

## "Real Teens, Real Problems" - a *Teens in Print* and St. Stephen's Collaboration

SUBMITTED ST. STEPHEN'S

*Teens in Print* (TiP) is diving further into its multimedia work by collaborating with St. Stephen's Youth Programs and guiding their teens to create their very first podcast. TiPsters Nuriel Gutman and Pietro Waterman have spent the past few months working with students from St. Stephens alongside TiPyouth facilitator Elvis Alvarado to write, record, and produce a podcast for Boston teens and their experiences.

"Watching the kids kind of lean into making a podcast from scratch and coming up with their own topics has made me feel way more emboldened to be creative in my own life," Elvis Alvarado, TiPyouth Program Facilitator.

The podcast, "Real Teens, Real Problems," gives teens a place to explore and handle their social and academic challenges. It hopes to



Continued on page 7

Photo courtesy of St. Stephen's Youth Programs.

## GUEST OPINION

### Supreme Court Allows Boston's Race-conscious Exam School Admissions Policy To Stand

SUBMITTED BY  
LAWYERS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

The U.S. Supreme Court today turned away an appeal from a group that challenged the race-conscious exam school admissions policy used by Boston Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

Together with other recent decisions, today's action by the Supreme Court signals an increasing unwillingness of federal courts to continue eroding Equal Protection principles, including diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenged admis-

sions policy relied on GPAs and zip codes. It was designed to rectify previous inequities in the admissions policy at Boston's three highly selective schools (Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, and the John D. O'Bryant School) and to promote

Continued on page 7

## South End Serial Rapist Sentenced to Century Behind Bars

BY SOUTH END NEWS STAFF

A man who terrorized South End women through a series of home invasions in 2016 has been effectively sentenced to life in prison.

Ronald Brown received a 72- to

105-year sentence on Tuesday, November 26 in Suffolk Superior Court, following his conviction on 21 charges including aggravated rape, kidnapping, and breaking and entering. The sentence, handed down by Judge Katie Rayburn, came after a

jury found Brown guilty last Friday.

The case culminated with Brown's October 2016 arrest for a brutal attack on Clarendon Street, where he broke into an apartment, restrained

Continued on page 4

## LOCAL NEWS

for and about Boston's best neighborhood

## CRIME

### Investigation Update on 390 Harrison Ave. Death Investigation



Shantel A. Gillespie. Photo courtesy of Labouré College of Healthcare.

SUBMITTED BY BPD

Boston Police Homicide Unit detectives and the Suffolk District Attorney's Office are investigating the death of Shantel Gillespie, 30, of Boston. Gillespie was found in an

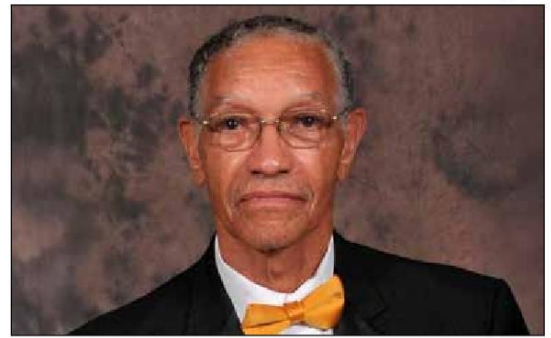
apartment at 390 Harrison Avenue on Thursday, December 12, 2024

While we are still awaiting a cause and manner of death determination from the Office of the Chief Medical

Continued on page 4

## OBITUARY

### Don Straughter, Sr (Minister Don Muhammad)



Minister Don Muhammad. Photo courtesy of Randy Muhammad.

SUBMITTED BY THE FAMILY

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Don Straughter, Sr., a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and

member of the Boston community, on December 17, 2024. He was 87 years old.

Don was born in Beckley, West

Continued on page 4

**FOLLOW US! @SOUTHENDNEWS X f LIKE • SHARE • FOLLOW**

**LODEG**  
**LAW OFFICES**  
Donald E. Green, P.C.

# Everyone is going **GREEN!**

For all your legal needs, call the Law Offices of Donald E. Green.

We concentrate on personal injury matters as well as criminal defense, civil rights, immigration matters, wills & trusts, Chapter 7 bankruptcy, real estate and sexual harassment claims.

Please call **Attorneys Don or Annette Green**

at (617) 442-0050 or  
email [dgreen@donaldegreen.com](mailto:dgreen@donaldegreen.com)  
or [agreen@donaldegreen.com](mailto:agreen@donaldegreen.com)

**After more than 30 years  
in Dudley Square  
we have moved.**

**Washington Park Mall (less than a mile  
from our previous location)**



**Don Green**

**330 Martin Luther King  
Boulevard, Roxbury**



**Annette Green**



## NOTICE

## Public comment period on Proposed Regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units open from December 20 to January 10, 2025

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities invites stakeholders to comment on proposed Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit regulations through multiple opportunities, including written comments, webinars, and a public hearing.

The Affordable Homes Act, signed by Governor Maura Healey in August, creates nearly 50 policy initiatives to jumpstart housing production and make housing more affordable for Massachusetts residents. A key provision of the law allows accessory dwelling units less than 900 square feet to be built by right in single-family zoning districts.

The ADU provision goes into effect Feb-

ruary 2 and allows communities to make reasonable restrictions and requirements. The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities has drafted regulations intended to help communities adjust local regulations to be in compliance with the law and is seeking input from the public.

"ADUs are a simple way to add housing throughout the state while providing more options for older homeowners looking to age in place or families looking to give a child with special needs more independence," said Ed Augustus, secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. "The regulations we are developing will

make it easier for communities to craft ADU ordinances that allow this housing with the ability to meet their local needs."

Visit [Mass.gov/ADU](https://mass.gov/adu) to read the draft regulations and a letter from Secretary Ed Augustus, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is hosting two public Webinars on Tuesday, Dec. 10, and Monday, Dec. 16. For more information and to register, please sign up at [Mass.gov/ADU](https://mass.gov/adu). For those unable to watch live, a recording of the webinar will be posted on EOHLC's website.

EOHLC welcomes feedback on the draft

regulations during the public comment period that will be open Friday, Dec. 20, through Friday, Jan. 10. In addition, a hybrid public hearing will be held on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025. Beginning on Dec. 20, a signup form and the in-person event location will be available at [Mass.gov/ADU](https://mass.gov/adu) for interested stakeholders to register to attend the public hearing and submit comments.

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities estimates this policy will result in the construction of 8,000 to 10,000 ADUs across the state, increasing the supply of homes and lowering costs for all communities.

**FOLLOW US!**  
@SOUTHENDNEWS



LIKE | SHARE | FOLLOW

AND BE SURE TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH  
REAL NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AT  
**MYSOUTHEND.COM**



**Residential / Commercial**

*"When it comes to painting and carpentry,  
we're the Angels you've been looking for."*

**Cell: (781) 640-5590**

**Office: (508) 270-6841**

**Tim@angelpainting.net**  
**[www.angelpaintinginc.com](http://www.angelpaintinginc.com)**

**Get local and advertise your  
property in the *South End News*.**

Email [sales@southendnews.com](mailto:sales@southendnews.com)

## Crime

Continued from page 1

Examiner, we have reason to believe that Ms. Gillespie's death is a homicide.

Preliminary information indicates that this was not a random act and that residents of the building and members of the public are not in danger. Investigators continue to gather information and we will release further updates when we can.

The Boston Police Department's Homicide Unit is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with information is strongly urged to contact the Boston Police Homicide Unit at 617-343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist in 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 all those who wish to help this investigation in an anonymous manner.

### Firearm Recovered After a Road Rage Incident in the South End

At about 10:37 PM, on Friday, December 6, 2024, officers assigned to District D-4 (South End) arrested Jair Furtado, 40, of Boston, on firearm charges.

Officers responded to the area of 145 East Berkeley Street for a report of shots fired. Boston Police Operations provided officers with information that a road rage incident had occurred and a shot was fired.

Upon arrival, officers observed two vehicles stopped at the intersection of Harrison Avenue and East Berkeley Street. Officers made contact

with the operator of the suspect's vehicle and placed him into handcuffs.

Officers immediately observed a firearm inside the vehicle, and requested detectives to respond to the scene. The firearm was later determined to be a Springfield Hellcat with one round in the chamber, and eight rounds in the magazine. After a search incident to arrest, officers located a box of ammunition, and holster from inside the vehicle.

Officers were advised that the incident originated at Albany Street and East Berkeley Street. Officers were told that an argument ensued following a road rage incident, and the suspect shot at the victim's vehicle.

Furtado was placed under arrest and charged with Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, and Discharging a Firearm within 500 Feet of a Dwelling. He is expected to be arraigned in Boston Municipal Court.

## Straughter

Continued from page 1

Virginia on March 27, 1937. Don was an athlete from early childhood - playing football and scoring touchdowns on Friday nights, and a star pitcher who was recruited by Tom Yawkey and the Boston Red Sox. At 17, Don moved to Boston where he worked with his older brother Justice in dry-cleaning. Shortly after, Don met the love of his life Shirley Upshaw originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia and married her within the year. From this union, they were blessed with five children.

Don and Shirley began hearing about the

teachings of The Honorable Elijah Muhammad from local representative Louis X (who later became Louis Farrakhan). They became known in the Nation of Islam as "the power couple", growing and developing as leaders together. Don Straughter became Don Muhammad and Shirley Straughter became Sister Captain Shirley.

Don was appointed as the minister of Muhammad Mosque #11. Don taught throughout North America and Europe, never missing an opportunity to bridge the gaps between the Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities. In his over 70 years of service to his community, he worked to quell gang violence, foster prisoner rehabilitation, empower his people,

and ultimately, leave the world a better place.

A wake will be held on December 20, 2024, from 3:00-5:00 PM at Morning Star Baptist Church, 1257 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA with a memorial service to follow at 6:00 PM.

The Straughter Family request that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Don's name to one of the following organizations.

Good Shepherd Community Care. We are appreciative of their hospice services for our father in his final days. <https://gscommunitycare.org/Donate>

Alzheimer's Association <https://act.alz.org/Donate>

No Books No Ball Basketball Program <https://www.nobooksnoball.com/donate>

## Conviction

Continued from page 1

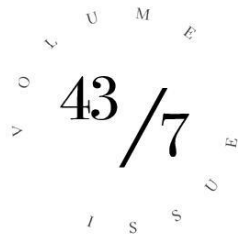
two women, and sexually assaulted one of them. The incident occurred just months af-

ter his release from a previous 25- to 30-year sentence for a similar assault in 1986.

During the trial, prosecutors presented evidence of multiple break-ins targeting women in the South End neighborhood. The charges included witness intimidation and

photographing an unsuspecting nude person, revealing a pattern of predatory behavior.

Brown has remained in custody since his 2016 arrest. The lengthy sentence ensures he will spend the remainder of his life in state prison.



### Publishers Emeritus:

Jeff Coakley  
Sue O'Connell

### Editor-in-Chief:

Sue O'Connell  
[sue.southendnews@gmail.com](mailto:sue.southendnews@gmail.com)

### Editorial Design Manager:

Julie Walker Palmer

### Contributing Writers:

Jules Becker

### Letters to the editor:

[letters@southendnews.com](mailto:letters@southendnews.com)

### Calendar listings:

[sencalendar@southendnews.com](mailto:sencalendar@southendnews.com)

### Display Advertising:

[sales@baywindowns.com](mailto:sales@baywindowns.com)

### Classified Advertising:

[sales@southendnews.com](mailto:sales@southendnews.com)

© 2024 South End News Inc.

PO BOX E14,  
Boston, MA 02127

The South End News is a copyrighted publication. Any stories or photos contained herein may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written permission of the publisher. The South End News will not assume financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements. Questions or complaints regarding advertising must be sent in writing to the billing department within seven days of publication in order for adjustments to be made to the account. We reserve the right to use our discretion in accepting or rejecting advertising copy. South End News is not responsible for the cost of replacing ads that have typographical errors caused by our negligence.

South End News is published every other Thursday.

[www.southendnews.com](http://www.southendnews.com)

Facebook & X

@southendnews

**NEN&PA**  
NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER & PRESS ASSOCIATION

**SEBA**  
SOUTH END BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

### LETTERS POLICY

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 PO BOX E14, Boston, MA 02127; E-mail: [letters@southendnews.com](mailto:letters@southendnews.com)

# YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Showcase your local business in the

# South End News

email for more information

[sales@southendnews.com](mailto:sales@southendnews.com)



# SERVICE GUIDE



Celebration of new space “Gold Hall,” which is on the site of the former Harriet Tubman House

### SUBMITTED BY SKINS

To celebrate the historic awarding of a new performance venue and workspace by The City of Boston to Castle of our Skins, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and short performance by Castle of our Skins' musicians was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced that The City of Boston has awarded Castle of our Skins (COOS), a Boston-based Black arts institution celebrating cultural curiosity and Black artistry through music, education, and community-driven initiatives, a new performance venue and workspace named "Gold Hall."

Through a competitive public process,

COOS successfully secured the space, which will be purchased for the symbolic price of \$1. The 2,491-square-foot space, located at 566 Columbus Avenue in Boston's Lower Roxbury/South End neighborhood, is in the historic jazz corridor and on the site of the former Harriet Tubman House. The new home and performance venue for Castle of our Skins will host performances, artist residencies, educational workshops, and community events, ensuring that Black creativity remains at the forefront of Boston's cultural landscape. The space will officially open in 2027, following extensive renovations.

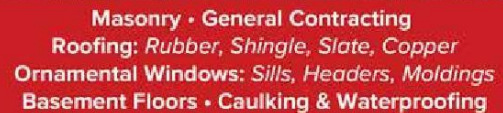
The space was made available through a Community Benefits Agreement as part of the Article 80 process for the large mixed-use development project. This affordable commercial space is restricted to nonprofit ownership in perpetuity, ensuring that the location remains a vital cultural resource for the city for generations to come.



## MASONRY

**P. Stones**  
**CONTRACTING INC.**

**SPECIALIZING IN HISTORIC RESTORATION**



FULLY LICENSED AND INSURED | 30 YEARS OF SATISFIED CUSTOMERS AND REFERRALS

Office: 781-848-6922 | Fax: 781-848-6923  
Cell: 617-592-0850 | [pstonescontracting@hotmail.com](mailto:pstonescontracting@hotmail.com)

## WEDDINGS

o o o o o o o o o o custom wedding invitations o o  
o event invitations o o  
o wedding programs o o o o  
o wedding menus o o o o o o o o  
o escort cards o o o o o o o o o o  
o o o o save - the - dates o



o o o o o lynn graham designs o o o o o

www.lynngrahamdesigns.com • info@lynngrahamdesigns.com



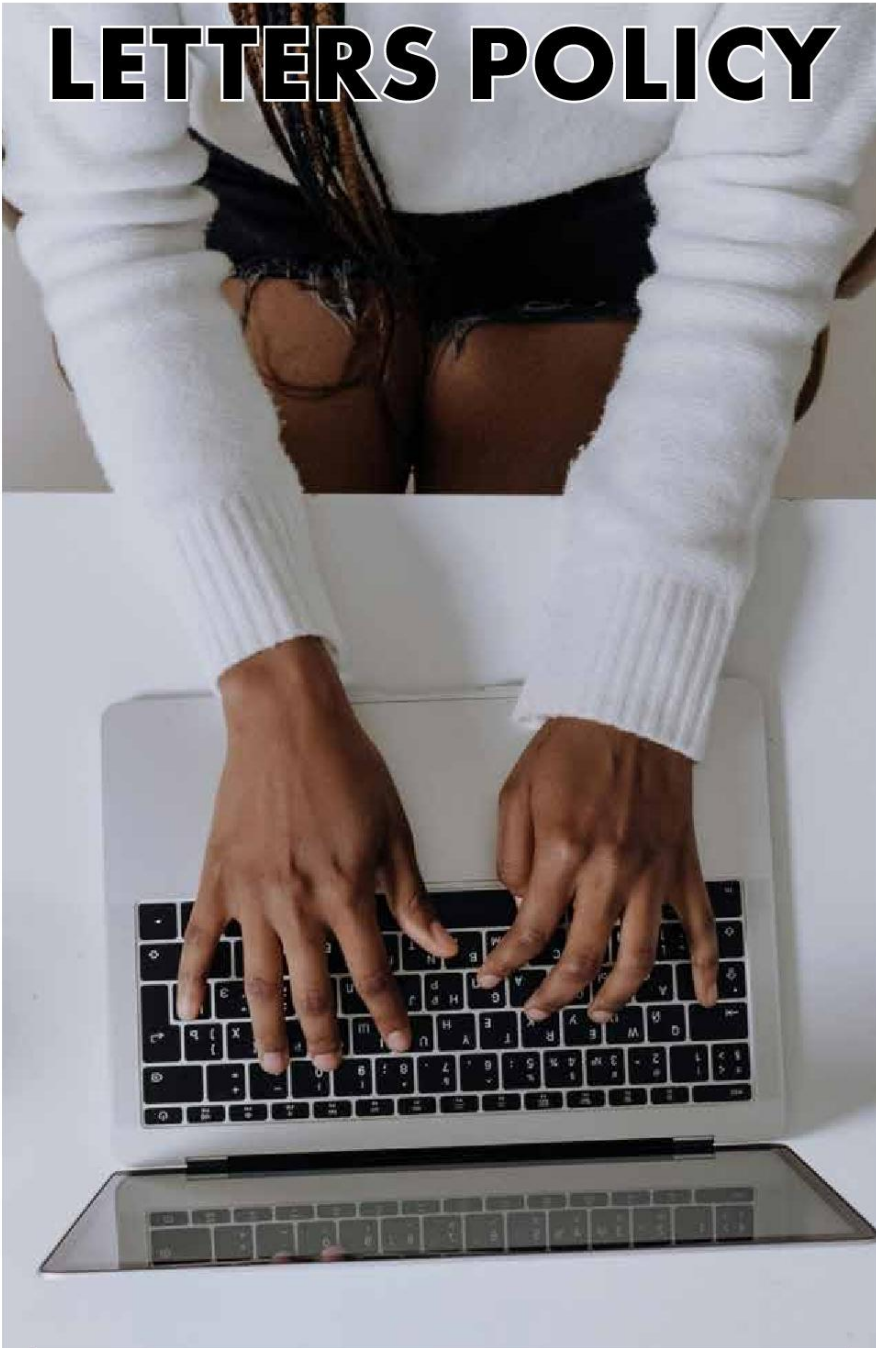
# LEGAL NOTICES

<b>CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION</b>		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU24P2638EA
Estate of: <b>Damien Bradford</b> Also known as: <b>Damien Nigel Bradford</b>		Date of Death: <b>06/29/2024</b>
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by <b>Daiquan N.S. Bradford</b> requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: <b>Daiquan N.S. Bradford</b> be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve <b>With Personal Surety</b> on the bond in unsupervised administration.		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300
<small>You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/21/2025.</small>		
<small>This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.</small>		
<small>UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.</small>		
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 17, 2024 <i>Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate</i>		

<b>CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304</b>		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU24P2453GD
In the matter of: <b>Christine Rennie</b> Of: <b>Lowell, MA</b>		RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by <b>Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA</b> in the above captioned matter alleging that <b>Christine Rennie</b> is in need of a Guardian and requesting <b>Robert Rennie</b> (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve <b>Without Surety</b> on the bond.		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114
<small>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.</small>		
<small>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 01/16/2025. 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.</small>		
<small>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.</small>		
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 13, 2024 <i>Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate</i>		

<b>CITATION ON PETITION FOR REMOVAL</b>		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU17P1101EA
Estate of: <b>Richard Stephen Field</b> Date of Death: <b>05/05/2017</b>		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300
To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: <b>Sophia J Martin of Little Elm, TX</b> requesting that <b>Jason Field of Newburyport, MA</b> be removed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate.		
<small>You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 01/27/2025.</small>		
<small>This is NOT a hearing date but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.</small>		
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 23, 2024 <i>Stephanie L. Everett, Esq, Register of Probate</i>		

# 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, letters should not be more than 200 words.

e-mail: [letters@southendnews.com](mailto:letters@southendnews.com)



## Race-conscious

*Continued from page 1*

greater racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity. The Boston Branch of the NAACP, the Greater Boston Latino Network, the Asian Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network (APIs CAN), the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), and two families of color intervened in the lawsuit to support the Plan.

The Plan was upheld by the U.S. District Court in Boston and subsequently affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Today's refusal by the Supreme Court to hear a further appeal puts an end to the case. It follows the Court's refusal earlier this year to take up an appeal of a similarly race-conscious admissions policy for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Virginia aimed at diversifying the student body. It also follows a ruling last week from a federal judge in Maryland, holding that the race-conscious admissions policy at the U.S. Naval Academy is necessary and supported by a compelling national security interest.

"Today's action by the Supreme Court confirms that school districts not only can

but should take affirmative steps to ensure that educational opportunities are equally available to all," said Oren Sellstrom, Litigation Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, one of the attorneys representing the intervenors in the case who helped to defeat the petition for certiorari. "Our schools are stronger when classrooms are diverse and students from a wide range of backgrounds can learn from each other."

"Ever since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Harvard affirmative action case, right-wing groups have unsuccessfully tried to extend its reach to challenge diversity, equity, and inclusion," added Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, Executive Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights. "But today's action by the Supreme Court sends a clear signal: there's no appetite for extending the affirmative action decision beyond its narrow scope in college admissions."

The intervening organizations and families are represented by Lawyers for Civil Rights; Sidley Austin LLP; Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo P.C.; the Asian Outreach Center of Greater Boston Legal Services; and Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

## Teens

*Continued from page 1*

give teens a way to build community and feel that they can lean on each other when things

get hard, a lesson that definitely came through to those making the podcast:

"It's okay to say what you need to say, because it's better to say it out loud than keep it inside," Marcus, St. Stephen's Youth Program Attendee.



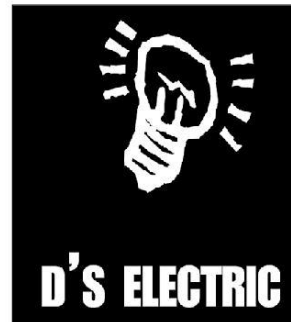
Photo courtesy of St. Stephen's Youth Programs.

## Service Guide Ads Get Results!

For more information email [sales@southendnews.com](mailto:sales@southendnews.com)

# SERVICE GUIDE

## ELECTRICAL



PROVIDING QUALITY  
ELECTRICAL SERVICES  
to the BOSTON AREA

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
FREE ESTIMATES  
24 HOUR SERVICE

Dedicated to Customer Service since 1971

617.542.2000  
[www.ds-electric.com](http://www.ds-electric.com)

Mass License #14580A

## REMODELING

Foxford Plastering &  
Remodeling LLC.

Paul Dempsey

Board Hanging + Veneer Plaster  
Demo + Water Damage Repair

All Types of Finishes

Renovations

Plaster Medallions

Plaster Moldings

HIC#196265

Call us today at (617) 224-8544



Insuring your most cherished possessions



Auto Home Business Condo Pet Insurance

8 Clarendon St Boston 617-437-9400  
[jjbodner.com](http://jjbodner.com)