Hate Groups Infest Massachusetts as Movement of Intolerance Grows Nationwide

By Sandy Battulga

Grows Nationwide as Movement of Intolerance Hate Groups Infest Massachusetts

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According to the Anti-Defamation League, Massachusetts had the fourth highest rate of white supremacist propaganda dissemination nationwide in 2021, with 388 incidents of reported hate, extremism, antisemitism and terror activity. Patriot Front, posted the most amount of propaganda from 2019 to 2021. The organization was responsible for 82% of all white supremacist hate group activity nationwide last year, but has been more active in New England. The Southern Poverty Law Center describes Patriot Front as an “image-obsessed organization” that focuses on theatrical rhetoric and activism to spread their white-supremacist ideology.

Mayor Michelle Wu said that law enforcement “did not have intelligence ahead of time” to forecast this demonstration and that “investigations are still ongoing,” including looking into the identities of national Patriot Front leaders who were a part of this effort.

Leaving, Overcrowding, and Waitlisting: What are the next steps for Chinatown’s Affordable Housing?

By: Max Wei

While thinking about the settlement of Asian residents in Chinatown, one must consider its role as an ethnic enclave. It means that there is a great percentage of the residents sharing the ethnic and cultural identity, as well as their economic activity.

As you walk down the streets of Boston Chinatown, you cannot help to notice the advertisements and brands in Chinese, to smell the sense of ethnic food, to hear people speaking languages such as Mandarin and Cantonese. Yet for a group of residents with lower incomes and limited English, they are facing a real problem in this construct-ed exotic enclave: housing. With the gentrification of the city, the rent of the neighborhood is reaching an unaffordable price for those who live here.

“My clients with less earnings are coming for government housing, which has a very limited amount,” says Mei, a housing specialist at Asian American Civil Association. “I add their name in the waiting list, yet it will take five to 10 years for people to move out of their current houses. There are limits on affordable housing available in Chinatown, those housing are called subsidized housing, and almost all of these types of housing are already full capacity as the housing authority no longer accepts any more waiting lists.”

With the increased housing price in the neighborhood, the residents in Chinatown are dealing with the situation in
Boston Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival: Behind the Scenes

By: Sonia Cavazos

Nestled in the history of ancient China lies the origins of the Dragon Boat Festival. Filled with food, wonderful cultural traditions, and inspiring, team-oriented races, today’s Boston Hong Kong Dragon Boat Races and Festival offer more than entertainment. It connects people and draws them into a different culture. Strong leaders and advocates have worked to bring not only representation, but appreciation of Asian culture in America. Volunteer led and volunteer-based, the leaders of Boston Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival Inc. have worked tirelessly since its founding in 1979, to bring the festival and races to Massachusetts every year.

“I joined in 2002, when I started working at the Boston Children’s Museum as the Asian Program Educator, and later, as the Asian Program Manager,” says Gail Wang, president of the Festival’s board. “At that time the Dragon Boat Festival was still part of the Boston Children’s Museum’s Asian Cultural Program. The first Boston Dragon Boat Festival was organized by three Boston Children’s Museum Asian Program Educators and staff members in 1979. It became the first in North America!”

That was forty-three years ago. Thanks to the determination of the founders, Leslie Swartz, Nancy Sato, and Marcia Iwasaki, the festival has found its place. Leslie Swartz, Nancy Sato, and Marcia Iwasaki, have been going back there every year. The future is in powerful hands. They have made since 1979 shines through.

The Festival

“There are two components: the races and the cultural festival,” Gail explains. She handles the logistics for the cultural festival. Vendor tables with history, arts and crafts, and Asian foods help to make it a fun family event. Traditionally, the main food delicacy at the festival are the sticky rice dumplings. Cultural performances also add to the day’s excitement with dance and music representing different Asian countries. Gail describes, “Our field vendors, our performances, our arts and crafts and our foods all hail from various communities in Massachusetts. That’s a tradition we’re very proud of.”

When the Boston Hong Kong Boat Festival Inc. was founded, it received incredible support from the Chinese community. “At that time in the late 70’s,” Gail explains, “the Chinatown community, suburban Chinese community, as well as the Chinese artist community- all wanted to have a program that could unite all parts of Chinese community to promote Chinese culture in the Greater Boston areas. And the decision to have the Charles River as the location for the first race was fortuitous because it has continued to provide a beautiful, central location for the races and the festival.”

The Rice

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Ancient Roots

There are different origin stories for today’s Dragon Boat celebrations. In one, a young girl, Cao E, rowed out for today’s Dragon Boat celebrations. In another, a lawyer, Qu Yuan, drowned himself in the Miluo River.

Ancient Roots

There are different origin stories for today’s Dragon Boat celebrations. In one, a young girl, Cao E, rowed out onto the water in Zhejiang Province to recover his body. Unable to find it, they rowed up and down the river beating drums and hitting the water with their paddles to ward off evil spirits, even throwing rice into the depths so fish would eat the rice and not Qu Yuan’s body.

Rice has become dumplings, and casual rowing has grown into international Dragon Boat Races. Traditions like loyalty and teamwork remain, along with the celebration of its cultural roots. Jeff says, “If you look at Asian culture, you have the parents, the kids, the grandkids, everyone in the house. Everyone is trying to pull their weight to work together, and I think that really showcases in the dragon boat culture. To work together, everyone is unique and everyone is individually strong, but at the end of the day, it doesn’t matter. Once you’re in the boat, you pull together and I think it’s that culture within that sport, that really brings people together.”

Plans for the future

The Dragon Boat Racing Festival brings culture, tradition and history together in a way that appreciates all cultures, and shares Asian culture. Jeff says that he would like to expand the number of teams and perhaps get a larger venue. Both Gail and Jeff would like to help the festival grow as more people are drawn to it. Beyond the teams, the board has an additional vision to expand with summer programs, spread out to other communities, and grow from being solely volunteer-based. They have big plans for the future. The commitment which past and current board members like Gail and Jeff and so many dedicated volunteers have made since 1979 shines through each year. The future is in powerful hands.
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Boston City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo has criticized law enforcement’s lack of prior knowledge in relation to this event, stating in an interview with WBUR that the Boston Police Department’s response to both the group’s march through Boston and the alleged assault of Murrell was “insufficient.”

Arroyo has also called for a public hearing questioning why the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, which was established in the wake of 9/11 in order to reduce crime and prevent acts of terrorism, in conjunction with the BPD has not taken a more proactive approach to stemming hate group activity.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Joseph Bonavolonta stated at a press conference held on July 5th that unless domestic hate groups explicitly indicate a plan to commit a federal crime or threaten the use of violence in furtherance of their social or political agenda, the FBI cannot legally track these organizations. Generic racist language, such as chanting at a political rally, is considered free speech and therefore protected by the Constitution.

White supremacist groups are believed to often use generic language in their communications in order to be palatable to a wider audience and recruit new members. In an article with WGBH, Boston College Professor of Philosophy and specialist on authoritarianism, Greg Fried, said that extremist groups often use mainstream language to draw in potential new members. The group NSC-131, for example, distributed flyers that read “We stand for the security and prosperity of New Englanders” at Boston’s recent St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 20, where they also held a banner that said, “Keep Boston Irish.”

The Anti-Defamation League has also recorded the Patriot Front group’s concerted efforts to avoid “using traditional or explicit white supremacist language and symbols in their propaganda,” noting that the group now opts for “more palatable red, white and blue aesthetics of ‘Patriot Nationalism’ to promote its white supremacist ideology.”

The growing presence of hate groups is not isolated to the New England area. The whole nation is seeing a rise in hate group activity in all regions and cities. The number of public propaganda displays has grown from 1,294 in 2018 to 5,680 displays in 2021. White supremacist groups used to operate on the fringes of society, but in recent years their extremist sentiments have overlapped with mainstream conservative talking points. Issues such as teaching critical race theory in schools, the increased acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community, and COVID-19 vaccines have created a space where white supremacist ideologies can exist and prosper in broad daylight.

There has been a marked increase in the presence of white supremacist groups since Donald Trump was elected into office, with the SPLC reporting that the number of white nationalist groups that exist in the country has grown 55% since 2017. The Capitol insurrection that occurred on Jan. 6 2021 has also caused an escalation of hate group activity, with 20% of the 800 people arrested in connection to the Capitol storming having been found to be affiliated with white supremacist groups.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies found that 90% of the attacks and plots that occurred in the United Stated between Jan. 1st and May 8 of 2020 were perpetuated by right-wing extremists. Violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander population has grown especially significantly in recent years due to the racist sentiments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 1,773 hate crimes committed against Asians in 2020, a 145% increase from 2019. Anti-Semitic messaging increased by 27% nationally and anti-LGBTQ hate crimes have also been on the rise.

Mayor Wu has called on Boston to be prepared for future white supremacist demonstrations.

“We will continue to work in partnership with community members as we strategize and plan and coordinate to respond to not one-off incidents, but this growing rise and trend in white supremacy and hate.”

Affordable Housing Lottery

163 Atlantic Road
Gloucester, MA

www.sebhousing.com

$301,400 for a 3BR townhouse (rental income not included)

The Townhouse is expected to be ready for purchase in the fall of 2022.

This is a lottery for one affordable 3BR townhouse at 163 Atlantic Road, a new subdivision of 11 homes located across the street from the ocean and just minutes from Good Harbor Beach and downtown Gloucester. The affordable priced home contains 2,055 square feet and bathrooms (3 full, 2 half). The townhouse is a three-story residence which includes a deck with ocean view, a patio, outdoor conservatory living room, an electric fireplace, and a single car attached garage. The interior features laundry hook-up, two-zone gas heating system with air conditioning, and outdoor water heater. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances and designer countertops. The exterior of the home is cedar shingle with clapboard and the yard is professionally landscaped. The house is responsible for all taxes, insurance, and all home utilities and maintenance. A fee of $30/month covers common area insurance, maintenance, landscaping, and snow removal.

The one (1) affordable home will be sold at an affordable price to a household with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

Maximum Household Income Limits

- $78,381 for 2 people ($96,100 for 3 people, $103,810 for 4 people), $111,850 for 5 people, $120,800 for 6 people, $129,750 for 7 people

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is $75,000.

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received, or postmarked, by 2pm on August 1, 2022. Incomplete Applications postmarked by the deadline but received by later than 5 business days from the deadline.

A Public Info Session will be held August 1, 2022 at 6pm via Zoom. To join, go to Zoom.com, join, and leave a message or call (617) 636-7795, Fax: (617) 482-2316, or email ads@sampan.org.

The Lottery will be held on September 12, 2022 at 6pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, join, and leave a message. ID: 857 2760 9609. 254640. Code: 962627

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call 617-870-4204 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hilldale Ave, Needham MA 02494. Free translation available. Traducto gratuit disponible.

Affordable Housing Lottery

Redtail Crossing Phases II & III

5 Redtail Crossing Boulevard, Wrentham, MA 02093

2B/Rs $2,411, 3B/Rs $2,791

*Rent subject to change in 2023. Utilities are not included. Tenants will pay own gas (heat), hot water, electricity (cooking is electric).

Redtail Crossing is a 101 unit town home style apartment community located at 5 Redtail Crossing Blvd in Wrentham. Eighteen affordable units in Phase II and III of this development will be made available through this process. Each unit features its own kitchen, dining area, and private patio for outdoor lounging and grilling. Besides these features, there is a large open area, walking trails, a restaurant and the publicly accessible Lake Pearl within walking distance. The Interior of the Units feature Stainless-Steel, Energy-Efficient Appliances, AC, In-Unit Washer and Dryer, and Wood-Style Flooring.

MAXIMUM Household Income Limits

- $74,500 (2 people), $89,300 (3 people), $101,700 (4 people)
- $111,850 (4 people), $120,800 (5 people), $129,750 (6 people)
- $138,230 (7 people)

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received, not postmarked, by 2 pm on September 4, 2022.

A Public Info Session will be on August 11, 2022 at 6 pm. Go to Zoom.com, join, or call by phone at (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159 or join by conference call (425) 436-6200, Code: 862627

The Lottery will be on September 19, 2022 via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, join, or call by phone at (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2760 9609, Passcode: 254640

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Redtail Crossing on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call 617-870-4204 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hilldale Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available.
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A variety of ways. Some of the low-income residents are moving out to areas such as Quincy and Malden for cheaper prices, the rest stay in Chinatown in tolerant ways. This is because many of them are recent immigrants with limited English capacity. For this group of people, they have to live with their social networks with people speaking their language.

Therefore, some people choose to live with roommates at a cheaper price, yet it does not guarantee a comfortable living environment. The roommates with lower incomes sleep on the couch in their dining room. The overcrowded families are becoming a severe problem within these days.

S is a middle-aged man living with his parents. Their family is in low economic status. Their landlord illegally divided a separate floor into a two-floor building. When an AACA staff tries to apply for an internet benefit for S’s family, their home address cannot be found. This is because they are living in an address that is illegally constructed. After S moved out of his family, he rented an apartment with 5 people his age. It is also illegally divided by the landlord. S still does not have the right to apply for the internet benefit.

Most of the lower-income groups are struggling to live in a stable place. What will be the next steps?

In February, with the funding received from the Mayor’s Office, BlueHub Capital and Local Initiatives Support Corporation Boston, the Asian Community Development Corporation—a non-profit organization in Boston Chinatown, purchased a privately owned building to overcome some people’s housing difficulties. The address is 64-68 Beach Street. It is a six-story building located in Chinatown with a restaurant at ground-floor and 14 residential units. Once the project is done, 100 units of affordable housing will be open for the Chinatown residents.

“And here in Boston’s Chinatown, we do see that the housing crisis is so critical that we need all the tools that we can lay our hands on,” says Angie Liu, the executive director of ACDC.

“So we will continue to build new affordable housing, because there isn’t enough, but we also want to continue this new strategy, which is trying to buy what’s already out there. And in some ways you can think of it as once we, a nonprofit, buy it, it’s in effect taking it off of the speculative market.”

In the meantime, gentrification is becoming a problem in Chinatown, with the demographic change with more white residents in the neighborhood, and the increased tourism due to its role and a historic town. The number of condominiums is increasing. A search for the rental price of Chinatown apartments on the rental website Zillow produces the highest prices of Chinatown apartments instead of lower-priced apartments.

According to Zillow, prices of the studio rooms are ranging from $2,000 - $3,945, and the prices of the 1-bedrooms are ranging from $3,745 - $4,291.

There is a clear contradiction that exists between different classes. On the one side, people are crowding in the illegally divided apartments with no access to the social benefits. On the other side, the individuals are living in the single studios alone, paying expensive rents.

At the same time, the landowners increase the price of the apartments, which were once affordable for the low-income people.

The rest of the buildings upgraded their equipment and raised the rents.

Events Calendar

Visit SoWa Open Market on Sundays: May 1, 11:00 am to October 30, 4:00 pm. An event every week that begins at 11:00 am on Sunday. “SoWa Open Market is part farmers’ market, part art markets, and part food festival. Local farmers and food purveyors line up to sell fresh produce, animal products, baked goods, and other treats, while artists sell handmade jewelry, clothing, home decor, and ceramics.”


Visit ‘Wicked’ at the Opera House: June 8: 7:30 pm-July 24, 5:00 pm. Citizens Bank Opera House: 539 Washington St. Boston, Massachusetts 02118. “Wicked is an enchanting prequel to the legendary academy award winning film “The Wizard of Oz” in a musical extravaganza. This musical is a must see and if you are looking for a good show, then look no further. “One of Broadway’s biggest blockbusters, Stephen Schwartz’s “Wicked,” returns to Boston this summer for an almost two-month run at the Opera House. Following the “untold” story of Oz’s witches, the musical was called “the defining show” of the 2000s by The New York Times.”


From houses and fountains to chocolate chip rain and a bubble gum sound backdrop, guests will stroll down Choco Street on a tasty journey to the town square, with plenty of photo ops against mouthwatering backdrops. Bonus: There’s delicious chocolate samples along the way. https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/arts/stroll-through-a-world-of-chocolate-in-cambridge/ The Coolidge offers three free Science on Screen events on the Rose Kennedy Greenway in June, July, and August: June 15, 8:00 pm-August 10, 8:00 pm. The Rose Kennedy Greenway High Street and Atlantic Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02110. “Coolidge programmers picked films that had some kind of science theme, then invited a guest speaker from the scientific community to give a pre-screening lecture explaining how the science in the film worked.”


https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/art/events-explore-the-new-england-aquariums-new-public-photography-exhibit/ Relive your childhood with Nostalgia Nights at Story Land: July 9 @ 6:00 pm-July 30 @ 10:00 pm. 850 NH-16 Glen, New Hampshire 03838. “On Nostalgia Nights, Story Land guests can revisit their favorite attractions and check out new ones. The park aims to have all rides open for the duration of the evening, from the antique cars to the teacups to the roller coasters. Face painting, photo ops, and live shows round out the evening, so guests can enjoy every Story Land feature of their childhoods.”

https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expos/relive-your-childhood-with-nostalgia-nights-at-story-land-2022-07-09/ National Geographic’s ‘Beyond King Tut’ world premiere in Boston: July 18, 8:00 am-September 23, 5:00 pm. 550 Harrison Ave, Boston, Massachusetts 02118. “Have you ever wanted to see Egypt through the eyes of King Tut? The North American tour of National Geographic’s new exhibition, “Beyond King Tut: The Immersive Experience,” is making its way to Boston. The exhibition will run from July 18 to September 23 at the Institute of Contemporary Art at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Tours will be available, and to purchase them, visit tightrope.com.”

https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/events-national-geographic-be yond-king-tut-world-premiere-boston/ Watch Shakespeare under the stars on Boston Common: July 20 8:00 pm-August 7 4:00 pm. Boston Common Bostonsky Street.Boston, Massachusetts 02116. “Call it much ado about something. “The Commonwealth Shakespeare Company is back with its free annual alfresco productions. The Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common comes alive as this summer’s troupe takes on William Shakespeare’s classic comedy “Much Ado About Nothing” as directed by Megan Sandberg-Zakian.”

https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/art/events-watch-shakespeare-under-the-stars-on-boston-common/ The International Sand Sculpting Festival takes over Revere Beach: July 22, 10:00 am-July 24, 8:00 pm. Revere Beach Revere, Massachusetts 02151. “America’s first public beach becomes a stage for giant sculptures, food trucks, live music, and fireworks. Think you’re good at sand castles? While there may be a grain of truth to that, there’s a sculpting event that has you beat. Set along Revere’s two-mile stretch of beach, America’s first public beach, the International Sand Sculpting Festival puts the spotlight on giant works of art created by renowned master sculptors from across the U.S. and Canada. The festival draws an estimated 1 million people to Revere Beach each year.”

https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/events-explosive-the-international-sand-sculpting-festival-takes-over-revere-beach/ Blue Man Group: July 23rd 5:00. Charles Playhouse, Boston, MA. Come see the spectacular musical, comedic, entertaining show that is the Blue Man Group. https://www.blue-man.com/boston/buy-tickets/ Race in the Boston Marathon: July 23, 8:00 am-July 24, 5:00 pm. South Boston Waterfront 165 HarborWalk Boston, Massachusetts 02125. “Boston’s only half marathon is run in South Boston, where participants will swim from Carson Beach, bike down Day Boulevard, then run a winding
course through Moakley Park. The event is USAT sanctioned, or USA Triathlon sanctioned, which means that all USAT rules and regulations will apply. Participation is encouraged from folks of all ages and skill levels, whether this is a racer’s first triathlon, or their tenth. Organizers expect some participants to travel from around the country and from abroad for this world class race.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/fitness/race-in-the-boston-triathlon/

**Bring the kids to Provincetown’s annual Family Week:** July 23, 2:00 pm–8:00 pm. The Greatest Bar, 262 Friend St Boston, Massachusetts 02114. “Part bar hop, part cocktail bar, the Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts is a three-day celebration of the island’s vibrance. The parade has attracted more than 90,000 participants over the course of the three days, according to organizers. Set within the confines of Provincetown’s Franklin Park, artists (both local and from as far as Florida and Puerto Rico) take to the stage to perform free concerts with a backdrop of carniv- al rides, souvenirs tents of cultural merchandize, and Puerto Rican food. Kiosks offer a variety of activities, including a health fair, face painting, storytelling of Puerto Rican stories and legends, and lessons in Puerto Rican musical percussion. On July 31, bring the whole family to watch the Puerto Rican Parade, one of Boston’s largest parades, complete with marching bands, colorful dance troupes, and musical floats.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expo/the-puerto-rican-festival-of-massachusetts-takes-over-provincetown-franklin-park/

**Quincy Family Fun Day:** July 30, 10:00 am–1:00 pm. Cavanagh Stadium, 1-99 Birch Street Quincy, MA 02171. “At Cavanagh Stadium for “free activi- ties for all, including face painting, games & prizes, balloon animals, music & movement, bounce obstacle course and the featured watermelon eating contest. Come meet Sparky the Fire Dog and Wally the Green Monster!” https://bcnc.net/events/2022/quinncy-family-fun?bblinkid=262006

**Cantonsense Cultural Academy Summer Camp**

Franklin Park Rd Boston, Massachu- setts 02121. “With the goal of stay- ing united and keeping their culture alive, the Puerto Rican Festival of Massachusetts is a three-day celebra- tion of the island’s vibrance. The parade has attracted more than 90,000 participants over the course of the three days, according to organizers. Set within the confines of Provincetown’s Franklin Park, artists (both local and from as far as Florida and Puerto Rico) take to the stage to perform free concerts with a backdrop of carniv- al rides, souvenirs tents of cultural merchandize, and Puerto Rican food. Kiosks offer a variety of activities, including a health fair, face painting, storytelling of Puerto Rican stories and legends, and lessons in Puerto Rican musical percussion. On July 31, bring the whole family to watch the Puerto Rican Parade, one of Boston’s largest parades, complete with marching bands, colorful dance troupes, and musical floats.” https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expo/the-puerto-rican-festival-of-massachusetts-takes-over-provincetown-franklin-park/

Journey on over to the Fish Pier for the **Boston Seafood Festival:** August 7, 11:00 am-6:00 pm. Boston Fish Pier. “Returning Sunday, August 7, for its ninth iteration, the Boston Seafood Festival features a traditional lobster bake and a Harpoon Beer Garden in 2022, plus seafood samples (and non- seafood items), fish-cutting demonstra- tions, oyster shucking contests, live music, roving pirates, children’s activities, and more.” https://www. boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expo/the-mission-hill-arts-festival-continues-through-august/

**The annual Chinatown August Moon Festival:** August 14th, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Chinatown. “For the 52nd year, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) of New England hosts the August Moon Festival in Chinatown. Second only in importance to the Chinese New Year, the August Moon Festival cele- brates a successful harvest, similar to American Thanksgiving. On Aug. 14, vendors will line the streets around the Chinatown Gate — Beach, Tyler, and Hudson Streets, and Harrison Avenue. Along with purveyors of Chinese cuisine, arts and crafts, Chinese cal- ligraphy, and other merchandise, event goers can expect cultural performanc- es like lion dancing, traditional folk dance, and martial arts.” https://www. boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expo/visit-the-annual-chinatown-august-moon-festival/

**Sharpen your dance skills at the Boston Salsa Festival:** August 19, 2:00 pm-August 22, 3:00 am. West- tin Waltham Boston. 70 Third Ave. Waltham, Massachusetts 02451. “Turn up the heat with a three-day event that showcases the love of the Latin dance salsa. The largest salsa dance event in New England, the Boston Salsa Fes- tival transforms the Boston-Waltham Hotel into a salsa-lover’s paradise, with three days and two nights of workshops and performances by world-class dancers and instruc- tors, along with social dancing until the wee hours of the morning. Sharpen your salsa skills in workshops and classes for every level, from beginner footwork and partnering to Brazilian Samba, or enjoy just watching the dance performances. Classes are offered each night at 8 pm.” https://www.bostonsalsafest. com/https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expo/sharpen-your-dance-skills-at-the-boston-salsa-festival/

**The 103rd St. Anthony’s Feast returns to the North End:** August 25, 5:00 pm-August 26, 11:00 pm. North End, Boston, Massachusetts. “Since 1919, the last Sunday in August in Boston has seen Saint Anthony’s Feast to the streets of the North End for a weekend-long festival. Similar to the Fisherman’s Feast, Saint Anthony’s Feast welcomes dozens of street vendors, live enter- tainment, and thousands of visitors annually. On the decorated streets of the North End, which is closed to car traffic during the event, festival goers can find purveyors of pizza, arancini, quahogs, sausages, gelato, zeppole, and cannoli. The highlight of the festi- val is the day-long procession of Saint Anthony’s statue through the streets of the neighborhood, accompanied by a parade of floats and marching bands. Guests can also find live bands and strolling singers throughout the weekend, plus daily religious services and an annual open-air mass honoring Saint Anthony.” https://www. boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expo/the-103rd-st-anthony’s-feast-returns-to-the-north-end/

**Beach Road Weekend Music Fest- rals rocks Martha’s Vineyard:** August 26, 10:00 am-August 28 @ 8:00 pm. Veterans Memorial Park 10 Causeway Rd. Vineyard Haven, Mar- tha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts 02568. “Presented by The Black Dog, the Beach Road Weekend Music Festival takes over Martha’s Vineyard for three days of pop, rock, and fun. Just a short walk from the Vineyard Haven Ferry Terminal in Veterans Memorial Park, the weekend-long festival will feature non-profit organization place to support and enhance the entertainment and recreation landscape on Martha’s Vineyard.” https://www. boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expo/weekend-road-music-festival-rocks-martha’s-vineyard/ https://www.beachroadweekend.com/tickets
In the first few days after the decision of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, the landmark Supreme Court case that overturned Roe v. Wade and eliminated the constitutional right to abortion, thousands of Massachusetts residents protested the ruling. They gathered in front of the State House and in Copley Square, marching and chanting across downtown Boston. They held signs displaying messages such as “guns have more rights than women in the U.S.A.” “bans off our bodies,” and “abortions save lives.”

These protests demonstrate the generally pro-choice viewpoints of the people of Boston and of Massachusetts at large, reflected in the stance and policies of the state legislature. As the ruling allows states to decide the legality of abortion within their jurisdiction, abortion will remain legal in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Supreme Court had held in 1991 that it is the state’s duty to ensure the process protections of the Massachusetts state constitution protect the right to abortion. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker signed an executive order designed to protect abortion providers who serve out-of-state patients. Representative Katherine Clark called post-Roe America a “dystopian nightmare,” and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu said that the decision marked “desperate times for our democracy.”

Massachusetts will likely face the ramifications of Dobbs despite the protected status of abortions. As conservative states tighten their abortion policies of the state legislature, as the court has based its decision on the constitutional right to reproductive privacy. The same legal reasoning was the basis for other landmark decisions such as Griswold v. Connecticut, which established the right to contraception, and Lawrence v. Texas, which legalized same-sex intimacy. Overturled that precedent therefore opens the right to privacy, and all the other rights established on that foundation, to debate.

The Court that had decided Roe in 1973 likely could not have imagined the importance that privacy protections would take on half a century later. Dobbs now opens a host of uncertainties for Americans and the future of their reproductive health, racial justice, and data privacy.

Many large companies, hoping to maintain healthcare access for their employees, will now pay for travel costs to ensure an employee need access to state lines to receive an abortion. Here is a list: Amazon, Bank of America, Bumble, BuzzFeed, Cigna, Citigroup, CNN, Comcast, Condua, CVS Health, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Estée Lauder, Goldman Sachs, Hewlett Packard, IKEA, JPMorgan Chase, Kroger, Lyft, Match Group, MasterCard, Meta Platforms, Microsoft, New York Times, Paramount, Patagonia, PayPal, Procter & Gamble, Salesforce, Starbucks, Target, Tesla, Uber, Vox Media, Walt Disney, Yelp, Yahoo, Zendesk, and Zillow.

The National Network of Abortion Funds work to remove financial and logistical barriers to reproductive healthcare. Member organizations provide services ranging from abortion payment to transportation. You can donate at https://donate.abortionfunds.org/give/323375/?ft_donation/checkout. To receive funding from the Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund, call (617)354-3839 and leave a message with your name, number of weeks pregnant, appointment date and location, and whether the fund can leave a message when it calls back. You can leave a message in any language.

The Village at Sawmill Woods
Plymouth, MA
Affordable Housing Opportunity

One 3BR Duplex Home for $325,100
w/ ($100/month HOA fees)

This is an opportunity for the next one (1) affordable home being built at the Village at Sawmill Woods. The home will be sold at an affordable price to a household with an income at or below 80% of the area median income.

Village at Sawmill Woods is a unique residential development that will eventually consist of 240 duplex-style homes, any of which will be affordable. The project is situated on the desirable Plymouth Farm Estates Subdivision in the Manomet Section of Plymouth MA. Located on 56.00 wooded acres of land, only approximately 30 acres will be used and the rest will remain open space. The project borders 2,030 acres of Conservation and Town-owned property to the West and cranberry bogs to the South. The affordable home will have a full basement, and energy-efficient appliances and heating system. The Village is served by Town Water and has a private-state of the sewage treatment facility. Condo Fees are $100 per month, which includes sewer, common area landscaping, and snow removal.

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is $75,000.

Completed Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be delivered by 2:00 pm on August 23, 2022.

A Public Info Session will be held on July 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, Join, and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410.

The lottery will be on September 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to Zoom.com, Join, and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sawmillhousing.org or call 617-782-6900 (fax) and leave a message, or postal mail SEB Housing, 227 Hildreth Ave, Newbury MA 01945.

Free translation available: Traducción gratuita disponible. Traduzione gratuita disponibile.
American Legion Boston Chinatown Post 328: Continuing to Honor Chinese-American Veterans

By Eric Youshao

“Post 328 is a living memorial to all the veterans, both Asian American and not, who have come from the Boston community and served America with honor and distinction.”

-Post Commander Matthew Seto.

Boston Chinatown’s Post 328 has advocated on behalf of veterans, service members, and the local community for more than 75 years. Founded after World War II, Post 328 originally helped negotiate benefits for veterans and their families, helping many take advantage of the GI Bill of Rights, which included full tuition for education expenses, low interest loans, and unemployment benefits. Membership in the American Legion was originally limited to veterans who served in the military during a time of active conflict, and to any veteran who served in the military since the start of World War II on December 7th, 1941. Post 328 also works to understand the needs of more recent veterans.

The efforts of the Post are also visible via two “Hero Squares”, which are street sign intersections dedicated to the memory of a service member killed in action. The two Hero Squares in Boston Chinatown are in honor of George Oi (located at the intersection of Beach St and Hudson St) and Edward Wong (located at the intersection of Beach St and Harrison Ave). Both Oi and Wong were native Bostonians killed in action during World War II.

In an interview with Post commander and Adjutant David Ching and Post commander Matt Seto, they expressed grave concern about the Asian hate rhetoric in this country. Although the role of the Post has changed in the last 75 years, Seto believes its place in the community is as important as ever. Seto believes the Post is important for Asian American representation. In 2019 when the Post first started marching in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in downtown Boston, Seto recalls “there were a bunch of people pointing at [veterans from Post 328] and saying, ‘What are they doing [in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade]?’”, which made me realize how important it is that there are Asian American veterans represented [in the public eye].” Seto says that “people don’t see enough Asian American faces, especially American veterans.”

The Post will create a permanent memorial to honor the service of Asian Americans in the United States military. Since 2017, Seto and then-commander Warren Yee have been raising funds to construct a memorial for Chinese American Veterans in Chinatown. Inspired by similar memorials in cities such as New York or Chicago, the proposed memorial in Boston’s Chinatown seeks to highlight Chinese American veterans and their contributions to the Chinatown community. However, despite ample planning and motivation from the Post, the Post’s efforts have been met with bureaucratic challenges. In addition to memorializing the contributions of Chinese American veterans, Ching states “We dedicated our lives for our country. We need to show everybody that Chinese Americans are part of America.”

David Ching invites everyone to march with the Post at the next Veterans Day parade in November. Contact David at theaching80@ gmail.com for more information.

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Canadians see the US as an Example of What Happens When Guns are Not Heavily Regulated

By Megan Wong

According to REUTERS, although the United States has a gun policy, it gets worse and worse. However, the main difference is that firearms are federally regulated in Canada, while in the United States firearm policy really depends from state to state. Following the recent mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde in the United States, it gets worse and worse. Whereas, in the United States laws continue to be ambiguous and legislation is hardly passed due to a lack of consensus. Although Canada has already implemented strict policies regarding guns, the government has emphasized that the legislation was not prompted by the mass shootings but a “national freeze” on the sale and use of handguns as part of a bill that would also limit the capacity of magazines and even ban certain toys that resemble guns. To clarify, the Canadian Minister of Public Safety, Macro Mendicino, has emphasized that the legislation was not prompted by the mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde in the United States, but rather it is a Canadian proposal to address the challenges that their citizens have faced.

I think gun policies have been effective in Canada. Rarely do people own guns. The only people who have guns are gangsters and people who go hunting. In Canada, I would say gun policies work about 90% of the time. The only issue is the gangsters that own handguns. Most of these handgun users are smuggled from the U.S. over the border. The guns that are smuggled into Canada usually come from border towns near the central United States. From what I know about gun violence in the United States, I’ve seen the news that there are many shootings in schools. There are different policies in each state and there isn’t a federal policy. I know that a person who lives in the U.S. before, who grew up in Texas. He said that everyone there has a gun, mostly for protection reasons. Personally I think that young children in the U.S. need to be more educated on guns and the safety hazards from them. There needs to be more funding into the education of guns, especially earlier education as a lot of accidents happen.

As for the situation in Canada, every time there is a shooting there is always a big reaction from the public and the demand for even more gun control. In a certain town that I know there are shootings that involve gangsters almost every month. I feel that there isn’t enough effort into solving the smuggling issue from the government. People are starting to see shootings as a normal occurrence. Especially with how the economy is currently and following COVID, people don’t really pay much attention to issues regarding guns because they have a lot of other things to worry about. The way I see it, the government doesn’t really have much of a solution and people right now are in their own bubbles.

I don’t think that people should own firearms. I’ve never used a firearm and I don’t want to because it’s more responsibility on your shoulders to keep it safe. Let’s say if I own a gun legally, if someone stole my gun then who is responsible for that? If you lose the gun, who is responsible for that? What can the government do? There really isn’t any control. In my opinion, if you are near rural areas with a lot of wildlife, then I understand why you would own a gun (for protection reasons), but if you live in urban cities then you don’t really need it. It’s not a freedom of choosing because it’s more of a public safety issue to not have a gun. In Canada, I think that because people know that it’s illegal to own a gun, overall they just accept it. There really isn’t much discussion on the issues. Guns aren’t really the conversation in our daily lives. That’s how we grew up. We don’t really think about whether one day, what if the gun policies are suddenly loosen. You can have more violent way to solve issues. There are lots of arguments in the streets and people don’t really think properly when they’re angry. Therefore, giving people easier access to guns will not solve any issues.
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Member FDIC
Childhood Obesity Fueled by Consequences of the Pandemic

By: Jeff Millman

Politics, to paraphrase the philosopher John Gray, is nothing more than a series of imperfect remedies for recurring problems. No policy results in unmixed blessings; every decision we make has both good and bad consequences. So it is with the mandates and restrictions that have ruled our social life for the past two years. Lockdowns, school closures, and mask-wearing reduced the transmission of COVID-19 and prevented some serious illnesses and deaths. But two years on, we are vastly more knowledgeable about COVID-19 itself and about the benefits and drawbacks of our public health policies. We must now address the detrimental impacts these policies have had on some of the most helpless members of our society: children.

Even in the early days of the pandemic, researchers on children’s health sensed a crisis in the making. Articles published in The Lancet in the spring of 2020 predicted that children’s health would suffer as schools closed and states restricted social and outdoor activity. Experts in childhood development warned that mask-wearing for young children could negatively affect their ability to recognize faces and understand speech, which would in turn inhibit their social development. Other obvious dangers were on the horizon: children would have to increase their screen time drastically to attend school virtually. Heavy use of screens (even for educational purposes) is correlated with a number of health problems: poor sleep quality, attentional difficulties, anxiety and depression. It didn’t take an oracle to predict that rates for these problems would increase during the pandemic.

Indeed, child psychiatrists have noted increases in emotional disorders particularly among children who were already struggling before the pandemic. A U.K. study that focused on children ages 4 to 10 found that “the level of lockdown greatly affected mental health and behavioral issues, with England’s first complete lockdown greatly exacerbating issues from hyperactivity to depression.” In the U.S., in just a seven-month period from March to October 2020, mental health-related emergency department visits increased 24% for children ages 5 to 11 and 31% for those ages 12 to 17 compared with 2019 visits. A 2020 technical report from UMass Boston and UMass Amherst also found socioeconomic disparities in the effects of pandemic policies, with students who relied on school-based mental health services rather than private or more expensive care suddenly unable to access them and faring worse as a result.

But among these pandemic-related health issues, one in particular is being referred to as a “pandemic within a pandemic”: childhood obesity. Obesity already affected 1 in 5 children before the pandemic, and with higher rates among communities of color – but the numbers have risen significantly over the past two years and health experts are calling for the problem to be addressed. We will likely have better data in the coming months as researchers are able to study the issue in more detail, but the numbers we do have tell a disturbing story. In the United States, among people ages 2 to 19, the rate of body mass index increase per month (i.e. how much weight people were gaining per month as it related to their height) nearly doubled during the pandemic, with children having more snacks, eating out of control, and eating unhealthy food types. And of course, children were far more stressed and more prone to emotional problems during lockdowns and school closures. Childhood obesity and poor mental health often go hand-in-hand, with obese children at a much higher risk for psychosocial problems and mental health conditions and children with mental health conditions more likely to be physically unhealthy.

Addressing children’s physical health, then, can have positive impacts on their mental health, and addressing their mental health can positively influence their physical health. Tackling one set of problems means tackling the other set. But what are we actually doing to improve children’s health after the pandemic? So far, not much. More and more media outlets are recognizing the problems, but solutions range from the vague (more federal funding) to the cruel (place the burden on teachers). There is also a frustrating lack of self-awareness in the coverage of these issues.

The progressives at NPR, who in 2020 hosted guests who called enthusiastically for school closures and who promised the negative consequences could be mitigated with more government spending and Zoom classrooms, are now publishing articles about the massive social and economic costs of these school closures without a hint of irony – as if they were not part of a media environment that dismissed parents’ and pediatricians’ fears about the impacts of school closures as silly and “anti-science”.

Regardless, the time is ripe for a serious and open discussion about what we can do for children as the pandemic wanes. With two years of data to review, we can learn from the decisions we made and do better by our children in the future. In particular, we can address the disproportionate impact these policies have had on people of color and immigrants, who not only faced higher rates of COVID-19 during the pandemic but were also far more likely to suffer the social and economic consequences of lockdowns and school closures. Children in immigrant, Hispanic, and Black communities are at a much higher risk of developing obesity as well, and this requires urgent action. The American Psychological Association calls childhood obesity an epidemic in its own right, and ending it requires large-scale action.

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South Cove Community Health Center has been serving the Asian-American Community in the greater Boston Area since 1972. We have a strong commitment to making health/preventive care linguistically and culturally accessible to patients and clients. We are currently looking for qualified individuals to fill the following positions.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (FT) – BOSTON**
Preforms executive secretarial duties for the ED/CEO and COO including phone coverage, correspondence, report, filing, appointment scheduling, travel arrangements, coordinates calendar and logistics for ED. Provides administrative support to both officers including writing memos, recording minutes of meetings, managing projects. Associate or Bachelor's degree, strong English writing skills, duties require very good organizational skills, interpersonal skills and ability to deal with confidential information. One to three years of administrative experience preferred. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin a plus.

**DENTIST (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY**
Practice general dentistry including but not limited to: oral examinations and diagnoses, dental x-ray, preventive and restorative dental care, and minor oral surgery services. Develop internal systems such as equipment, inventory, appointment referral, and follow-ups, as directed by the Dental Director. Reinforces in universal precaution and infection control. Participate in dental disease prevention projects through educational and outreach. MA licensed. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin.

**DENTAL HYGIENIST (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY**
Cleans calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from teeth and beneath margins of gums, using dental instruments under the general supervision of a dentist. Provides dental x-ray services for diagnosis. May provide clinical services and health education to improve and maintain oral health. Familiar with standard concepts, practices and procedures within particular field. Associate's degree or its equivalent. Dental Hygienist, MA licensed. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin.

**RDN (FT) OR LPN (LPN) (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY/MALDEN**
Assist physicians and nurse practitioners in providing services to the patient as a part of a team in adult medicine, pediatrics, and ob/gyn. Coordinate clinical nursing activities. Perform nursing procedures that includes PPDs, immunizations, follow-up on lab results, follow-up with patient’s visits according to specific guidelines, medical records documentation. Registered nurse, licensed by Massachusetts. Graduate of an accredited nursing program. One year of nursing in an outpatient environment. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin. Vietnamese a plus.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT (FT) – MALDEN**
Medical Assistant provides medical support for providers, general support for other clinical activities such as maintaining equipment and supplies in clinical depts. Works as part of a team in the coordination of care planning, quality improvement; and patient/family education and outreach. Understand basic medical terminology. Successful completion of a Nurse Assistant or Medical Assistant Program. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin.

**LAB ASSISTANT (FT) – BOSTON/QUINCY/MALDEN**
Perform phlebotomy waived testing and read lab report when lab supervisor is not available. Draws and collects all blood specimens from patients. Verifies records and specimens for shipment and/or messenger pick-up service and completes appropriate lab forms. Assists in conducting inventory. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin. Professional telephone and face-to-face communication skills. Certification by a recognized phlebotomy program.

**LICENSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER (FT) BOSTON/QUINCY**
Evaluate, diagnose and provide treatment to a diverse population. Collaborate with the appropriate human service agencies. Provide crisis intervention and urgent consultation to other medical departments. Contribute to clinical interdisciplinary training seminars, participate in weekly team meetings, participate in professional continuing education program. Function as a caseworker for grants, supervise interns and graduate students. Current MA LMHC or LICSW. 2 years of experience providing therapy. At least two years of full-time or part-time equivalent of paid professional experience in mental health or social work. · Works well as part of a team. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin, and/or Vietnamese preferred. Salary commensurate with education and experience.

**CALL CENTER AGENT (FT) – BOSTON**
Perform call backs and tracking for medical diagnostics. Assists with scheduling, feasibility confirmation and registering patients. Supports daily activities of South Cove’s Medical Home. Fluent in English and Cantonese/Mandarin. Vietnamese a plus. High school diploma or equivalent. Two years working experience in health care setting required. Typing skills and familiarity with data input preferred.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates should send, fax, or email their resume to (please specify the position(s) you are interested in applying for):
Attn: Human Resources, 145 South Street, Boston, MA 02111 • Fax: 617-521-6795 • E-mail: blee@scchc.org
In the span of less than two weeks, two mass shootings made headlines across the country. These attacks at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, and a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, killed 21 and 10 people respectively. However, these are not the only ones. According to the Gun Violence Archive, as of July 4th, there have been 313 mass shootings in the United States since the beginning of the year — including a shooting at an Independence Day parade this year in Highland Park, Illinois, where six people were killed and dozens more were injured. There were 329 mass shootings through the July 4th weekend in 2021, and 258 through the same weekend in 2020. Gun control is not a new issue, and supporters have long been calling for changes in gun laws.

Both shooters used legally purchased AR-15-style rifles. Several of the measures currently being discussed are designed to close gaps in existing federal gun laws, which stop 18-year-olds from buying handguns but not assault rifles, and require background checks for guns bought from a licensed dealer but not those bought from private sellers, often online or at gun shows. Other proposals, like regulations for gun storage and high-capacity magazines, don’t currently exist in federal law.

Many states have already passed some or all of these policies already. But the patchwork of laws limits the effectiveness of such restrictions because gun purchasers can travel to a neighboring state with fewer rules. The authors of the House legislation have emphasized the value of national laws that would apply uniformly.

“They go to the states where it’s easy to buy guns, where there are practically no limitations, and then they take those guns to other states,” said Representative Ted Deutch, a Democrat from Florida.

Many people advocating for gun control were left upset on June 23rd when the Supreme Court invalidated a law giving New York broad discretion over concealed carry permits, a framework used by five other states and Washington, D.C. declaring it unconstitutional. As a response, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed a law banning concealed carry of firearms in more than a dozen “sensitive locations,” including on public transit, government buildings, places of worship, polling sites, bars, restaurants that serve alcohol, medical facilities, public demonstrations, and Times Square four days after the high court’s decision. Private businesses will now prohibit guns by default, unless property owners decide to allow guns in their establishments. Separately, the hotel industry and its trade union have agreed to ban firearms in New York City hotels. Beginning September 1, subways, buses, and regional commuter trains will legally be gun-free zones.

In Massachusetts, it is also expected that the SCOTUS decision will not have much impact on gun laws. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey said that the Commonwealth will continue enforcing its laws as is. “I remain committed to doing everything I can to keep our residents and our communities safe. Massachusetts has one of the lowest gun death rates in the country because we know that strong gun laws save lives. I stand by our commonsense gun laws and will continue to vigorously defend and enforce them.”

While it was previously reported that the ruling would change gun laws in Massachusetts, after review many politicians agree with Healey’s position. Blue states like Massachusetts, New York, and California are continuing to fight and push for stricter restrictions on guns.

**Gun Rights in Massachusetts: What are the Next Steps After the Supreme Court Decision?**

By: Moninisha Yadav

**The Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston (‘EDIC’), dba Boston Planning & Development Agency (‘BPDA’), by its Chief Procurement Officer is pleased to issue this Request for Qualifications entitled Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park (‘RLFMP’) Building Security Project 2022.**

**Contact Information**

Jason Tobin  
617-918-6211  
jason.w.tobin@boston.gov

The Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston (‘EDIC’), dba Boston Planning & Development Agency (‘BPDA’), by its Chief Procurement Officer is pleased to issue this Request for Qualifications entitled Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park (‘RLFMP’) Building Security Project 2022 (the ‘RFQ’). The RFQ is issued in accordance with M.G.L. 7C, as may be amended.

This RFQ package, including requirements, will be available to download on the BPDA Procurement Portal free of charge in digital print form to all interested respondents on July 11, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. at [www.bostonplanning.org/work-with-us/procurement](http://www.bostonplanning.org/work-with-us/procurement). Plan holders shall open and register the information requested for the Raymon L Flynn Marine Park (‘RLFMP’) Building Security Project 2022 and then follow the prompt to start file download under the ‘Work with Us’ tab. If unable to access the RFQ package through the BPDA Procurement Portal, contact Jason Tobin at (617) 918-6211, or via email at Jason.w.tobin@boston.gov in order to make alternative arrangements.

All responses to this RFQ must be returned no later than 12:00 noon on August 29, 2022, to: Jason Tobin, Chief, Economic Development and Industrial Corporation c/o Real Estate Administration, One City Hall Square, Boston MA 02210.

Michelle Goldberg, Director of Finance and Chief Procurement Officer

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**Affordable Housing Lottery**

**21 Crowninshield Condominium**

21 Crowninshield Road, Brookline, MA

Affordable Housing Lottery  
[www.sebhousing.com](http://www.sebhousing.com)

This is a lottery for the two (2) affordable townhomes at 21 Crowninshield in Brookline which will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. Each affordable townhome (units #7 and #11) has luxurious finishes including a large living room with white oak floors, a gas fireplace, chef’s kitchen with Corian counters, 6 hanger gas range, a large primary suite with plenty of closets and en-suite bath featuring a glass shower and double sinks. There is also a generous guest bedroom and top floor 3rd bedroom with en-suite bath, as well as a bonus room. Units also come with a refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer, a private backyard with a patio, 3 garage and 1 surface parking space, and are in close-proximity to parks, schools, restaurants, the Green Line, and much more.

**Maximum Household Income Limits:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Category</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
<th>Annual Income Limit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate Income</td>
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<td>2 people</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Income</td>
<td>3 people</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Maximum Household Asset Limit: $75,000.

Please note that households needing all 3 bedrooms will get priority over households who do not need all 3 bedrooms. Therefore applications from households who only need a 1BR or 2BR unit will not be entered into the lottery. Please see the Information Packet and Application for further details.

For an Application or Information Packet, or for more information on the Development, the Units or the Lottery and Application Process, on the reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please visit: [www.sebhousing.com](http://www.sebhousing.com) or call 617-782-0690. Information Packets and Applications are also available at the Brookline Public Library.

A Public Info Session will be held on August 25, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. To Go to Zoom.com, join, or call (661) 558-8606 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159.

Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received by 2pm on September 13, 2022. Applications may be submitted by email, fax, mail or by dropping them at 3BR Housing office in Needham. See Application for Details.

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New Normality After Shanghai Lockdown?

By Yang Yang

[Editor’s note: Our Shanghai correspondent continues to report on the lifting of COVID restrictions in Shanghai.]

A month after Shanghai officially lifted the city-wide lockdown, Covid cases ceased to be zero at one point but has unsurprisingly started to resurge again. One positive case was found out in one of the buildings in my compound so that the building was under a new round of 2-week lockdown. Luckily, it is only one building rather than the whole compound. This is called targeted prevention. However, with new compounds placed under lockdown, we’re under some pre-state of caution. No one wants the city to go down the citywide lockdown again, but who knows?

Right after June 1st, I quickly moved back to the recently-furnished apartment, of which was delayed due to the sudden lockdown at the end of March. I work for a Fortune 500 American company which also went through a hectic move due to fear of unpredictable lockdown policies. We’re afraid that any increase of positive cases will throw us back to lockdown anytime.

New normality means that it is normality with restrictions. In the past one month, all restaurants and bars were still forbidden from indoor dining. For restaurant owners, to comply with the social distancing one month, all restaurants and bars closed down permanently due to the cash flow rupture. For bars, you saw the interesting scene of crowds of young people sitting down by the road and enjoying some pleasure of meeting their friends and having some beers. What’s the point of lifting the lockdown but still prohibiting any social contacts? Thank god that on June 29th, the city finally allowed dining-ins, which in turn inevitably gave rise to the case resurgence. Shanghai seems to fall back into its never-ending vicious cycle.

I live in Puxi of Shanghai, a part of which was officially placed under lockdown on March 1st and it ended the lockdown on June 1st, so it was 2-month in total. Many people, like me, went from utter horror of the virus itself to the abhorrence of lockdown. The virus didn’t kill people but isolation and the near shutdown of entire healthcare did kill. A few mental health cases were reported where depression patients committed suicide due to the long isolation; there were also a few cases where people with emergent health issues got delayed receiving proper ER care and therefore lost their lives. It was difficult for the government to react properly in the state of emergency, and that was particularly the case with the Shanghai government. Ever since the Japanese war, Shanghai has always been the outerliner of the entire China; it has a relatively high self-governance due to its important role as the financial free hub of China. The role of government is not as valued as it is in other cities like Beijing; instead, economic autonomy is highly valued.

Some of my Beijing colleagues told me about the important political authority of their local neighborhood community office. In Shanghai, that is unimaginable; these local offices are deemed incapable, the bureaucracy and often they are. Majority of social workers and administrative staff are part-time housewives or recently-retired grandmas. When there is a citywide emergency, these grassroots political offices are not at least equipped with any capability, resources and authority to react. One of the local officers in my district sadly committed suicide due to unsurmountable pressure to execute strict Covid policies. It was truly a tragedy and makes people wonder what kind of draconian policies were forced on those powerless and under-trained civil workers and could have pushed a person to such a dark place that he decided to take his own life.

The situation is also the same for those who work at the community-level healthcare organization. My father works as a family physician at the local community health center. During the high time of Covid cases, all healthcare decisions were frantically enforced from Beijing rather than the public health department and could change four to five times during a 24-hour period of time. Doctors were on call 24 hours and were asked to live in the hospital or hotels nearby so as to act on the policies in time. Towards the end of May, strict zero-Covid policy was already on the line because all civil workers and healthcare professionals were on their last straw.

Despite lingering restrictions after June 1st, most of us were optimistically hopeful that on June 29th, the city finally allowed dining-ins. I really can’t be sure what will happen. A new Omicron mutation has just been found a couple of days ago. Policies are being tightened as a result. Residents still have the freedom but we’re all cautious. One interesting thing that’s happening on Chinese media is that there’s less Covid news bombarding our ears; instead, domestic flooding disasters and international political news are all over the news to the extent that my 80-year-old grandfather called me to talk about Boris Johnson’s resignation and Shinzo Abe’s assassination. I cannot help but wonder whether it’s the government is throwing the dead cat away so as to avert citizens’ aversion to this never-ending zero-Covid policy. Similar things happened during the lockdown when Beijing residents’ appeals on social media was tackled severely by the “digital police”. When you search for “lack of food in Shanghai lockdown” on Chinese social media, no results could be found.

What would actually happen in Shanghai in the next couple of months? I have absolutely no idea. Virus will keep evolving and its inflection rate thereafter increases. Would strict zero-Covid still be working without irreversibly hurting Shanghai’s economy? There are so many questions and uncertainties. Shanghai needs to grab better at balancing Covid case control while at the same time helping its residents back to the actual normality; delegating authority to healthcare professionals to make sound public health decisions rather than politicizing Covid and its policies against Western; let science and truth speak rather than trying to save politicians’ face. It is not easy to do all of the above but do we really have a choice here? I don’t think so.

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