

Hotel Alexandra Finds a Buyer

By Sue O'Connell

The dilapidated Hotel Alexandra, a five-story structure at the corner of Washington Street and Massachusetts Avenue, may have a buyer.

Currently owned by The Church of Scientology, it is now

under agreement for sale to Common Management.

"Common Management is delighted to have the opportunity to redevelop the iconic Alexandra building," the company said in a statement. "Like so many of the residents who have patiently waited for this building to be brought back to life, we see its beauty and promise,

and very much look forward to engaging with our neighbors and other stakeholders to restore this property."

The Church of Scientology bought the once grand hotel in 2008 for \$4.5 million, hoping to renovate and use it as its New England headquarters.

Hundreds out for Night Out

Hundreds of South Enders came out Tuesday, August 1 for National Night Out (NNO) at Village Court. There was live entertainment, a cook-out, inflatables,

information tables and activities for everyone. The goal of NNO is to unite and celebrate police and community partnerships.



Tuesday night crowd at Village Court

A high spirited Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Boston Common, through August 6. Free.

BY JULES BECKER

Allegra Libonati is in a theatrical romance with "Romeo and Juliet." In playbill notes, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company's first guest director calls this great love tragedy "my favorite written work of art." It should come as no surprise, then, that this "avid fan" of CSC's summer fare is bringing impassioned care to the troupe's 22nd anniversary production of what is arguably the



Kario Marcel as Mercutio with members of the cast of "Romeo and Juliet." (Courtesy Evgenia Eliseeva)

Bard's most poetic examination of love. Theater lovers of all ages will find that Libonati, whose bio boasts 12 seasons helming the outdoor

Summer Theatre of New Canaan, has made the latest Hub examination

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Civic accord

City Council District 2 candidate forum

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

In sharp contrast with the vitriol and accusations that marked last year's national election, the July 26 District 2 City Council Candidate

Forum at the Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont Street was cordial and respectful, with candidates agreeing frequently while offering distinct approaches to South End and District 2 concerns. The participants were former aide to Mayor Menino Mi-

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Panel Photo by Michele Maniscalco

BPS announces new bus routing

BY TOMMY CHANG,
ED.D. BPS SUPERINTENDENT

I hope you are enjoying the summer and getting a chance to spend some time relaxing and recreating with your family and friends.

I am informing you about some exciting news at the Boston Public Schools. As you may know, this past spring BPS launched our first-ever Transportation Challenge in an attempt to make our transportation system more efficient.

We are proud to announce that a team of analytics and optimization experts from the "Quantum Team" at the MIT Operations Research Center (ORC) has won the challenge by developing a revolutionary computer-based model that more efficiently routes school buses, potentially generating millions of dollars in cost savings that will be put back into our classrooms.

Overall, the new routing model

is expected to improve the on-time performance rate for BPS buses, getting students to and from school on schedule much more consistently. The distance that students walk to and from their bus stops is not anticipated to change, on average. In certain cases, bus stop locations might change slightly for some students, while remaining the same for others. Your student's overall transportation experience will not change to any significant degree.

The MIT team took steps to ensure that no bus stops are sited in unsafe traffic locations. The average commute time for students to and from school will remain the same as it was last year: approximately 24 minutes. The new solution could also lead to a 20,000-pound reduction in carbon emissions produced by BPS buses each day, and could

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Boston Public School First Day Info

Thursday, September 7: Students in grades 1-12 report, including grade 1 in ELCs and EECs.

Monday, September 11: Kindergarten students report, including EECs, ELCs, and special ed.

Full calendar and more at www.bostonpublicschools.org



THE TAKE
WITH SUE O'CONNELL

SHE HAS A LOT TO SAY...
SO DO HER GUESTS

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Theater

Continued from page 1

both high spirited and haunting— particularly thanks to Gracy Mix's stunning debut as Juliet.

Love and conflict vie continually for center stage in Shakespeare's Verona, a factor that Libonati gives rich blocking at the Boston Common. Quick transitions not only make for sharp pacing but also make the contrasts between happy moments and ominous situations affecting the Montagues and Capulets all the more vivid. For example, Mercutio and his comrades are in place on stage for the upcoming fight with Tybalt and his men as pre-marital guidance and prayers with Friar Laurence at the church conclude elsewhere.

Libonati also inserts a quick and arresting summary right after intermission of key first act moments leading up to the announcement by Escalus, Prince of Verona, that Romeo is banished for killing Tybalt.

Stylish dance and sharp movement complement Libonati's buoyant direction. Peter DiMuro's stylish choreography has Romeo, cousin Benvolio and especially flamboyant Mercutio cavorting and frolicking with élan at the pivotal Capulet party where love at first sight occurs. Angie Jepson's fight choreography is properly tight and fierce—notably for the Mercutio-Tybalt face-off, though some theatergoers may feel that the fencing between Romeo and Paris could go on a bit longer.

As remarkable as these staging elements is a strong cast. John Zdrojeski has the right

agility, youthfulness and passion as Romeo. He eventually reaches the kind of combination of intrepid spirit and unaffected vulnerability that Gracy Mix nails from the start. Mix's vulnerability is heart-wrenching as Fred Sullivan, Jr.'s tough love Capulet verbally abuses Juliet. Her post-love making balcony exchange with hunky Zdrojeski and their "sweetsorrow" parting are fully involving. Mix is a revelation that CSC should factor into future efforts.

With African-American actors playing such striking roles as Nurse, Benvolio, Escalus, Tybalt and Friar Laurence, the CSC production makes the play's universal messages about the power of unconditional love and the danger of irrational hate all the more forceful. Ramona Lisa Alexander captures all of Nurse's rich complexity—loyal to her

employer Capulet but fully sympathetic and comforting to Juliet about her abiding love for Romeo despite formidable challenges. Brandon C. Green fires up Benvolio as Romeo's kin and Mercutio's friend. Kaci Hamilton has terrific authority as Escalus. Her rage during the Prince's tirade regarding the deaths of kinsman Mercutio and Capulet cousin Tybalt as well as the banishment of Romeo is breathtakingly palpable. Kai Tshikosi is properly volatile as Tybalt. Equiano Mosieri is a standout as Friar Laurence, vigorous and very attentive to both Romeo and Juliet. Another standout is Mario Marcel, electrifying and charismatic as bigger-than-life Mercutio. Audiences know his fate full well, but Marcel makes this insightful if often clownish friend so appealing that they

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Steven Cohen
Pet of the Week Series Sponsor

District 2

Continued from page 1

chael Kelley, until last year a longtime South End resident; South Boston residents, web designer Corey Dinopoulos, probation officer Ed Flynn, retired mental health worker and Vietnam veteran Joseph Kebartas and attorney Erica Tritta; and entrepreneur Peter Lin-Marcus of Chinatown. T

he forum's moderator was Sue O'Connell, editor of the South End News and Bay Windows and host of New England Cable News's (NECN) "The Take" newsmagazine program. The South End News was a sponsor of the forum.

A question submitted from the audience asked the candidates what they do for a living, how many hours do they work and what are their primary responsibilities, which O'Connell hailed as the best question ever submitted in the forums she has moderated. Kebartas quipped, "I'm retired, but I don't have any time," then spoke of his volunteer work with the Friends of the South Boston Branch Library, serving in food pantries and soup kitchens with Senior Actions, and promoting exercise and healthy eating, mentioning several times throughout the forum his concern with childhood obesity and over-consumption of soda and sugary drinks.

Kebartas also told of his activism since 2004 with the Roxbury Safety Net coalition, which opposes level 4 biosafety research at the National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL), or Biolab on Albany Street. Flynn explained that as a probation officer, he focuses on helping ex-offenders find job opportunities, and outside of work he is involved in sports, school and family activities with his wife, Kristen and their children, Caroline, 14 and Stephen, 10. "I love the work and I love helping people," Flynn said.

A veteran community organizer in Chinatown, Lin-Marcus said that as partner in a startup, he often works 60 hours per week. "If I become city councilor, it wouldn't be a job, it would be a passion. I'd be doing what I love, helping people and making a difference," he concluded. Dinopoulos described his hectic schedule working by day as a web developer at John Hancock, campaigning after hours and trying to fit in trips to the gym. Tritta, an attorney and a licensed social worker, talked about her role in running a business, her practice specializing in estate planning and probate, marital and family mediation and juvenile court representation. As the mother of a seven-month old baby, she currently works about 30 to 40 hours per week as she and her husband seek child-care arrangements, an issue with which many families struggle. She stressed her commitment to hard work that would carry over to her role as city councilor.

Kelley proudly recounted his 10 years as a member of the International Association of Machinists, working at Northwest Airlines, his stint as the owner of an ice-cream store with other family members and his work as neighborhood services coordinator under Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "That's some of the proudest work I've ever done, fighting to make sure residents had a voice," he said.

O'Connell extended the time limit from one minute to two on the complex question of expanding affordable housing without reducing homeowners' property values, taking into account income disparity among residents and enabling middle-income families to remain in the city. Lin-Marcus led by recalling his volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and the importance of providing a pathway to homeownership. He would like to see changes to the zoning and permitting processes to ease the way for affordable housing for families and retirees and improved access to homeownership for people with steady incomes but less-than-perfect credit.

Kebartas would strengthen the Payment In Lieu of Taxes, or PILOT program, through which universities and other non-profit institutions contribute to the city's coffers, and enforcing the city's employment quotas of 50 per cent city residents, 40 per cent minorities and 12 per cent women to ensure good jobs for more residents. He also advocated a \$15 dollar per hour minimum wage, taxing the endowments of wealthy, land-owning institutions like Harvard University and limiting Air BnB to ease pressure on the housing inventory.

As O'Connell requested, Tritta gave broad parameters for middle income ranging from \$50,000 to \$180,000 annually per family, with low income being below \$50,000 per year. Tritta claimed there are investors who want to build lower and middle-income housing in the South End and in Boston and that such development can be profitable. Tritta called upon the city to approve more of an economic mix of development and to take inventory of apartment and housing stock to ascertain what levels of housing exist and how much affordable or "workforce" housing is still needed.

Dinopoulos recommended working with developers to encourage development of affordable housing and to increase the percentage of affordable housing to be included in new development to 20 per cent. He also supports state representative Aaron Michlewitz's proposal to regulate and limit Air BnB. "We need workforce housing for the people who make our city run." He also cited a glut of one and two-bedroom units and a need for larger units for families. Flynn lamented the many people who have been priced out of his South Boston neighborhood in recent years and said that Mayor Walsh has done a good job of building more affordable units while the Menino administration approved too many luxury developments.

"We neglected the working class of the city for a long time," he said. He called for more public housing and construction of affordable units on vacant city land. Flynn noted that while large developers do not support him, the Chinese Progressive Association and 30 labor unions support him. Flynn said he participated in a signature drive to petition the federal government to restore funding for senior housing.

The candidates addressed traffic safety, a hot topic in the South End in light of recent, tragic accidents on Tremont Street as well as numerous close calls experienced by pedestrians crossing that street. Kebartas called for greater enforcement as a deterrent and works with community groups to heighten vigilance among pedestrians as they cross the street. He advocates a 25-mph speed limit across the city, not only in the South End.

Kelley highlighted his work with the Union Park Neighborhood Association on a pilot program to increase traffic safety. Kelley said, "I will not let the Transportation Department give 10 reasons why we can't do something. I am going to be a city councilor who asks what we can do and what we can implement right away." He suggested LED lighting and other crosswalk improvements, better street lighting. Tritta would reprogram traffic lights to allow more crossing time and more traffic enforcement.

An avid bicyclist, Dinopoulos said he is afraid to ride in the city currently and wants to see the current 3 miles of protected bike lanes in Boston expanded to 20 miles in a connected network. Flynn noted that his parents, former mayor Raymond Flynn and his wife, Cathy, were almost struck by cars twice while walking to the forum with their disabled grandchild. He called for more signs warning against distracted driving, vowing to work with the Boston Transportation Department on ideas for greater pedestrian safety. "It's very unfair to the elderly and the disabled that they take their lives into their hands while crossing the street." Lin-Marcus, who lives near Kneeland Street where traffic exits the Mass. Pike, advocates speed bumps, narrower lanes and other "traffic calming" techniques.

Recent, highly-publicized racist incidents involving a Boston police officer and fans at Fenway Park prompted the question of whether Boston is a racist city. Kebartas, who taught school during the Boston busing crisis of the 1970s, feels that racism persists in Boston today. I think it's been much improved over the years because people have gotten together to talk about it."

Flynn said that while racism persists in Boston, much progress has been made since the 1950s and 1960s, proudly hailing the efforts of former mayors including his father in combating the problem. "I was with my father when he integrated public housing in South Boston and Charlestown

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CITY OF BOSTON	
To the Public Safety Commission Committee on Licenses Building Department	B D 26 July 14, 2017 Boston
APPLICATION	
For the lawful use of the herein-described building and other structure, application is hereby made for a permit to erect a private-garage (13 vehicle parking garage) and also for a license to use the land on which such building or structure is situated for the KEEPING - STORAGE of: 260 gallons of gas in the tanks of vehicles. THIRTEEN (13) PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES FOR THE OWNERS' OWN USE.	
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City of Boston. In Public Safety Commission August 30, 2017 In the foregoing petition, it is hereby ORDERED, that notice be given by the petitioner to all persons interested that this Committee will on Wednesday, the 30 th day of August at 10:00 a.m., consider the expediency of granting the prayer of said petition when any person objecting thereto may appear and be heard; said notice to be given by the publication of a copy of said petition with this order of notice thereon in the South End News and by mailing by prepaid registered mail, not less than 7 days prior to such hearing, a copy to every owner of record of each parcel of land abutting on the parcel of land on which the building proposed to be erected for, or maintained as, a garage is to be or is situated. Hearing to be held at 1010 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118.	
A true copy. Attest: Brigid Kenny-White, Secretary	
Sean C. Lydon, Chairman Joseph Finn Gina N. Fiandaca COMMITTEE ON LICENSES	

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
		Docket No. SU17D1132DR
Angel D. Gonzalez-Baban vs. Lorelly Daniela Rodriguez-Gonzalez		
To the Defendant:	Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114	
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN		
This complaint is on file at the court.		
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.		
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Angel D. Gonzalez-Baban 153 Worcester St #10 Boston, MA 02113 your answer, if any, on or before 7/27/17. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.		
WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 12, 2017 Terri Klug Caffazzo, Register of Probate		

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
		Docket No. SU15P1208GD
In the matter of: William Bunting Of: Boston, MA		RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH C/O Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that William Bunting is in need of a Guardian and requesting that DMH C/O Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 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.		
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance of this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 08/31/2017. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.		
IMPORTANT NOTICE		
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.		
WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 21, 2017 Terri Klug Caffazzo, Register of Probate		

Police seek information on murder

SUBMITTED BY BPD

At about 10:51 PM on Saturday, July 15, 2017, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) responded to a call for a person shot in the area of Kendall Street and Shawmut Avenue in Roxbury. On arrival, officers located a male victim in his twenties suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. The victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

BPS

Continued from page 1

remove nearly 1 million miles of traffic-clogging bus trips from the road each year — creating a cleaner environment for Boston and easing congestion on our roadways.

BPS sponsored the Transportation Challenge — it was kicked off on April 1 during an event at District Hall in Boston's Innovation District — as a way to harness cutting-edge optimization solutions from some of the nation's leading experts. BPS challenged participants to create a more efficient routing algorithm using the current parameters of our system.

Currently, BPS Transportation staff manually build school bus routes using what is considered an industry leader in pupil transportation software. This is a process that takes several weeks to complete. The new MIT solution produces the routes in approximately 30 minutes. However, we are not relying solely on this new solution. Our

The Boston Police Department is actively investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with information is asked to call the Boston Police Homicide Unit at (617) 343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1(800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of those who wish to help this investigation anonymously.

experienced team of BPS bus routers are feeding the data produced by the MIT system into our existing software in order to pressure test the new model and ensure reliability. By implementing the Quantum Team's solution, BPS could save as much as \$5 million through the reduction of 50 or more bus routes, which helps provide more funding for schools.

As in previous years, we will issue mailers later this month to all families indicating your student's bus and bus-stop assignments for the 2017-18 year. We will also be taking additional steps to communicate to families of students whose bus stops have changed from last year to ensure they fully understand the new assignments.

This is a sign of a new era in government where we utilize the benefits of crowdsourcing and work collaboratively with some of the brightest minds in academia and industry to solve complex, challenging problems. The Boston Public Schools is committed to finding innovative approaches that help us create efficiencies, reduce costs and better serve our families and schools.

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Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and accompanied by a mailing address and phone number. Because of space limitations, letter should not be more than 200 words.

e-mail: letters@southendnews.com

38/30

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To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 500 words; refrain from extreme personal attacks; be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Writers should refrain from making incorrect statements since they may be barred from future issues. Deadline is noon Tuesday for Thursday's paper. To send us letters: Mail to 46 Plympton St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02118; FAX to 617.464.7286; E-mail: letters@southendnews.com

Theater

Continued from page 2

will wish that they could enter Julia Noulin-Merat's impressive Verona set to protect him. CSC has often opted to set its Boston

Common productions in more recent or contemporary times. By contrast, Libonati's take, as unassuming as its title lovers, reaches the stars with its soaring soulfulness

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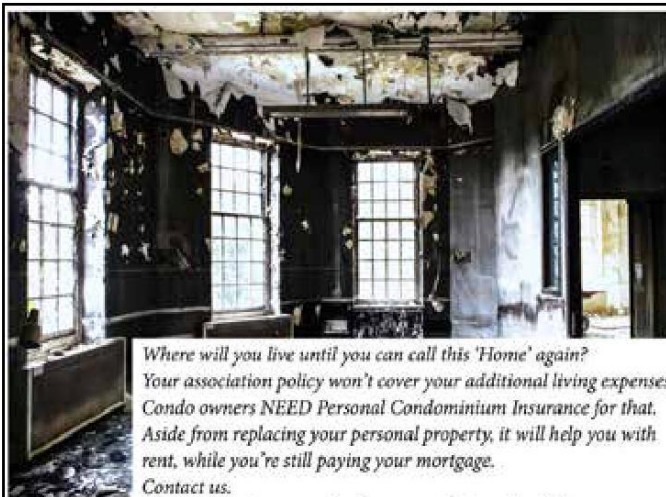


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District 2

Continued from page 3

without incident," he recalled. Citing his service in the United States military, which he called the "most diverse organization in the world," he understands Boston's diversity. "I'm a good listener and I treat people with respect and dignity," he said.

Kelley said that while Boston has made great strides, racism, sexism, homophobia and xenophobia persist. "This is something I have staked the foundation of my campaign on; making sure every person feels welcome and respected." He condemned President Trump's ban of transgender persons in the military earlier that day, as did naval veteran Flynn in his closing remarks. Lin-Marcus, who is half Chinese, said that there have been great improvements in recent decades, but there is much work to be done on the problem of institutional racism. Tritta said that she witnesses institutional racism in the experiences of many of her clients in pursuing housing, education and health care. "We have come a long way, but we still have work to do." Dinopoulos recalled his youth in Dracut, where there were no students of color in his high school, and moving to much more diverse Boston. "The city council has to reflect the diversity of our city. We have three women of color on the city council and we need more women. We have two openly gay men running, which is unprecedented in the history of this city council seat." Referring to his competitors, he said, "The group that we have sitting here is incredible and I think any of us will work hard to improve the problem of racism in our city."

The candidates were asked to critique the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and to comment on district schools, universal K through 5 and solutions to the problems in the schools. Kelley stated that 70 per cent of BPS students come from economically distressed homes. "It's important to fight so that every school is a good school and every kid has access to a good education." He also expressed support for pre-K to improve children's performance throughout their school years. Lin-Marcus said that while there have been great improvements to BPS in recent years, 28 per cent of students are not finishing school. Pointing to the vast number of technology jobs and the disappearance of manufacturing jobs, he said that education is key to employment. He wants the city to guarantee that all students graduate and to offer trauma services, English Language Learner support and other supports to help students complete their education.

Tritta, the wife of a public school teacher, likes the idea of neighborhood schools, but said, "We can't go to neighborhood schools until we elevate all of the schools. We need all of the schools raised up so that they are all good schools."

She also supports universal K through 5 and an earlier school starting time. Kebartas would discontinue the MCAS test, as he feels that students are being taught to pass the test rather than getting a well-rounded education, and wants civics and nutritional education to become required subjects.

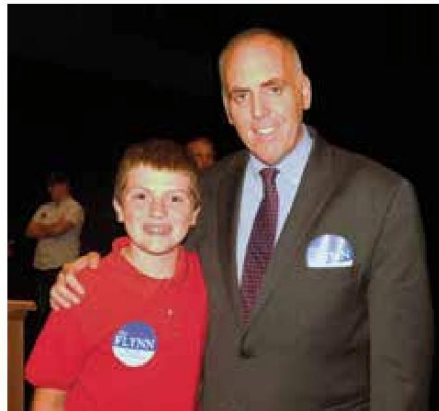
Flynn described his involvement with the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, where he drops his son off, talks with his teachers and volunteers. He too supports K through 5 as well as before- and after-school programs. Dinopoulos, whose parents are longtime teachers, supports universal pre-K and collaboration rather than rivalry between public and charter schools. He wants the City Council to be more assertive in collecting PILOT payments as a means of funding improvements to public schools.

O'Connell asked candidates about crime in Boston, which is down from previous years and relatively low compared to other similar cities, while there remains a flood of guns on the street and a fear among crime victims to give information to the police. Flynn stressed the need for mutual trust between police and residents and the importance of community policing. "As a probation officer, you never give up on anybody. I want to work hard to see that everybody in the community is safe and that everyone is treated fairly and with respect." Kebartas said, "Crime is a symptom of poverty," adding that Boston is third only to Atlanta and San Francisco in income inequity. He again referred to the hiring requirement formula to be inclusive of city residents, minorities and women to promote better income equality.

Lin-Marcus recalled the "Boston Miracle" of the 1990s when crime dropped significantly and called for youth job programs and on-demand addiction and trauma treatment. Dinopoulos was skeptical of gun buyback programs, preferring the presence of police on bicycles and walking the beat, getting to know neighbors as well as jobs and other programs to keep youth occupied. Tritta called for police community engagement to establish trust with the public from a young age. Kelley agreed with his rivals' ideas, adding that the city should connect youth with tech, construction and other well-paying jobs.

Dinopoulos reflected the grassroots spirit of the District 2 candidate forum, a collaboration by the Ward 4 Democratic committee, South End Forum, Ellis South End Neighborhood Association and the South End News when he said in his closing statement, "We have more impact on your daily lives than Trump ever will."

Boston's primary election will take place on September 26, and the registration deadline to vote in the primary is September 6. The general election will be held on November 7 and the deadline for voter registration is October 18.



(Left) Stephen and Ed Flynn. (Right) Corey Dinopoulos speaks. Photo by Michele Maniscalco



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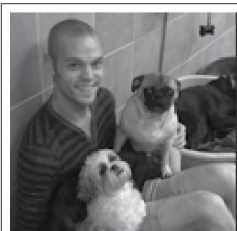
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