

Josiah Quincy Elementary School marks 170th anniversary

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

Approximately 450 Josiah Quincy Elementary School families, faculty, alumni and supporters celebrated the venerable school's 170th birthday at a lively benefit at the China Pearl restaurant, 9 Tyler Street, on Thursday, June 8. Guests including state representative Aaron Michlewitz; District 2 city councilor Bill Linehan; competitors for Linehan's seat, Michael Kelley and Ed Flynn and District 7 city councilor and mayoral hopeful Tito Jackson enjoyed cocktail hour with a complimentary glass of wine, a multi-course Chinese feast, the elegant



The Lion Dance. Photo by Michele Maniscalco

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Fenway/South End/Lower Roxbury District 7 Candidate Forum

The Boston Wards 4, 8, and 9 Democratic Committees, the Boston NAACP, the South End Business Alliance, Fenway CDC, Claremont Neighborhood Association, and the

Rutland Square Association will be hosting a candidate forum for the District 7 City Council race on Wednesday, June 28, at 6:30 PM at the United South End Settlements

Harriet Tubman House (566 Columbus Ave.). All candidates have been invited. Yawu Miller of the Bay State Banner will be moderating.

City Council hears views on proposed Safe Injection Facility

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The June 19 hearing of the City Council Committee on Homelessness, Mental Health and Recovery on a proposed Safe Injection Facility (SIF) drew almost a full house of

spectators including many residents and workers in the South End, Newmarket and Melnea Cass Boulevard and Massachusetts Avenue (also known as Mass-Cass) areas, as well as addiction services advocates and active drug users.

The hearing was called by At

Large councilor Annissa Essaibi-George and District 3 city councilor Frank Baker, who represents Newmarket and the corner of the South End closest to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Two

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ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,
I have a four-year-old male mutt Simba that I love to death. My boyfriend and I decided we wanted another dog. We bought a

seven-week female mutt Jasmine that my boyfriend fell in love with. New puppy princess Jasmine follows Simba around and wants to play and cuddle with him. But Simba freaks out and runs away. When he is asleep, we pick up Jasmine and lay her next to him and Simba just gets up and moves away. The more attached Jasmine has gotten to Simba, the more she cries when she is not next to him and of course Simba runs away. What should I do? I love my babies very much and want them to get along.

—Ariel

Dear Ariel,

Simba doesn't want to mother the puppy but you force the role upon him. Puppies shouldn't leave the natal nest

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Actors pull "Ripcord"

Ripcord, Huntington Theatre Company, Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through July 2. 617-266-0800, 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

BY JULES BECKER

Call "Ripcord" a cross between "The Golden Girls" and a female

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Annie Golden and Nancy E. Carroll in area premiere of "Ripcord" by Huntington Theatre Company. (Courtesy Huntington Theatre Company)

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Girard, Junior League Celebrates Art and Culture

SUBMITTED BY STEPHANIE PALUMBO
FOR GIRARD

Girard, a new 160-unit luxury apartment building in Boston's South End, partnered with the Junior League of Boston for a Gallery Walk & Talk event on Wednesday, May 17. The celebratory evening showcased the work of the JL Boston Arts program in the community and focused on ways art and culture serve as valuable aspects in the growth and development of young women.

Attendees had the pleasure of hearing from local female artist, Christine Vaillancourt, whose work is featured in Girard's rotating galleries. Christine discussed her vision and motivation behind her paintings currently on display at Girard, as well as the impact the arts have made in her life. Peter Roth, founder of New Atlantic Development, developer of Girard, shared with the group the inspiration behind Girard's architecture, design and gallery space. New Atlantic Development also provided a donation to the Junior League of Boston to support their work in the community.

The Junior League capped off the intimate evening with a discussion on the impactful work the JL Boston Arts Program has made in the community by teaching young women life skills through the exposure of arts related disciplines. Following the presentation, attendees were invited to tour through Girard's

gallery spaces, to experience first-hand art created by local Boston artists.

"We value creating connections with local Boston organizations and the Girard team is pleased to support the work of the Junior League of Boston," said Peter Roth. "It's wonderful to see the local community, consisting of all ages and demographics, being brought together through art and culture. New Atlantic has a strong passion for the arts and JL Boston's Programs align with our overall goal of linking the public with the local design community."

The Junior League of Boston is part of the Association of Junior Leagues International, an organization of 292 Junior League chapters in four countries. The organization is composed of dedicated and creative women from varying backgrounds and interests, who committed to promoting volunteerism, developing tomorrow's healthy and confident women leaders and improving communities through effective action and leadership.

"Training women leaders and our community service programs like JL Boston Arts are made possible by generous donations and partnerships in the community. The Gallery Walk & Talk event with Girard was an example of how art inspires and supports individuals in their daily lives and we were thrilled to partner for this event and share the stories of the young women we work with." Pamela Lynch, JL Boston, President said.



L to R: Avery Russell of JL Boston, Isabelle Plante of JL Boston, Christine Vaillancourt (artist), Peter Roth of New Atlantic Development, Michelle Lentz of JL Boston

Located at 600 Harrison Avenue, Girard includes one-bedroom units starting at \$2,975 per month, two-bedroom units from \$3,995 per month, and three-bedroom apartments beginning at \$6,950 per month. The apartments at Girard feature high-quality contemporary design that embraces a rich diversity of influences – from crisp geometric detailing to organic folk art. Residents enjoy

high-quality finishes and appliances in each apartment, along with building amenities like a community penthouse, roof deck and pet deck area, bicycle storage and repair center, fitness center, and a guest suite.

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—Katherine Nichols, interview, *Coronado Times*

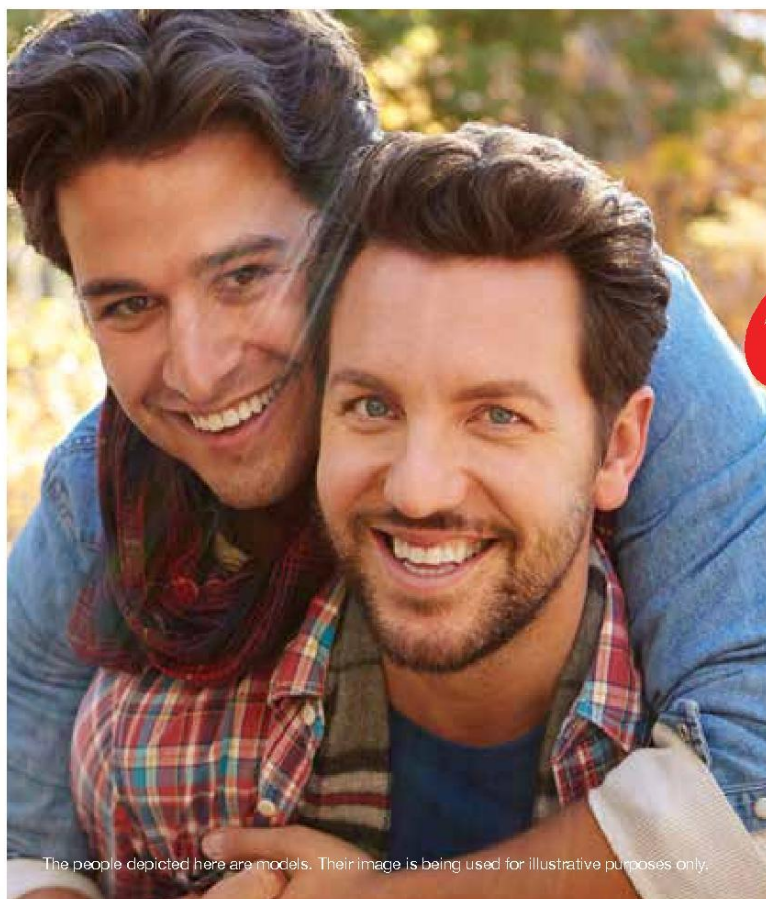
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Ripcord

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“Rabbi Hole.” “Ripcord,” now in a spirited area premiere by Huntington Theatre Company at the Calderwood Pavilion, ultimately seems to straddle both stage terrains. While gifted actresses Nancy E. Carroll and Annie Golden prove delightful stage paratroopers, Lindsay-Abaire's diverting play ought to have made a more decisive touchdown.

“Ripcord” certainly provides both Carroll as Abby and Golden as Marilyn with singular opportunities to shine. Set in her ways, uncommonly reserved and sharp-tongued Abby prizes her bed near a window as if it were a family heirloom. At the same time, she relentlessly intimidates even-tempered, sociable and cheerful newcomer Marilyn in a determined effort to make their double room at the Bristol Place Senior Living Facility in suburban New Jersey de facto private. Abby's declaration that the two are not a good match faces strong resistance from her extroverted roommate. Marilyn, in fact, had already dealt with a similar acerbic attitude on the part of her late husband.

Indomitable Abby now tries a different approach, in which she challenges Marilyn to a bet. If Abby angers Marilyn, her roommate will move to another room. Should the cheery newcomer succeed at scaring her ostensibly unflappable roommate, Abby will yield the bed near the window. Making the bet all the more challenging is the factor of family. Marilyn's

visiting daughter Colleen and her husband Derek turn out to be a high energy asset. Marilyn claims to love a challenge, and her daughter calls the family “very competitive.” Abby seems so sour at one point however that she pulls a picture made by Marilyn's grandson Caleb off the wall.

By contrast, Abby's son Benjamin seems reluctant to visit his mother. Playwright Lindsay-Abaire does explain that reluctance as well as Abby's feeling that she does not owe her once-addicted son any more. That feeling leads her to dump a plant he brings her in the basket. After Benjamin discloses some important information about his transformation as a man, Abby's feelings about him do change profoundly. If the revelations about Benjamin convince, a very different and happy surprise in the late going involving Marilyn and her family leaves this critic feeling that Lindsay-Abaire opted for a softer ending instead of what should have been a haunting cautionary one.

Easy resolution notwithstanding, Carroll and Golden make a luminous assisted living odd couple under Jessica Stone's crisp direction. Carroll captures Abby's tenacity and rich world-weariness without any suggestion of malice. Her verbal volleys with Golden have the style and fire of championship matches. For her part, Golden has all of Marilyn's heart and good nature without any cloying cuteness.

Laura Latreille has the right spunk as Colleen, and Richard Prioleau is properly grounded as Derek. Eric T. Miller finds Benjamin's

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Josiah Quincy

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Lion Dance and live and silent auctions, as well as each other's company. Flynn and his wife are JQES parents of Stephen, a rising 5th grader who will begin at Josiah Quincy Upper School in the fall. Proceeds from the festive evening will benefit the school's aquatics instruction program, technology lab and cultural field trips.



(Left Center) Artist Annie Zeybekoglu and "Alphabet City" (Right Center) The Lion Dance. (Bottom Right) Michael Kelley, center; Bill Linehan, right)

Dog Lady

Continued from page 1

until they are at least eight weeks old. Ten weeks is optimum. You brought Jasmine home at seven weeks. She hadn't yet been fully weaned. She must have attached immediately to Simba in order to figure out how the world works. But he doesn't want to be bachelor father.

Stop imagining your dogs as babies. They are dogs and they will work it out if you leave them alone. Also make sure you give Simba whatever you did before the puppy joined the household. For starters, allow him to sleep undisturbed in his own place. You must trust your dogs will bond eventually. For now, their primary bond should be with you.

Dear Dog Lady,

I recently had to leave my Chihuahua Peanut with my sister and her family for the weekend, due to an increased work load. After

picking him up, I found he had fleas. I was devastated; I never have gone through this. I immediately took him to the groomer to get shaven as well as bathed and treated for the fleas. How do I now deal with my sister and her family? I don't want to take Peanut over there for fear that he will get infested again. I am too embarrassed to tell my sister.

—No Fleas on Me

Dear No Fleas on Me,

Fleas should not come between siblings. Fess up to your sister. Check with your veterinarian who will advise you on the proper flea and tick treatment for Peanut. A groomer is not the first line of defense against bugs. Anyway, you can't be sure the fleas came from your sister's. Maybe your home has a few bugs hopping around.

Dear Dog Lady,

I love dogs. In fact, I love dogs so much that I don't own one. I have a small apartment and I refuse to get a dog until I have a yard

with space for him to enjoy his life. Unfortunately, you and many of your readers seem intent on having a dog whether it's good for the dog or not.

In your "Ask Dog Lady" column, you responded to a woman whose dog was chewing everything in the house. Your advice was to keep the dog confined in a crate, in a room or behind a gate. You should have considered the quality of life for this dog designed by nature to run and roam free. He will be severely confined inside a crate or at best in a room, for the vast majority of his day, with at best an hour of exercise walking on a leash. This is a lifestyle we reserve for our worst criminals in solitary confinement.

Your advice is designed to force the poor animal into a completely unnatural lifestyle for the convenience of its owner, so the owner can benefit from the dog's loyalty and com-

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Safe

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panels, one comprising proponents of the SIF from the medical and public-health fields and one consisting of health-care providers opposing the SIF presented, followed by public testimony from almost two dozen individuals.

Since injection of opioids is illegal under state and federal law, major changes would be required in order for a SIF to open in Massachusetts. The hearing stems from the Massachusetts Medical Society's (MMS) proposal of a pilot SIF in Massachusetts, with Southamptown Street or Mass-Cass as a possible site. Baker, Essaibi-George, South End and Newmarket neighborhood leaders and a growing number of residents and business owners oppose a SIF in Boston.

South End Forum and Rutland Square Neighborhood Association chair Steve Fox testified, commenting after the meeting, "I thought the panels were really good; they framed the issue perfectly. It was a good idea to have pro and con panels." Fox was disappointed that the panels were allowed to run overtime, curtailing the allotted time for public testimony.

Proponents touted the SIF as a "harm prevention" strategy to curtail overdoses and pointed to a SIF in Vancouver, British Columbia as a positive model, while opponents argued that the facility would be detrimental to the community and would only treat a symptom of the opioid epidemic rather than helping to decrease its spread.

The hearing began with the pro-SIF panel

consisting of MMS president Dr. Henry L. Dorkin, a pediatric lung specialist in Boston; executive director Monica Valdes Lupi and recovery services director Devin Larkin of BPHC; primary care physician and addiction specialist Dr. Gabriel Wishik of Boston Health Care for the Homeless (BHCH) and Aubri Esters of SIF-MA NOW, who is an active drug user.

Proponents said the SIF would provide a safe, supervised venue for drug injection but would never provide illegal drugs to users. Dorkin presented a graph illustrating the spread of opioid addiction in cities and towns across the Bay State in five-year increments from 2001 through 2015. Dorkin reported a 20 per cent drop in opioid prescriptions between 2015 and 2016, while opioid-related deaths have risen each year, reaching 2,000 in 2016.

Dorkin claimed that research on Vancouver's SIF experience showed a 35 per cent decrease in opioid mortality, a 30 per cent increase in detox and no reports of negative consequence to the surrounding community. MMS advocates a pilot SIF under the authority of a state agency. Valdes Lupi said 71 per cent of unintentional deaths below age 65 were opioid-related and outlined BPHC's efforts to help addicts, including 7 day per week street outreach offering drug education and referrals to recovery services; needle collection services and Providing Access to Addictions Treatment, Hope and Support (PAATHS), which steers users to substance-abuse treatment.

In her presentation, Esters described her

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Dog Lady

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panionship.

If a person doesn't have the proper space for a dog, the answer is not to force the dog to behave like a hamster in a cage. The answer is to not have a dog. It's just that simple.

—Dennis

Dear Dennis,

Your well-reasoned letter makes perfect sense—for you and your non-existent dog. However, for other people and their real and beloved pets, your prison scenario rings false. Many dogs contained in crates or cages (the politically incorrect term for dog enclosures) are quite

happy. Crates are not only the animals' safe houses but also serve as effective house-training tools.

In the "Ask Dog Lady" response to the woman whose dog chewed everything, you might have also seen the sharp finger wag. Someone who has a dog chewing indiscriminately should pick up whatever she doesn't want her dog to munch. We humans are responsible for our dogs' success. We train them to live with us. We are the dunces if they flunk.

You are to be complimented for deciding your lifestyle cannot support a dog. You have thought it all out and you have made a good decision—for you but not for anybody else.

To read more go to www.askdoglady.com.

Ripcord

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earnestness as well as his vulnerability. Ugo Chukwu is a standout in support as resourceful and very likeable center employee Scotty.

Design values are equally remarkable. Tobin Ost smartly complements the differences between Abby and Marilyn in his well-detailed center set. Gabriel Berry's costumes reflect the characters' evolving respective personalities.

David Weiner's nuanced lighting and Mark Bennett's expressive sound design bring distinction to the title-related skydiving sequence and a Halloween-centered scene.

Playwright Lindsay-Abaire knows a lot about diving into the stories of his characters as his "Rabbit Hole" and "Kimberly Akimbo" amply demonstrate. "Ripcord" may need a more satisfying descent, but Carroll, Golden and the rest of an intrepid Huntington cast make the play's flight entertaining.

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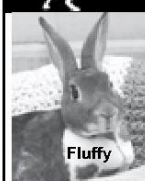
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Safe

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method of avoiding overdose and recounted her near-fatal overdose the week before as well as the deaths of many friends, arguing that they would be alive if there were a safe place to inject. Wishik said, "Drug addiction is the leading cause of death among our population and we need to strongly support the development of SIFs as a tool to combat that epidemic."

He also mentioned BHCH's Supportive Place for Observation and Treatment (SPOT), where drug users can be medically monitored after injecting. He added that one in 10 high-risk users have been directed to treatment after visiting SPOT. Wishik cited research on Vancouver's SIF suggesting that overdose deaths near the facility had decreased, that the SIF can lead to addicts seeking treatment, and that the SIF has had a positive to neutral effect on drug-related crime in its host neighborhood, while another BHCH physician spoke of a BHCH patient who died of an overdose after leaving drug detox.

In his remarks, Baker said, "My concern is more that the Southamptton Street corridor being called a great site for the SIF. It is overwhelmed now. I have a hard time thinking that it will be helpful to us there and I am not even close to convinced by your testimony."

Baker cited data from Vancouver showing 263,000 visits per year to the SIF by 6,500 individuals but only 464 referrals to on-site detox. "That doesn't seem like great numbers," he said. Both Baker and Essaibi-George have expressed frustration that while drug and opioid use is epidemic across the state, other communities do not have their own treatment facilities and consequently, drug users come from all over to the Southamptton Street area for methadone and other services.

Both councilors want to see other communities take the pressure off Boston by opening drug-treatment facilities for their residents. Baker also said that while there might possibly some decrease in on-street injection around the SIF, users in other neighborhoods are not going to travel across town before injecting, but will continue to inject in their own neighborhoods. City councilor at large Michael Flaherty later echoed this sentiment.

District 5 councilor Tim McCarthy said that while the human stories were compelling

and some of the Vancouver data are encouraging, he agrees with Baker. "As someone who has spent his entire career trying to make Boston neighborhoods better, I really have a question." Recalling his tenure with Boston Public Works Department, McCarthy recalled the activity around the old Frontage Road methadone clinic "And it isn't pretty." McCarthy also questioned the cost to Boston taxpayers of operating the SIF. He said that while Boston is the economic engine of the state, facilities like this that are rejected by other towns are sent to Boston. "I guarantee you I can name 10 suburbs right now that would that would never be considered. This is a very tough pill to swallow for someone who lives within 500 meters [of the SIF]."

One of the BHCH physicians suggested focusing first on feasibility of a SIF and debate the location later. Dorkin said that research suggests cost savings from projected reductions in emergency treatment of drug users, HIV infection treatment and other health-care expenses. Asked by District 8 councilor Josh Zakim whether the SIF could be authorized under existing law, Valdes Lupi said No, but BPHC is focused on existing services such as needle exchange, street outreach and treatment.

At large councilor Michael Flaherty claimed, as the longest-serving councilor on the committee and a member of a "recovery family," "No one has done as much around treatment and recovery as me." Flaherty called treatment on demand and court-mandated treatment better options than the SIF. Citing many deaths among friends, neighbors and loved ones, he called the SIF idea "asinine" and said the end game should be sobriety, not normalizing drug use.

District 7 councilor and mayoral candidate Tito Jackson lamented the harsh sentences imposed on crack addicts in his native Roxbury in the 1980s and 1990 as opposed to the compassion for users evident in the hearing. He spoke angrily of the abrupt closing of Long Island facilities and the city-run methadone clinic and the drug deaths that followed.

"The state of Massachusetts has failed the city of Boston in permitting methadone clinic after methadone clinic in the same area," Jackson said. Jackson wants residents and businesspeople from the community on the task force. "There is a disproportionate burden felt by a small part of the city of Boston," Jackson said.

Opening for the panel of SIF opponents,

primary care physician Dr. Robert Baratz said that "safety" surrounding injected drug use should encompass not only the safety of the user but also the neighborhood and the medical staff. Baratz presented statistics showing increased deaths from illicit drugs in British Columbia through the 2010s.

Baratz detailed the increasing potency of street drugs as heroin is supplanted by synthetics such as fentanyl and carfentanyl and the ease of manufacturing them, adding that 85 per cent of deaths in Massachusetts last year resulted from mixtures of heroin, fentanyl and cocaine or other drugs. Regarding feasibility of a SIF, Baratz said that since the law prohibits hosting the use of illegal drugs, the presiding physician in such a facility could be lose malpractice insurance.

He described the exponentially increasing potency of the next generation of new drugs and feels that SIFs cannot overcome that danger. Longtime nurse-practitioner Brianne Fitzgerald, who worked on AIDS prevention among IV drug users in the 1980s and 1990s, called the SIF "hospice care for end stage addiction," equating it with giving up on recovery.

"It is enabling a behavior with no good outcome," she said. She proposed a mobile van traveling around the state to addiction hot spots to prevent drug deaths, offer HIV and hepatitis testing and refer users to treatment. Allison Burns, Pharm. D., CEO of the non-profit End Mass Overdose, Inc. in the Southamptton Street area, presented a wealth of statistics on SIFs in Sydney, Australia and across Europe, challenging the validity of data presented by proponents on the Vancouver SIF. She refuted the 35 per cent decrease in mortality and explained that 10 overdoses averted does not equal 10 individuals saved, as those 10 overdoses might reflect multiple overdoses by the same few persons.

She also said the data show that some drug users in Vancouver and Sydney continue the risky sharing of needles, even when clean needles are offered at the SIF. Referring to the aforementioned 263,000 visits to the Vancouver SIF in 2015 by 6,500 individuals, only 262 completed treatment, or 2 per cent. Burns advocated providing addiction treatment over the legally precarious SIF proposal.

Steve Fox led the public testimony, praising Baker's and Essaibi-George's "tremendous and unflagging support" for the South End Forum's year-long Task Force on Homelessness

and Recovery. Pointing to conflicting data, Fox said more research is needed before his group can embrace the idea of a SIF anywhere in Massachusetts.

Fox said the South End is a welcoming community which supported BHCH's SPOT program and the South End Community Health Center's suboxone program while already hosting the greatest number of homelessness, addiction and recovery services in the city because those programs are offered as part of primary care.

"We believe that any additional service is inappropriate for us. We are at the breaking point," Fox said. Fox proposed a public-private partnership to create an addiction-recovery campus in the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital area, away from the drug nexus of the Southamptton Street area.

President Michael Rothschild and executive director Susan Sullivan of the Newmarket Business Association and Newmarket-area businesses representatives described drug users walking into the traffic; rampant break-ins, drug dealing, aggressive panhandling and injecting in plain view, predicting that these behaviors would increase with a SIF in the area.

Another witness cited Vancouver police reports that many drug users inject outside rather than waiting in long lines for the SIF. One witness called for de-privatizing methadone clinics to discourage the profit motive from perpetuating methadone dependency. In her moving remarks, Sullivan asked for an end to "enabling" approaches like the SIF and challenged the medical community and city and state government to devise strategies to change the behavior of drug abuse. Sullivan urged MMS to support "comprehensive, state of the art" recovery campuses across the state.

"There are thousands of people dying out here every day, they just aren't dead. They certainly aren't living," Sullivan said. About a dozen opponents were followed by a similar number of SIF proponents, including drug users and addiction service providers. While the two sides were miles apart in their views, shared a passion for their respective positions. The hearing can be viewed on-line at

https://www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil/cc_video_.asp?id=11240.



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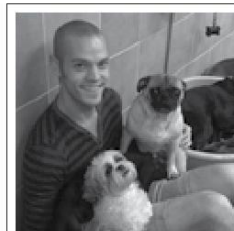
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