



Mayoral Candidates Participate In Debate Sponsored by Wards 4 and 5

Five of the six mayoral candidates participated in a debate that covered topics including exam schools, rent control and criminal justice reform during a forum held on Zoom by the Ward 4 and Ward 5 Democratic committees and moderated by WGBH radio and TV host Callie Crossley. John Barros, Jon Santiago and Annissa Essaibi George leaned conservative while Andrea Campbell and Mi-

CONTINUED ON page 6

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EDITORIAL

Defund the Police? Absolutely Not

The obnoxious 'Defund/Eliminate the Police' crowd is still shrieking, maybe just a little bit louder than normal this week. Using police shootings of civilians in the line of duty as cover for what they really want, they are once again out burning and looting and destroying everything they are able to. Nothing shows compassion or solidarity with the deceased like smashing business and store windows and stealing an arm load of merchandise.

Let's be completely honest here. Many of those who

scream the loudest and demand an end to law enforcement do so because they would like nothing better than to be able to commit crimes with no interference. And when there are lunatic politicians like Maxine Waters and members of 'The Squad' making irresponsible statements that encourage the street violence and want to pass laws that support these demands, it only leads to increased violence and causes more situations where police are sometimes compelled to use deadly force.

The calls to get rid of police are ludicrous at face value,

but when elected officials remain silent and turn a blind eye to this insane movement, it just helps it grow.

So, what would a country without police be like? Think about it. With no official legal deterrent to home invaders, carjackers, rapists, murderers, muggers and gangs, innocent people would fall into 2 major categories. Some would be prisoners in their own homes, cowering and hoping that their houses, their sanctuaries wouldn't be targeted by roaming bands of thugs. But others – so many others -

would not put up with it for a minute. It's now a known fact that literally tens of millions of law-abiding Americans are armed to the teeth many of whom long ago anticipated the atmosphere in our country becoming as it has. With no law enforcement to stop them from taking the battle directly to the bad guys in order to defend their families and homes, it would quickly turn the tables and predators could become prey. So, they should be careful of what they wish for.

Let us all hope it never comes to this. And that's why



when the mobs shout out to 'get rid of the police', the good people should stand up and loudly shout back with a resounding "NO!" Our police are the protectors of civilized society and despite a couple of bad ones found around the country, they are overwhelmingly that thin blue line that is dedicated to keeping us safe. They need our vocal and active support more now than perhaps ever before.

"Curiosity is natural to the soul of man and interesting objects have a powerful influence on our affections" - Daniel Boone

I Was Just Thinking...



by Kevin Devlin

I support the police. I do not support defunding them. We

need them to protect us, to keep us safe from those who don't care what laws they break or the people they destroy. Law and order are necessary in society so that lawlessness and anarchy doesn't rule the day. The police are on the front lines of this battle every single day in every corner of this great nation.

Most Americans oppose defunding the police. They are realistic, everyday people who understand the need for police

presence, and know that crime will only continue to soar if the police aren't allowed to do their job with the necessary manpower and resources.

Leaders in Washington need to stop verbally disparaging the police and inciting unrest and violence with deceitful and inflammatory comments. On April 15, Representative Ayanna Pressley (D., MA) tweeted, "He (Adam Toledo) was 13 years old and the police executed him." It is false. On

April 17, while in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, to join demonstrations over the police shooting of Daunte Wright, Representative Maxine Waters (D., Calif) called for people to "get more confrontational." It is inflammatory.

They love to stir the pot, sit back, and see what happens next.

These so-called leaders, the elites with their armed security personnel beside them, love to tell us (and with straight faces I might add) that they know what is best for us.

Don't worry, they say.

We'll abolish the police and replace them with social workers and shrinks to deal with the criminal elements in our midst.

What could go wrong?

They preach to us as if we are children. As if we are blind to what is right in front of our eyes. I'm sick and tired of this war against the police. Is there a need for reform and enhanced training? Of course, but not at the expense of tearing down the entire system.

Police are doing a thankless, dangerous job and deserve our respect. And not disdain.

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The Information Center

Is It Riot Season Again Already?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

They are at it again. To those who openly express their support and ‘solidarity’ with Black Lives Matter (BLM), how do you like them now? Forgetting for a while that one of the BLM leaders, an avowed Communist, just spent millions of dollars on several mansions, will you still keep sending the group money? After watching the latest rounds of rioting, looting and burning with BLM banners proudly waving in the breeze among the crowd, will professional sports teams still erect the BLM logos on their ball fields and in their arenas? Will the mayor of Somerville continue to allow their flags to be flown from city buildings? And closer to home, will Boston’s public libraries keep the BLM placards in their windows? Much of this catering and groveling to the group is out of fear. Not only the fear of being labeled as racist if they don’t support the group, but in some cases, it could also be the fear of having violence being directed at them as well.

The violence that BLM and their ANTIFA allies are involved with in those Democrat run cities is raging out of control again, while the Democrat politicians stay silent and aren’t lifting a finger to stop it. Those are the quiet ones. Other leftist Democrat elected officials are actually encouraging the violence. And all the while, the news media continues to call it ‘mostly peaceful protesting’. When you think about it, the media really has no shame. They are well aware that every American with a brain and even people in other countries watching it play out knows the difference between a peaceful protest and full-scale rioting. The burning buildings and helmet clad police being pelted with frozen water bottles and bricks kind of gives it away. The media

knows that we all know that they are lying but they keep on lying anyway.

One Conservative newscaster put into words a statement that’s sure to come true. ‘When there are no more stores left to loot and burn, they’ll blame ‘racism’. You know, that tired, over-used and worn out word that people on the Left throw around at anyone and everyone who dares disagree with them.

The cities that are on fire are seeing an exodus like never before. A growing number of people who can afford to leave are fleeing by the thousands and moving to safe Red States where this kind of violence just isn’t tolerated. And yet, politicians in Washington DC are jumping through hoops trying to take guns away from the now nearly 100 million legal gun owners. Some of these anti-gun politicians are under the mistaken illusion that all the violence makes Americans want the government to take away the legally owned firearms from innocent people. They actually think that most Americans are opposed to the Second Amendment. But even though the most recent polls and surveys conducted as recently as 2 weeks ago showed without a doubt that 73 percent of Americans are in FAVOR of the Second Amendment, the Democrats will keep trying anyway. Surveys are showing that response to the gun violence and mass shootings and rioting aren’t succeeding in making people want to give up their guns, it’s just the opposite. It’s making people feel they should be CARRYING guns and buying more of them along with ammo for their own protection. And the calls to disband and defund police is adding to this historical gun buying binge, the size of which has never before been seen.

On the subject of Covid: Fauci’s supporters are trying to hold on. But their grasping fingers, desperately trying to keep everyone in compliance with lock downs and mandates, are slipping fast with more states opening up and getting rid of those mandates. No matter what new scare tactics these officials use, warnings of new more potent waves of virus coming etc., it looks like a fast-growing number of Americans have had enough. The skepticism continues to grow when people watch how no effort is being made to stem the tide of infected

illegals crossing the border and vaccines we were assured were perfectly safe, may not be safe after all.

Compliance is a word that many Americans don’t easily take to. We are a free people and don’t like being told what to do unless we can be absolutely sure it will be for the benefit of all. But if the public gets the sense that its being manipulated and what they are being told could be less than totally truthful, the response can turn from simple distrust to resistance and even to open defiance. This is what seems to be happening all over the country.

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Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education.

We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

Median home price in Greater Boston hits record of nearly \$725,000

Housing crisis? What housing crisis? We figured readers might be interested in this piece by the Globe's Tim Logan on how the region's already ridiculous housing prices have gotten even more ridiculous.

The housing shortage is partly the cause. But the demand for single-family homes in the 'burbs has only increased since the onset of the pandemic, due to the now-verified exodus of residents from urban areas to non-urban areas, as the Globe's Amanda Kaufman reports.

Education updates: MCAS graduation requirement waived, vocational admission changes OK'd

The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education was busy yesterday. SHNS's Katie Lannan reports the board officially approved a proposal to waive the state's MCAS graduation requirement for the high school class of 2022. The reason: the pandemic. Meanwhile, the Globe's Naomi Martin reports that the board, under pressure, approved "preliminary changes to the admissions process at vocational high schools aimed at

giving disadvantaged students a better chance of attending."

Amid more than 1,100 budget amendments, this one clearly stands out: Voter ID requirement

MassLive's Steph Solis reports that more than 1,100 amendments have been filed to the House's \$47.6 billion state budget proposal on Beacon Hill. And, separately, Solis reports that one of those amendments, proposed by state Rep. Nick Boldyga, would require would-be voters to show an ID before receiving a ballot. Critics call it a classic voter-suppression move. In other legislative-funding news, from SHNS's Katie Lannan: "Supporters Eye Early College Credit Expansion."

Taking aim at Smith & Wesson: Activists call for ban on assault weapon manufacturing in Massachusetts

SHNS's Chris Lisinski reports that lawmakers, activists and parents who lost children to mass shootings are banding together to push legislation that would ban the manufacturing of assault weapons for civilian use in Massachusetts – in addition to

banning the possession of assault weapons in Massachusetts. Needless to say, some aren't happy about the proposal that would have a major impact on a certain Springfield-based company.

Lawmakers: Childcare system needs more than just a little tender loving care

Commonwealth's Shira Schoenberg reports on legislative calls to make changes to the state's childcare system – a system they say was inadequate before the pandemic and more than inadequate during the pandemic.

Not-so-super: Henry apologizes for now imploded soccer league idea

Who would have thought European soccer could make such big news here? Anyway, Red Sox, Globe and Liverpool Football owner John Henry took to Twitter in the early hours this morning to issue an apology to fans of his Liverpool soccer club for Fenway Sports Group's role in the controversial – and now seemingly dead -- proposal to form a new European Super League, Chris Cotillo at MassLive reports.

An early preliminary election in Boston? It's under consideration

We missed this one from the other day, i.e. a report by the Globe's Danny McDonald about how some on the Boston City Council want to move the city's preliminary election up a week to give officials more time to distribute vote-by-mail ballots.

In other mayoral election news, they held a candidates' forum yesterday. Can you guess which mayoral candidate was too busy to virtually attend? Universal Hub's Adam Gaffin has more.

Expensive parting: UMass Boston spent \$10,000 to bid farewell to Walsh

Remember that 11-page ad supplement in the Globe last month in which various big corporations and institutions bid a fond farewell to now former Mayor Marty Walsh? It cost UMass-Boston \$10,000 and the Boston Public Library \$2,000, among others ponying up money for the rather unusual and expensive good-bye gesture. Colman Herman at Commonwealth has more.

One more time: Markey and AOC reintroduce Green New Deal bill

Why not? Progressives are largely on a roll in Washington these days, so U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are pressing President Biden to go even "bigger and bolder" by passing their Green New Deal legislation to combat climate change, reports the Herald's Lisa Kashinsky.

Indirect hit? Report says millionaire's tax would hurt small businesses

The proposal to amend the state's Constitution to allow millionaires to be taxed at a higher rate would impact thousands of small businesses and hamper the state's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Pioneer Institute, the Herald's Rick Sobey reports.

All hail the champs!

Gov. Charlie Baker and House Speaker Ronald Mariano were among those welcoming the state's newest sports champs to the State House yesterday: The 2021 NCCA Division 1 men's hockey champions from UMass. And the governor had high praise for the team, as CBS Boston reports.

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Mayor Janey Appoints Rev. Mariama White-Hammond

Mayor Kim Janey announced that she has appointed Reverend Mariama White-Hammond as Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston. In this role, Rev. White-Hammond will be responsible for leading the Cabinet in achieving its mission of enhancing environmental justice and quality of life in Boston by protecting air, water, climate, and land resources, as well as preserving and improving the integrity of Boston's architectural and historic resources. The Reverend will assume the role previously held by Chris Cook, who has been named the next Executive Director of The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy.

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond has extensive background in embedding equity and environmental justice into Boston's communities. She is the founding pastor of New Roots AME Church in Dorchester, a multi-racial, multi-class community. In this work, Rev. White-Hammond utilizes an intersectional lens to connect ecology, immigration, climate change, energy policy and economic justice. She is a fellow with the Green Justice Coalition, which brings together eight social/environmental justice groups from around Massachusetts. Rev. White-Hammond is a public speaker throughout the nation and was a leader for both the 2017 Boston Women's March and Boston People's Climate Mobilization. She has received numerous awards, including the Barr Fellowship, the Celtics Heroes Among Us, The Roxbury Founders Day Award and the Boston NAACP Image award. She was selected as one of the Grist 50 Fixers for 2019 and Sojourners 11 Women Shaping the Church.

"Reverend Mariama White-Hammond is an advocate, facilitator and pastor who has extensive experience in creating a more just, inclusive and sustainable Boston," said Mayor Kim Janey. "I am confident that Rev. White-Hammond is the right person to accelerate our efforts around environmental justice, while expanding our green jobs pipeline and helping us achieve our goal of carbon neutrality, all of which are critical elements

of our recovery and renewal agenda."

The Cabinet includes the Environment Department and the Parks and Recreation Department. As Chief, Rev. White-Hammond will oversee policy and programs on energy, climate change, sustainability, building safety, historic preservation and open space, including Climate Ready Boston, the building energy reporting & disclosure ordinance, rental registry, and Greenovate Boston, the city's community outreach initiative on sustainability. She will also continue to move the city towards its goal of being carbon neutral by 2050, as part of Carbon Free Boston. Rev. White-Hammond will begin her new role on April 26th.

"I want to thank Mayor Janey for her leadership and willingness to tackle the inequities in our neighborhoods that have been exacerbated by climate change," said Rev. White-Hammond. "I am committed to supporting Mayor Janey's agenda for recovery, reopening and renewal through an equity lens and that creates sustainable opportunities for Bostonians."

Rev. White-Hammond joins the City of Boston with a three-pronged agenda to combat climate change and the environmental inequities that have been intensified by COVID-19. This roadmap consists of utilizing innovative approaches to mitigate extreme heat and create equitable cooling plans during the summer, enhancing food access through community gardens, as well as creating a new green jobs pipeline targeting workforce development for the younger generation.

Mayor Janey's Administration is taking steps to recognize and address the risks of climate change, and to protect Boston's urban ecosystem. Last week, Mayor Janey proposed the following investments for environmental resilience and climate justice in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal:

- \$48 million for Phase 2 and 3 of Renew Boston Trust, which is designed to identify energy retrofit project opportunities in City-owned buildings to create future energy savings.
- \$5 million for a Climate Ready



Boston Harbor study to support the development of a study that will examine the feasibility of measures along and within the Boston Harbor to reduce vulnerability of coastal flooding due to sea level rise caused by climate change.

- \$20 million to design and implement a signature, climate resilient waterfront park along the Fort Point Channel.

- \$1.7 million per year for the ongoing program of street tree planting throughout the city

- \$1.8 million to repave pathways at Dorchester Park

- \$7.5 million to repave pathways at the Back Bay Fens to improve accessibility and site conditions

- \$15.5 million to complete the park redesign at Copley Square to optimize resilience to high-traffic events and storm-water

- \$9.4 million to redesign and construct a new Malcolm X Park through the City's first Equitable Procurement Pilot program

Rev. White-Hammond was born and raised in Boston and began her community engagement in high school when she worked as a Peer Health Educator. She was particularly shaped by her involvement in Project HIP-HOP (Highways Into the Past - History, Organizing and Power), a youth organization focused on teaching the history of the Civil Rights Movement and engaging a new generation of young people in activism. After college, she returned to Boston, and became the Executive Director of Project HIP-HOP, where she joyfully engaged young people in community organizing and culture making. After 13 years at Project HIP-HOP in 2014, Rev. White-Hammond left the organization to attend Boston University School of Theology. In 2017, she graduated with her Master of Divinity and was ordained an elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 2018 she founded New Roots AME Church, a multi-racial congregation in Dorchester.

Debate continued from front page

chell Wu took progressive stands, both coming out in support of rent control, although Campbell conditioned her support on conversations with small property owners.

The candidates' answers gave an indication of the ideological territory they have staked out in the six-way race for mayor. Wu, who has shifted her positions to the left in recent years, occupied the far left of the field, while Essaibi George took the most conservative positions. Acting Mayor Kim Janey gave a media briefing on the verdict in the George Floyd murder trial at the same time the forum began and did not attend.

The candidates' stands on rent control showed somewhat of a gap between their priorities and those of Boston voters, 76% of whom backed rent control in a poll released last week by the Dorchester Reporter, MassInc and WBUR.

The candidates also broke with a majority of voters on the question of a return to an elected school committee. Campbell and Wu said they support a hybrid model in which some members would be appointed, and others elected. Santiago said he is interested in exploring a hybrid model. Barros and Essaibi George said the support keeping the appointed school committee. In a January poll, 60% of voters said they support a return to an elected school committee.

Charter and exam schools

Asked whether they would support an increase in the number of seats at charter schools, Wu and Essaibi George said they would not. Campbell, widely seen as a charter supporter, did not give a yes-or-no answer, saying the

matter was settled with the 2016 ballot question to lift the cap that was defeated at the polls. Santiago, too, appeared to dodge a yes-or-no answer. "I think as mayor of Boston, I'm committed to making sure that BPS works everyone, and that's not what we have right now," he said, adding that he thinks the city should partner with charters and adopt their best practices.

Barros, who helped found an in-district charter school, also did not give a yes-or-no answer but cited the statewide cap on the schools. Asked where she stood on the recent federal court decision upholding a one-year, zip code-based admissions policy for Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy and the O'Bryant School, Essaibi George appeared to equate the move with abolition of the selective admissions schools. "Taking away the exam schools doesn't fix the disparities in Boston Public Schools," she said. "It only delays getting to the real problem and it truly does distract us from the work that's at hand."

Campbell said she supports the one-year suspension of the use of the exam, given the risks associated with administering a standardized test during a pandemic, but said families should have more say in decisions around the admissions process. "Every family has should have an opportunity to weigh in, and also then have time to reflect, and then give their feedback to the district," she said "We can do better when it comes to family engagement."

Barros noted that his wife and brother attended Boston Latin School when the system used quotas for Black and Latino students, and said he supports changes to the admissions policies.

Santiago said the admissions process should be reformed but stressed that BPS students need to be better prepared for admission to the schools. "It's too late if we're only intervening at the admissions process," he said.

Wu said she supports the change but questioned the district's use of zip codes as a means of ensuring demographic diversity. "We need to make sure that we are providing more predictability for families, not pitting communities and neighborhoods against each other," she said.

Policing

The candidates were also asked whether they would cut the Boston Police Department. The issue came up last year, with Black and Latino councilors and Wu backing a 10% cut from the police budget with funding redirected to anti-violence and social services.

During the forum, Wu and Campbell both said they would make cuts. Campbell said she would cut \$50 million from the \$400 million police budget. "I would redirect that \$50 million to the root causes of violence, trauma, mental health, moving people out of poverty, critically important because police alone cannot solve the issue of violence in the city of Boston," she said.

The others said they would not cut the police budget. "I do not support defunding the police," Essaibi George said, adding that she would hire more officers.

Why you?

Asked why they were qualified for the job, candidates gave their stump speeches, highlighting their qualifications.

Barros said he had executive

management skills, citing his time as executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, a Roxbury-based social service nonprofit as well as his time as chief of Economic Development under the administration of former Mayor Martin Walsh.

Campbell cited her lived experience, focusing on the painful story of her twin brother who died in custody in the Suffolk County House of Correction and "the question of how did twins have such different life outcomes."

Essaibi George said her 13 years as a teacher at East Boston High School gave her a perspective on the challenges facing students inside and outside of school. "Through that experience I had a front row seat, working with our students from across the city, of course many of them from the community of East Boston, and saw firsthand the challenges they had in the classroom," she said.

Santiago cited his work as a doctor at Boston Medical Center and as an Army captain, making the case that he has dedicated his life to public service. "The only reason why I ran for office the first time and jumped into this race for mayor is fundamentally based on the idea that you, my neighbors and my patients deserve the best representation City Hall," he said.

Wu emphasized her work on the council around transportation, environmental issues and progressive causes. "What I bring to this race is a vision for Boston to be bold, to reach for where we are dreaming to build coalitions to actually get that done," she said.

This report included information taken from WGBH and Bay State Banner sources.

Earth Day Letter – Restore Our Earth

Earth Day 2021's theme is Restore Our Earth – focusing on ways to prevent and reverse the impacts of climate change. Incorporating more products and materials made from renewable, plant-based inputs into our lives can help address our environmental challenges head on.

Using more plant-based products – including everything from household cleaners, pack-

aging, textiles, building materials and more – can decrease our reliance on fossil fuels, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and cut down on landfill waste. As the sustainable inputs used to create these products grow, they remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollution from the atmosphere. And many of these products are compostable, helping provide much-needed organic matter and nutrients to our depleted

soil resources.

The Plant Based Products Council is dedicated to promoting the adoption of more renewable products and materials. This Earth Day let's commit to using more renewable resources to create the products we use every day as an important step towards restoring our earth.

Jessica Bowman - Executive Director, Plant Based Products Council, Washington, D.C.



Mayor Janey Releases RFPs For Cannabis Equity Applicants

New capacity building program will support equity in the cannabis industry

Mayor Kim Janey announced that the City of Boston this week released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide technical assistance support to certified cannabis equity applicants. This \$675,000 investment over three years is designed to expand economic and entrepreneurial opportunity and capacity. Completed proposals will be accepted monthly on a rolling basis, on the first day of each month, for a three year period, beginning on April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2024. The first deadline will be May 1, 2021. Proposals can be submitted electronically via the City of Boston Supplier Portal.

“Today we are taking a major step forward in lifting up local entrepreneurs with diverse ownership from communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs,” said Mayor Kim Janey. “We want to ensure that business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs in the cannabis industry have the tools they need to grow and thrive in Boston.”

In 2016, the Citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved a ballot question to legalize and regulate adult-use marijuana. That law requires the development of “procedures and policies to promote and encourage full participation in the regulated marijuana industry by people from communities that have previously been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and to positively impact those communities.”

In November 2019, in her former role as Boston City Council President, Mayor Kim Janey led the City Council in passing an Ordinance to establish equitable regulation of the cannabis industry in the City of Boston. This ordinance was the result of a collaboration from many stakeholders and advocates and ensures Boston’s role as a national model for how to create a system that fosters racial equity

and inclusion in the new cannabis industry.

As part of this ordinance, the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development (OED) will oversee the Cannabis Technical Assistance Program to assist any eligible certified cannabis equity applicants. This designation is based on the majority of an applicant’s business ownership and gives preference to people who reside in areas impacted hardest by the war on drugs, Boston residents, people of color, and people with low incomes, among others. Based on this criteria, the City will maintain an equal or greater number of equity applicant licensees to licensees that do not qualify as equity applicants. The Office of Economic Development has also hired a full-time Cannabis Industry Manager to work directly with cannabis applicants to guide equity applicants through the certification process and to match their needs with experienced TA providers.

“Cannabis is a fast-growing industry, and Boston is committed to ensuring that equity applicants in our city can access the resources they need to launch a successful business,” said Midori Morikawa, Interim Chief of Economic Development. “Boston is the first city in the United States to formally prioritize diverse applicants who are looking to participate in this emerging industry. With this new RFP, the Boston Cannabis Equity Program will support equity applicants with critical technical assistance across business operations, workforce development, legal compliance, and other best practices to assist diverse cannabis businesses throughout the city.”

Applicants and licensees seeking to be certified pursuant to the Ordinance are reviewed and certified by the Office of Economic Development, in collaboration with the Boston Cannabis Board and other appropriate city departments when applicable.

Once selected, the Office of Economic Development shall facilitate the initial engagement with the contractor. In each case, the contractor will be expected to work directly with the cannabis equity applicant.

“Since its formation, the Boston Cannabis Board has worked diligently to ensure equity, both to whom cannabis establishment licenses are granted and the geographic distribution of these licenses through the City of Boston,” said Chairwoman Kathleen Joyce. “We have prioritized equity since the beginning of this new industry in Boston. Providing technical assistance to certified equity applicants is critical to ensuring those communities negatively impacted by the failed war on drugs have access to this emerging industry. We want to support these applicants throughout the entire process, and we look forward to continuing this important work.”

Technical assistance providers are experienced business consultants that, through this program, will provide high quality one-on-one assistance to designated businesses, and also provide group workshops and coaching sessions to existing or aspiring business owners. Services can include, but are not limited to:

- Assistance with business operations, including the development of business plans;
- Assistance recruiting employees;
- Guidance and assistance through the application process;
- Assistance with legal compliance;
- Accounting and tax preparedness assistance;
- Best practices for operating in the marijuana industry;
- Assistance with store security;
- Assistance identifying and raising funds and capital and identifying vendors;
- Guidance on legal issues and compliance; and
- Other cannabis business equity applicant needs.

All prospective TA providers are



encouraged to attend a live applicant conference session for the opportunity to address questions relative to the content of the RFP. These sessions will be held quarterly, via Zoom, and will occur in person pending updated COVID-19 public health restrictions at 1 City Hall Sq., Boston, MA 02201. To register, view upcoming dates, and join the conference, please visit: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ETxD64Jz-TQqNBpyq0Wbvvdg

Every month, on the first business day of the month, applications will be downloaded from the City of Boston Supplier Portal website for review. The RFP will appear live again the next day for the following month. In order to participate in these online procurement activities, bidders must register with the Supplier Portal.

The City of Boston encourages a full range of TA providers to apply for this opportunity to support the varied and dynamic needs of small business owners of all backgrounds. The City of Boston seeks to promote the full participation and equity of opportunity for minority-owned and women-owned enterprises (“M/WBEs”) on City of Boston contracts. To support these City objectives and to further the City’s progress toward achieving its goal of 25% M/WBE participation on City discretionary spend, the City encourages minority-owned and woman-owned enterprises to respond to this RFP.

The Wine Guy

Springtime Wines

Is it finally time to put the heavy jackets away and get out the shorts? God, I hope so! It's also time for some lighter wines; here are a few to consider.....

Paul Lato 2019 Chardonnay "Souvenir" Sierra Madre Vineyard, (\$79.99). This wine possesses a powerful and exuberant nose of brioche and lemon zest, with nuances of vanilla and spice. It is dry, yet plenty rich in its taste, with medium-plus body, voluptuous and round texture, and nuances of minerals. The seamless integration of new French

oak provides plenty of structure, and leads into a layered, dry finish, inviting you to take another sip. It will drink wonderfully on its own with a great conversation or while reading your favorite novel. Pair it with a creamy Lobster risotto in light saffron spice for something different and delicious.

2018 Tablas Creek Patelin Blanc, (\$24.99). The 2018 Patelin de Tablas Blanc is a blend of 48% Grenache Blanc, 22% Viognier, 13% Roussanne, 12% Marsanne and 5% Clairette Blanche. It's very much like a Chenin Blanc on the nose, with undertones of earth and bruised apples, along with top notes of spice and dried chamomile. The medium-bodied palate offers savory fruits with bright acidity and leesy touches for a long, layered finish. This one is a natural for salads, seafood and white meats on the grille.

2018 VIE DI ROMANS FRIULANO DOLCE, (\$32.99). The Vie di Romans 2018 Friuli Isonzo Friulano Dolée reveals a wide spectrum of aromas with stone fruit, citrus, wild sage, rain-soaked sandstone and honey. The bouquet is pure and fine, but the Friulano grape—especially in the hands of a winery of these credentials—is



impressive in terms of mouthfeel and texture. There is a sweet softness and textural creaminess that gives the wine solid, mid-weight appeal. Then, all of that abundant fruit comes to an elegant close with a pristine note of salty mineral. This wine is aged on the lees in stainless steel containers for 10 months. Great with summer deserts or by itself.

2019 Domaine Vacheron Sancerre Blanc, (\$49.99). Vacheron's 2019 Sancerre Blanc is classy, polished and pedigreed through

and through. A whole range of bright Sauvignon Blanc aromas and flavors race out of the glass. Citrus, sage, tomato leaf and white pepper all grace this taut, beautifully sculpted Sancerre from Vacheron. Robert Parker has given it 93 points and the Spectator has scored it there as well. Try it with Lobster Savannah or Chicken Piccata to bring out even more layered flavors and extend its already-long finish.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com



On Monday, I joined members of the Thomas J. Fitzgerald Post #561 VFW for their monthly meeting in South Boston. With Councilor Michael Flaherty, we presented the South Boston Vietnam Veterans with a Boston City Council Resolution in recognition of their service and sacrifice to our nation, while actively supporting veterans & our military families. It was also great to join a good friend, Tom Lyons, a member of the Fitzgerald Post and founder of the South Boston Vietnam Veterans Memorial. - **Councilor Ed Flynn**

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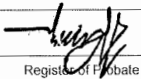
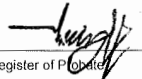
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CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304		Docket No. SU21P0766GD	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
In the matter of: David Jeffreys Of: South Boston, MA		RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person	
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston M Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that David Jeffreys is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Brian J McLaughlin, Esq of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston MA, 02114	
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.			
<p>You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/27/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTICE</p> <p>The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.</p>			
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 14, 2021		 Register of Probate	
ORDER OF NOTICE			
It is ORDERED that a copy of this citation be: Served, with a copy of the petition, in hand to David Jeffreys by a disinterested person at least Fourteen (14) days prior to the return date; and Served on the Department of Developmental Services and/or the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, if interested, and served on all other interested persons as defined in G.L. c. 190B, §5-304, at least Fourteen (14) days prior to the return date by delivering in hand or by mailing by certified, registered, or first-class mail as described in G.L. c. 190B, §1-401; or by publishing a copy of the citation once in South Boston Today South Boston, MA, publication to be at least Seven (7) days prior to the return date. (Newspaper) (Newspaper city/town)			
See Standing Order 03-09: Notice in Guardianship of Incapacitated Persons and Conservatorship Matters			
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 14, 2021		 Register of Probate	



Virtual Public Meeting


555 East Broadway

Wednesday, May 12 | **Zoom Link:** bit.ly/3tuj8Zx
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM | **Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 684 9649

Project Description:
A new four-story mixed-use building of approximately 22,244 square feet containing fourteen (14) rental apartment units, including two (2) IDP Units, and approximately 3,717 square feet of ground-floor restaurant space, with fourteen (14) garage parking spaces.

mail to: **Stephen Harvey**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4418
email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Virtual Public Meeting

323-365 Dorchester Avenue

Thursday, April 29 | **Zoom Link:** bit.ly/323-365DotAve
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM | **Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 896 4902

Project Proponent:
SB Gateway I LLC and SB Gateway IIA LLC affiliates of National Development

Project Description:
The Proposed Project consists of the redevelopment of approximately 5 acres of land into a mixed-use development that will include 4 buildings totaling 1,147,000 square feet. The proposal is anticipated to include approximately 674,500 square feet of commercial space in two buildings, approximately 345 residential units in the other two buildings, approximately 55,150 square feet of retail space, off-street vehicle parking, and approximately 36,500 square feet of open space. This meeting will include a general overview of the Proposed Project, a prioritized conversation with the Impact Advisory Group (IAG), and a question and answer session with the general public.

mail to: **Raul Duverge**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4492
email: raul.duverge@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
5/4/2021

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Gatey Basketball is Back

By Kevin Devlin

Spring is in the air and Gatey basketball is back! This time at M Street Park on Sunday afternoons. This league which includes boys' and girls' instructional and midget league players, began on April 11. The program will continue every Sunday through May 23. The games are played from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. The boys play from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., and the girls play from 3 p.m. until 7p.m.

"The instructional league players are learning the fundamentals of the sport under the tutelage of Mike Donovan, Freddie Haddad and myself," said Gatey instructional

and midget hoop commissioner, Sean Monahan. "We also have plenty of help from Gatey alumni, James Donovan, Eddie Murray, Tommy White, and Connor Strickland. We are working on the players developing their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills, and so far, their response has been very impressive."

Commissioner Monahan is also encouraged about what he's seeing in the boys' midget league. "The last two weeks we've had competitive games in the midget league, which includes players from grades three through six," Monahan said. "Team # 1 is coached by Bobby McGarrell and John Kane. They've come very close

both games, but don't have their first win yet. Team #2 is coached by Greg Lally and Eddie Murray and they've won both their games so far. Team # 3 is led by Jake Harrison, Paul Hogan and Owen Donovan. They're one-and-one after losing a tough one-point game last Sunday. Team #4 is coached by Tommy White and Connor Strickland and they're also one-and-one.

"The first week we had a great showing despite the frigid conditions," Monahan concluded. "Last week was much more comfortable, typical April weather. Hopefully, the weather will improve as we move into May."

Allison Baker, who does a terrific job, runs the girl's leagues with the help

of Abby Dunn, Jacqueline Beggan, Mary Kate Hart, Millie Hynes, Evelyn Hurley and Corinne Reidy, and Patricia Casper, Ashley Miller, Erin Alexander, Bobby Pierce, Danny Nee, Christine Kelly and Katie O'Brien

Gate of Heaven Athletic Director, Kevin Lally, is happy the local youngsters are back playing basketball.

"We had a great response as over one-hundred and sixty kids signed up for this youth league," Lally said. "It's really great to see them playing again and interacting with others. After this league concludes, I'm looking forward to this upcoming season at the Walsh Center."

So, if you're around the neighborhood on Sundays for the next month or so, stop by and enjoy the hoop action at M Street Park.

And see people smile once again.



Caitlyn Fitzgerald and Mary Kate Hart keeping score



Dunk by Jake



Referees Victor & Al



Girls Blue Team



Girls Green Team



Team #1 Coached by Bobby McGarrell & John Kane



Team #2 Coached by Greg Lally & Eddie Murray



Team #3 Coached by Jake Harrison, Paul Hogan & Owen Donovan



Team #4 Coached by Tommy White & Connor Strickland



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BCYF Condon and BPD C-6 Co-Hosted a Successful "Gear Up" Day!

The Condon Community Center and C-6 Community Service Office teamed up at the newly renovated Condon Field to bring big smiles to the many children and parents on Tuesday. It was a beautiful day filled with 19 members of the BPD Cadet class

graduating on June 10, 2021, (best of luck) challenging the youth kick-ball players to game of fun and skill, followed by the big event that everyone was waiting for...the bike raffle giveaways. The staff of the Condon called the winning raffle numbers as the children came forward to claim

their new bikes. The members of the Boston Police C-6 were filling tires, tuning up bikes and giving out helmets. There was an obstacle course and a 1/2 mile bike ride led by the BPD Bike Patrol. This is an ideal example of our community working together and appreciating

each other. Just when you thought it couldn't get any better, Otto Pizza was delivered for all to enjoy. The staff at the BCYF Condon and the Boston Police Department C-6 are phenomenal and very much appreciated. You all know how to throw a great event and Covid safe!





Compass On The Bay Welcomes Spring

Compass on the Bay residents welcomed the start of spring with a High Tea party, which also included fresh lemonade and our Dining team’s delicious scones!

Residents pictured from left to right: Brenda Kelly, Donald Sullivan, and Tootsie White.



Gov. Charles Baker Presented with AKC “Top Dog” Leadership Award



The American Kennel Club™ (AKC), the largest purebred registry in the world and leading advocate for dogs, has presented Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker with the AKC “Top Dog” Leadership award in recognition of his advocacy for ensuring proper care and conditions at animal

welfare facilities in the state.

The AKC recognizes Governor Baker for his leadership in promulgating regulations to establish standards relating to the importation, handling, and care of animals in connection with their placement by rescue and shelter organizations in Massachusetts. Although these organizations were required under an Executive Order to register with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, there were no uniform guidelines to be followed. The regulatory package will reduce euthanasia of adoptable pets by, improving pet health and welfare and reducing infectious and zoonotic disease transmission, and end irresponsible practices like placing dangerous dogs with the public.

The new rules require annual reg-

istration, basic sanitary conditions, core vaccinations prior to importation, record keeping; and adopters may return animals for a full refund of the adoption fee if a medical condition or behavior issue not disclosed is discovered by a veterinarian within 14 days of placement.

Upon receiving the award, Governor Baker said, “Our administration was pleased to take these steps to help further protect animals across the Commonwealth, and I am grateful for the honor of being recognized by the American Kennel Club with this award.”

The nomination was made by Gale Golden, President of the Framingham District Kennel Club (FDKC), on behalf of the American Kennel Club. She emphasized, “the Governor has addressed long-standing concerns among Massachusetts dog

clubs that pets imported into the state were not properly screened before re-homing. Throughout the regulatory process the Governor’s team indicated an understanding of our concerns relative to the more than 400 registered, but unregulated animal shelter and rescue organizations in the Commonwealth. The AKC and FDKC would like to thank Governor Baker and his Administration for all the work done and recognize the Massachusetts Governor as AKC’s 2020 Executive of the Year.”

About the Award

The Top Dog leadership/Legislator of the Year award was established to honor elected officials who demonstrate a commitment to promoting responsible dog ownership, the well-being of dogs, and protecting the rights of dog owners, exhibitors, and responsible breeders.

Timothy “Doc” Cook Scholarship

Scholarship applications are in!!! Your application must be received no later than April 30, 2021. Winners will be announced during an award ceremony in May. Applicants must be a South Boston student attending tuition-based schools’ grades 8–12.

https://1drv.ms/w/s!AuggeWec7g52ixc3E-3YpU_8LEWe?e=rUa023

Visit our facebook for more information!



St. Peter Academy Rainbow Day for Autism Awareness

Friday was a cold, rainy and dreary day, it even snowed! But inside the St. Peter Academy Building, it was bright and cheery filled with Rainbows! The students donated to the South Boston Special Kids in honor of Autism Awareness and came dressed in Rainbow colors. It was a school-

wide early release day nonetheless it was packed with learning, activities and the oh so popular Pizza Day. Our dedicated teachers gathered socially distanced for their monthly Professional Development meeting and enjoyed a delicious lunch from Olga's Kafe. It was a great way to kick off April vacation for Grades

PreK through 6th. Toddler Program and April Vacation Camp resumed classes on Tuesday April 20, 2021. *St. Peter Academy in an independent, community-based private school and serves students from ages 15 months through grade 6. SPA is currently accepting applications for the limited spaces available in the year-*

round toddler program (beginning at age 15 months) and for students in Pre-K, ASK ABOUT THE NEW FULL-TIME PREK PROGRAM, Kindergarten and grades 1-6. Appointments for individual virtual tours can be made by contacting Maria Blasi, at 617-268-0750 or by emailing m.blasi@StPeterAcademy.com.



SWAN BOATS OPEN MAY 8

Mayor Kim Janey is pleased to announce that the popular Boston Swan Boats will open for the 2021 season at the Boston Public Garden Lagoon on Saturday, May 8, at 10 a.m. For the first time in its history, this annual rite of spring did not take place last year due to COVID-19 and the Paget family is pleased to bring this tradition back to the Public Garden. In keeping with current health guidelines masks are required

and passengers will be safely spaced both in line and on the Swan Boats. Launched in 1877 by Irish immigrant and shipbuilder Robert Paget, the Swan Boats continue to be owned and operated by the Paget family. Mr. Paget designed the Swan Boats after attending the opera Lohengrin in New York City. At the end of the opera, the hero crosses a river in a boat drawn by a swan. 2021 marks the 144th season for the Swan Boats. The oldest and

smallest boat in the fleet just celebrated its 111th season, while the newest was launched in 1993. The swan on today's boats is made from either copper or fiberglass, depending on the age of the boat, and encloses a paddle mechanism that is used to foot propel the boat through the water. Fully loaded, each Swan Boat weighs three tons and is powered by the driver using a foot-propelled paddle wheel. The Swan Boats are built on oak framed pontoons sheathed in copper just as they were initially constructed in 1877. After



being stored in a safe place for the winter, the boats are returned to the Public Garden Lagoon in the spring. For more information, please visit the Swan Boats of Boston online at www.swanboats.com, call (617) 522-1966, or email info@swanboats.com.

South Boston Catholic Academy News

Grade 5A News

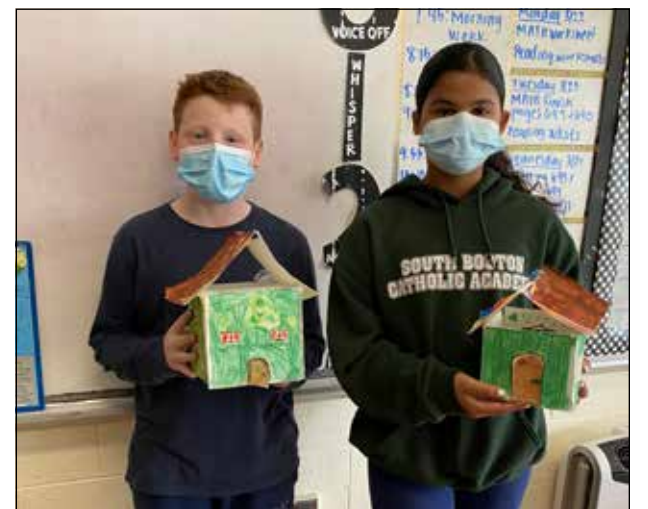
From Ms. Worthen, the Grade 5A Teacher... Students in 5A love recreating book jackets after a class novel study! Our most recent novel

that we read was Holes by Louis Sachar. The students enjoyed a special guest teacher named Mr. Greg Tang. He introduced the students to new ways on how to approach Math. Is it a chemical or physical reaction? Students

made butter, by shaking heavy whipping cream in a mason jar. The students were all so engaged in this science experiment. Afterwards, they got to enjoy a warm piece of toast with the butter they made! In Math class, students

created Leprechaun houses out of graph paper. They enjoyed finding the area, perimeter and volume of their house! Great job Grade 5A with all these class projects!

New families are welcomed to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.



South Boston Mite A1 cruised to Valley League Conference title with impressive 20-5 record

The Shamrocks posted an impressive 20-5 record on the year. The team went on torrid winning streak were they won 16 out of 17 league games. Southie clinched the league title with a 4-3 victory over Waltham in which they overcame a 3-0 deficit with big goals from Jake Donnellan and spectacular saves by Will Christino. With Consecutive wins over Framingham, Arlington, Natick, Belmont, Dorchester and Wellesley the Shamrocks vaulted into first place. Big Goals in the winning streak from JoJo McFarland, Bobby Clifford, Ryan Donnellan, Gavin Price, Samson Slater, Jack Costello, PJ DiMaggio, Will Christino & Jake Donnellan.



L-R Coach Tom Costello, PJ DiMaggio, Jake Donnellan, Bobby Clifford, Will Christino, Samson Slater, Coach Clifford, Bottom Row: Ryan Donnellan, Jack Costello, Gavin Price, JoJo McFarland



Last week, I reiterated my stance on Julian Edelman’s football legacy. He’s a Hall of Famer. If he’s not, then they might as well just eliminate the Pro Football Hall of Fame altogether.

But imagine being a fellow NFL player and so quickly dismissing the thought of Edelman one day being bronzed in Canton? That’s exactly what LeSean McCoy said in an interview with Yahoo Sports.

When asked if Edelman is a Hall of Famer, McCoy said, “Hall of Famer? No, come on, man.”

It’s one thing to disagree or make an argument that Edelman is not Hall of Fame worthy. But to give it a “come on, man” is just pure foolishness.

McCoy could be announcing his official retirement soon, and if he does, that means that he and Edelman would both be eligible for the Hall of Fame Class of 2026. Neither will get in on their first go-around.

Still, the way someone like McCoy — an undersized, speedy, highly-skilled offensive weapon — so easily dismisses the idea of Edelman being Hall of Fame

worthy makes very little sense.

In his interview with Yahoo Sports, in which he was asked about Edelman’s Hall of Fame status, McCoy said, “You have 16 weeks to showcase who you are, what you can do each year. The playoffs matter but a lot of guys don’t get a chance to play in the playoffs. I won’t discredit him because I think he’s a great player, plays with a lot of heart, a lot of attitude, a lot of passion. I don’t want to rain on his parade because he’s retiring and he’s a hell of a player, but I don’t know about Hall of Fame.”

Ok, so at least he’s willing to praise Edelman for being a “hell of a player.” But McCoy makes it sound like Edelman had no impact on any successful regular season that helped the Patriots get into the playoffs. And he also sounds like he’d rather punish Edelman for being second all-time in playoff receptions behind Jerry Rice, rather than praise him for it.

That’s crazy talk.

It’s incredible to me that anyone who knows how difficult it is to play in the NFL could see anything other than a Hall of Famer in Edelman, especially after looking at his journey — from

a college quarterback to a special teamer and defensive back to an elite wide receiver. The kid did it all. And he had to, in order to get what he wanted.

How anyone involved in the NFL could see something different is beyond me.

—How about them Red Sox?

This town is hilarious. After losing the first three games, you would’ve thought the Sox just finished their 10th consecutive season as a last-place team. The reality is, they just lost three games in the season-opening series; a season that is 162 games long.

But all you heard was, “They’re brutal” or, “This team is no fun to watch,” or the ever-so-tiresome, “They should’ve never traded Mookie Betts!”

The Betts stuff is exhausting. I tried to lay it out for everyone at the time of that trade. I told you that Betts was committed to hitting free agency and creating a bidding war. People called me crazy. Those same people who refuse to now acknowledge the GQ feature on Betts that was released last month.

In that GQ feature, Betts’ committed-to-free-agency mind-

set was confirmed.

“Early on Betts determined that he would turn down whatever contract extension he was offered in order to make it to free agency, where he’d be able to earn something closer to his true market value,” the author, Sam Schube, said.

In that feature, Betts said, “The very first contract extension I ever saw was super hard to turn down. It was like \$90 million or something. They slid over the sheet of paper, and I saw the number, and I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh.’ I had never seen that before, so that was hard to turn down. But once you can figure out how to say no, then it becomes easy as anything. Saying no the first time is the hardest thing.”

This isn’t meant to knock Betts. Good for him. But to those here in Boston who kept complaining about it through the first three losses of this season, it’s time to face the reality of that situation and move on.

The Red Sox are in first place. In the words of WWE Universal Champion Roman Reigns: Acknowledge them.

Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.

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SPORTS TODAY

AFTER LOSING FIRST THREE, RED SOX SURGE INTO FIRST PLACE

SBT Staff

The Boston Red Sox enter a four-game series at Fenway Park this weekend against the Seattle Mariners, and they're in a much better position than many would've imagined after their season-opening series against the Baltimore Orioles.

Baltimore swept the Red Sox at Fenway in the first three games of the

@RedSox

Red Sox 

Literally 



Tweet of the Week

year, and many critics in Boston were quick to throw in the towel on a team that stumbled out of the gate. But the 2021 Red Sox were also quick to silence those critics, winning their

next nine games and jumping into first place in the AL East.

Boston has scored the most runs out of any team in the American League. The Red Sox also have the

WHAT TO WATCH

NBA THURSDAY, APRIL 22
Phoenix at Boston
7 P.M. NBCSB

FRIDAY, APRIL 23
Boston at Brooklyn
7:30 P.M. ESPN

NHL THURSDAY, APRIL 22
Boston at Buffalo
7 P.M. NESN

FRIDAY, APRIL 23
Boston at Buffalo
7 P.M. NESN

SUNDAY, APRIL 25
Boston at Pittsburgh
3 P.M. NBC

MLB SATURDAY, APRIL 24
Seattle at Boston
1:10 P.M. NESN

best run differential in the AL.

After their four-game series with the Mariners, the Sox hit the road for six games against the New York Mets and Texas Rangers.

NFLPA PREFERS PLAYERS NOT ATTEND VOLUNTARY WORKOUTS

SBT Staff

The National Football League announced its 2021 offseason program last week, with voluntary workouts beginning this week and running through the end of May, before mandatory minicamps begin on May 24.

While on-field workouts are not allowed during the voluntary phase of the offseason program, it seems that's not good enough for the Players' Association.

In a letter to all players, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith and president JC Tretter recommended that "players should not attend" this year's voluntary workouts because of a continued COVID-19 risk, while calling for all offseason workouts to be virtual.

That letter, in a Twitter post from NFL Network reporter Tom Pelissero read:

"We have been in regular contact with the NFL on negotiations over a virtual offseason. As we have shared with your

Executive Committee and Board, it is clear that neither side wants to move off their respective positions. As we have made clear throughout bargaining: the COVID status in the country is as perilous as it was at this point last year; a number of players recently tested positive at team facilities; COVID weekly positive rates are as high, if not higher than, at this point last offseason; and NFL players who contracted COVID last season can become infected again.

"We believe that having the same offseason rules as last year is in the best interest of both the players and gives us the best chance to completing a full NFL season in 2021.

"As you know, other than minicamps, all offseason workouts are completely voluntary despite some of the language used by the clubs in recent days. And, while the CBA allows the teams to host mandatory minicamps, we believe the league should make them virtual just like last season.

"It is the recommendation of the NFLPA based on our medical experts' advice that if the voluntary offseason program is in person, players should not attend. Therefore, as teams host calls to discuss these issues we urge that all players consider their own health and safety, make a personal decision about attending voluntary workouts and take into consideration the unanimous recommendation of the NFLPA COVID committee that we have an entirely virtual offseason."

In conjunction with that recommendation from the NFLPA, players from more than half of the league's 32 teams announced that they won't participate in voluntary offseason workouts. Among those were players from the New England Patriots.

Through the NFLPA, Patriots players released a statement that also called for a "fully virtual offseason."

"In solidarity with other players across the NFL and in the interest of our health

and safety, many of us at the New England Patriots will be exercising our right to not attend voluntary workouts this offseason," the Patriots players' statement read.

"The threat of COVID-19 is still serious in our community and across the country, and we think it is safer for everyone if we chose to workout on our own. While we understand that some players will need to go for various reasons and some safety measures have been put in place, we also know that NFL players have a choice which our union bargained for."

So, ultimately, this is simply a CBA power play on the part of the players. As the Patriots players' statement noted, some players need to attend voluntary workouts. And one of those players is their starting quarterback, Cam Newton.

Newton has a \$100,000 workout bonus in his newly-signed contract, which he would forfeit if he doesn't attend voluntary workouts. According to ESPN's Mike Reiss, Newton was in attendance for Day 1 of Patriots voluntary workouts, and was "among those leading the charge."



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