

News from...

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### Councilor thinks some Mass and Cass property owners should get tax breaks

City Councilor Michael Flaherty (at large) wants to cut a break for property owners in Newmarket Square for everything they have to put up with these days.

On Wednesday, Flaherty will ask the council to authorize one of its committees to hold hearing on just how much of a tax abatement they should get. The money would go towards reimbursing Newmarket

Square property owners who recently won approval of a plan to levy fees to create a formal "business improvement district," similar to the one in Downtown Crossing, to focus on improving the area's security and cleanliness.

In his formal request, Flaherty cites what he says is the area's descent into decay in recent years:

Residents, business owners and property owners in the Newmarket area have been adversely impacted by the deteriorating conditions of the neighborhood that aren't accurately reflected in property tax

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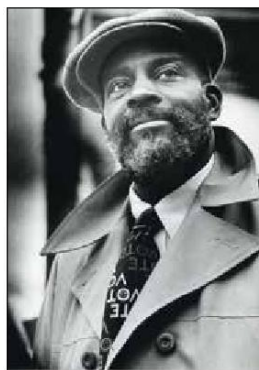
Black History Month

## Mel King

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO  
SOUTH END NEWS STAFF

Melvin "Mel" H. King was born on October 20, 1928, in the South End. Mel graduated from Boston Technical High School (now the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science). He received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the Historically Black College and University (HBCU), Claflin University, in South Carolina, his Masters in Education from Boston State College and then started teaching math at his Alma Mater, Boston Technical High School.

In his 93 years, Mel King has worn many hats: community organizer and activist; elected official; high school and university educator; author and poet; and



Mel King, image courtesy of the South End Historical Society

devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to many.

King represented the South End in the Massachusetts House of Representatives (9th Suffolk);

*Continued on page 7*

## Get in Shape with City of Boston's Virtual Winter Fitness Series

SUBMITTED BY CITY OF BOSTON

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) recently launched the 2022 Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts with free virtual classes being held from now through April 30. Everyone is welcome regardless of fitness level.

Current winter offerings led by certified fitness instructors include Afrobeats Dance, Chair Meditation, Chair Yoga, Dance Fit, Strength Training, and

Zumba®. For class descriptions and more information including dates and times, please visit [Boston.gov/winter-fitness](https://boston.gov/winter-fitness).

The program is tailored to the various interests of residents with offerings including accessible, age-friendly classes as well as classes for those new to group fitness. By engaging in a citywide effort to increase opportunities for physical activity, BPHC and the Parks Department aim to further reduce barriers to active living and achieve the goal of ensuring that Bostonians have ample opportunities to be active



year-round.

Participants can visit Facebook and Twitter at @healthyboston and @bostonparksdept or call (617) 961-3047 for cancellations and class updates.

## Mayor Wu Announces Update To B Together Policy

SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

With the city and the region experiencing significant reductions in COVID-19 hospitalizations, expanded ICU capacity, and a decreased community positivity rate since the height of the Omicron surge, Mayor Michelle Wu today

announced metrics that the Boston Public Health Commission and City of Boston will use to determine when to lift the City's B Together vaccination requirement, which requires patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19.

"The data makes clear that Bos-

ton's policies to boost vaccination and public health have been working, and we are coming down from the recent Omicron-driven surge," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm encouraged by the current trends and grateful to the Boston Public Health Commission

*Continued on page 5*

## Antisemitism in ourselves and society

REV. IRENE MONROE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year for International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, I joined the Congregation Beth Israel of Merrimack Valley's book discussion "People Love Dead Jews" by Dara Horn, exploring

why antisemitism continues.

Twelve days before, on January 15, during Shabbat prayer, a gunman held four hostages in a standoff that lasted 11 hours at Colleyville's Congregation Beth Israel. The terrorist act was a hate crime, the FBI stated emphatically.

The ADL reported these attacks

are up by 60 percent. What is happening in America right now is not just a crisis for Jews. It is a crisis for this nation as a whole; it is an assault on the very thing that makes us all Americans. Antisemitism, we don't see until something awful happens.

*Continued on page 4*

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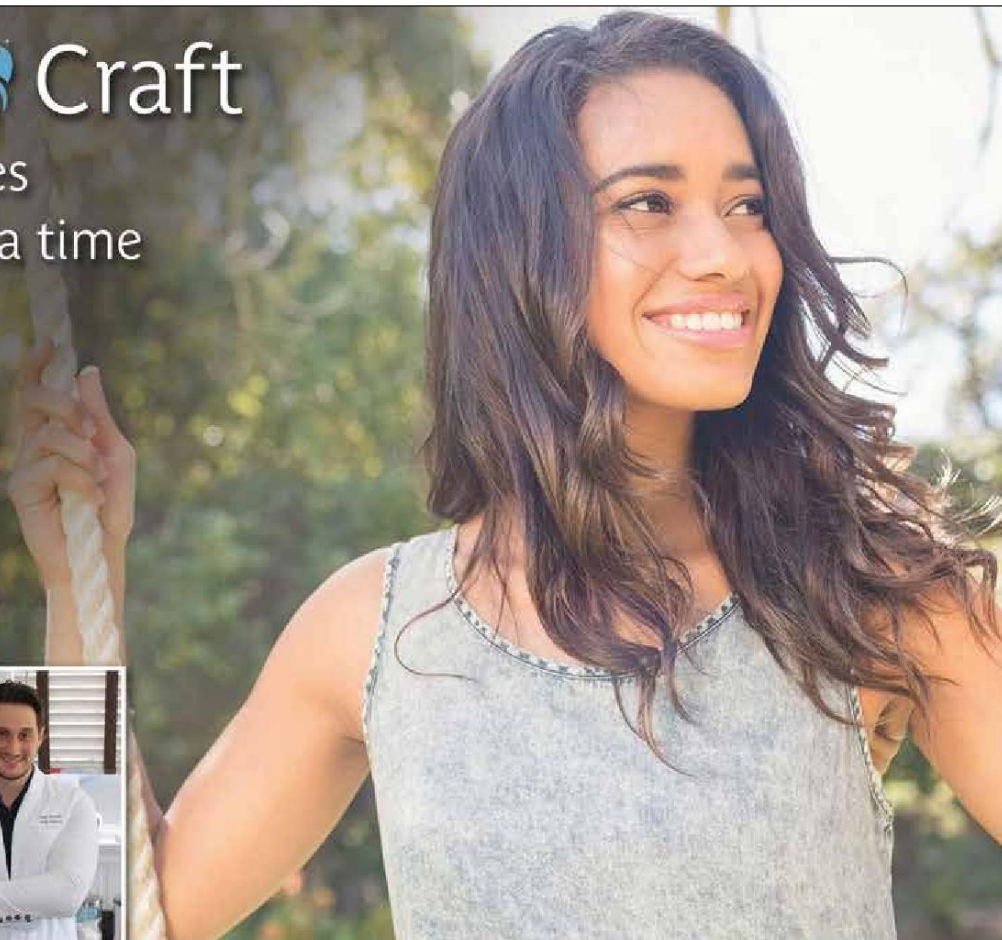


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# The Elephant in the Room

BY JUDAH LEBLANG  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

During the pandemic, many folks have taken up new hobbies, finding ways to fill their time during lockdown, quarantine, social isolation. Some have become collectors, searching on Ebay or Amazon for that one perfect Ty Cobb baseball card, Royal Copenhagen Christmas plate, or Xena Warrior-Princess T-shirt.

I collect slights, insults, resentments. I am the elephant in the room, bulky but incognito, balled up in a corner, blending with the furniture but taking it all in. I know all about forgiveness, turning the other cheek, and being the better man but like adopting a sense of faith, I'm a doubting Thomas, reluctant to sign on.

Instead I count the ways I am right, the ways I've been wronged, hold onto them like a life preserver in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic. Since I can't hang onto all of them, I clutch the big ones, the ones that stick in my craw, abdomen, solar plexus, or in deeper, darker places: the nether regions where I brew my bile, aging and steeping like fine whiskey.

I am not admirable, not a role model, not one of those Jews, God's chosen people, who forgive and forget. And I'm not talking about the big stuff, stumbling back through our fraught history, the litany of Holocaust, Spanish Inquisition, Crusades, Persians, Greeks, and Romans, along with assorted

pogroms, riots, and fill in the blanks.

No, these grievances are mine, my personal Festivus, my petty, small, imperfect self and though I am more forgiving today in my sixties than I was at 30, I still carry my resentments like a Nepalese Sherpa on a Himalayan trek, bowed under the weight of seven decades of life in Earth School.

- Mrs. Ulner in 1962, my witch of a kindergarten teacher who mocked me for my fear of walking to school alone after I was hit by a car on the first day of school
- Howard Simberg the fat bully who tortured me throughout middle and well into high school, from 1969-73, chasing me from our bus stop and sitting on my face on those rare occasions when he caught me;
- Assorted Hebrew School teachers, one of whom, Ms. Portugali, she of the Israeli-accented English, long brown hair, olive skin and no bra, threatened to kick me out of my 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, and bring down the wrath of my parents.

The list did accrue ad nauseum; I get nauseous just thinking about it.

But I'm more of a generalist, the layers of old resentments mixing like sediment in the lining of my gut, melding with a general envy directed toward those who have the things I want: a long-term relationship with a hot but sensitive man, a full head of hair, and the energy I had as a twenty-

something runner back in 1986. Carrying this toxic brew of envy does not, it must be said, promote good digestion, though it does keep me thin.

Perhaps, I can lighten that load by focusing on my life now, this month and this year, which looks (after a really shitty start) to be promising something better than the previous two, if not approaching the normality of 2019, at least not the panic of 2020 and '21.

After 20 years of living alone, I'm now in a community with 18 housemates. I'm getting daily practice in learning to let go, to focus on the benefits of social connection vs the isolation of only interacting via computer screen. So far, I've been able to enjoy my time here and to appreciate my housemates, even when I find them mildly annoying. Living in one room in a shared home, there's not much space for all the collectibles from my past.

Now, as I transition to my "golden years," I need to lighten my load; facing 65, I don't have the strength or time to hoist the angst, to carry it on my narrow shoulders, and it isn't great for my health. Maybe it's time to find a new hobby, and to focus more on today rather than what happened in 10, 30 or 50 years ago. Instead of the elephant who remembers everything I'd like to be more like my cat, Stanley, who lives only for today, savoring each moment as it comes.

*Judah Leblang is a writer, teacher, and storyteller in Boston. He is the author of the memoir Echoes of Jerry and an instructor at CrubStreet. Find out more at judahleblang.com*

## Monroe

Continued from page 1

Antisemitism should be tied to other hate crimes, like racism, homophobia, Islamophobia, to name a few, but understood as having a distinct history and motivations. Holocaust Remembrance Day reminds us of the history.

During the Holocaust, six million Jews were killed. False equivalence and revisionism of that fact are not only hurtful to remaining Holocaust survivors, their families, and friends, it is also dismissive of the human carnage and crime against humanity.

In 2017, President Trump's public statement commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day intentionally omitted any mention of Judaism, antisemitism, or the Nazis' systematic program exterminating European Jewry. While the president's generic statement on suffering might have been intended to be an all-inclusive acknowledgment of other groups killed — gays, Gypsies, political dissidents, non-Aryans, to name a few — by the Nazis, it did more harm than help. Elie Wiesel, at the ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1995, stated it best that "It is true that not all the victims were Jews. But all the Jews were victims." In other words, eliminating Jews was the central organizing principle for the rise of the "Third Reich." The president's statement acknowledging the Holocaust and not mentioning Jews and antisemitism is similar to making a public statement acknowledging

American slavery and not mentioning blacks and racism. At worst, the statement bolsters an already existing worldwide population of Holocaust deniers and revisionist historians because it erases the unique stories of survival, bravery, and resistance.

When Martin Luther King was invited to address the American Jewish Committee convention in 1958, he noted the significant similarities between Jews and African Americans, who both experienced hatred and prejudice.

"My people were brought to America in chains. Your people were driven here to escape the chains fashioned for them in Europe. Our unity is born of our common struggle for centuries, not only to rid ourselves of bondage, but to make oppression of any people by others an impossibility."

On January 6, 2021, the day of the Capitol Insurrection, history was made in Georgia. Rafael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, a black male and a Jewish male, won their Senate seats in the Bible Belt. In the Deep South, Jews could be lynched as black men were. The historic 1915 lynching of Leo Frank in Georgia caused many Jews to "become acutely conscious of the similarities and differences between themselves and blacks." The Anti-Defamation League was founded in 1913 with understanding the interconnected fight of battling all forms of hatred.

However, antisemitism is so pervasive as to be invisible and normalized. One reason is that too often we de-historicize Jewish people from their suffering. For example, I know of Christians who love Jesus but hate Jewish

people. I tell them it's similar to some white Christians revering MLK and Obama, but they hate black men. I remind these same people that Jesus was crucified because he was Jesus, and Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin, and Ahmaud Arbery were killed because they were black.

Another reason for antisemitism is because racist Jewish tropes won't cease until we confront them head-on. I remember when Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign stopped in New York City. He referred to Jews as "Hymies" and the Big Apple as "Hymietown." During Trump's presidential campaign, he was condemned by Jewish leaders for what appeared on his anti-Hillary poster the Star of David layered over \$100 bills. Trump barked back telling his critics the star was a sheriff's badge.

Jews become easy scapegoats in turbulent times like this one.

In August 2017, at the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA, white supremacists threw Nazi salutes, waved swastika flags, and shouted, "The Jews will not replace us!"

Last July, Rabbi Shlomo Noginski was fighting for his life against a man who attacked him with a knife and a gun outside a Jewish school in Brighton, MA.

In "People Love Dead Jews," the premise is that there's too little respect for Jewish lives unfolding in the present.

To stop antisemitism in society, we must stop it in ourselves.

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### 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



## B Together

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and all our partners for strong leadership to keep us heading in the right direction. The fastest way to help ensure we are relieving pressure on hospital capacity and driving down community positivity is to keep closing gaps with vaccination and boosters."

Since early in the pandemic, the Boston Public Health Commission has continuously tracked many different metrics to guide the city's response. Today, Mayor Wu announced that the current proof of vaccination requirement would be lifted when the following conditions are met:

- Fewer than 95% of ICU beds are occupied
- Fewer than 200 COVID-19 hospitalizations per day
- A community positivity rate below 5%, as defined by the Boston Public Health Commission's 7-day moving average

The Boston Public Health Commission will have the ability to restore the vaccination requirement in the event of future surges, guided by its ongoing review of COVID-19 metrics and other emerging public health information.

"The B Together initiative is helping us slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect Bostonians during this surge. We have matched this proactive public health policy with equitable access to vaccines, and because of this multilayered approach, I am optimistic about where our city is headed during this pandemic," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "The City of Boston's COVID-19 response has always been driven by science and data, and we will remain ready to adjust our strategy, guidance, and requirements as needed to keep everyone safe."

B Together currently applies to patrons

and staff of indoor restaurants, bars, nightclubs, gyms, and entertainment facilities (those picking up takeout orders and other quick visits are exempt). A full list of businesses that fall under the B Together policy can be found at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/mayors-office/introducing-b-together#list-of-locations-and-businesses>

The City has made providing proof of vaccination as easy and accessible as possible. To enter one of the establishments included in the policy, individuals can show a CDC vaccination card, a photo of the card, the B Together app, or any other COVID-19 vaccine verification app, including the Massachusetts digital vaccine card. The free B Together app is available through both the Apple Store and Google Play.

The City has been working with businesses on implementation practices since B Together was announced. Before the launch of the policy, the City hosted four B Together webinars focused on answering questions from small business owners. Roughly 150 - 200 people joined each session, and more than 800 registered for the webinars overall.

"We appreciate our small businesses for their resilience and for continuing to stay engaged with our office as we rolled out the B Together mandate," said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "As we monitor the public health metrics and see the numbers improve, it is our priority to lift the mandate in the safest and most effective manner possible."

The City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission continue to support easily accessible walk-in vaccination clinics across the city, including at many community centers, schools, and community health centers. A full list of vaccination sites, including walk-in facilities, can be found at [www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-vaccine-boston](https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-vaccine-boston).

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## News from...

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valuation, including declining public safety, cleanliness and quality of life over a number of years.

Flaherty says 65 of the Newmarket Business Association's members spent \$3.9 million for security last year—and suffered \$1.9 million in damages from the area's conditions.

### South End home-furnishings store wins right to offer wine, champagne in its cafe

On February 3, the Boston Licensing Board gave Modern Relik the right to serve drinks to patrons of the small cafe it now has its store at 485 Harrison Ave. in the South End.

In the likely event the city has no beer-and-wine licenses to dole out, however, the board agreed to try to work with the store to get it a BYOB license. Unlike liquor licenses, subject to artificial scarcity caused by a state Legislature that has never given up the idea of telling Boston what to do, BYOB licenses are unlimited, although customers are restricted to just one bottle of wine per visit.

At a hearing, owner Meg Kimball said she hopes to add wine and champagne to the breakfast, lunch and weekend-brunch menus at the store's cafe.

Board Chairwoman Kathleen Joyce said today that Kimball had proven the required "public need" for a beer-and-wine license through her "unique concept" marrying "a high-end furniture store" with a place to eat. "I don't see anything else in that neighborhood that offers such an amenity," she said.

This would not be the first time a furniture store has won the right to serve alcohol in Boston, although the last ended in failure.

In 2013, Restoration Hardware

bought a liquor license for its new store on Boylston Street, which it used for its grand opening, which was quickly shut by the Fire Department when too many people showed up. It then rarely used the license, causing the licensing board to threaten to take it away. It eventually sold the license.

### Neighbors, South End pizza place clash over late-night service

On February 1, some residents of a condo building on Washington Street in the South End asked the Boston Licensing Board to turn back time for Alex's Pizza kitty-corner across the street—back to the midnight closing hours it had until 2019, when the board actually granted it permission to stay open until 3 a.m.

The family that owns the restaurant agreed today to stop serving at 2:45 a.m.—after board Chairwoman Kathleen Joyce told them that their 3 a.m. closing time means nobody is allowed into the place after 3 a.m., sharp, and that it needs to stop advertising pizza until 3:30 a.m.

Board member Liam Curran, though, cautioned that even that means the restaurant needs to be more careful and stop taking orders that would otherwise mean running the ovens past closing. "If you only have three people on, maybe you shouldn't take on 50 orders at 2:50 in the morning," he said at the "informational" hearing the board held today to address "quality of life" issues. The nature of the hearing means the board will give the pizza place and its neighbors a chance to work things out before it considers any changes to the license.

Residents complained of endless late-night noise from all the people double and even triple parking on both sides of Washington Street outside one of the few places in all of Boston open that late-car radios cranked all the way

up, horns constantly blaring as people blocked in try to get out, greasy paper plates and other trash blowing all up and down Washington and into Peters Park, large, glaring video menus shining across the street.

"They leave their 'Open' sign on at night even when they're closed," one resident added.

Plus, the place was sometimes staying open even later than the not-allowed 3:30 a.m. closing time on its Web site, residents said.

Alex's lawyer, George Jabour, said all the kvetching is coming from just one building, 1313 Washington St., and that other nearby residents love Alex's. But he didn't pursue that argument for long saying the Nassar family, who owns the place, want to work with neighbors to quell the problems. "We're here to work with the neighbors and try to correct anything that is creating any issues with the neighbors," he said.

Besides, he said, the Nassars are a hard-working immigrant family. "Because of the nature of the restaurant business, the only way he can survive and support his family is to work these ungodly hours to survive," he said of the family patriarch, adding that towards 3 a.m., the restaurant's customers are mainly first responders and doctors from nearby hospitals.

He said the restaurant posted a sign asking people not to double park and to respect the neighborhood, but said part of the problem is that residents are allowed to park in the bus lane in front of the pizza place and that, well, you know how those Uber Eats and Grubhub drivers are - they will not be deterred from getting in and out quickly even if that means double or triple parking.

However, one immigrant resident of 1313, and others who said they're the children of immigrants, said the Nassars don't get to play that card - they're

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## LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. SU14P2416GD
In the matter of: Jonathan Thomas Of: Dorchester, MA	RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Doreen Kwakumey of Hyde Park, MA in the above captioned requesting that the court: Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114
<p><b>Remove the Guardian</b></p> <p>The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.</p> <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 03/03/2022. 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><b>IMPORTANT NOTICE</b></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: January 21, 2022	Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

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## News from...

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not objecting to anybody's immigrant status but to being kept constantly awake in the early morning.

"Often I'm up at 2 or 3 because of some kind of havoc out there," resident Barry Koretz said.

Mary Kelleher recalled one night where somebody laid into his horn for ten straight minutes to try to get people blocking him in to move - right under her bedroom window. It's gotten so bad sometimes she has to sleep in another room, she said.

Peter Friedmann, another resident, said he personally loves Alex's pizza and salad, but that the noise is just too much.

Faina Smith, herself an immigrant, agreed. "It's not we don't like this business,

it's not like we don't like immigrants."

Citing the parking and noise and what she said was arrogant workers, Joan Attianese would go further - she wants Alex's to just leave. "They don't belong on a residential street," she said. 1313 Washington St. was built in 2002, according to city assessing records; the block of stores that includes Alex's, part of a larger industrial building that stretches to Harrison Avenue, went up in 1920.

Another resident, Liam Brozen, said he doesn't live on the Washington Street side of his building, so has no complaints, but raised his virtual hand to speak because of all the talk about immigrants.

"This has gotten really weird about immigrants and racism and I'm not really sure what's going on here," he said. "It's just some weird stuff, I'd like it if we don't say that."

## Mel King

Continued from page 1

was a teacher at Boston Trade High School and Boston Technical High School; was an adjunct professor of urban studies at MIT; spearheaded the affordable housing protests at Tent City; founded the Massachusetts Rainbow Coalition party; created the South End Technology Center at Tent City; authored "Chain of Change: Struggles for Black Community Development" as well as other articles and poetry; and raised six children

with his wife, Joyce.

Last fall, his life's work and contributions to the community were honored with the dedication of Melvin H. "Mel" King Square and the proclamation by Acting Mayor Kim Janey of Mel King Day in Boston. The sun shone brightly on the joyous celebration at the newly minted square at the intersection of Yarmouth Street and Columbus Avenue, near the home he and his wife Joyce have shared for many years. Over 100 people gathered for the dedication, including family and friends, neighbors, and elected officials.



bpda

## Virtual Public Meeting

# 80 East Berkeley Street

**Wednesday, February 23**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Zoom Link:** [bit.ly/3AX4hvp](https://bit.ly/3AX4hvp)  
**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864  
**Meeting ID:** 161 501 9801

### Project Proponent:

The Druker Company, Ltd.

### Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting on the Notice of Project Change (NPC) and the First Amendment to the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 95 for the 80 East Berkeley Street Project located in the South End. The proposed project consists of an approximately 265,000 SF 10-story office, laboratory and research and development building with ground floor retail and 200 parking spaces. The NPC is being filed to address the change in use from office only to office, laboratory and research and development use, along with associated minor design changes to accommodate laboratory use.

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者，本会议的信息对您来说是至关重要的。可以提供翻译服务以传达本会议的内容，您无需承担任何额外费用。

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mail to: **Sarah Black**

Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4282

email: [sarah.black@boston.gov](mailto:sarah.black@boston.gov)

**Close of Comment Period:**  
3/17/2022

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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