

SE Forum spring meeting addresses drugs, safety, urban renewal

BY MICHELE D. MANISCALCO

The South End Forum's May 8 meeting overflowed from a small meeting room at 346 Shawmut Avenue as neighborhood association officers, city officials and concerned residents met to discuss ongoing issues challenging the South End. District 3 city councilor Frank Baker, the chief of staff to councilor at large Ammissa Essaibi George, Boston Police Department District 4 Captain Paul Ivens and Sgt. Lucas Taxter and Office of Neighborhood Services liaison Sam Chambers were on



Photo by Michele Maniscalco

hand to answer questions and listen to neighbors' views.

Forum chairman Steve Fox raised the topic of rebates for security camera purchase by private indi-

viduals, citing a program initiated in January in Washington, DC with a rebate of up to \$200 per camera and a

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Want to "Take Over" the South End Library's Tremont Street Window?

BY MARLEEN NIENHUIS

The many windows of the prominently located South End library bring light and brightness to the interior of the branch, especially important in the often gloomy winters and short days that are so typical of Boston's weather patterns. But from the outside looking in, the windows can brighten the streetscape and make that more welcoming, too, thinks Karen Watson, a recent new member of the Friends of South End Library (FOSEL) advisory board. Watson, a South End resident who is an interior designer by profession, is in the process of approaching a number of South End creative entrepreneurs, whose charming and unique shops often lack street visibility, and asked them to "take

over" the windows for a few weeks, a few months, or a season to design inspiring installations for the library's windows based on the theme of a library. Art organizations, schools or cultural groups are being invited, too, as long as the design emphasizes the library as an important and fun neighborhood resource.

While details of the Library Window Take-Over are being ironed out by FOSEL, Watson has done a simple installation of hand-made kites with colorful tails made of, among other things, yellow construction tape in the huge Tremont Street window at the library, with the theme of Throwing Caution to the Wind. On display are craft books about how to make kites, a harbinger of spring. Let it inspire you: Bring your own idea for another Tremont Street window installation to the



"Throwing Caution to the Wind," South End library's sample window installation on Tremont Street

South End library's staff. They will pass the ideas on to us as long as you leave your contact information.

For further information, call Anne Smart at the South End branch at 617 536-8241, or contact FOSEL at info@southendlibrary.org or at marleen.nienhuis@verizon.net.

The Drama of Art

The Launch Prize, Bridge Repertory Theatre, Deane Hall, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts, through March 20. 617-933-8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

BY JULES BECKER

Is a stimulus award a blessing or a curse? Will the recipient use the prize to further genuine promise or sell out to the business side of the art world? Could award committee agendas unfairly decide the winner? At the same time, might

all of these factors severely impact the friendship of competing artists? MJ Halberstadt explores all of these considerations in his intriguing new effort "The Launch Prize," now in a fast-paced lift-off by Bridge Repertory Theater of Boston at the Calderwood Pavilion.

Four budding painters are awaiting the announcement of one such award at the start of Halberstadt's largely engaging 90-minute play: Chinese-American Kim, part-Mexican Sebastian, African-American Michelle and Irish Tracey. Never

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"Waking Up White"

Community Conversation on Racial Inequity and White Privilege

On Wednesday, March 23, 2016 there will be a community conversation on racial inequality and white privilege with author Debbie Irving at the Old West Church, 131 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114.

Debbie Irving brings to racial justice the perspective of working as a community organizer and classroom teacher for 25 years without understanding racism as a systemic issue or her own whiteness as an obstacle to grappling with it. Debbie Irving shares her insight into the everyday perpetuation of racial inequality by well-intentioned white people.

As general manager of Boston's Dance Umbrella and First Night, and later as a classroom teacher in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she struggled to make sense of tensions she could feel but not explain in

racially mixed settings. In 2009, a graduate school course, Racial and Cultural Identities, gave her the answers she'd been looking for and launched her on a journey of discovery. Debby now devotes herself to working with white people exploring the impact white skin can have on perception, problem solving, and engaging in racial justice work. Her first book, *Waking Up White*, tells the story of how she went from well-meaning to well-doing.

The event is free to attend. RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1669268826631389/>. There is a Vespers Service at 6:30 pm and the community discussion with author Debbie Irving, is from 7-9 pm. Free parking is available at the underground lot 185 Cambridge Street between Au Bon Pain and ProOptical. Bring green parking ticket for validation. For more information about Debbie Irving's work www.debbieirving.com For more information on Old West Church, contact Reverend Sara Garrard at 706.575.0820 or visit Old West Church www.oldwestchurch.org

Street Cleaning is HERE!

The Boston Public Works Department (PWD) announced that efforts are underway to clean the streets following this winter's snow and ice, overnight posted street sweeping has resumed and posted residential street sweeping will resume in the North End, South End and Beacon Hill on March 1.

Snow and ice no longer pose an issue for street cleaning on these routes and this weekend's forecast allows PWD to proactively clean the streets. Several hand cleaning

crews and mechanical sweepers will be deployed citywide, within main squares, business districts and main thoroughfares.

Residents are asked to obey parking restrictions in order to assist with the City's efforts to clean the streets. Violators who do not move their cars during street sweeping hours will be subject to a \$40 ticket and towing.



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Forum

Continued from page 1

maximum of \$500 per residential address and \$750 per business or other address. One forum member noted that security cameras are used in parts of London and Manhattan and that both cities have seen a much lower crime rate in those areas. He said that the cameras act as a deterrent to crime and as a useful tool in identifying suspects and tracking their movements. The man noted that in Chicago, less than one per cent of crimes take place where cameras are in use. Acknowledging concerns for privacy, he pointed out that the courts have ruled that individuals do not have a right to privacy on public streets.

Fox said that in the Rutland Square area residents are preparing for a springtime rise in burglaries, vehicle thefts, break-ins and other crimes in alleyways, and that drop-cams, or small security cameras, in that area have revealed individuals trying door handles on cars along the alleys, reminding residents to secure their cars. A resident asked Taxter about the idea and he responded, "I love cameras. They have to be good quality cameras. They have to have storage on a hard drive or cloud server and the police need the ability and willingness of you all to share footage with us." Taxter added, "We need all the help we can get. We are limited in the number of patrol officers, so cameras help us out a lot. They are appreciated."

Carol Blair of the Chester Square Area Neighborhood Association (CSANA) said that she would be willing to pay for a security camera without a rebate, noting that many of

her neighbors on Northampton Street live in lower-income housing with security cameras that did not benefit from any rebate or financial assistance. Blair pointed out that the cost of the camera rebate program would compete in the budget with existing demands such as educational programs. Another neighbor suggested setting up crowd-funding for the cameras. The challenge of installing cameras on the front of homes under historic district restrictions was raised, and one Mass. Ave. neighbor said she plans to install a camera on the front of her house and take the position with the South End Landmark District Commission (SELDC) that it is necessary for security. Fox proposed forming a working group to set standards for eligible camera styles, to explore civil liberties issues and other concerns. Three Forum members volunteered to create a proposal for a security camera rebate program to present to the city for approval.

Notable topics in public works presentation were the announcement of the start of street sweeping on March 1 and the beginning of registration for the April 30 Boston Shines South End clean-up day. Fox brought up a recent conversation with Joe Lombardi, the CEO of Sunrise Scavenger, current trash pick-up contractor for the South End and North End, who said that if he could redesign the trash removal scheme, he would call for night pick-up.

Fox recalled the "hue and cry" of past discussions regarding the noise level of nighttime pick-up, asking residents to consider the positive impact that could ensue from putting trash out at 5:00 PM, having it picked up by 10:00 PM and decreasing the amount of debris

scattered in the road and the rodent infestation problem. According to Fox, Lombardi said that the sanitation industry has made great strides in creating noise-reducing technology for trash removal.

Medical and recreational marijuana were again a topic of discussion at the March 8 forum meeting. Fox noted that the City Council passed legislation requiring a ½ mile buffer zone between outlets selling medical and recreational marijuana in anticipation of a statewide referendum on legalization of recreational marijuana in November. Proponents of the buffer zone had originally proposed a one-mile distance. Fox said that in Colorado, there are clusters of marijuana outlets in certain areas that in effect create a sort of "Combat Zone" for recreational marijuana, and Colorado lawmakers would create buffer zones between outlets if they had it to do over again. Bob Minnoci, who chaired a 2013 task force on medical marijuana dispensaries for the Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA) talked about the South End Forum's draft proposal for a one-mile buffer zone between medical or recreational marijuana sales and any addiction recovery services and the idea of keeping marijuana outlets out of the South End due to the high concentration of recovery services, addicts and on-street drug sales in the South End and Newmarket areas.

"That's a way of protecting people who are in recovery who every day are encroached upon by drug dealers, hamming their recovery process. We want to have a solidified position here in the South End that we can take to the city council and work on getting legislation

passed to provide for that." Fox added, "One of the things we know about the South End is that it is Ground Zero for the opioid epidemic and we are the most densely populated neighborhood for social service programs in the entire city. Blackstone/Franklin Square Neighborhood Association (B/FSNA) president Eric Huang suggested creating a map of addiction recovery services to demonstrate their concentration as opposed to the absence of such facilities elsewhere, an idea that was well-received by others in the group.

Fox urged members to review and submit comments on the draft proposal and said that he and Minnoci would formulate a final proposal to come to an on-line vote before the next South End Forum meeting. An encouraging development on the addiction recovery front came in Scott Strode's proposal to bring Phoenix Multisport, an outdoor sports, athletics and networking program that helps build self-esteem and ongoing support for addicts in recovery to the South End. Strode outlined the program's mission and format, but the details of bringing Phoenix Multisport to Boston are to be determined.

At the top of the meeting, city councilor Frank Baker reported on the status of urban renewal (UR) reauthorization. Fox commented, "We are a little disappointed that we don't have the votes to get a two-year extension of urban renewal with a sunset clause, but we seem to be making progress." Fox reported that as of Monday, March 7, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) continued to call for a 10-year reauthorization with no reduction in the size

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Police and Fire Report

Arrest

At about 7:20 PM on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, officers from District D-4 (South End) responded to a radio call for shots fired in the area of 96 West Newton Street, a Boston Housing Authority Property.

Upon arrival, officers observed a male fitting the suspect's description a short distance from the original address. Officers stopped the male and while speaking with him, a 9mm ammunition casing fell from his pocket. Simultaneously, officers canvassing the area for discarded evidence observed a loaded black 9mm Ruger P95DAO with a high capacity feeding device in a gap between a nearby building and porch. By virtue of a written trespass notice from the BHA to the suspect and the unlawful possession of the shell casing, officers arrested 19-year-old Isaac Almedarez of Roxbury for Trespassing and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition. Statements made

freely by Almedarez in front of officers during the booking process lead officers to additionally charge him with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device, and Discharging a Firearm within 500 Ft. of a Dwelling.

Woman dies in South End apartment fire

Firefighters responded around 6:15 a.m. on Saturday morning, March 12, to a fire in a third-floor apartment at 109 E. Canton Street. The Boston Fire Department reports a woman was pronounced dead at the scene of a fire. Two other people were hospitalized for observation.

The fire, confined to that apartment caused an estimated \$100,000 in damage. The exact cause is under investigation.

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WITNESS, Hon. Joan P. Armstrong, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 8, 2016 Felix D. Arroya, Register of Probate		

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME		Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
In the matter of: Ameerah A. Rahman Kalantan Of: Boston, MA		
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A petition has been presented by Ameerah A. Rahman Kalantan requesting that: Ameerah A. Rahman Kalantan be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows: Ameerah Abdulrahman Cluntun	Docket No. SU16C0014CA	Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street PO Box 9667 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
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Drama

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quartet comes to terms with their respective approaches to the competition and motivations for their entries.

Kim initially conceals her identity by submitting her painting with the name 'Last Sunday' and finds it necessary to defend herself particularly to attitude-rich Sebastian. Eventually theatergoers will see more and more signs of a growing romance between them. Michelle emphasizes her ethnic roots in her entry and indicates that she would use the award to travel to Africa as part of the development of her art. At the same time, the pursuit of the prize clearly is putting a strain on Kim and Michelle's friendship.

The male rivals have their own very different agendas. Austin makes an organic motif integral to his painting and looks to travel to major European museums as part of his artistic development. There are significant moments when he suggests that his colleagues' submissions may not be judged solely on merit-moments resulting in real tension. Sebastian seems more interested in the business of art and a genuine personal aesthetic. It is telling that he speaks of an Antrios—the name of the highly debated white-on-white painting in the Yazmina Reza play "Art," a reference that becomes more revealing of his career plans as the play progresses.

What makes all of these cross-currents especially absorbing is the play's movement into a "Rashomon-like" structure involving the envelope revealing the prize winner. It is no spoiler alert to say that ostensibly bride-to-be Michelle turns out to be the recipient—and must consequently postpone her wedding if she is to undertake her artistic African safari. Yet Halberstadt tantalizes looks at her colleagues one by one as possible recipients. While these scenarios are skillfully described, the device itself finally becomes more predictable than revelatory. If the play makes no major statement about the power of fame and celebrity, it nevertheless entertains and provides some welcome food for thought about art.

Under the sharp direction of Tiffany Nicole Greene, the Bridge Rep make that thoughtfulness very appealing. Angela K. Thomas has the right acerbic delivery as Michelle but never loses sight of her vulnerability as Kim's best friend. Bari Sebastian has the idiosyncratic style of an Oscar Levant in his on-going skepticism about his colleagues' respective philosophies and motivations. Katharine Chen Lerner convincingly moves from a kind of deadpan defensiveness about her art to a sympathetic position as Michelle's friend and Sebastian's love interest. John Tracey does well articulating Austin's frustrations as the 'white competitor.' High marks go to Skylar Burks for creating the impressively distinctive canvases submitted by the four competing artists and Stephen Petrilli for lighting that fully enhances each entry.

All of the painters are on the threshold of graduation and inviting futures. Bridge Rep's finely drawn "Launch Prize" makes audiences winners as well.

didactic about political correctness, "The Launch Prize" smartly turns stereotypical attitudes on their proverbial head this diverse

Forum

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of the North End, Back Bay and Bay Village to coordinate opposition to a UR extension of more than two years, but added, "The BRA has done a full court press during the past two weeks with every lawyer, every architect and every project manager sitting in the city council chambers. We understand that there are political dimensions [such as] elections that influence policy decisions, so we are willing to talk about three years."

Fox stated that a majority of councilors would not approve urban renewal authorization beyond five years, and the BRA has hinted it might be willing to go down to seven years. The BRA reportedly stated that it won't be able to have an inventory of all of its property in less than two years. A member wondered why there is support for reauthorization in the city council when the downtown neighborhoods are united in their opposition to the UR extension. Fox said that organized labor is supporting the UR reauthorization, arguing that it creates jobs. Alana Olsen, chief of staff to councilor Essaibi-George, said that Essaibi-George attended a hearing on the topic in early March and is waiting for further details on the reauthorization plan from the BRA before taking a position. Fox said that the at-large councilors have been "incredibly responsive" and that District 2 councilor Bill Linehan is still formulating his stance, whereas Tito Jackson favors ending the entire UR program. Fox urged residents to contact councilors to make their views known.

The next South End Forum meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 PM.

of UR zones until after reauthorization. Fox said that the forum has been working with representatives

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ASK DOG LADY



Advice on Pets, Life, Love

BY MONICA COLLINS

Dear Dog Lady,

I am in a new relationship with a man I adore. The only problem is his dog, Chopper, who's "in control." The dog barks constantly, jumps in people's laps (not a lap-size dog) and sleeps smack in the middle of us in the bed. We can't even be affectionate because of the dog "blocking" us. I don't mind the dog being in the bed, but I think he needs to be at the end of the bed. I just can't handle a dog conditioned to do what he pleases. How do I handle this situation?

—Claire

Dear Claire,

This isn't about the dog; it's about the man you "adore." Chopper doesn't have the control, your guy does. Try to maintain your sense of humor and

composure as you work through this. You should not be so attached to the outcome (presumably, a Chopper-less bed) that you forget you're still in a new and fragile relationship.

You might begin the conversation simply by suggesting Chopper be trained to sleep at the foot of the bed. This seems reasonable enough. See how your boyfriend responds to this modest proposal. If he reacts negatively or defensively, you have insight into his character. If he's open to your suggestion, this could lead to a general conversation about the dog's behavior. Your man needs to realize your feelings matter.

Dear Dog Lady,

I work in a very dog-friendly office. For the past few months, employees are allowed to bring their dogs to work on Fridays. I brought Max, my large shepherd mix, only once because he didn't mix well with others. He barked, sniffed everything and everyone in sight, knocked things with his tail, tried to steal lunches. I spent all my time chasing him and trying to get him to be quiet when I hitched his leash to my desk. It was not fun.

I avoided a recent dog-friendly office lunch because I didn't want to wrangle Max. My supervisor has been chillier. I'm worried about my standing in the company. Should I bring Max back to work?

—Ray

Dear Ray,

Your business sounds dog-friendly to the extreme, which is great because dogs don't play office politics the way humans do. Nothing about Max's demeanor seems untoward. He is a dog, doing what they do — sniffing, roaming, knocking stuff over, begging for belly rubs, scrounging for food while too excited to lie down and sleep. By the way, how do the other dogs behave? Surely, on "Fido Fridays," yips and yowls are acceptable. Understand the canine

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Start Time: 10:30 AM

Agenda:

- Principal Report- 5 Minutes
- Public hearing regarding the name change proposal from "William E. Carter Development Center" to the "William E. Carter School"
 - Please sign-up to speak if interested
 - All public comments will be limited to 2 minutes in order to ensure all participants have an equal opportunity to speak.



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PLAN: Dudley Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Dudley Square and Roxbury. The goals of this study are to provide an inclusive community engagement process, create an updated vision with the community, and establish an implementation plan that will lead to the issuance of Requests for Proposals ("RFPs") for publicly-owned and vacant privately-owned parcels in Dudley Square.

We look forward to having you join us at the workshop.

For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>

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**PUBLIC
MEETING**

771 HARRISON AVE THE COSMOPOLITAN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

650 HARRISON AVE
Boston Police Department
District 4 Community Room
South End, 02118

PROJECT PROPONENT:

716 Harrison Church, LLC

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Proposal to convert the existing Immaculate Conception Church, the attached 'Link Building' and an internal courtyard, into condominium residences. The project will consist of the creation of 63 new residential units with an affordable housing commitment in accordance with PDA No. 59 approved by the BRA Board in 2003. In addition, the Development will include 54 bicycle spaces and 48 on-site garage parking spaces, with 25 adjacent garage parking spaces in the adjacent James Court garage. The exterior of the church will remain substantially intact with the exception of a few minor changes.

MAIL TO: CHRISTOPHER TRACY
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
PHONE: 617.918.4259
EMAIL: Christopher.Tracy@boston.gov

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:
Thursday, April 21

BostonRedevelopmentAuthority.org

[@BostonRedevelop](https://twitter.com/BostonRedevelop)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Dog Lady

Continued from page 5

corporate ladder is now part of your office culture – unconventional as the concept may be. Bring Max back to the office and just relax about his behavior. Anyway, the place will not be new to him and he just might relax and settle in more

Dear Dog Lady,

I want to help out at a local dog shelter near my house, but I was wondering if any of my three dogs would be upset by my coming home smelling like "another dog". I have a five-year-old Jack Russell and two rat terrier Chihuahua-mixes, four and three-years-old. What do you think?

—Jeff

Dear Jeff,

Congratulations for volunteering at a shelter, which is a fine activity on the side of the angels. Your pack is bound to be more intrigued than angry. The dogs will inhale the shelter bouquet and think, "Cee, Jeff's been somewhere exciting." Your pets will be titillated by your new smells; they won't be upset or jealous. The latter emotion plagues humans, not dogs.

Dear Dog Lady,

My son has a dog and a cat. He gives the dog very little water because he says he'll just urinate in the house and spit it up. The cat he very seldom gives any water. When I take care of them, the dog will drink a whole bowl of water but I've never seen the cat drink that much when I give it to him. I've told my son the animals need water. Am I right?

—Sandra

Dear Sandra,

Animals need daily hydration to survive. Anyone who doesn't give fresh water to pets every day doesn't deserve the pleasure of pets' company. Order your son to fill up two bowls of water every day and give them to his dog and cat. Not giving water because he's afraid the dog will pee in the house is the worst excuse ever. Depriving an animal of water is tantamount to abuse. Also, tell your son to take his dog outside for regular walks. If he refuses or neglects his duty, stage an intervention and order him to surrender his animals to you. You brought this up; you're obviously concerned. Take action.

Go to www.askdoglady.com to read chapters from "Book of Shorby: A Little White Dog Leads Me Home" on the new blog.

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Pet of the Week

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Also, be sure to check out our:
WEBSITE: www.arlboston.org
BLOG: arlbostonblog.wordpress.com
TWITTER: @ARLBostonRescue
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalRescueLeagueofBoston)

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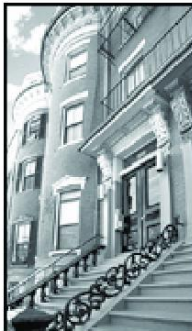
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DON GREEN



The Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA") is seeking nominations from residents, business owners, institutions, and community organizations for a Citizens Advisory Committee ("CAC") for the proposed Back Bay Station & 165 Dartmouth Street Garage Project, located at 165 Dartmouth St. Back Bay, Boston, MA. The CAC will serve to inform and advise the BRA throughout the public participation process involved in the project.

CAC meetings will begin in the spring of 2016 and continue through the summer. Nominees must commit to attending all CAC public meetings and working sessions, which will be held monthly and take place during weekday evenings. It is anticipated that the meetings will run approximately 2 hours.

All CAC public meetings and working sessions will be open to the public. Meetings will be led by BRA staff. Major stakeholders, including other public agencies, will be invited to attend and contribute to the working sessions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Nominations should include the name of the individual, his or her address, e-mail address, and any affiliation to neighborhood organizations or institutions. Each submission should also include a statement as to how this person would best represent the neighborhood's interests. All nominations should be submitted in writing by e-mail or regular mail. The nominations will then be presented to Mayor Martin J. Walsh, who will make the final determination on the CAC members.

Please direct any questions to Lauren Shurtleff, Senior Planner, Boston Redevelopment Authority, 617.918.4353 or lauren.shurtleff@boston.gov.

**WRITTEN NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE SENT BY 5:00 PM ON
MARCH 28, 2016 TO:**
MAIL: Lauren Shurtleff, Senior Planner
ATTN: Back Bay Station and the Garage at 165 Dartmouth Project
Boston Redevelopment Authority
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02201
E-MAIL: Lauren.Shurtleff@boston.gov

Teresa Polhemus
Executive Director/Secretary
March 14, 2016



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National Emerging
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We're Seeking Input from Our Community.

The National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL) is seeking applications for new members for its Community Liaison Committee (CLC). The CLC was formed to facilitate communication between the NEIDL and the community and to ensure transparency in the activities of the NEIDL.

The mission of the CLC is to promote a continuing conversation between the community and the NEIDL about the NEIDL's activities and research. This dialogue must be an honest and respectful exchange of information, questions, and concerns intended to build trust and understanding.

The NEIDL, owned and operated by Boston University, is dedicated to the development of diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments for newly emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The NEIDL contains state-of-the-art BSL-2, BSL-3, and BSL-4 laboratories to conduct this important research in a safe and secure environment.

Individuals interested in becoming members of the committee may apply online at www.bu.edu/NEIDL or by contacting Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/Boston University Medical Campus; email: neidl@bu.edu; phone: 617-638-1911.

All applications must be received by **April 1, 2016.**