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# CHELSEA RECORD

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35 CENTS

## APPRECIATION

### Anthony C. Simboli a monument to Chelsea

Special to the Record

On Tuesday morning, December 29th 2020, the American flag flying atop the Massachusetts General Hospital Building at 151 Everett Avenue was lowered to half-mast. The first developer to take an outsized risk on the City after the great fire in 1973, Anthony C. Simboli, died early that morning. He was 91.

He is known far and wide in city circles dating back to the 1980's as being driven, focused, fair, intelligent and a risk taker. Thankfully, for the city of Chelsea he chose to take a risk on the city, when almost no one would. To underscore this point, It took almost ten more years before another major risk on the City was taken by the Wyndham Hotel in 1991, now the Hilton Hotel.

He and his children, Anthony and Patricia, developed more than 14 parcels in the city from 1983-2016. The family held



Anthony C. Simboli participates in the topping off ceremony as he signs the steel beam for the FBI Headquarters building on Everett Avenue.

company, ACS Development Corporation, may be best known for relocating the Federal Bureau of Investigation from downtown Boston to the corner of Everett Avenue and Maple Street, an architectural

gem of more than 275,000 sf, which lights up Route 1 every evening and brings hundreds to the city by day to eat, shop and stay in hotels.

ACS Development Corporation's history of de-

velopment started at 151 Everett Avenue in 1983, jumped to 160-180 Second Street in 1986, landed for some time, beginning from 1992 2000, at 80,

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### Chelsea Jewish Lifecare Kicks Off "Superheroes Saving Lives" Campaign

Special to the Record

Chelsea Jewish Lifecare (CJL), one of New England's leading nonprofit healthcare organizations with campuses in Chelsea and Peabody, unveiled its new Superheroes Saving Lives campaign. Geared to its dedicated and loyal frontline staff, the light-hearted campaign focuses upon serious subjects: thanking employees for adhering to proper in-

fection control protocols as well as conveying the importance of taking the coronavirus vaccine.

Created in English and Spanish, the three month campaign features videos from the assisted living and nursing home residents, who thank the staff for their "heroic" efforts in keeping them safe during the pandemic. The videos span the gamut from humorous to serious to emotional. Additionally, staff

also encouraged their own family members to record videos showing how important it is for individuals to follow safety guidelines and proper hygiene protocols.

"We have faced many challenging and unprecedented situations since the beginning of the pandemic," said Adam Berman, President of Chelsea Jewish Lifecare. "Our staff has been extraordinary the entire time. I am incredi-

bly grateful for their resilience, dedication, and co-operation in keeping our residents safe and healthy. This campaign is our way of thanking our employees and letting them know how much we appreciate their efforts." Berman added, "We're also hoping it instills a little bit of humor into our daily routine."

The campaign slogan,

See SUPERHEROES Page 5

### Rep. Jessica A. Giannino sworn into MA House of Representatives

Special to the Record

In a socially-distanced inaugural ceremony, Governor Charles D. Baker officially administered the oath of office to the 192nd Massachusetts General Court on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

Among the legislators being sworn-in was the newly-elected State Representative for the Sixteenth Suffolk District, Jessica A. Giannino. Representative Giannino, whose district includes parts of the Cities of Revere and Chelsea and the Town of Saugus, was assigned "Seat 22" in the House Chamber, a seat that has a lot of meaning to the district and served as the very seat of Rep. Giannino's immediate three predecessors.

"I am so very humbled and grateful to have this



Newly-elected State Representative for the Sixteenth Suffolk District, Jessica A. Giannino.

opportunity to serve you - the people of Revere, Chelsea, and Saugus. A sincere thank you to the voters of the Sixteenth Suffolk District who have

chosen to send me to Beacon Hill to be your voice in the Massachusetts House of Representatives," said Representative Giannino (D-Revere). "Now, the work truly begins! I look forward to working with Speaker Mariano and all of my colleagues this upcoming legislative session to

achieve great things for the Sixteenth Suffolk District and the entire Commonwealth."

Giannino acknowledged that because of COVID restrictions, it was very unfortunate that her family and supporters were not able to join her at the State House of this special day.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to my family - particularly my grandmother, Joann Giannino and my father, Chris Giannino - for their unwavering love and encouragement over the years, and my deep gratitude to my friends and supporters for your dedication in helping to get me elected to this position," Giannino reflected. "I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge my late grandfather, Christy Giannino. I know that he would be so proud if he was here to say that both his granddaughter and his niece served as State Representative for the Sixteenth Suffolk District."

### 'Let's Make Some Enemies'

Council President calls Council to fight for justice in 2021

By Seth Daniel

When Council President Roy Avellaneda had his coffee shop open and thriving in Cary Square, there were a number of meaningful quotes on the ceiling from world thought leaders like John F. Kennedy, Gandhi, Bob Marley and William Faulkner.

He would often talk to customers about which quote stood out to them and why, but a quote from Winston Churchill always stood out to him, he said. That quote was about making enemies, and it read, 'You have enemies, good. That means you stood up

for something some time in your life.'

It's a quote he was reminded of last weekend, he said, when watching a television show that quoted a Charles McKay poem about enemies.

Avellaneda, who was elected to his second term as Council President Monday night in an 8-0 vote of his colleagues, said he struggled to think about what to say after being re-elected. He said with the new year, he wanted to avoid talking about COVID-19, which has had more than enough discussion over the past

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Council President Roy Avellaneda asked his fellow councilors to fight injustice in all forms this year - perhaps making some enemies along the way. He was re-elected in an 8-0 vote of his colleagues to a second term.

### COVID vaccinations began at Chelsea Soldiers' Home

Staff Report

On Tuesday, the first veteran residents at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea received the COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccination was done onsite through a federal Long Term Care pharmacy partnership program with CVS and Wal-

greens. The onsite vaccinations also began for staff at the Soldiers' Home.

In Chelsea, Dominic Pitella, 94, was the first resident vaccinated at the Soldiers' Home. Pitella has been a resident of the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea

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### TAKING AN OATH FROM THE LIVING ROOM



State Rep. Dan Ryan joined scores of other state representatives on Wednesday, Jan. 6, for a remote swearing-in ceremony

with Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. Members of the House and Senate were able to participate in-person at a socially-distant, outdoor swearing in at the State House, or online remotely in a separate ceremony. State Rep. Dan Ryan took to his laptop in the living room, and had his children - Audrey and Ella - join him to take the Oath of Office. Rep. Ryan won a contested race last Sept. 1 over Chelsea Councillor Damali Vidot. Though the 2020 formal, extended legislative session ended late on Tuesday night, legislators were up early and ready on Wednesday morning to begin a new session for 2021.

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# Baker signs police reform legislation; Chief Kyes, police leaders take wait-and-see approach

By Seth Daniel

After months and months of controversy at the State House, Gov. Charlie Baker on Dec. 31 signed “An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth,” a controversial piece of legislation that creates a mandatory certification process for police officers, increases accountability and transparency in law enforcement and gives police departments a greater ability to hire or promote only qualified applicants.

Both of Chelsea’s state delegation members voted in favor of the final bill that Gov. Baker signed.

The bill reached an apex of consternation last year for lawmakers as many found themselves between strong voices for police reform in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minnesota, and also strong voices for the support of the vast amount of police officers that do the right thing day in and day out. It was a balancing act that took debate to a heated level from every angle before the bill entered into a conference committee in the fall and went quiet. However, in December, the bill came out in a compromise piece that, after some back and forth with the governor, came out in final form and was signed just before the calendar turned over from 2020 on New Year’s Eve.

“This bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation and thanks to the Black and Latino Caucus’ leadership on the hugely important issue of law enforcement accountability, Massachusetts will have one of the best laws in the nation,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Police officers have enormously difficult jobs and we are grateful they put their lives on the line every time they go to work. Thanks to final negotiations on this bill, police officers will have a system they can trust and our communities will be safer for it.”

Said former Speaker Bob DeLeo, “I am proud that the House lived up to its vow of listening to folks with lived experience in enacting one of the most comprehensive approaches to police reform in the United States since the tragic murder of George Floyd. My unyielding gratitude to Speaker Mariano and Chairs Cronin, Michlewitz and González for their persistent effort to improve our law enforcement system. I am confident that the House of Representatives will build on this achievement in the time ahead and am humbled that legislation which promotes fairness and equality are part of the House’s legacy.”

WAIT AND SEE FOR POLICE

For police advocates, such as Chelsea Chief Brian Kyes (who is also

the president of the Massachusetts Major Cities Chiefs of Police organization), there are some things that are of concern, and things to wait and see about.

Kyes said after the process played out later in the year, he and the Chiefs organization felt it was a good piece of legislation that in the long run will improve policing.

“There’s no real concern,” he said. “It’s an incredibly complex piece of legislation. There are some new chapters and sections created in the law. There is a new Commission created, the POST, or Peace Officer Standards and Training...In the meantime, there will be a lot of work to get the POST Commission running. It will be challenging to get that going...There are a lot of moving parts to get this up and running, but in the long run it will definitely be worth it. It will take time to work out the kinks, but will it overall enhance the professionalism of law enforcement in our state – I think the answer is that, yes, it will.”

The POST has been a note of controversy for Kyes and the Chiefs over the past several months, mostly due to the composition of the Commission being primarily civilians that would oversee conduct of policing. The nine-member POST in the final bill is made up of three members of law enforcement (one police chief, one union representative and one minority law enforcement officer). The other six are civilians and must be an attorney, a member of the Mass Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), a social worker, a retired Superior Court judge, and appointees by the governor or Attorney General.

“They’ll all be professional people and will be there for the right reasons,” he said.

He said one unfortunate outcome from the police perspective is the idea that many put forth that chokeholds – which is what killed Floyd – needed to be outlawed, and gave the impression officers in Massachusetts use them. He said no one is trained to use chokeholds in Massachusetts for decades, and though they are now made illegal in the bill, no one used utilized them before.

“It’s never been a tactic utilized here,” he said. “It’s unfortunate that some think that they’re used in

policing as a tactic. It’s absolutely never trained or allowed in Massachusetts. Now it is codified into law though and it is very specific.”

Everett Chief Steve Mazzie, who has voiced several concerns over the last several months, has had family policing the streets of Everett since 1926, and he said over those years policing has become more transparent, professional and accountable. He said it has also become more complex, but most officers already demand excellence from others and support raising the bar. However, the new bill has him worried that more officers will retire, and fewer young people will want to be police officers.

“With the hasty passing of the police reform bill I am concerned that not only will those that supported it not get the desired results that they are looking for, but also I fear that public safety may suffer in the long run,” he said. “We have already begun to see quality seasoned professionals retire and I am concerned that our applicant pool will shrink as those previously interested in policing will turn to other professions that are not only less dangerous, but also ones in which they feel supported as well as not second-guessed on everything they do.”

Like many, Mazzie said he worries that if the POST members aren’t there for the right reasons, it could become a bad situation.

“If they are perceived as anti-police, that could be a game changer,” he said.

STATE DELEGATION SUPPORT

Locally, Chelsea’s state delegation has been united on the bill.

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico did vote in favor of the bill and supports the signed version.

“This legislation is a product of both thorough debate and compromise, and I am confident that the product of this process is a bill that will go a long way towards modernizing law enforcement standards and addressing racial justice reforms,” said Senator DiDomenico. “My office heard from an unprecedented number of constituents on this issue, demanding justice and long-overdue reforms. My team and I listened to each and every person who contacted us about this legislation, and I am grateful to everyone who

weighed in and urged the Legislature to deliver a fair and just bill. I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate and House, especially Senators Chang-Diaz and Brownsberger and Representatives Cronin and González on the conference committee, for their meticulous work to produce a bill that brings us one step further along on the path to racial justice and equity.”

State Rep. Dan Ryan also voted for the bill, and supports the final version, but said it was one of the most difficult votes he has ever taken.

“This was the toughest legislation I’ve worked on in my seven years of service as State Representative,” he said. “The atmosphere around the bill was emotionally charged at times; while also deliberating under COVID precautions. I feel confident that we came up with a public safety bill that codifies proven best practices statewide with consistency. The bill also continues the conversation on pieces that need to be further flushed out. I’ve had many conversations with constituents with varying opinions, members of law enforcement as well as colleagues in municipal and state government. These conversations were honest and respectful even if tense at times. In the end, I believe we are all better off for having had this conversation and seized the opportunity to continue to making progress on community and police relationships in the Commonwealth.”

The law did have the support of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, and the Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers (MAM-LEO).

State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez, a key negotiator on the bill, of Springfield, said the new law marks a time for healing between police and minority communities.

“Today begins to address decades of demands to bring reform

and accountability to law enforcement institutions,” said González, chair of the Black & Latino Caucus. “Today will go down in history as a necessary step to begin the healing process between the police and the Black and Latino communities. Building consensus is not always easy, but Massachusetts has always had Patriots ready to take the first steps on national issues. Governor Baker, Senate President Spilka, Speaker DeLeo, the Black and Latino Caucus and the thousands who took to the streets are our modern day Patriots.”

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE LAW

This legislation will, for the first time, create a mandatory certification process for police officers through the POST Commission. The Commission, through a majority civilian board, will certify officers and create processes for decertification, suspension of certification, or reprimand in the event of certain misconduct. The nine-member commission will be responsible for investigating and adjudicating claims of misconduct, maintaining databases of training, certification, employment, and internal affairs records for all officers, and certifying law enforcement agencies. By creating a central entity to oversee officer certification, the Commission will ensure that those officers’ training and misconduct records are available both to the Commission and to those officers’ current and future employers, improving accountability.

Governor Baker amended the bill to strengthen its due process protections for law enforcement, added police labor representation on the Commission, and strengthened the bill’s facial recognition provisions ensuring law enforcement agencies can continue to access these potentially lifesaving tools responsibly.

The new law identifies the general circumstances under which police officers can use physical

force, and specifically bans the use of chokeholds and prohibits firing into a fleeing vehicle unless doing so is both necessary to prevent imminent harm and proportionate to that risk of harm. The bill also generally precludes officers from using rubber pellets, chemical weapons, or canine units against a crowd. Violations of any of these provisions may provide grounds for an officer to have their certification suspended or revoked.

The bill places strict limits on the use of so-called “no-knock” warrants, requiring such warrants to be issued by a judge and only in situations where an officer’s safety would be at risk if they announced their presence and only where there are no children or adults over the age of 65 in the home. The legislation provides for an exception when those children or older adults are themselves at risk of harm. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement to seek a court order when conducting a facial recognition search except in emergency situations.

The legislation includes key provisions of the State Police reform legislation the Administration filed in January that provide new tools to improve accountability and discipline within the Department and to enhance diversity in the Department’s recruitment and promotional practices. Those key provisions include establishing a State Police cadet program, enhancing the Colonel’s ability to address and correct misconduct, updating rules governing promotions of uniformed members to officer positions, removing the requirement that the Governor look exclusively within the State Police when appointing a colonel, and creating a new criminal offense for police officers who knowingly receive payment for a fraudulent claim of hours worked.



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Chelsea

RECORD

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EMISSIONS BILL IS A  
BIG STEP FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT

The approval on Monday by both houses of the Massachusetts legislature of a bill that requires the state to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 represents a huge step toward the goal of mitigating the effects of climate change in our state.

Although the total carbon emissions emanating from Massachusetts obviously is only a small fraction of global emissions, the legislation provides a blueprint for other states and private industry to follow.

Some say that the ultimate goal of net-zero by 2050 is unattainable, but in our view, that is understating the reality of what is happening in the world today.

Despite the best (or worst) efforts of the Trump administration to perpetuate the use of coal and other fossil fuels, renewable energy actually is cheaper than fossil fuels thanks to the advances in technology of wind and solar energy.

Most excitingly, the progress in the development of hydrogen fuel cells, which has been more than two decades in the making, finally is beginning to look like it will become a feasible source of energy within 10 years, making the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 more than just a dream.

We applaud the action by Gov. Charlie Baker and our legislature in bringing to fruition an environmental action plan that recognizes the pressing need to address the issue of climate change.

Although the pandemic rightly is in the forefront of government leaders’ attention today, that problem will seem like a stroll in the park if we do not take immediate action to avert the looming climate catastrophe that threatens our planet’s very existence.

ANTHONY C. SIMBOLI

The recent passing of Anthony C. Simboli marks the end of an era in the recent development and history of the City of Chelsea.

For almost four decades, Mr. Simboli’s company, ACS Development Corp., played the major role in the resurrection and renewal of our city in the wake of the Great Fire of 1973 and the subsequent national recessions that hindered Chelsea’s comeback after that conflagration.

However, despite the ebb-and-flow of the economy and the political implosion of the city -- Chelsea was placed into state receivership in the dark days of the early-1990s -- Mr. Simboli never lost faith in a community that in many respects became his adopted hometown.

His company launched countless major commercial real estate projects in Chelsea, most notably the FBI building at Maple and Everett Aves. Almost all of the major development projects that have taken place along Everett Ave. in the past two decades are a result of the foresight and faith that Mr. Simboli placed in Chelsea.

However, Mr. Simboli’s interest in Chelsea was never a one-way street. He was active in community affairs and became known as one of the most generous benefactors in the city to various civic and youth organizations. His scholarships at Chelsea High School have provided financial aid to more than 150 CHS graduates headed to college.

Mr. Simboli also was a large donor to many other causes. On the Brighton campus of Boston College, his alma mater, the building that houses the School of Theology and Ministry and the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies now bears the name Simboli Hall in recognition of the donation made by Mr. Simboli and his wife, Gloria.

The Simbolis made a large gift to the Brigham & Women’s Hospital that endowed the Gloria M. and Anthony C. Simboli Distinguished Chair in Asthma Research. Mr. Simboli was an asthma sufferer, but received extraordinary treatment at the hospital for which he showed his gratitude.

Mr. Simboli led an amazing life that epitomized the American Dream. He grew up in the North End and entered Boston College at the age of 16 in 1946, becoming the first member of his family to attend college. He accelerated his way through his studies, graduating with both a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in philosophy in the same year, becoming the only person in the history of that elite school to attain those seemingly disparate degrees.

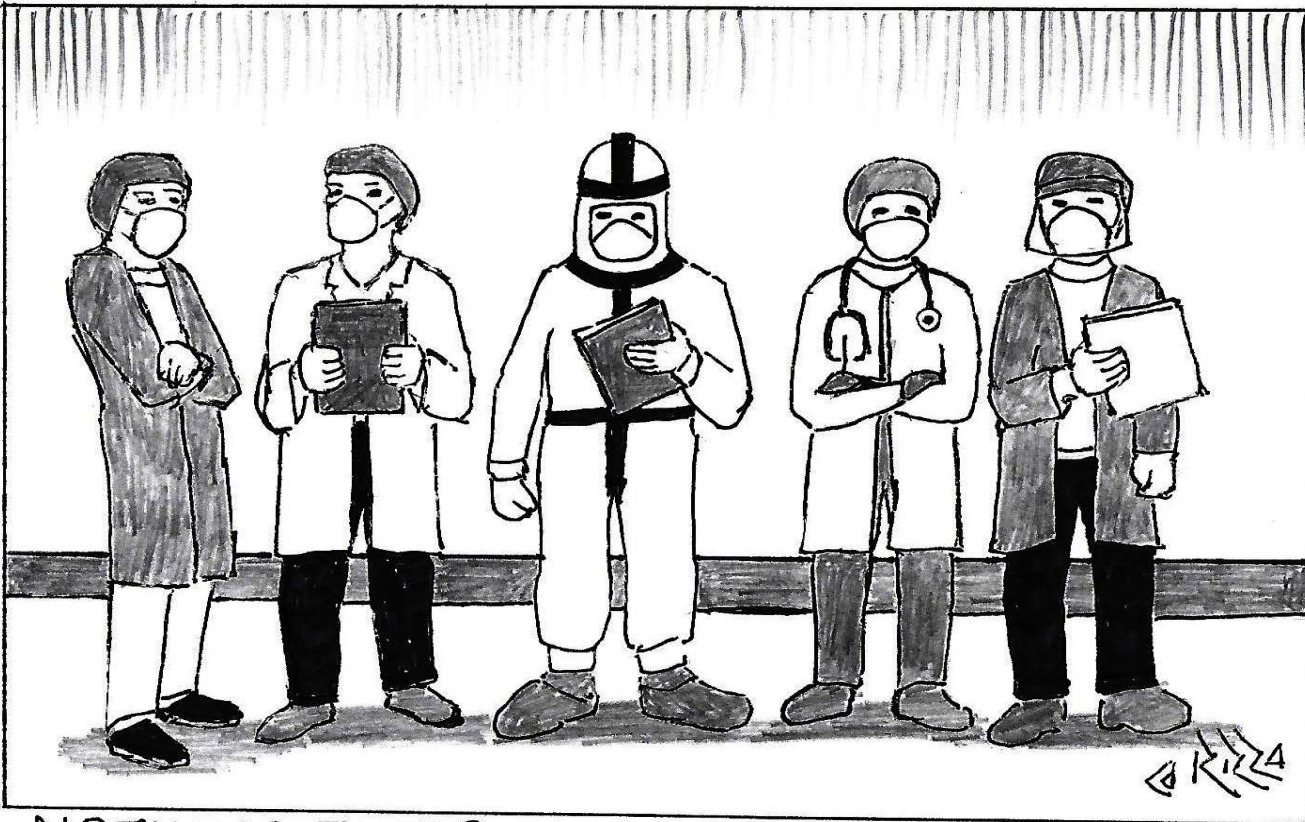
He then went to work for the CIA , serving for three years in the Far East. He returned home to work in the private sector, eventually forming the hugely successful real estate firm that bears his initials.

Anthony C. Simboli lived life to the fullest, but he never forgot his roots and where he came from, which perhaps is why Chelsea and its people held a special place in his heart. The city always will owe him a debt of gratitude for being the moving force that helped Chelsea rise phoenix-like from the ashes in a manner that truly benefited our city and its people.

We know we join with all of our fellow residents, especially those who came to know Mr. Simboli personally, in expressing our condolences to the Simboli family, particularly his devoted wife Gloria, son Anthony J. (who runs his own real estate development firm, also based in Chelsea), and lovely daughter Patricia (an accomplished business woman in her own right who now is the President of ACS Development), on the loss of their wonderful, kind, and loving husband and father who was a man of honor and deep faith.

May he rest in peace.

Forum



NOTHING FINER THAN A FRONTLINER

GUEST OP-ED

What six dollars can do

Dr. Glenn Mollette

When I was sixteen years old, I was invited to speak at a little country church in rural Denver Kentucky, not far from Paintsville.

The church had all but closed its doors but one man, Harold Rice, and his family wanted to see the church stay open and do well.

A church with few to almost no people typically does not attract too many interested ministers. I had spoken in my home church a few times and was a guest speaker in a few others. Mr. Rice asked if I would consider speaking at the church on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons at 2:00. I agreed, and brought a message to maybe seven or eight people my first Sunday. The crowd consisted of Harold and his wife June Rice and their family. The church was an old building with a pump organ and a sign behind the pulpit that said, “Preach the Word.”

I stayed with the little congregation called Liber-

ty Baptist Church throughout high school. By the time I was seventeen Mr. Rice was talking to me about being the official pastor and about ordination. In time I would become the pastor and would be ordained. I was too young, too inexperienced and unskilled for such a responsibility but youth is adventurous and will try what those of us who know better would never consider.

The church grew and we started having 20 to 30 people and often more. People literally received Christ, joined the church and were baptized. This was all amazing.

Even more amazing was Mr. Rice offered me a grand salary of \$60 a month to help buy my gasoline. The trip one way from home was over 30 miles so this was appreciated. He also presented me with paperwork for a perk. The church was going to put 10 percent or \$6 of my salary into the church denominational retirement plan, then known as The Annuity Board. It’s called

Guidestone today. He had me to complete a form solidifying my agreement to this monthly contribution. I was about seventeen at this stage and had zero interest or thoughts about retirement. Six dollars a month kind of seemed like a joke.

I was with Liberty church a couple of years or more and about ten to twelve of those months Mr. Rice made that \$6 contribution to my retirement faithfully. Although, I never thought another day about it from the moment I signed those papers.

Seven or eight years ago I did wonder if that account even existed. I called up The Guidestone retirement people and with my Social Security number they told me in a few seconds that the account did indeed exist and my balance was \$31,000. Shocked would not describe how I felt. I almost had to pick myself off the floor. If Mr. Rice had made as many as 12 contributions the total invested would have been \$72. Now, years later I was looking at over

\$31,000. Since that day of first inquiring that little \$6 account now has over \$46,000 and still growing.

The point of all this is save some money when you can. Start as young as possible but even if you are old put something away every month. If you can save hundreds every month that is wonderful, please do. However, don’t ever underestimate the growth potential of saving a little bit of money every month, even if it’s just \$6. And yes, every time I look at that account, I remember Mr. Rice and the good people of Liberty Baptist Church who not only encouraged me then but are still encouraging me today with just \$6.

*Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.*

LETTERS to the Editor

THANK YOU  
TO CHELSEA  
PUBLIC WORKS  
COMMISSIONER

To the Editor;

The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore would like to publicly extend a special Thank You to Public Works Commissioner, Fidel Maltez, for the use of a city message board for Zonta International’s annual “Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women” campaign.

Due to the pandemic suspending traditional fundraising efforts this year, Chelsea Zonta was faced with the challenge of creatively publiciz-

ing our annual advocacy crusade for the safety of women, and our ongoing support of HarborCOV which does that work so beautifully in this community.

Without hesitation Fidel graciously agreed to our request to provide the message board. The message, displayed in both English and Spanish, was strategically placed in Bellingham Square for the duration of the campaign providing an immeasurable and invaluable amount of publicity for this campaign and Zonta’s mission.

With the drastic spike in domestic violence being reported during this

pandemic, never has it been more crucial to publicize the help available to women. With the unflagging support of Fidel and the City of Chelsea Public Works Department, we are certain we will be able to help many women finding themselves in domestic

violence situations. For that, we are extremely grateful.

Thank you,

**Janice Tatarka,**  
**President**  
**Georgia Green**  
**Joan Lanzillo-Hahesy**  
**Zonta Club of Chelsea**  
**and North Shore**

CHLSEA

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GUEST OP-ED

Responders need vaccine now

By Senator Sal DiDomenico

One of the greatest bright spots of 2020 and now leading into this New Year has been the speedy development and subsequent rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. For the first time in many months, we are finally able to see the light at the end of the tunnel, with the promise that someday soon we will all receive the inoculation needed to stay safe from this deadly virus that has ravaged our communities. Of course, the first phase of the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine has rightfully been dedicated to reaching our healthcare workers and first responders; those on the front lines who have already risked so much to serve us in the midst of this public health crisis.

However, Phase 1 of this rollout is already off to a slow and rocky start. Perhaps most concerning is the fact that the goal of “Operation Warp Speed” on the national level was to get the COVID-19 vaccine to 20 million Americans by the end of the year, and yet just over two million Americans have been vaccinated thus far. At that rate, it has been estimated it would take the United States 10 years to vaccinate 80% of Americans. That is an unacceptable lack of leadership at the federal level, which undoubtedly has exacerbated the vaccine rollout issues we are already facing in the Commonwealth.

Here in Massachusetts, I am also deeply concerned about the lack of clarity, transparency, and communication on how and when vaccines will be administered to the priority populations that fall within Phase 1 of the vaccine rollout. Many members of our first responder community-- especially our firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, and police officers-- have indicated that they have received little to no information about when vaccines will be provided to emergency

personnel or how it will be administered to them during the Phase 1 timeline. The current plan for administering the vaccine to public safety personnel is to give that responsibility to local boards of health, all of which have already been forced to take on extraordinary and overwhelming responsibilities throughout this public health emergency.

Many public safety officials and my legislative colleagues have raised concerns that this plan has led to confusion and delay around vaccine rollout. Vaccinating our public safety personnel will not be as simple as it is for hospital personnel or even long-term care facility residents. The disparate geographic nature of our public safety community is something we must plan for accordingly, not only to guarantee all first responders receive the vaccinations they need, but also to ensure they receive the communication from public health officials that they deserve. Unfortunately, our Commonwealth’s already overburdened local boards of health are structurally unprepared to execute this massive undertaking, especially without additional support and guidance at the state level. That is why I am joining with my colleagues in calling upon the Baker Administration to implement two key recommendations.

First, we must create a regionalized plan in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on how to distribute and administer the vaccine to our public safety personnel. This plan should take into account how and when different regions will be able access vaccines and how the Baker Administration plans to prioritize each region and department. Our local boards of health cannot do this on their own, and the state must step up to

ensure our public safety officials are not left behind. The second proposal is to deploy the 7000 of the 12000 professional firefighters around the Commonwealth who are also EMTs to administer the vaccine to their colleagues, including call and volunteer departments. This is a simple and effective solution that will help to more quickly distribute the COVID-19 vaccine to our men and women on the front lines.

I know that vaccine distribution and administration is a massive feat that will undoubtedly need to be reviewed and amended as rollout continues over the coming weeks and months. Under no circumstances do I believe this holdup has been deliberate by anyone on the state level; our Commonwealth is being asked to take on an extraordinary challenge without proper support and resources from the Oval Office. However, it is also clear that further action needs to be taken and these two proposals are a great place to start.

I am already encouraged to see that the Governor Baker plans to address many of our concerns this week and will release more information regarding vaccine distribution plans for first responders in light of these concerns. I think we all know that our first responders, including our men and women in uniform, have played a crucial role in Massachusetts’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic and have risked and sacrificed so much for the greater good of our community. We owe it to them to ensure that our vaccine rollout is equitable, transparent, and effective. I stand with our public safety community and will continue to support any and all efforts to ensure that they are given every opportunity to access this vaccine as deserved.

*Sal DiDomenico is State Senator of Middlesex and Suffolk Counties.*

GUEST OP-ED

Council has been effective in moving the City forward in COVID-19

By Councillor Leo Robinson

(As delivered at Monday night’s Organizational Council meeting)

I have served on the City Council for 30 years as an At Large Councillor. Starting in the 1980’s when it was a Mayor form of governance, when I also ran for Mayor, and since, under the City Manager. I have served as president of the City Council for five times during this period.

Tonight, I would like to share some brief remarks with you about the role of the City Council to advance the interests of its residents and the overall improvement of the city.

This is a time of tremendous anxiety and worry for many of our residents, who have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus- many whom have fallen ill or had family members and friends fall ill or pass away, and from the constant fear of exposure to the virus in their workplace.

The coronavirus has caused the loss of jobs in the community, and placed our families under severe economic burdens-with the loss of income and the lack of resources to cover the basic needs of life -

food and housing.

The Council has responded to this crisis, by working closely with the City Manager and voting funds to provide emergency aid for rental assistance, emergency food, small business grants, and mortgage assistance of homeowners.

The needs exceed the city’s ability to address them completely on its own. So as a body, it is critical that we work collectively to advocate for State and Federal resources to carry this burden with us. I see this collective City Council action as a natural extension of its recent support for funding and programs to for its residents.

It would be my focus as a senior member of Council to continue this collective effort to serve the residents of the City- those currently at need and those residents who face coming challenges. This means for me that cooperation with my fellow councilors in a comprehensive effort to assist residents in need is the priority; and that gaining a consensus and working together in how we advance a program of aid and assistance.

Many of our residents

- renters and homeowners - are at-risk in these times. The City Council can play a role in helping relieve these conditions. This past term, we voted rental relief funds for renters, and mortgage relief funds for homeowners. Relief for small business owners, and food relief for those in need.

This is the kind of immediate response to local needs that our City Council has been effective in delivering. So I want to personally express my commitment to listening to the needs of our community, and working with all of you to continue to respond and move this community forward.

Most importantly, these times have exposed the systematic racial and economic injustice that many in our community are burdened by- and that create undue obstacles and exposure to health inequities, income and employment and educational advancement. This Council has within its power to help to change this.

Here’s to the New Year of health, opportunity and equality for all. Thank you.

*Leo Robinson is a Chelsea City Councillor.*

Vaccine / Continued from page 1

since April 2018. Pitella, a U.S. Army Air Corps Corporal, was a cook with the 559th Air Service Group and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II 1945-1946. His awards include the Army of Occupation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

“I’m hopeful this will help everybody,” said Pitella.

“Administering vaccines to our frontline health care workers and now some of our most vulnerable residents in the Soldiers’ Home provides relief and hope that there are brighter days ahead for all,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We are pleased to start providing the first dose to the incredible men and women living in the Chelsea facilities to offer more protection from COVID-19, and remain grateful to the dedicated staff who are working tirelessly to keep our veterans safe and healthy during the pandemic.”

Said Veterans Services Secretary, and former Chelsea Soldiers’ Home superintendent, Cheryl Lussier Poppe, “The Department of Veterans’ Services and the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea move



Dominic Pitella, 94, a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran and resident at the Soldiers’ Home in Chelsea, receiving the first COVID-19 vaccine at the Home. Photo credit: Jessica Rinaldi/The Boston Globe.

forward with hope and perseverance to a bright future for our veteran residents and staff. We look forward to continuing our work to ensure our veterans are cared for, and today’s vaccination is another vital step in our mission as we continue this commitment. The ongoing support of the surrounding community is impactful, and deeply appreciated, as we navigate this public health emergency together.”

As a Long Term Care facility, the Soldiers’ Homes in Chelsea is prioritized in Phase One of the COVID vaccine distribution plan. The Soldiers’ Home is enrolled in the CDC’s Long-Term Care Pharmacy Part-

nership program for the COVID-19 vaccination administration.

In the coming weeks, there will be additional onsite vaccination clinics at the Home to vaccinate veteran residents and staff. The Home is encouraging the vaccine for all Veteran residents and staff, and are working to obtain consent for those interested. COVID vaccination is voluntary for everyone – however all people are encouraged to get vaccinated.

In addition to the COVID-19 vaccination at the Soldiers’ Home, the facility will continue weekly testing and daily symptom checking of all residents and staff.

Superheroes / Continued from page 1

“Not all superheroes wear capes. At Chelsea Jewish Lifecare, we wear masks,” emphasizes the fact that healthcare workers have emerged as real-life superheroes, risking their own health every day to save the lives of their beloved residents. Each of the Chelsea Jewish Lifecare assisted living and skilled nursing residences created their own video, showcasing heartfelt “thank you” messages from the residents. Phyllis Silverman, who is a resident of the Harriett and Ralph Kaplan assisted living resident in Peabody, summed it up best. “I know you only want us to be happy, you want us to be healthy, you want us to be safe,” said Silverman. “I truly thank the entire staff for that.”

Components of the campaign include Superhero buttons, care packages, t-shirts, candy, and capes. Employees are encouraged to take the Chelsea Jewish Lifecare Superhero pledge, in which they promise to “keep myself, my co-workers, my residents and my com-



Left to right Kristen Donnelly, Director of Admissions, Shellie Honohan, CFLE Activities Director, Ansu Kinteh CFLE Director of Resident Care.

munity safe by following safety practices at work, at home, and in my community.” Updates to the campaign will be made regularly throughout the three month period with new videos, posters, messages,

and tributes to staff members. The campaign will also be rolled out in CJL’s sister organizations, JGS Lifecare in Longmeadow and Deutsches Altenheim in West Roxbury.

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# Simboli/Continued from page 1

90 and what later was developed into 70 Everett Avenue, and known as Harbour Pointe Park. Its projects also included the refurbishment of the 105 Everett Avenue, the Fire Station, now known as Chelsea Station, 99 Fourth Street, the strip along the north side of Second Street, where Chelsea Clock was relocated and where Mass Truck and Tire once stood and 215 William Street, an abandoned poultry processing factory.

They bought properties from banks, the city, quasi-government agencies and other property owners. They did what they had to do to protect investments previously made. It was important in the early days of Chelsea's emergence to control the surrounding properties in order to create an atmosphere of safety, beauty and opportunity. One project was not enough. There were no other developers or projects to create the momentum. They had to create it themselves, taking bigger and bigger risks. It took enormous effort to lure businesses to the city. The environment and the properties had to start to look and feel like other suburban and downtown properties. The City was the envy of other communities. In Anthony

C. Simboli and ACS Development Corporation, it had a developer willing to invest and offer high quality, well designed buildings, provide conscientious management and long-term stable ownership.

Beyond its contribution to the built environment, the family has invested in the community in a number of different ways supporting ROCA in negotiating the acquisition of its current home, serving on the School Buildings Committee, creating the Simboli Family College Award for graduating Chelsea High School seniors which has reached more than 150 students, and contributing to the Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous other non-profits.

But most of all, it cannot be too boldly stated how valuable it was to have a respected advocate, promotor, believer, loyal, disciplined, and patient investor in our small community of 1.8 square miles. The commercial tax base was built up; an example for what was possible was proven; and the way was paved the way for the hotels, retail modernization, and residential projects. Without a fight, the firm gave up land to make the Silver Line possible for the residents and

businesses of Chelsea.

Always willing to participate in the community, ever promoting and bringing Chelsea to the attention of major corporations, and quietly continuing to support the young people and other needs of the residents, the founder of ACS Development Corporation, Anthony C. Simboli, is a true hero and favored son of the city of Chelsea. He will be missed at Chelsea Zoning Board meetings. His passion and drive for the city and for himself to do the right thing always led to positive outcomes for his proposed projects. We look to his children, Patricia and Anthony, to continue to carry on in his standards of excellence. There has not been as bold a champion, who patiently waited and committed to the City for as long and as deeply, as Tony Simboli. An eternal optimist, a lover of people and a believer in location, he turned out to be right over and over again. We are grateful to him for his love of Chelsea, trust in its Government, and respect for the good people who loved the City and encouraged him to take a risk such as Val Kowalski, Leo Robinson and others. A piece of Chelsea's history is lost but his properties are a lasting legacy.



ACS Development developed the old fire station property on Everett Avenue.



Anthony Simboli (right) at the construction site in 2000 for the property at 70 Everett Ave.

## Baker signs healthcare legislation

Gov. Charles Baker has signed a comprehensive healthcare legislation that promotes key priorities initially included in the Administration's healthcare legislation filed in 2019.

The new law increases insurance coverage for telehealth services, expands the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, other specialized nurses, and optometrists, and takes steps to protect consumers from surprise medical bills. Recognizing the continuing impacts of COVID-19, the law also extends requirements for all insurance carriers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment.

The legislation signed contains several priorities initially included in the Baker-Polito Administration's healthcare legislation, which was introduced in the fall of 2019, including requiring coverage of telehealth services and expanding the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses. The legislation also extends, and in some instances codifies, critical measures taken through executive action throughout the pandemic to ensure timely access and coverage for COVID-19 treatment and services.

In addition to the provisions enacted, the recently signed Fiscal Year 2021 budget includes several provisions that correspond to proposals initially introduced in the Administration's healthcare legislation. These proposals require all Massachusetts insurers to use a standard credentialing form, and prohibit additional costs for same-day billing for multiple primary care and behavioral health visits.

The key provisions of the new law include:

- Requiring coverage of telehealth services including behavioral healthcare
- Expanding Scope of Practice for Advanced Practice Nurses and Optometrists
- Increasing disclosures around provider costs and network status to protect consumers from surprise medical bills.
- Removing barriers to urgent care centers for MassHealth members.
- Extending insurance coverage and access to COVID-19 testing and treatment.
- Directing a study and report of the impacts of COVID-19 on the health care system.

Key provisions of the law signed today include:

- Strengthening Telehealth Coverage: At the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Baker-Polito Administration, through emergency order, required insurers to immediately cover telehealth to ensure the continuity of services remotely when it was not safe to do so in person. This led to a rapid shift to remote delivery and significant uptake in telehealth services. The legislation builds on these emergency flexibilities, and requires coverage parity for telehealth services and implements permanent telehealth rate parity for behavioral health services. Additionally, it requires rate parity for telehealth coverage for primary care and chronic disease management services for two years, and rate parity for all services for 90 days past the state of emergency.
- Expanding Scope of Practice: During the public health emergency, the Administration implemented emergency orders to increase health care system capacity, including temporarily expanding the scope of practice for several types of practitioners, and streamlining licensure requirements before independent practice. The new law makes permanent certain measures to expand scope of practice for nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, psychiatric nurse mental health specialists and optometrists.
- Taking Steps to Ad-

dress Surprise Billing: The new legislation takes steps to protect consumers from surprise bills, including a provision that requires providers to notify patients in advance as to whether a procedure is in or out of network. Additionally, it directs the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to work with the Health Policy Commission, Center for Health Information and Analytics, and Division of Insurance to recommend a default rate for out of network billing by September of 2021.

- Increasing Access to Urgent Care for MassHealth Members: Retail clinics and urgent care centers provide important access points to healthcare beyond the traditional hours and sites of physician offices, community health centers, and hospitals. This legislation takes several steps to increase MassHealth member access to urgent care sites, including eliminating referral requirements before urgent care visits and requirements for care coordination with the member's primary care physician.
- COVID-19 Related Provisions: The bill extends requirements for insurers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment. Under this legislation, insurers, including MassHealth, are required to cover all COVID-19 related emergency, inpatient, and cognitive rehab services. Additionally, coverage is required for medically necessary outpatient COVID-19 testing, including for asymptomatic individuals under specific circumstances outlined by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The legislation also directs the Health Policy Commission and Center for Health Information and Analytics to analyze and report on the effect of COVID-19 on healthcare accessibility, quality and fiscal sustainability in both the short and long term, as well as those effects on long-term policy considerations, including an examination of existing healthcare disparities due to economic, geographic, racial or other factors.



The MGH Building under construction by Mr. Anthony Simboli's ACS Development Company.

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# Council / Continued from page 1

year. Instead, he called the Council to rebuild the City from COVID-19's relentless thrashing by fighting for justice in many forms – perhaps having to make enemies along the way.

“What does McKay’s poem and Churchill’s quote say about me?” he asked. “That I have come to accept enemies in the fight against perceived injustices. Chelsea is a community where you don’t have to dig too deep to see and fight for injustices. And along this career here I was told several times by mentors and friends that if you choose this fight or this cause you may lose votes, supporters, or business – maybe friends. I don’t know. Maybe it’s in my DNA because I have chosen to fight.

“I look at this Council and I see Councillor Recupero,” he continued. “I know he doesn’t always say things the right way, but be sure he’s a gentleman that fights – absolutely. My colleague Councillor Vidot. We don’t get along, but I’d be lying if somewhere in me I didn’t admire a bit of her for the times she has come up here and fought. She has stated she doesn’t care what the fallout will be – she’s going to fight. There are others up here that do the same. If I have one message for my colleagues, it’s that we’re here to fight for our residents. Let’s be sure in 2021 this Council goes out and makes enemies.”

Avellaneda’s speech was well-received by his colleagues after his re-election, and especially after a year where he has been an out-front and visible leader of the Council and the City’s efforts to provide aid and resources to residents. Mentioning Vidot was a surprise to many, especially given the years-long fight they have had about campaign finance, local issues and election campaigns. It was ever more surprising in that Vidot did not vote for Avellaneda for President, and in fact voted ‘present’ and then, for some reason, exited the meeting abruptly and didn’t return.

Councillor Giovanni Recupero was absent from the meeting due to the sudden death of his daughter, Liz, over the holidays. Condolences from his colleagues were extended.

Also in attendance were State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, State Rep. Dan Ryan, State Rep. Jessica Giannino, Supt. Almi Abeyta, City Manager Tom Ambrosino and a host of City Department Heads.

DiDomenico was the featured speaker of the night, and he thanked the Council for their willingness to work with the state delegation – and for the generous and timely relief approved for residents suffering from the health and economic effects of COVID-19.

“I want to congratulate President Roy Avellaneda, Vice President Judith Garcia and Delegate Leo Robinson...I know we’ll have renewed energy in 2021 and like Councilor Garcia said, rising up and being that Phoenix that we are in Chelsea,” he said over Zoom. “I also want to thank the Council and School Committee and the City Manager and Superintendent. We are one team and working as one to make sure Chelsea gets all it needs from the state and the federal level...If we splinter as a community and aren’t unified, we can’t come together to get what we need. Chelsea has always been known as be-

## No Enemies

By Charles McKay

You have no enemies  
you say  
Alas my friend the  
boast is poor  
He who has mingled  
in the fray of duty  
that the bold endure  
Must have made foes  
If you have none  
Small is the work  
you have done  
You’ve hit no traitor  
on the hip  
You’ve dashed no  
cup from purged lip  
You never turned the  
wrong to right.  
You’ve been a coward  
in the fight.

ing unified. I always say Chelsea should be getting more than their fair share because we need more in Chelsea.”

He also took time to thank the front-line workers and essential workers from Chelsea, who he said went out to work every day and kept things moving.

“Chelsea has kept our economy going in this region,” he said. “Many of our essential workers going to work every day putting themselves at risk riding trains and buses and getting to their jobs and keeping the economy going so the rest of us can stay home. I want to thank the many, many workers in Chelsea who have kept things going.”

Councillor Judith Garcia was also re-elected to her position as vice president of the Council, returning for a second term after an 8-0 vote. Vidot was absent from the vote after having left abruptly in the first 15 minutes of the meeting.

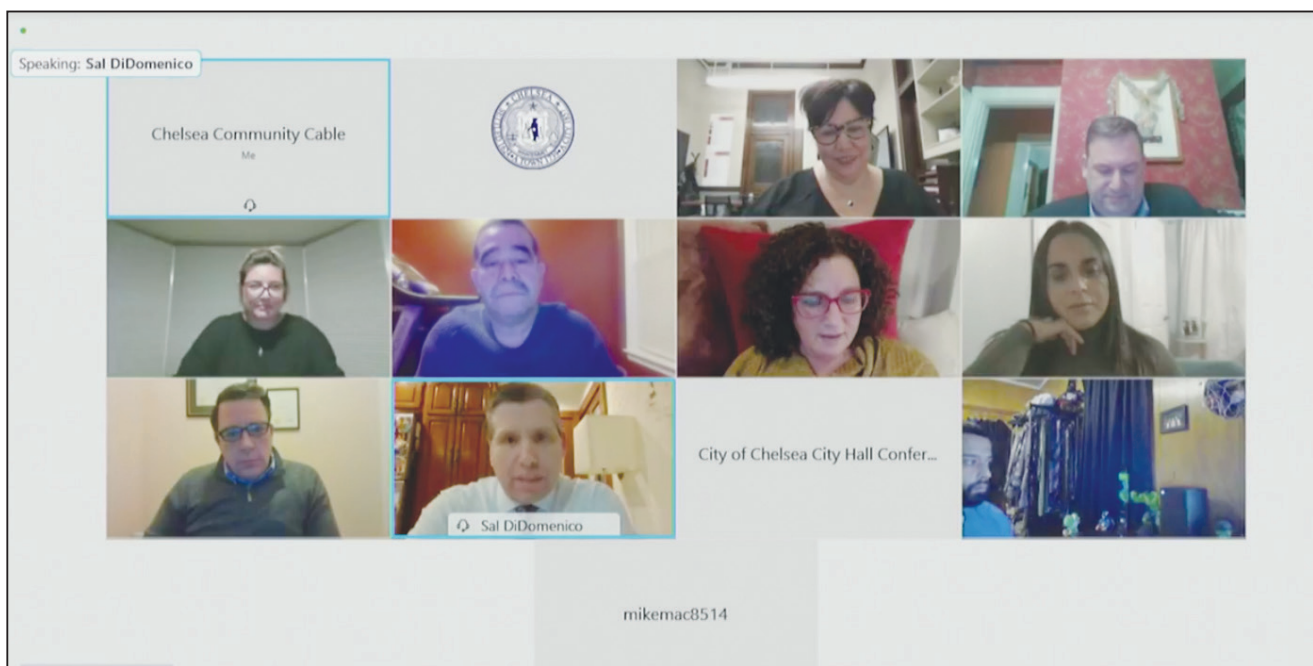
She said the Council has been focused on response efforts to COVID-19, and would likely continue on that path.

“I know and have faith we’ll continue to do amazing work this 2021 year that continues to carry these negative externalities of this 2020 COVID situation,” she said. “I know that together we can continue to do amazing work and continue to rise like the Phoenix to be this amazing resilient community we have proven to be so many times. I look forward to working alongside of you as we navigate and move forward with faith and, hopefully, the hand of God.”

Following that, Councillor Leo Robinson was re-elected as the School Committee Delegate in another 8-0 vote, with Vidot absent.

“Many of our residents - renters and homeowners - are at-risk in these times,” he said in a speech at the outset of the meeting. “The City Council can play a role in helping relieve these conditions. This past term, we voted rental relief funds for renters, and mortgage relief funds for homeowners. Relief for small business owners, and food relief for those in need. This is the kind of immediate response to local needs that our City Council has been effective in delivering. So I want to personally express my commitment to listening to the needs of our community, and working with all of you to continue to respond and move this community forward.”

The meeting concluded after a State of the City speech by City Manager Tom Ambrosino (see accompanying story) and Moments of Silence for many lost recently to COVID-19.



Attending via Zoom online, State Sen. Sal DiDomenico was the featured speaker for the ceremonies on Monday night.



Councillor Leo Robinson delivered an address to the Council and Administration at the outset of the meeting on Monday.



Councillor Leo Robinson was sworn in as the School Committee Delegate on Monday.



Vice President Judith Garcia is sworn into her second term as a leader on the Council Monday night.



Councillor Garcia spoke to her colleagues and asked them to come into 2021 with renewed energy and faith.



Council President Roy Avellaneda takes the Oath of Office from Clerk Jeannette Cintron White.

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# Rollins invites high school students to apply for paid internship in memory of fallen prosecutor

In memory of Suffolk prosecutor Paul McLaughlin, and in honor of his commitment to using the law as a means to improve the communities he served, District Attorney Rachael Rollins has created the Paul R. McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship and invited high school students in their junior year from Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop to apply.

“I never had the privilege of working with Paul, but more than 25 years after his murder, his passion for justice and second chances still stand as an inspiration to all of us.

This scholarship opportunity is one way that we can continue the work that Paul dedicated his life to,” District Attorney Rollins said. “He saw the role of the prosecutor as more than just holding individuals accountable for their actions. He knew that serving the community means engaging with the community not just on the worst days of their lives, but every day; not just in courtrooms, but in neighborhoods.”

Beginning in the Summer of 2021, McLaughlin Scholars will have the opportunity to join District Attorney Rollins’ office

for a two-month, paid internship. The program pairs each student with a mentor within the office and allows the Scholars to work alongside SCDAO staff. Scholars will be immersed in one of five internship focus areas: Public Policy and Strategy, Community Affairs and Relationships, Child Protection and Advocacy, Neighborhood Safety and Strategic Prosecutions, and an Executive Team placement.

This office’s relationship with the McLaughlin Scholars will continue well after their internship ends. Upon acceptance

into college, the Scholars will receive financial assistance toward their higher education.

“Paul’s legacy lives on in the work that we are doing here at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, at the Dorchester youth center that bears his name, and now with the McLaughlin Scholarship. This fund will help the next generation of aspiring civic leaders achieve the education necessary to continue the work that Paul committed his life to. Paul’s work continues through all of us, and with this scholarship fund, we’re able to

ensure that his work continues for generations,” District Attorney Rollins said. “We’ve reached out to our partners at Suffolk County high schools and the community nonprofits we work with to spread the word about this high school scholarship opportunity. We also made sure that our partners at the Department of Youth Services are aware of this opportunity. I encourage all youth to apply for the Scholarship, regardless of their interactions with the criminal legal system. I want to ensure that eligible young people in every neighborhood my

office serves are able to apply for this opportunity. It is my hope that our pool of applicants reflects the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our community, as well as the commitment to service that Paul’s legacy embodies.”

The deadline for applications is February 5, 2021. An online information session will take place on January 6, 2021. For more information or to apply for the Paul R. McLaughlin Scholarship, please visit [suffolkdistrictattorney.com/scholarship](http://suffolkdistrictattorney.com/scholarship).

## OBITUARIES

### Kazimir Pijanowski

February 12, 1952 – January 1, 2021

Kazimir P. Pijanowski, 68, died suddenly on Friday, Jan.1 at his home in Peoria, AZ.

A Chelsea High School graduate of the class of 1971, Kazimir went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree from Suffolk University.

Kaz loved to travel the world and has gotten to enjoy the many wondrous sites of Europe, all the way to the pyramids of Egypt. He also truly enjoyed working and what he did. Kaz was a business owner for many years and he loved greeting and socializing with his customers and enjoyed being on his feet all day; something he has truly missed over the last several years.

Kazimir loved living. Knowing that life is short and that tomorrow is never promised, he spent his days doing the things he enjoyed. We are grateful that he spent his last night on earth ringing in the New Year doing the things that brought him joy; being social, being lively, and celebrating with friends. And that, friends, is how it should be. That is how life should be lived.

Born and raised in Poland before moving to Chelsea at the age of nine, Kaz was the son of the late Stella and Joseph Pijanowski and brother of the late Edward Pijanowski. Kazimir is survived by his children, Kristina Mustone and Adam Pijanowski and his fiancé, Anna Merlino. He also leaves behind his wife, Gabriela (Olejnik) Pijanowski, his



sisters, Henia Marecka and Zosia Pijanowski and his brother, Richard Pijanowski and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Visiting hours will be held from the Welsh Funeral Home, 718 Broadway, Chelsea today, Thursday, January 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. Relatives and friends are most kindly invited to attend. All attendees are required to wear face coverings, practice physical distancing when greeting the family, pay their respects and exit the funeral home to allow other guests to enter. The Funeral will be held from the Welsh Funeral Home on Friday, January 8 at 9 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Rose Church, 600 Broadway Chelsea at 10 a.m. All attendees are required to provide contact information, wear face coverings, practice physical distancing while in church attending Mass. Services will conclude with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book at [www.WelshFH.com](http://www.WelshFH.com).

### Virginia Castro

May 25, 1951 – January 2, 2021

Virginia Castro, 69, passed away on Saturday January 2 at the Massachusetts General Hospital following complications due to Covid-19.

Born and raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico, she was one of eleven children of the late Luis Castro and Graciela Irizarry. She was the beloved wife of 48 years to Jorge A. Colon.

She settled in Chelsea with her husband and young family 35 years ago.

Her life’s devotion was to home and family. This devotion was exemplified by years caring for her beloved son, Richard. After her healthy one-year-old child became tragically and permanently disabled, lovingly and tenderly, she would care for his every need. At 18 years of age, Richard passed away in 1997. Her faith and devotion to the Lord gave her strength to persevere.

She loved flowers and animals and was a young girl at heart collecting stuffed animals and other collectables.



She is lovingly survived by her beloved husband of 48 years, Jorge A. Colon of Chelsea, the forever loved mother of her son, Jorge Colon and daughter, Ingrid Colon. both of Chelsea. She is the cherished grandmother of five and adored great-grandmother of two. She is also survived by five sisters and five brothers, many friends and extended family members.

Services and interment will be held privately due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Virginia will be placed to rest with her beloved son, Richard in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. We encourage family and friends who wish, to offer condolences at this time by means of the online guest book at [www.WelshFH.com](http://www.WelshFH.com).

### Douglas Crapo

Of Haverhill, formerly of Chelsea

Douglas A. Crapo, 63, of Haverhill died January 3 at High Point Hospice House.

Born and raised in Chelsea, the son of the late Carl and Claire (Stoddard)

Crapo, he attended Chelsea High School and was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1974. He served as Specialist 4, stationed in Germany and was a recipient of the Marksman Badge and the “Pershing Professional” Certificate for “outstanding achievement and devotion to duty” as a member of the Third Battalion of the 84th Field Artillery. He was released from active duty in 1976 and continued his reserve status until 1980.

Douglas was employed for eighteen years as a mechanic by Paul Revere Transportation. He was known as a hard worker, many times completing 12 hour days. He enjoyed fixing things himself and dabbled in all areas of mechanics.

He will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by a son and daughter-in-law, Douglas C. and Natasha Crapo of Haverhill,



and two sisters, Jane Crapo of Chelsea and Paula DeAngelico of East Boston, and was predeceased by his brothers, Carl and Russell Crapo and a sister, Ruthie Griffin.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend calling hours today, Thursday, January 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Berube-Comeau Funeral Home, 47 Broadway, Haverhill following the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of masks. His funeral service will begin at 6:15 p.m. in the funeral home and will conclude with the rendering of Military Honors by the U.S. Army. Burial will be at a later date. To send a message of condolence to the family or to share a cherished memory, please visit [www.berubecomeau.com](http://www.berubecomeau.com).

### Anthony C. Simboli

April 17, 1929-December 29, 2020

Anthony C. Simboli lived life with passion, determination, resilience and courage. He loved his wife, children and grandchildren, and his work. He enjoyed a competitive tennis match calling the lines closely, with a wink and a smile, a chess match with his grandson, and a vigorous business negotiation.

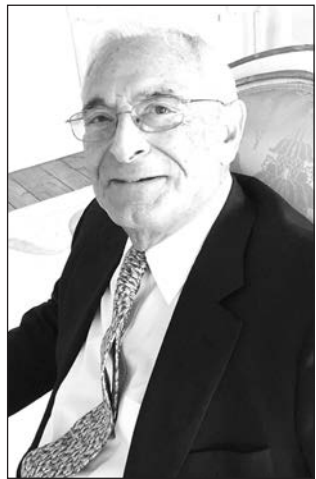
Most of all, he had a radiant smile that lit up a room, gathered people around him with his humor, humble intelligence, and firmly held opinions offending none. He grew up in the North End, in a five-floor walk-up, which he called the penthouse and believed that life could be shaped by mind over matter. He put this philosophy into action with eternal optimism and a belief that nothing was impossible.

He was privileged to attend Boston College, where he received a B.S. in Chemistry and an M.A. in Philosophy, in the same year, which is still a “college record.” He checked books out of the library rather than buying them; he hitch-hiked or walked from the North End to Chestnut Hill to save the trolley fare, and he studied at nights and weekends while working at a printing factory, with his father, by placing index cards with his notes along the printing presses.

From Boston College, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency. He lived in Washington D.C. but spent the majority of his time in Japan, just after the Korean War. Prior to leaving for Japan, where he lived at the Yakoska Naval Base, he married Gloria, the love of his life, to whom he remained devoted for 69 years.

When he left the CIA, to return to his roots in Boston, he bought a business, a drug store, in Wakefield Center, opening several locations and launching his retail acumen. Following that, he built one of the most well-respected convenience food store businesses in the country. On every major downtown Boston corner – from Harbor Towers to the Jocelyn Clinic and many suburban downtowns, there was a SunnyCorner Farms.

In the 1980’s, he sold the company and turned his attention exclusively to real estate development. His first speculative development was to build a



60,000 s.f. office building in Chelsea, in 1983, the first major building in over 100 years and the first after the great fire of 1974. He is credited with turning around the city, where he and his children developed 14 parcels of land, creating not just a vision but a reality of what was possible in a city where people said commercial development was impossible. His most recent contribution to the city was to relocate the Federal Bureau of Investigation from Boston to Chelsea. The impossible was made possible by his determination, focus, and drive.

He has been a loyal supporter of Boston College and other opportunities to make education accessible and affordable, including the Simboli Family College Award for Chelsea High School graduates, which now numbers more than 150 recipients. He and his wife are committed to medical research and founded a Chair in Asthma Research and established the Asthma Clinical Research Center at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital; established the Simboli Family Fund for Esophageal Cancer Research at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and supported the Pulmonary Medicine Department at the Mount Auburn Hospital.

He leaves his wife, Gloria, daughter, Patricia Simboli, son, Anthony J. Simboli, his grandchildren A.J., Trevor, and Daisy, and his sister Marie Simboli and brother Edward Simboli. He was predeceased by his younger brother, Patrick.

He loved life, tackled challenges, and relentlessly loved his family. Funeral services will be private. Expressions of sympathy can be made to the Boston College Anthony C. Simboli Scholarship Fund.

To place a memoriam in the Chelsea Record, please call 781-485-0588

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# HUD awards more than \$3.5 million to help families reach self-sufficiency

The U. S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded more than \$3.5 million to Massachusetts public housing authorities to help residents of public housing and voucher-assisted housing increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on public assistance and rental subsidies, this funding is part of \$78 million being awarded nationally. Under Secretary Carson’s leadership, more money has been allocated to the Family Self -Sufficiency (FSS) Program in FY20 (fiscal year 2020) than at any other point in the program’s history. See below for a list of Massa-

chusetts funding. “This funding can make a world of difference for Massachusetts families looking to find their path to self-sufficiency,” said David Tille, HUD New England Regional Administrator. “Putting people on the path to self-sufficiency by helping them find jobs and increase their earned income is an essential part of HUD’s mission,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “This funding is a good example of how federal and local partnerships work to help connect families to jobs and educational opportunities to help them become a success.”

HUD’s Family Self -Sufficiency (FSS) Program funding helps local public housing authorities to hire Service Coordinators who work directly with residents to connect them with existing programs and services in the local community. These Service Coordinators build relationships with networks of local service providers, who provide direct assistance to FSS participants. The broad spectrum of services made possible through FSS enables participating families to find jobs, increase earned income, reduce or eliminate the need for rental and/or welfare assistance,

and make progress toward achieving economic independence and self-sufficiency. Participants in the program sign a five-year contract of participation requiring the head of the household to set specific goals and achievements allowed under the FSS Program. To successfully graduate, the head of household must be employed and no member of the FSS family may have received cash welfare assistance for twelve months prior to program graduation. Families in the FSS program have an interest-bearing escrow account established for them. The amount credited

to the family’s escrow account is based on increases apparent due to improvement in the family’s earned income during the term of the FSS contract. Upon successful graduation, the head of household receives the escrow funds are able to apply those funds to advance their personal circumstances, including, for example, paying educational expenses or making a down-payment on a home. Many of the FY20 FSS awards are to public housing authorities with units in Opportunity Zones. Created under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Opportunity Zones aim to stimulate long-term investments in

low-income communities. HUD did not receive applications for FSS renewal funding from every eligible PHA with an existing FSS Program. With approximately \$2 million in remaining FY 2020 funding, HUD plans to issue a supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity inviting those eligible PHAs with FSS Programs to apply competitively for the residual FY 2020 funds. •Boston Housing Authority - \$303,318 •Revere Housing Authority - \$36,000 •Lynn Housing Authority (LHAND) - \$116,810 •Chelsea Housing Authority - \$72,000

# State announces availability of \$4 million to fund electric-vehicle charging infrastructure

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that an additional \$4 million has been made available to support new and enhanced electric-vehicle charging infrastructure programs across the state, as part of the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP). These programs, funded by the 2017 settlement of the Volkswagen (VW) diesel emissions court case, will provide \$1.5 million in funding for fast-charging stations, \$1.5 million for public-access charging stations, and \$1 million for workplace and fleets charging station infrastructure.

“Shifting a zero-emission transportation system is essential as we seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The electric vehicle charging programs announced today will also provide economic development opportunities across Massachusetts and support the growth of innovative clean energy jobs,” said Gov. Charles Baker. “This announcement builds on our recent commitment to launching the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program to reduce transportation emissions and invest in cleaner, more affordable transportation options for Massachusetts residents.”

The Massachusetts Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan announced last December committed the Commonwealth to designating 15 percent of the VW funding

to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, totaling approximately \$11.25 million. The Administration has previously made \$5 million in VW funds available for various MassEVIP programs, and today adds \$1.5 million in funding for a new competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, \$1.5 million for a new rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, and an additional \$1 million for a revamped Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program.

Administered through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), MassEVIP is making these funds available to private, public and non-profit employers, and educational and multi-unit residential property owners in the Commonwealth in order to install standard Level 1 (120-volt) and Level 2 (240-volt) EV charging stations, as well as Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations.

“Adding more charging stations to our current network will accelerate and increase market demand for electric vehicles,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. “Drivers will have greater access to convenient and reliable public fast-charging locations, reducing range anxiety and allowing them to travel without concern about where to charge.”

Under this new and enhanced funding under the VW settlement, MassEVIP

will fund electric vehicle charging equipment and installation costs through the following programs:

- A new \$1.5 million for a competitive Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) program, with an application deadline of March 19, 2021.
- An additional \$1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Public Access Charging (PAC) program, extending a prior fully subscribed \$2 million competitive version of this program. Improvements over the prior PAC program include accepting applications on a rolling basis and adding Level 1 charging stations as eligible equipment.
- An additional \$1 million for a rolling-enrollment Workplace and Fleets (WPF) charging program, extending the existing \$1.5 million program, for a total of \$2.5 million. Improvements over the prior Workplace Charging and Fleets programs include allowing private and non-profit fleet owners to apply, adding Level 1 stations as eligible equipment for fleets, and adding coverage of installation costs for workplaces.
- An existing \$1.5 million for a rolling-enrollment Multi-Unit Dwelling and Educational Campus charging program. Improvements over the prior program include reducing the minimum number of residential units from 10 to five, allowing educational campuses to apply, and adding coverage of installation costs.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### Chelsea Curves construction look-ahead through Jan 9

This is a brief overview of construction operations and traffic impacts for the Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves Rehabilitation Project.

#### ROUTE 1 TRAFFIC IMPACTS

•ROUTE 1 NORTHBOUND: Approaching the Tobin Bridge from Boston, the work zone begins in the right lane. 2 of 3 travel lanes will be open during daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

•From Monday, 1/4 through Friday, 1/8, Route 1 Northbound will be reduced to a single lane to set prefabricated bridge units (PBU’s) during the nighttime (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.).

•ROUTE 1 SOUTHBOUND: Approaching the Chelsea Curves from the North Shore, the work zone is in the median. As of Wednesday, 12/23 all 3 travel lanes are open during the daytime hours (5 a.m.–10 p.m.).

\*From Monday, 1/4 through Friday, 1/8 and then on Monday 1/11

through Friday, 1/15, Route 1 Southbound will experience a full closure overnight closure (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.)

\*The detour for these closures will be that southbound traffic will exit Route 1 at Carter Street, travel on Carter Street to Everett Avenue, turn left onto Everett Avenue, and turn right onto the Everett Avenue on-ramp to rejoin the highway.

#### WORK HOURS

•Most work will occur during daytime working hours (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) on weekdays. Some work will take place on a 2nd shift (2 p.m. – 1 a.m.) and overnight hours (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.) and on Saturdays (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.).

#### DESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULED WORK

•ROUTE 1 NORTHBOUND: Removal of existing bridge deck and installation of new bridge deck will continue through the Chelsea Curves.

•ROUTE 1 SOUTHBOUND: Removal of

existing bridge deck and installation of new bridge deck will continue through the Chelsea Curves.

#### COMPLETED WORK

•As of 12/27, the Tobin Bridge portion of the combined Tobin Bridge/Chelsea Curves project is now complete. All remaining work is within the Chelsea Viaduct portion of the job.

#### TRAVEL TIPS

Drivers should take care to pay attention to all signage and move carefully through the work zone. Police detail, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic and create safe work zones.

The contractors are coordinating with local event organizers and police to provide awareness and manage traffic during events. For your awareness, there will be no events at the TD Garden during this look ahead schedule.

For Advertising Rates, Call 617-884-2416

OBITUARIES  
Effective Jan. 1, 2021  
All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588


## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

  
CITY OF CHELSEA  
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS  
PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF INCLINED WHEELCHAIR LIFT  
The City of Chelsea Massachusetts through its Chief Procurement Officer is seeking bids for “Purchase and Installation of Inclined Wheelchair Lift”. Invitation for Bids will be available on or after January 7, 2021 by contacting Dragica Ivanis, Chief Procurement Officer at divanis@chelseama.gov or by visiting the City’s website at http://www.chelseama.gov/purchasing/pages/current-bids-solicitations. Bids must be sealed and clearly marked “Purchase and Installation of Inclined Wheelchair Lift” and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, City Hall, Room 204, Chelsea, Massachusetts no later than 11:00AM, Thursday,

January 21, 2021. Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, issued by a responsible bank or trust company. Or a bid bond duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon a surety company approved by the City, all in the amount of 5% of the bid payable to the “City of Chelsea.” The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject and/or all bids and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This invitation for bid is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 149, Dragica Ivanis Chief Procurement Officer 1/7/21

### LEGAL NOTICE

  
CITY OF CHELSEA  
Request for Proposals  
Food boxes for Chelsea Public Schools  
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking proposals for marked “Food boxes for Chelsea Public Schools”. Request for Proposals will be available on or after January 7, 2021 by contacting Dylan Cook, School Business Manager at dcook@chelseama.gov or by visiting the City’s website at http://www.chelseama.gov/purchasing/pages/current-bids-solicitations. Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked “Food boxes for Chelsea Public Schools” and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:30 AM on January 21, 2021. The City of Chelsea re-

serves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Dylan Cook School Business Manager 1/7/21

### LEGAL NOTICE


  
CITY OF CHELSEA  
CHELSEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
LEASED SPACE FOR CHELSEA OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY AND THE

INTER-GENERATIONAL LITERACY PROJECT  
The City of Chelsea, Massachusetts, through its Chief Procurement Officer, is seeking Proposals for marked “LEASED SPACE FOR CHELSEA OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY AND THE INTER-GENERATIONAL LITERACY PROJECT”. Request for Proposals will be available on or after January 7, 2021 by contacting Dylan Cook, School Business Manager at dcook@chelseama.gov or by visiting the City’s website at http://www.chelseama.gov/purchasing/pages/current-bids-solicitations.

Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked “LEASED SPACE FOR CHELSEA OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY AND THE INTER-GENERATIONAL LITERACY PROJECT” and submitted to the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer no later than 10:30 AM on February 09, 2021. The City of Chelsea reserves the right to accept

any proposal, to reject any or all proposals and to waive minor irregularities and/or formalities as it deems to be in the best interest of the City. In accordance with our Minority Business Enterprise Plan, we are inviting all qualified women and minority business firms to respond. The City of Chelsea is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This Request for Proposals is in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Dylan Cook School Business Manager 1/7/21


### LEGAL NOTICE

  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
Case No. 2019-08  
Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Chapter 40A that a Regular Meeting of the

Chelsea Planning Board of Appeals will be held via Webex video conferencing on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:00 p.m. With reference to the application of: Acquisitions Division LLC or Nominee For Site Plan Review of a Petition to establish ten (10) additional residential units by constructing a third floor above the existing commercial and residential space at 52 Washington Avenue & 245 Walnut Street All interested parties wishing to provide a public comment or to join the meeting must communicate with iepriest@chelseama.gov. Name and address must be included in order to be read during the Public Speaking section of the meeting and email address in order to join the meeting. A copy of the application and petition is available for review at the Office of the City Clerk, 500 Broadway, Room 209, Chelsea, MA.

1/7/21, 1/14/21

### LEGAL NOTICE

  
Notice of Openings for Boards and Commissions in the City of Chelsea  
Pursuant to the City of Chelsea Charter, Section 9-5(d), this is a Notice of all Board and Commission upcoming vacancies in the City of Chelsea through June 30, 2021. During that timeframe, openings will occur in the following Boards and Commissions: The Board of Assessors; the Board of Health; the Board of Library Trustees; Board of Registrars of Voters; The Community Schools Advisory Board; The Conservation Commission; The Council on Elder Affairs; The Cultural Council; The Chelsea Disability Commission; The Economic Development Board; The Histor-

ical Commission; The Licensing Commission; The Traffic & Parking Commission; the Zoning Board of Appeals; and the Youth Commission. Information about each of these Boards is available at https://www.chelseama.gov/home/pages/board-openings. All of these Boards have three year terms except for the Economic Development Board, which is a five year term, and the Youth Commission, which is a one year term. Those interested in applying should send both a letter of interest and a resume either by mail to the City Manager, Chelsea City Hall, 500 Broadway, Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150 or by email to tambrasio@chelseama.gov. Materials should be received by the close of business on Friday, February 5, 2021.

1/7/21



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

### DINNER PROGRAM IS A SUCCESS

EAST BOSTON - Back in February before COVID, the Shah Family Foundation (SFF) partnered with the Salesian Boys & Girls Club to revamp the club's kitchen.

The SFF outfitted the Boys & Girls Club's kitchen on Byron Street with Welbilt ovens that can not only reheat, but cook and steam fresh foods. At the time, the Boys & Girls Club served more than 130 meals at the club each day the new kitchen allowed the Salesian to prepare hot, freshly cooked meals.

An added bonus was the meals were being prepared daily by Cunard's Executive Chef and former Boys & Girls member Anthony Pino.

However, the pandemic cut down the Salesian afterschool and annual summer camp enrollment numbers in order to safely practice social distancing.

While the Boys & Girls Club may not be serving 130 meals in house as the pandemic continues, they are still able to feed all club members thanks to a recent Boston Resiliency Fund grant.

The Boys & Girls Club received the grant from the Boston Resiliency Fund to run a ten-week dinner program for club members and their families to enjoy at home.

A hot nutritious delicious meal is prepared by Pino on Wednesday evening to help families prevent food insecurity.

"Since the Club was closed for the holidays, bags of food were provided so families would not be without a meal last Wednesday evening along with extras to help families prepare for their holiday meal," said Salesian Executive Director Michael Triant. "The

food packages were made available with funds provided from the Boston Resiliency Grant. We are sincerely grateful to the Boston Resiliency fund for their hard work and generosity in providing needed resources for the children and families in our community during this very challenging time."

Triant said Pino was a Club kid and staff member while attending Savio Prep and Johnson & Wales University.

"He's brought his amazing talent back home and our kids are the winners," he said.

Pino said he will go to the club each Wednesday before heading to his regular shop at the Cunard at 4 p.m. Pino will prepare all the food for the day and Salesian staff will simply use the new kitchen equipment provided by the SFF to reheat and distribute the meals to Club members so they can enjoy the food at home.

"I grew up going to and working at the Salesian in high school and college," said Pino. "It's pretty cool being back in the building a few hours a week and seeing the smiles on the kids faces again."

### COVID RATE SHOWS DECREASE

EAST BOSTON - Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Eastie as well as the weekly positive test rate decreased for the first time in weeks.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Eastie residents testing positive for COVID last week decreased 43.5 and the weekly positive test rate dropped 19.5 percent.

Of the 29,855 Eastie residents tested for

COVID, 16.7 percent overall were found to be positive for the virus, a 43.5 percent increase from the 29.6 percent reported two Fridays ago.

Last week 2,406 Eastie residents were tested and 10.3 percent were positive--a 19.5 percent decrease from the 12.8 that tested positive two Fridays ago.

Citywide 34,463 residents were tested and 7 percent were COVID positive--a 4 percent decrease from the 7.3 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At his daily press briefing last week, Mayor Martin Walsh noted that on Tuesday, December 29, the City of Boston surpassed 1,000 deaths from COVID. He said that every number represents a person, with family and friends who are grieving their loss and missing them every day.

"My prayers are with everyone who has lost a loved one or continues to suffer from this terrible virus," said Walsh.

He acknowledged residents are all tired of living with the virus, and that it's tempting to let one's guard down but the virus is still with us, and will be in 2021.

"In Boston, we remain concerned about an increase in COVID activity following the holidays," said Walsh. "Our hospital numbers are higher than we'd like them to be. We have more people hospitalized right now due to COVID than we've had since early June. We all have a role to play in protecting each other, especially our most vulnerable, and helping to prevent further loss. That means staying vigilant -- and continuing to follow the public health guidance."

Walsh said the city and public health officials

### THE VILLAGE BAR & GRILL COMES THROUGH FOR THE PARLIN SCHOOL



Everett resident and owner of the Village Bar & Grill, Joao Lopes, delivered a boxfull of toys to Principal Dennis Lynch, Kimberly Auger, and Stacy Poste-Schiavo to distribute to families in need at the Albert N. Parlin School.

Joao Lopes who partnered with Councilor Stephanie Martins to donate hundreds of pizzas to CHA workers and seniors during the pandemic, organized a toy drive at the restaurant to make Christmas merrier and brighter for the kids in Everett. Multiple boxes were dropped at different locations including the Parlin School in Ward 2.

continue to encourage everyone to get tested -- especially if you were traveling during the holidays.

"There are more than 30 testing sites in the City of Boston, including mobile testing sites which are free and open to all, regardless of symptoms," said Walsh. "To learn more about these, or any of our testing sites, go to [boston.gov/coronavirus](https://boston.gov/coronavirus) or call 3-1-1."

Walsh added that the city continues to be in communication with healthcare partners as the federal and state governments work on distribution of the COVID vaccine.

"This week, Boston EMT's began getting vaccinated," said Walsh. "Since day one of this crisis, they have been on the frontlines, risking their own health for the health and wellbeing of all Boston residents. Our EMS providers have encountered more than 3,500 COVID-positive patients in Boston."

He also said that vaccine distribution to long term care facilities across Boston, like the Don Ori-one Nursing Home, began this week and this will help protect Boston's most vulnerable people, in the city's most vulnerable settings.

You can visit the State's website at [Mass.gov](https://Mass.gov) to see the full schedule of when vaccines will be available.

"I encourage everyone to get the vaccine, when your time comes," said Walsh. "It's safe, it's free, and it's the best way you can protect yourself and those around you. It's how we can help get life back to normal sooner -- and get back to doing all the things and seeing the people we love."

Eastie's infection rate rose by 6.1 percent according to the data released by the BPHC last Friday. Eastie's COVID infection rate went from 1,040.5 cases per 10,000 residents to 1,104.9 cases per 10,000 residents. The citywide average is 593.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 302 Eastie residents contracted the virus and there are now 5,185 confirmed cases, up from the 4,883 reported two weeks ago.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report

breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 11.9 percent percent last week and went from 37,366 cases to 41,847 confirmed cases in a week. Thirty-two more Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 1,020 total deaths in the city from COVID.

### DEMARIA DISTRIBUTES MASKS TO RESIDENTS

EVERETT - Mayor Carlo DeMaria announced that last week the City mailed masks to Everett residents to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Each resident will be receiving a reusable mask with the City of Everett "E" printed on it

"It is important that we are all being safe during these uncertain times," said Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "I am truly grateful for all the sacrifices our community has made throughout the year and these masks are a small token of my gratitude. We need to continue to fight this virus and stay safe. I hope residents will wear these masks with pride."

The mask includes a QRC code printed on the inside that can be scanned by using a smartphone camera. Once this code is scanned, residents will be brought to the COVID-19 resources section of the City of Everett's website.

For residents who did not receive a mask or for residents who would like additional masks, please email your name, address, and phone number to [mask@ci.everett.ma.us](mailto:mask@ci.everett.ma.us).

### DAV SCHOLARSHIP IS SECURE

EVERETT - City Councilor and Everett attorney Fred Capone met with Supt. Priya Tahiliani earlier in December to cement the future of an annual scholarship program that celebrates a great American service organization and equally dedicated Everett residents.

The Everett Disabled American Veterans Chapter 51 (DAV), which was formed in 1937 and

merged with Malden Chapter 85 in 2012, has long awarded an annual \$1,000 scholarship to an Everett High School senior. The Everett chapter was led by the tireless direction and supervision of George Desiderio and Richard F. Horgan for many years. Richard Connolly and John Troy were also instrumental in the chapter's earlier work and charitable efforts. Mr. Capone has served as the organization's legal counsel for more than two decades.

The trustee, pursuant to the terms of the trust, recently decided that coordinating the scholarship fund is best left to the Everett Public Schools, which can carry on this tradition every June by awarding the "Disabled Veterans' Camp Corporation/Janet Connolly O'Neil Memorial Scholarship." The late Janet Connolly O'Neil was a beloved Everett educator and a former Webster School assistant principal.

"Naturally, it will be our honor to maintain this scholarship program well into the future," Superintendent Tahiliani said. "While the membership of Chapter 51 has dwindled in recent years, the mission and core values of the DAV will endure. I know I speak for everyone in the EPS when I say it will be a privilege to recognize this organization and the memory of Ms. O'Neil as part of our annual scholarship awards night."

Attorney Capone expressed sincere appreciation, on behalf of the scholarship fund trustee and former Everett Chapter, that the School Department will continue the Everett DAV's proud tradition.

The Disabled Veterans' Camp Corporation/Janet Connolly O'Neil Memorial Scholarship will be presented to an EHS senior who has maintained a minimum of a 4.0 grade point average and is planning to attend a four-year college or university to pursue a career in medicine and/or the health sciences.

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Region / Continued from Page 10

known locally as the interim executive director of the Community Minority Cultural Council (CMCC) on Union Street.

In that organization, Lott has worked closely with community leaders such as Darrell Murkison and Andrew Burton to help create opportunities and jobs for Lynn residents while strengthening the community overall. The CMCC’s annual the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast has become the city’s foremost celebration in honoring the outstanding civil rights leader.

Lott is also a retired senior IBM computer software engineer, a licensed pilot, and a veteran of the United States Air Force.

Through his work as a pilot and his service in the U.S. Air Force, Lott feels he “gained a unique perspective on oxygen and air delivery systems.”

And Lott believes those experiences make him eminently qualified for his “ambitious undertaking” of creating a Portable Powered Air Respirator (mask) that was initially designed to combat the coronavirus.

“I have developed a PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that we (LottoGraphs Company – LGC) call a PPEE (Personal Protective Equipment for Everybody) – because everybody needs to wear a mask during the pandemic,” said Lott, who is the founder, creator, and CEO of LottoGraphs. “I have invented a mask that’s based off an inspirational thing I saw. The mask is as easy as putting on a baseball cap and it covers all three vital areas: your mouth, your nose, and your eyes.”

Lott said he is putting together a public relational campaign to raise awareness for his invention, help him fund his project, and begin production “and help with the fight against COVID-19.”

He has launched a GoFundMe campaign “to help support, a small minority-owned, veteran business.”

“The GoFundMe drive will fund the formation of a corporation and the IP, which is the Intellectual Property rights – patents, copyrights, trademarks, service marks, utility patents and all that stuff,” said Lott.

He has been reaching out to the Lynn community for its support. “I’m just trying to help the cause.”

Lott said he has five prototype masks ready for the initial phase in the production process. He explained the exact design and function of his invention.

“Basically, it’s a mask that you slip on. There are powered fans that push nice, clean fresh air,” said Lott. “So instead of wearing a stuffy mask all day, you have a nice breathing environment. I’ve looked at the industry, looked at what the doctors and experts are saying, and incorporated some of the best technology and features into my design. Even with the vaccines, you are still going to need to wear a mask. Wearing a mask is going to be around for a while. It’s not going away.”

Lott grew up in Sudbury and attended Lincoln-Sudbury schools before moving to Danvers.

“In my sophomore year of high school, my dad moved us to Danvers, Massachusetts,” said Lott. “My dad was a doctor. He was the VP for years at the Family and Children’s Services Agency in Lynn. I used to work at General Electric and knew a lot of people in Lynn. I attended North Shore Community College and studied in the Professional Pilot Program. I got my pilot’s license at Beverly Airport. In fact, I used to live right behind the Beverly Airport on Burley Street in Danvers. It was a stone’s throw away from the airport.”

COMMITTEE HEARS ABOUT SPORTS PROGRAM

REVERE - At Revere Public School Committee meeting on Dec. 15, RPS Athletic Director Frank Shea updated the committee on a plan to bring school sports back to the district in a limited capacity and with new rules and regulations.

“As you all know I was a high school coach for many years,” said Shea at the Dec. 15 meeting. “We’re obviously in unprecedented times and I think that everybody on the committee and at the district level and above wants nothing more than to get our kids back and playing (sports). But we have to do what’s best for everybody and what’s safe for everybody.”

Shea said that he and RPS Superintendent Dianne Kelly met with the Greater Boston League about six weeks ago where the decision was made to suspend all sports till after the holidays.

“Even though a lot of our neighbors were aggressive and said we’re gonna start on the 14th of December,” said Shea. “However, what we have seen in the last couple of weeks is that a lot of those communities have rolled back to rethinking

this decision. Malden, Everett, Peabody, Salem, Boston, have all rolled back till after the holidays and schools like Bishop Fenwick decided to shut down and delay till after the holiday. So I just think that was the right call at the time.”

Shea said tentatively RPS hopes to start winter sports in early January through late February. Fall sports will be played between February 22 and April 25 and spring sports will most likely be played from April 26 through June 3.

“The MIAA is having no tournaments, at least not in the fall and winter season so that allows us to play with these dates even further,” said Shea. “So if the Greater Boston League decided that we could safely have sports in mid January, we could offer winter sports and go past the February 21 deadline. If the numbers in the community and surrounding communities dictate that we couldn’t play in January we could start February 1 and play on into March. So there’s a lot of flexibility, which is a good thing.”

Shea said RPS is preparing now to get its students on fields in all three winter sports shortly.

While Shea is excited at the prospect of bringing kids back for sports to help with their mental health and physical wellness during the pandemic, the sports seasons will look vastly different than years past with new MIAA rules and regulations.

“If we do play it’s really not going to look like the sports that we had last winter,” said Shea. “There’ve been many modifications made both

at district level up to the state level,” said Shea. “Each sport will have their own modification so the seasons have basically been cut down to half and there are no MIAA playoffs,” said Shea. “The goal is that we play one game per week with the option, if things are going well, that we can add a second game per week as the season goes on and our teams would practice every other day.”

Shea said the MIAA has put limits on rosters, added locker room and transportation protocols and limited the number of coaches and eliminated spectators during games.

There have even been changes to the sport rules.

However, Shea said while it is not ideal for students’ parents there are alternatives.

“Our hockey rink is equipped with cameras to live stream games so parents would be able to watch their kids live on live stream,” he said. “And in contests of basketball or swimming we would work with Revere TV and some of the RHS personnel to get those games taped and sent out.”

As for the rules of the games, Shea said the new protocols went through four committees.

“Each sport had their own committee,” said Shea. “These committees took each sport as we know them and said how do we make these sports safer? They came up with certain modifications in each sport. Those sport committees reported to the MIAA COVID-19 taskforce and the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee, which consists of doctors and trainers through-

out the state. Those two committees signed off on these modifications as being as safe as they possibly can. From there that went to the MIAA board of directors who okayed the modifications.”

For example the recommendation included for instance taking away the jump ball in boys and girls basketball in order to limit contact. The MIAA will only allow four players in the free throw lane instead of six.

“They’ve taken away under the basket inbound where there’s a lot of physical contact so everything would be a side throw-in,” said Shea. “So there’s a lot of different protocols. Ice hockey for instance during an ice hockey game aplayer got the puck in the corner and you get a scrum. You

get three four or five kids going into battle for the puck. What the committee has ruled is there’s only two people one from each team that can go into the corner. Once a third player enters the corner the whistle blows, the play is stopped and there’s a face off.”

In the end Shea told the committee he just wanted to give as much info as possible and hopefully sports can be safely played.

“I just wanted to give you as much information as possible as you make these tough decisions on whether we play and when we play,” said Shea. “I just thought the more information you know on protocols it will help guide your decision as soon as we get into a safer zone in the weeks ahead.”

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# An all-star in education

## SC member Jimenez Rivera receives two major awards

By Cary Shuman

Chelsea School Committee At-Large Roberto Jimenez has been recognized with two major awards in the field of education.

Jimenez, who was elected to the School Committee in November, 2019, was named to the “All-State” School Committee by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. He is the first local official ever to receive the prestigious award that debuted in 1996.

Jimenez Rivera was also honored as an “All-Star in Education” in conjunction with the first-ever Fenway Bowl, a college football bowl game that was scheduled to be played at Fenway Park but was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The double-recognition completes a rather exciting year personally for the 30-year-old University of Michigan graduate. He and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their first child, Roberto Daniel, in July.

In his professional career, Jimenez Rivera took a position also in July as the political organizer for the Boston Teachers’ Union that has 7,000 active members and 3,000 retired members.

“It’s been a great five months, but we’re very tired and sleep deprived, but it’s been going well,” said Jimenez Rivera. “My parents [who live in Puerto Rico] just got here a couple days ago, so they’re going to be here with us for a couple of more weeks, so it’s been a good holiday.”

**High honors in his first year in office**

Jimenez Rivera has caught the attention of School Committee members across the Commonwealth for his highly visible and vigorous push for increased state funding for low-income students. The MASC selected Jimenez Rivera in the urban division (Division 9) of the All-State School Committee Awards category.

The award recognizes “outstanding school committee members who have made particularly notable contributions to both the district and the Commonwealth as a whole and who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the education and welfare of children and have shown a clear understanding of their role as school committee members.”

Jimenez Rivera would have received the award at the Annual MASC Convention in Hyannis, but the statewide conference was canceled due to the coronavirus.

The Fenway Bowl’s “All-Star in Education” Award would have been presented to Jimenez Rivera at historic Fenway Park.

The first-ever awards honor “outstanding people in the field of education who make an impact day in and day out and inspire their communities.”

Jimenez Rivera is featured on the “Fenway Bowl Honor Roll” with his photo and the following summary of his excellent qualifications for the award:

“Roberto led an effort of municipal leaders across Massachusetts calling for

raising revenues through progressive taxation to address the needs of low-income students. He is a strong voice against policies that obstruct racial justice and equity, especially the longstanding underfunding of communities and color.”

**From U-Michigan to Chelsea**

Roberto Jimenez Rivera moved to Chelsea in March, 2019. He had attended the University of Michigan where he received his undergraduate and master’s degrees.

He had become familiar with the Boston area through his mother’s positive experiences as a student at Mass College of Art.

“My mom had always told me about really great things in the Boston area so I kind of just gravitated to the area – that’s what really brought me here in first place,” said Jimenez Rivera. “I eventually started dating my now-wife, Sarah [who holds undergraduate and master’s degrees from Tufts University and is currently a doctoral candidate at Boston College] and we were looking for a place to buy a home and Chelsea was a place that was as similar to my experience growing up as possible, and we wanted our child to have that cultural experience overall as well growing up. When we found Chelsea, we felt, ‘this place was great.’”

He decided to get involved in the Chelsea School Committee because of his keen interest in educational policy. After knocking on a few thousand doors in the course of his campaign

and meeting residents, he was elected with an impressive vote to the School Committee.

**Councillor Damali Vidot praises Jimenez Rivera**

Councilor-at-Large Damali Vidot has made a huge impact on the city and has worked hard to advance change for the better through her elected position on the 11-member City Council. She is one of Chelsea’s most well-known public officials and appreciates newcomers like Jimenez Rivera stepping up and contributing to the community, especially in the vital area of education for Chelsea students.

“Mr. Jimenez-Rivera understands that education creates a pathway to success for our students,” said Vidot. “For too long Chelsea has been siloed in dealing with many socio-economic issues, and we see the brunt of it in our school systems.

“His commitment to address concerns, not just locally, but by building regionally to shed light on the inequities in our system is the leadership we need for our families. Having these conversations on a broader scale makes it easier to identify the common denominator and have thoughtful dialogue on how to address. We are so proud to have him serve our community,” said Vidot.

**Continuing His Work on behalf of students**

Jimenez Rivera said he will continue his work in advancing the cause for students in low-income communities.

“We are focusing on funding the education of



Chelsea School Committee at-large member Roberto Jimenez Rivera is pictured with his wife, Sarah, and their son, Roberto Daniel, outside their home.

students that have been hurt for many years and are continuing to be hurt even more now because of this pandemic,” said Jimenez Rivera. “The [Legislature] voted last year to pass the Student Opportunity Act, which was supposed to bring in new funds, but it didn’t allocate any new funds. Because of the pandemic, they decided that they weren’t going to do it.

“Our advocacy this year ultimately wasn’t effective in getting us what we wanted, but it really has set up to continue advocating this coming year to make sure we’re funded for two years or that it can be fully funded by the seventh year [of the Student Opportunity Act].”

**Looking ahead to 2021**

Jimenez said he is also looking forward to working with Chelsea Supt. of

Schools Dr. Almy Abeyta in 2021.

“The superintendent and I are both in our first year of our respective roles,” said Jimenez Rivera. “And it’s been a weird year just having to deal with something [the pandemic] that neither of us could really have seen coming. I’m super grateful for the work that the superintendent has been doing, given the circumstances. Dr. Abeyta has done a very good job making sure that our students are continuing to be fed and making sure that we’re providing our students the technology that they need.”

With two major awards earned during 2020, Roberto Jimenez Rivera is poised to help Chelsea students realize a productive year ahead.

### SGT. EFRAIN GONZALEZ RETIRES

Congratulations on the Jan. 2 retirement of Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez from the Chelsea Police Department. With 32 years of having “the right stuff,” he brought community policing to its highest level, Chief Brian Kyes said. The CPD wishes him happiness and good health in the years ahead.



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