scheduling and staffing, among other approaches on hybrid instruction,
- providing air purifiers into classrooms, offices and common areas or highest grade HVAC filters in schools with HVAC systems
- increasing air quality testing and reporting,
- Installing data loggers that provide daily air quality measures in our schools,
- delivering additional personal protective equipment to schools for students and staff,
- offering access to free COVID-19 testing for teachers on site or nearby their school,
- expanding a pilot program for student COVID-19 testing, and
- continuing to report all positive confirmed cases in schools to the school community and the public.

Students recognized as high in-person priority include: High needs/Level 4 students with disabilities; English Learners who are EL levels 1 and 2; Students who are in the care of the Department of Children and Families; Students who are experiencing homelessness; Students with limited or interrupted formal education; and Students identified by their school’s Student Support Team (SST) as requiring additional in-person schooling.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

**North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through Jan. 23**

Construction Look-Ahead: January 10 – January 23, 2021

This is a brief overview of construction operations and impacts for the North Washington Street Bridge Replacement Project. MassDOT will provide additional notices as needed for high-impact work and changes to traffic configurations beyond those described below.

**VIBRATORY HAMMER NOISE IMPACTS**

•A vibratory hammer is being used to install the five cofferdams which will be needed to build the piers of the new bridge. Installation of each cofferdam takes about two weeks.

•The project has positioned a combination of hanging sound blankets and temporary barrier to minimize noise impacts from the vibratory hammer. These measures will be adjusted as needed and appropriate.

•Use of the vibratory hammer began on 10/6. Work hours are during the day (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

**DESCRIPTION**

**OF SCHEDULED WORK**

•Installation and curing of south abutment approach haunch, strip-

ping of north abutment, installation and maintenance of silt curtain, installation of drilled shafts, and cleaning of demolition site. In addition, sheeting and bracing of cofferdams will continue.

**WORK HOURS**

•Most work will be done during the daytime (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

**WORK THAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED**

•Prior to 1/10/21, crews continued to demolish the existing bridge. The bridge is fully demolished and work on the cofferdam is 75% complete.

**TRAVEL TIPS**

Westerly sidewalk, Lovejoy Wharf stairs near Converse are open to the public with the opening of the temporary bridge, the adjacent section of the Harborwalk passing under the bridge remains closed.

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations, with access provided via the Water Street underpass.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Charlestown warehouse Warehouse Application Legal Notice  
Notice is hereby given on the application of Gentle Giant

Moving Co., Inc. of 8 Bunker Hill Industrial Park to be a public warehouse within and for the County of Suffolk of Charlestown for the purpose of conducting a General Ware-

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Walker, Matthew	Simonello, Angelene C	6 Adams St #1	\$1,455,000
Weaver, Carlin	Reedy, Thomas V	65 Chelsea St #406	\$890,000
Keiler, Ashley C	Custom Capital Dev LLC	7 Cook St #1	\$965,000
Roskey, Shane	Downtown Abbeys LLC	8 Hancock St	\$1,495,000
Stern, Molly M	Valsky, Eugene B	30 High St #3	\$790,000
Strachan, John W	Kitziz, Ellen S	49 Monument Ave	\$2,500,000
Katz-Bearnot, Sherry	Bearnot, Benjamin	32 Oak St #B	\$1,010,000
Chi-Cheung, Andrew S	Butt, Asad M	35 Parker St #35	\$690,000

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## HONORING LATE BPD OFFICER GEORGE COLLIER

A number of partners – including the Bunker Hill Associates, the Boston Police Runner's Club, the City of Boston Credit Union, and the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club – came together over the holidays to remember late BPD officer George Collier and help out needy families in the Town. Organized initially by BPD Sgt. Det. Cecil Jones, the fundraiser took legs quick and was able to help many more than anticipated – all in the name of George Collier.

Associates President Maureen Collier, the late George Collier's wife, said Jones's plan at first was to help 52 families with grocery gift cards of \$250 each.

"We doubled that goal and the money was used to help even more families who were in need over the holidays," said Collier. "We thank Commissioner Gross for coming over and we look forward to doing this again next year."

Presentations were made last month, and were all done confidentially through the Boys & Girls Club. The Club identified families in need and was able to get the



Commissioner Gross, Robert Collier (George's brother), Maureen Collier, BPD Sgt. Det. Cecil Jones, Associates Secretary Kim Mahoney, and Charlestown Boys & Girls Club Director Derek Gallagher.

gift cards to them for a little help getting food for the holidays.

"It kept the giving spirit going in Charlestown," said Collier. "Especially during this pandemic, it was a great tribute and honor to George and I know he was looking down on all of this and smiling. It was wonderful to be able to help so many families...Really, the

Collier family is so thankful for Cecil thinking of this and running with it and helping so many people. It really goes to show what community policing is all about in this city."

Collier said they have plans to continue the tribute every year during the holidays in memory of George Collier.

## Bunker Hill Redevelopment makes agenda for Jan. 14 meeting

By Seth Daniel

After more than six years of discussion in the neighborhood, the Bunker Hill Redevelopment project has finally made the agenda of the Boston Planning and Redevelopment Agency's (BPDA) Board and at least nine votes will be taken on Thursday to approve the \$1.46 billion Master Project site and allow the first phase of the project to go forward.

The Redevelopment consists of demolishing 42 buildings on the site and 1,110 public housing units over a period of eight to 10 years, and replacing it with a brand new mixed-income development created by Leggat McCall, Corcoran Companies and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA). They plan to replace 1,010 of the public housing units on site and add 1,689 market rate units to the mix in 15 new buildings – also including amenities like ground floor retail and a new community center.

In all of its long life on the planning stages, it has never appeared before the BPDA Board.

The Recommendations to the Board are to approve the matters before them.

The developers have said with the approvals, they believe they can start Phase 1 in the summer. That would include the demolition of six existing BHA buildings, and replacing it with two new buildings, Building F and M. Building F would sit behind the Kennedy Center and Building M would be on the corner of Medford Street and Tufts. Together, they would have 358 mixed-income units – with 158 of them being BHA

replacement units.

The community has been split on advancing the project to the Board, with a final IAG meeting held on Tuesday night at the same time as Mayor Walsh's State of the City speech.

Many in the community, and who live in the development, have said its time to move forward and work out the details in the extended reviews of the other phases. Meanwhile, strong voices in the community have also said the proposal has too many unanswered questions and needs much more review.

One piece before the BPDA Board on Thursday is the approval of an Urban Renewal Zoning tool called a 'U-Subdistrict.' That tool will allow far more flexibility in zoning and, potentially, more community input in establishing the zoning for the subdistrict – which is defined as the site of the development. That U-Subdistrict tool also allows the zoning for the project to change over time as the phases continue, and also supersedes City zoning ordinances.

•THE ANCHOR UP FOR RENEWAL

The Anthem Group, which operates The Anchor venue in the Navy Yard, will be up for an activation license renewal at the BPDA Board on Thursday. The Anchor has had great successes throughout the pandemic running outdoor activities and notable displays for Halloween and the Winter holidays/Christmas.

The BPDA is recommending the Board approve the license to start on March 1 and with the same terms as the previous agreement. The license would run through Jan. 1, 2022.

"The combination of responsible,

physically-distanced, yet engaging and interesting programs led to nearly every event reaching its allowed capacity based on COVID-19 health guidelines," read the memo. "As a result, The Anchor continued to add fitness programs, self-instructed arts/crafts and similar programs that both helped meet the public demand but also continued to have a positive economic impact on some of the most vulnerable types of businesses and entertainers."

The terms of the license include a base monthly fee of \$2,000 and 15 percent of the previous month's receipts.

•CONSTRUCTION COVID TESTING

The BPDA Board will also review on Thursday a proposal to use the Bunker Hill Community College parking lot #1 to set up a COVID-19 testing site for construction workers.

The centralized facility would serve as the location for workers at sites around the City to come and be tested for the virus. The testing is made available in partnership with Partners in Health, Harbor Health Services and the Greater Boston Building Trades, and was announced on Dec. 22. It is sponsored by John Moriarty and Sons.

•JENNY'S PIZZA

The Jenny's Pizza parking lot license on Medford Street with the BPDA has apparently lapsed, and the Board will look to enter into a new agreement with the popular pizza shop to renew the license. The 800 sq. ft. lot is owned by the BPDA and has room for two cars to park. The license fee will be \$231 a month until 2023.