Can Mayor Walsh Tame The BRA?

Upon reading Paul McMorrow’s Boston Magazine recent blog post, entitled ‘Walsh Cleaning House’, there are two observations, gleaned from conversations with both the interim BRA director Brian Golden and Economic Development director John Barros, that the author made which, if true, would set the tone for the transformation of the Boston Redevelopment Authority and put the Walsh administration on the path to enviable and possible historic success as a ‘big city’ Mayor.

First, McMorrow observes that “now more than ever, Boston needs an agency to manage (not necessarily spur) growth. To do that, Mayor

CONTINUED ON page 6
EDITORIAL

Out West in the late 1800’s lived a mute man named Josh. At the time, a 20 dollar gold piece and a 5 dollar silver coin were virtually identical. Our friend Josh would take a 5 dollar coin and coat and rub it with gold dust. He would use this coin in the saloon or general store. Technically forgery is called “uttering”. Josh would pass down his coin without uttering a word.

A quick glance and the store or barkeep would give Josh change for a 20. Josh, of course, never said a word and could not be charged with forgery. This led to proprietors biting a gold piece and asking “is this real or you joshing me”? This is why many people fell into the “you can’t make this stuff up” category.

The President’s new press secretary is named “Josh Earnest” which will make his every pronouncement on behalf of the President pose this question “are you Joshing us or are you in Earnest”? Judging by the “say one thing, but do the other” strategy employed by the White House the last 6 years, Mr. Earnest appears a perfect fit; and we’re not Joshing you.

“Experience is the teacher of all things” - Julius Caesar
Proposed New Gun Laws Trample the Rights of the Law Abiding

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

The process has begun at the Massachusetts State House to revamp this state’s gun laws. As is often the case in the Bay State, issues are driven by knee jerk reaction to emotional issues pushed by liberal activists with a political agenda. This proposed gun bill, HD 4253 is no exception. I studied this bill, the details of which were released by The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and approved by the Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo. As is usually the case, a push for drastic changes to any hot top set of laws is always sweetened with some items that sound good and actually make sense. But, buried in the bulk of it, there are some draconian freedom killing schemes inserted by the bills advocates - the ones with the agenda.

While parts of HD 4253 contain some good ideas, such as dealing better with mental illness, it is also loaded up with infringements on the Constitutional rights of law obeying citizens. What much of HD 4253 does is penalize and punish law obeying gun owners for the heinous acts of a few crazed killers around the country. But, reality is that it will not lower crime, penalize criminals or curb gun violence. This bill, in its current form, is just another ineffective, feel good piece of legislation that will do little or nothing to solve the problem, but gives politicians cover so they can tell the activists that they are doing something constructive.

The fact is that Massachusetts has some of the most restrictive gun laws in the country. No more laws are needed. The laws currently on the books need to be properly enforced and they are not. Speaker DeLeo and other lawmakers at the State House will hopefully not allow themselves to be conned, bullied or intimidated by the agents of Michael Bloomberg from New York and the anti-Second Amendment crowd, whose level of bluster far exceeds their numbers. HD 4253 needs to be re-written and purged of the useless parts that do absolutely nothing but trample the rights of lawful Massachusetts citizens...

Well, there may be hope for America’s future after all. It seems that America’s military personnel are starting to make their feelings known about what Barack Obama is doing to this country. At this year’s West Point graduation, Obama got a surprise. As most saw from TV reports, unlike other years when presidents received the traditional standing ovation from the graduating cadets, more than 75% of the graduates refused to stand and applaud him. Just this week, when Defense Secretary Hagel mentioned the return from the Taliban of SSgt Bowe Bergdahl, who some of our troops believe to be a deserter and a traitor, the soldiers in the audience remained dead silent. The applause that Hagel expected just wasn’t to be. More and more of America’s men and women in uniform are making their feelings known about what’s been going on and they are clearly not happy. Many high ranking officers are speaking out as well. This speaks volumes about the mood spreading across the nation. The members of America’s military are loyal patriotic Americans and they take it personally, when anything or anyone hurts this country.

As we all know, White House spokesman Jay Carney is quitting his job. It’s not easy being sent out to lie to the press and the American people every day. As one Talk Radio show host put it: “A scandal a day chased Carney away”.

And finally, Monday, Washington rolled out its new ‘Cap and Trade’ policy. The one that will make it so difficult and expensive for many power plants to stay in business, quite a few will be closing down. But not to fear. We can take comfort in the president’s words. He says our rates for energy will be going down. Sound familiar? He said the same for healthcare costs too. Remember, he promised that the cost to each and every family would be dropping by $2500. If you like your healthcare plan, doctor and hospital, you can keep them. Well now, if you like your utility bill rate you can keep that too. The problem is that most economists say it is impossible. Our costs are going sky high.
Rep. Collins Bill To Expand Convention Center Passes House

Last week, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill approving a $1.1 billion expansion of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) in South Boston.

The bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Nick Collins and Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry, approves a 1.3 billion square-foot expansion of the BCEC to meet current market demands. The resulting expansion will increase the BCEC’s economic impact by 25 percent to $716 million per year and increase revenue to $41 million per year. In terms of job growth, the expansion will also create 4,700 construction jobs and 2,100 permanent hospitality jobs.

“I am excited about the many long-lasting benefits this expansion will bring to Massachusetts and the City of Boston,” said Rep. Collins. “This expansion will give Boston the competitive advantage it needs to attract repeat and new conventions and it will ensure that we remain one of the most important economic centers in the Northeast.”

Equally important, the BCEC expansion will not levy any new taxes or fees on the residents of Massachusetts. In addition, the expansion will not utilize the general fund thereby ensuring construction for the expansion will not draw on funds for critical public works projects. By bonding against the existing Convention Center Fund, the legislation ensures that residents will experience only the benefits of the BCEC expansion without having to bear the costs of construction.

Rep. Collins stated that he was particularly happy to work with Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry and MCCA Executive Director James Rooney on elements of the bill that include a supplier diversity program for veteran-owned, women-owned and minority-owned businesses; a job training program building pathways to employment in the skilled trades; and language for a Project-Labor Agreement (PLA) that guarantees those who work on the expansion project will earn a prevailing wage.

“Simply put, the expansion of the BCEC will create thousands of good jobs for the short term and for the long term. I’m thrilled that it passed the House with overwhelming support,” said Rep. Collins. The bill was supported by Massachusetts Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo, Senate President Therese Murray, Governor Deval Patrick and Mayor Martin Walsh and now moves to the Massachusetts Senate for consideration.

Public Safety Update

The community must continue to be vigilant and work with the police to keep our streets as safe as possible. Criminals have no respect for time or circumstance. They just look for opportunity.

• A male was shot at the corner of West 7th Street and D Street late Saturday night in South Boston. His injuries may have been life-threatening. At the time this article was written, no report was given on the investigation.

• Last week, officers arrested a teenage suspect for carrying an illegal firearm in the West Broadway Housing Development. During their pursuit the suspect dropped the firearm, and the firearm discharged. Further investigation lead to police finding an illegal assault rifle in the teenager’s house.

• Two weeks ago, as part of a larger drugs sting, several suspects were arrested on drug charges in the West Broadway Housing Development. This raid was part of the continuous battle in the war on criminal drug activity, a battle that needs constant and persistent attention.

Police Commissioner Evans made this statement to the Boston Globe, “Clearly, the drug activity was harming and hurting the neighborhood and something had to be done to make those responsible for the bad behavior accountable for their actions. Hopefully, the arrests... will send a clear message that the bad behavior will no longer be tolerated.”

Two incidents affecting children attending Saint Peter Academy were reported last week. The following alert was issued to parents:

Attention Parents-

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South Boston, MA 02127
617-269-1930

David Casper
Funeral Directors:
Joe, Dave & Ken Casper

There were two incidents that occurred within the past week that you should be made aware of. One of our Grade 8 girls was approached by a young man at “I” and Columbia Road on the way to school. He was driving a small green compact car and he delivers newspapers for the Globe in the area. He got out of the car and asked her how old she was and if she had a boyfriend. She was smart and called her dad and proceeded to run back to her house.

The second incident happened in front of our school during dismissal. One of our parents got out of the car to pick up her child when a young man opened her door and took her cell phone. Luckily one of our grandparents saw him take the phone and she yelled at the man. He was startled and gave her the phone and walked away. Police reports were filed in both cases.

South Boston Today will continue to keep you informed of the ongoing public safety issues facing the community. See the link below for a Boston Police Department’s Crime Stoppers Text-A-Tip Program - http://bpdnews.com/crime-stoppers-text-a-tip-program/
A

other precedent has been set by the President. No, it’s not breaking the law. He’s already done that numerous times. Besides breaking the law this time he also, for the first time, has negotiated the release of terrorists in exchange for Americans. This has never been done and what a trade. Imagine Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jeb Stuart being captured and then released by the Union Army. The Civil War would still be going on. This is the Taliban “dream team” being released.

According to reports the U.S. soldier voluntarily sneaked out of his post on June 30, 2009. The next day he called his Commanding Officer and announced he was joining the Taliban. Fourteen U. S. soldiers were killed in the searches that followed.

Remember Mullah Omar, the leader of the Taliban who gave Bin Laden safe haven and bases where Al Qaeda and the 911 hijackers trained and who we have yet to kill or capture? He proclaimed the swap a “great victory” for the Taliban. It sure was. In 2012 the National Security Director testified before Congress about the same 5 prisoners stating there was no question Americans would be in great danger, if they were free. The same five have been released to the Middle East nation of Qatar who has promised to “monitor the 5 for a year”. That should make everyone in America feel secure.

According to some apologists it’s “disgusting and un-American” to see the vitriol directed at this soldier. Do you think these same people think it’s “disgusting and un-American that this soldier’s father would stand next to the President and praise Allah in the Afghan language or that he tweeted “every Afghan killed by the Americans will be avenged”? Is it possible the father’s and son’s words and actions are influencing the American people’s opinion?

Press Secretary Jay Carney gave a perfect illustration of the administration’s constitutional competence when he stated the Constitution gives the President the right to negotiate and deal with foreign governments. That’s true, except the U. S. recognizes, supports and defends Harmed Kharzi as Afghan’s president and leader, and who fights the Taliban as a terrorist group.

All Obama did was negotiate and give aid and comfort to the terrorist enemy. We’ve put people in jail for aiding terrorism for less. No wonder Carney is leaving.

There are many who think the President is inept and over his head. “How could he do that? It just makes things worse”, is a complaint voiced over any number of decisions made during his Presidency. If, in fact, his goal was to make things and America better those criticisms would be valid, but he has failed to meet that goal.

But what if his goal was the opposite? What if his goal was to diminish America? What if his goal was to weaken America militarily, economically, or to reduce its presence in the world? What if he shared the view that America is an illegal country, stolen and built by some evil white people, who stole everybody else’s labor and is polluting the world. What if his goal was to bring us down a notch or two? In that scenario it might be argued he’s been wildly successful.

The last month is a perfect example of that theory, beginning with his illegal plan to release some 30,000 inmates into the country including murderers and rapists. Next, the border patrol announces the daily detention rate in Texas alone has gone from 1100 to 2000 a day! Obama, as we know refuses to obey the law and enforce immigration. While his concern is elsewhere, the Veterans situation explodes even though the President campaigned on this very issue and knew the facts in 2008. Now, once again to America’s detriment, he breaks his oath to give favor to foreigners over citizens.

Crazy or cunning? but not constitutional.

Take care till next week.
Boston Residency Ordinance: The First Test For The City Council and Mayor

One could argue objectively that amending the longstanding residency rule is an attempt at creating flexibility in management hiring options for the new Mayor. However, this is Boston. So in a traditionally cynical view, this is simply an attempt by the Mayor, on record in support of the existing rule, to accommodate a handful of close associates, who have established residences outside of the City and just don’t want to uproot their families. Understandable, but it is not necessarily a legitimate reason to further dilute it.

Boston instituted a residency requirement in 1976, but over the past four decades, the rule has been slowly diluted. Boston has a workforce of roughly 18,000 employees, and many are no longer required to live in the city. The School Department, for example, has 9,640 employees, but less than one-third are required to live in Boston, according to a department spokesperson. Teachers, paraprofessionals, principals, headmasters, and others are exempt from the residency requirement, although the majority live in the city.

Custodians and school police must live in Boston when they are hired, but like almost all union members working for the city, they can move to the suburbs after 10 years. Last year, one out of every three full-time city workers lived outside Boston, according to a Globe analysis of payroll data. Higher-paid municipal employees were more likely to move to the suburbs, with almost half of city workers who earned $100,000 living elsewhere.

This puts many of the Mayor’s presumed allies on the City Council in a political predicament. Councillor Michael F. Flaherty Jr., for example, recently filed a measure that would force applicants for Boston fire and police jobs to live in the city for at least three years before applying, an increase from the current one-year requirement. Both Michelle Wu and Tito Jackson are on record supporting the residency rule. Of all of the councilors, Walsh’s childhood friend, Frank Baker, has been a vocal residency stalwart. Interestingly, similar dilution efforts on the residency requirement for construction workers had been undertaken during contract negotiations with trade unions on projects like the reconstruction of the Old Colony Housing Development in South Boston, where there was a Project Labor Agreement negotiated by then Building Trades President Marty Walsh.

One question that needs to be answered is – How does relaxing the residency rule reconcile with the Mayor’s plan to stabilize the middle class? If Boston’s neighborhoods are to be more than just a temporary stopover for the young professionals who want convenience, safety and night life, then the Mayor and City Council should tackle the more important challenges of middle market affordable housing and a better quality school system. Somehow, dialing back on the residency requirement to accommodate key decision-makers in the new administration hierarchy at the very least sends a mixed message.

CONTINUED FROM Front page
Walsh doesn’t need raw power, but the political legitimacy that comes from taming the BRA and earning buy-in from the city’s neighborhoods.” And second, he reports that “City Hall will launch a series of intensive neighborhood master-planning efforts, which will serve as the blueprints for new development. The plans will share some baseline goals, like growing dense, moderately priced homes and neighborhood centers around transit hubs.”

While it is tempting to comment, yet again, as did McMorrow, on the dual political strategies of consciously contrived disinformation and carefully managed dysfunction that was employed by the previous administration to co-opt neighborhoods and, in some cases, entire communities, we will refrain from doing so this week. But, it is important to not only encourage Mayor Walsh to live up to his campaign commitments, but to acknowledge that there needs to be sensible, pro-active community input and not simply re-active anti-development NIMBY rhetoric.

The challenge to create work-force and middle class housing is not a simple one. Tax incentives, mortgage interest buy-downs, re-defining affordability, purchase money subsidies, modified project labor agreements that include minority sub-contractors, vertical residential developments featuring micro-units, lower cost material approvals, fast-track permitting are all mechanisms for creating developer interest in work-force and middle class housing construction. Furthermore, setting real estate development policies that are backed up by firmly administered zoning regulations are within the power of the Mayor.

However, the buyer-developer-seller market dynamic is at the core of the challenge. Are these mechanisms and incentives enough to persuade a seller to agree to sell at a price that is fair to that person, offers middle market housing potential and keeps a development opportunity relatively profitable? And, is a developer willing to accept a ‘next to’ the highest and best use of a property and settle for a ‘relatively’ profitable project? Compounding this is the fact that, in a purely selfish context, those who did not or could not cash in over the last 15 years or so – notwithstanding the crash of 2008 – are hungry and hoping to do so now.

Director Golden appeared unusually candid in the comments attributed to him by McMorrow. These comments in and of themselves convey a sense of overdue relief and newfound progressiveness. In particular, this comment is telling. “I think a big piece of what we’re trying to accomplish,” Golden says, “is improved processes and increased transparency, to eliminate the perception that everything [at the BRA] is arbitrary and capricious. And hopefully, eventually, demonstrate that this place is an agency with a soul.” Pardon Us!!!

In addition to uncovering the possibility of a ‘soul’ inside the BRA, the last 15 years or so – notwithstanding...
Tom Lyons Honored by Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

Tom Lyons was recently honored by the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation for his many years of work on behalf of Marines and other veterans and their families. A South Boston native, Tom was recognized at the MCSF’s Inaugural Boston Awards Dinner at the Seaport Boston Hotel with the Commandant’s Award and a college scholarship – The Tommy Lyons Scholarship – was created in his name for the child of a Marine Corps or Navy Corpsmen veteran.

The Commandant’s Award: recipients of this bequeathed award have demonstrated exceptional leadership, service and sacrifice on behalf of the U. S. Marine Corps and America. They embody the true spirit and persona of a Marine. Based in Alexandria, Virginia, the MCSF is the nation’s oldest and largest provider of need-based scholarships to military children. Since 1962, the MCSF has provided more than $80 million in scholarship support to more than 30,000 children of Marine Corps veterans Navy Corpsmen.

In 2011, Lyons was appointed by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki as member of his Advisory Committee for Homeless Veterans. In 2010, Lyons was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick as Chairman of the Massachusetts Veteran and War Memorial Commission. Lyons, who is the manager of Community Services at MassHousing, the state’s affordable housing bank, was selected by Governor Patrick to co-chair the Governor’s Veterans Advisory Council subcommittee on veterans housing in 2008. As a result, Lyons was involved in the creation of MassHousing’s ‘A Home for the Brave’ mortgage program for Massachusetts Veterans, which was announced by the Patrick in July 2008.

A Marine Corps combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Tom is a founding member of the committee that created the South Boston Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the founder and president of the Boston Semper Fidelis Society, which every November hosts the nation’s largest annual Marine Corps Birthday luncheon, from which proceeds benefit veterans and their families through various programs and scholarships. He is a former executive director of the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans and was chairman of the committees for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society’s annual conventions in Boston in 2001 and 2006.

In 2010, Lyons was honored by former Marine Corps Commandant CONTINUED ON page 10
MCCA/BCEC Marks 10th Anniversary

This week the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) marked the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC). Representatives of the state, city, and MCCA gathered in the ballroom of the BCEC to recognize the success of New England’s largest building, now one of the leading convention facilities in North America, generating billions of dollars in economic impact for Boston and the Commonwealth, sustaining thousands of jobs in the region and encouraging growth in Massachusetts’ major industries. The doors of the new BCEC were opened on June 10, 2004.

“We knew that Boston had what it takes to compete on the global stage and become a top convention destination. To make that happen, the Commonwealth, the City of Boston, and the MCCA came together to build one of the most successful, innovative, and popular convention centers in North America today,” said James E. Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. “Our partners in the hospitality community and our neighbors in the South Boston Waterfront and throughout Boston have helped make the BCEC’s success possible. We are excited to celebrate Boston’s accomplishments over 10 years and are ready for many more to come.”

“The BCEC has met and greatly surpassed all projections for its success, and today, it serves Massachusetts as a powerful economic engine,” said Michelle Shell, chair of the MCCA Board of Directors. “Over the last 10 years we have worked tirelessly to make Boston become a top 10 convention destination, and we have much work in store to keep the BCEC just as competitive far into the future.”

“The BCEC’s accomplishments are an important part of Boston’s success story over the last ten years. Thanks to a strong partnership between the MCCA and the City, Boston has become a world-leading meetings destination that draws global attention to our leadership in key industries such as medicine, life sciences, technology, finance, and academia,” said Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. “The BCEC’s success should not only be measured by our rankings as a convention destination, but also by the thousands of jobs it has sustained and the many businesses supported by its convention activity.”

After opening in 2004, the BCEC and Boston realized quick success in the meetings and conventions industry. Just two years after opening in 2006, Boston broke into the list of the top 10 meetings and conventions destinations in North America and has stayed there since. In 2007, the BCEC was named Convention Center of the Year. In 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2013, Boston was named the top U.S. destination for international association meetings by the International Congress and Convention Association. And in 2011, the BCEC and the Hynes Convention Center became only the 14th and 15th centers to be awarded gold standard certifications by the International Association of Congress Centers (AIPC), the highest level of certification a convention center can earn in the meetings industry. Boston is the only city in the world with two gold rated convention centers. With the initial investment of $850 million to build the BCEC, the facility’s rapid and sustained success led to a significant boost in direct spending, economic impact, and jobs generated by the Commonwealth’s convention facilities. Since its opening, the BCEC and the Hynes Convention Center combined have created and sustained more than 5,300 jobs and generated:

• 2,400 events
• 5.2 million hotel room nights
• 7.2 million attendees
• 1 million taxi rides
• $1.1 billion in spending in restaurants, and
• $5.3 billion in economic impact

In 2009, to meet the
Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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South Boston Street Festival Event Planner

South Boston NDC and the South Boston Chamber of Commerce are seeking proposals from experienced Event Planners to manage the planning, coordinating, and production execution of the South Boston Street Festival to be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014.


Please submit a proposal for services, including qualifications and a list of similar events that you or your organization has planned and produced to: South Boston NDC, 365 West Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127 or email to donna.brown@sbndc.org.

Deadline for proposals is June 9, 2014

For more information, please contact Donna Brown, South Boston NDC, 617 268-9610, donna.brown@sbndc.org

CONTINUED FROM page 8

increasing market demand on the BCEC and make the facility more competitive, the MCCA launched the “Top 5” campaign to expand the BCEC to its originally designed size and develop more hotel rooms nearby the facility. Today, legislation is being considered in the Legislature that will fund the expansion of the BCEC without raising taxes or fees. The MCCA has facilitated the development of two mid-priced hotels next to the BCEC and is working with Massport to develop a new headquarters hotel on the agency’s land that will serve the BCEC. The MCCA has projected that a fully implemented Top 5 plan will increase the Authority’s economic impact for the Commonwealth from an annual average of $532 million to more than $700 million, a 35 percent increase, and increase tax benefits from $29 million to $41 million per year, a 41 percent increase.
Lifeguards On Duty

Though the official start to the season is not for a few more weeks, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has begun staffing certain parts of South Boston’s beaches on weekends. Pleasure Bay and parts of Carson Beach will have lifeguards on duty between the hours of 10:30am till 5:30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Each lifeguard station will be equipped with First Aid and CPR supplies, as well as radio communication. Each lifeguard will have been trained, certified and tested and possess certification in Lifeguard/Waterfront training, as well as First Aid and CPR. DCR Lifeguards are dressed in red uniforms for easy identification.

NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
Docket No. SU14P0537GD
Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
In the interests of Ian Riley Clark
of Minor
South Boston, MA
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/10/2014 by Kerry L. Haufler of South Boston, MA will be held 06/18/2014 09:00AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located at 24 New Chardon Street, 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02114 – Family Service Office.
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you chose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

March 24, 2014
Patricia M. Campatelli
Register of Probate
June 5, 2014

CONTINUED FROM page 7
Gen. James Conway for his 30 years of work on behalf of the Marine Corps and veterans of the Armed Forces. In 2011, Lyons was honored by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos with a Marine for Life Award for his work on behalf of the Marine Corps and its veterans.

The South Boston Community has always been proud of Tom Lyons and it certainly is the case that The United States Marine Corps and veterans everywhere are proud of him as well. The fact that a Scholarship for deserving students bears his name gives further testimonial to the high esteem he is held in. This year’s recipient of the Tom Lyons Honorary Scholarship went to young South Bostonian Jonathan Clifford of M Street whose father is John Clifford, veteran, USMC. Jonathan is a junior at Lasell College; class of 2015 and is a communications major.

Tom Lyons works hard on behalf of veterans and their families. And though he never seeks it out, he deserves very special praise and recognition for the good work he has been doing for all these many years and continues to do today.

Become a Spoke of the Wheel
June 12th 7-10 pm
@ GrandTen Distilling
383 Dorchester Ave, South Boston
(near Peter Welch’s Gym)

Please Join us for Medicine Wheel’s 13th Annual Turning the Wheel Party, co-hosted by Mayor Walsh and Senator Dorcena Forry
Ticket Price includes a Live Auction with
Tom Tinlin, Music and Entertainment, Signature Cocktails and Mocktails from GrandTen Distilling, Catering from The Dining Car, and the opportunity to Spin the Famous Medicine Wheel and Purchase Fabulous Artwork!
Live Auction Items: Private Portrait session at Medicine Wheel studio...GP Marketing Furniture...Private Cocktail Party at 555 Gallery Catered by Moko...Wood Cuttings by Michael Dowling, World Renowned Artist...High End Tools...Dinner for 10 at the home of Michael Dowling...Private Tour of the Medicine Wheel Studio with State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry...and MORE!
Wheel Prizes: Museum tickets...Local artwork...Restaurant gift certificates...Sports Memorabilia, Jewelry...and MORE

MEDICINE WHEEL PRODUCTIONS
Art as Threshold

NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
Docket No. SU14P0537GD
Commonwealth Of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
In the interests of Ian Riley Clark
of South Boston, MA Minor
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/10/2014 by Kerry L. Haufler of South Boston, MA will be held 06/18/2014 09:00AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located at 24 New Chardon Street, 3rd floor, Boston, MA 02114 – Family Service Office.
2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you chose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least (5) business days before the hearing.
3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

March 24, 2014
Patricia M. Campatelli
Register of Probate
June 5, 2014
Mayor Walsh Rededicates Sweeney Playground

Last Thursday morning, May 29th, Mayor Marty Walsh arrived at the Sweeney Playground at 180 West Fifth Street to cut the ribbon that announced to all that this little gem located in South Boston was once again in peak condition and ready to be enjoyed. The event coincided with the neighborhood coffee hour, with coffee and donuts provided by Dunkin Donuts and fresh fruit from Whole Foods. As was reported last week in South Boston Today, the celebration marked the completion of a construction project funded by the city’s capital improvement plan to the tune of $583,050.

The renovations include new play equipment with poured-in safety surfacing, basketball court renovations, water play updates, new benches and drinking fountain, new state of the art lighting upgrades, improvements to the drainage system and much more. The mayor was greeted by residents thrilled at the new look and improved playground. They got the chance to speak with the mayor and City Councillor at-large Michael Flaherty, who asked the attendees to give their thoughts and concerns and ask whatever questions were on their minds. It was a cordial interaction that everyone seemed to appreciate. Captain John Greland from Area C-6 was also on hand at the ribbon cutting to listen to the concerns of residents.

The Mayor was greeted at the park by the young students from St. Peter Academy, who carried a banner thanking him for all the great improvements to this park so close to their school.

Once the ribbon cutting and coffee hour was over, the mayor and other officials from city hall did a ‘walk along West Broadway’ for a ‘meet and greet’ with local business people, among them Patty Maestranzi Fisher, owner of ‘Broadway Lock’; who showed him some old, but well preserved classic photos of ‘Blinstrub’s Village’. Other residents who got to speak with and share their concerns and ask questions and offer suggestions.

The final destination for the morning was at the South Boston Community Health Center where they were joined by State Representative Nick Collins and greeted by the dedicated Health Center staff. In all, it was a very positive and constructive day for everyone. Mayor Walsh got to meet many of South Boston’s business people and local residents, and they in turn got to meet their new mayor up close and personal in a very relaxed and upbeat forum.
At the end of every school year the middle school students at St. Peter Academy look forward to their overnight retreat in Vermont. In mid May, sixteen Grade 7 & 8 students, accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Dilba & Miss Blenk and parent chaperones, Mr. Silva and Mrs. McCarthy, loaded up their cars and vans and set out on the 2 hour drive to Neringa, a Lithuanian camp. This 2 day retreat focused on the relationships that these students have in their lives, with self, peers, parents/authority & God. Some of the activities the students participated in included personal reflection and group-sharing. Students engaged in writing, skits, role play, prayer, and discussion, etc. They also took advantage of both the indoor and outdoor chapel, where they were given personal letters to read from their parents and teachers.

Besides participating in the planned activities, the students were also able to spend their free time hiking to the old graveyard and “Sound of Music” field, swimming in the freezing cold lake, and playing various sport related games. All of the students were responsible for cooking, washing dishes and cleaning up the camp. Not much sleep was accomplished but the students had a great time on this trip. We would like to thank the SB Neighborhood House for letting us use their van and to all of the chaperones who made this trip possible.

St. Peter Academy Grade 7 & 8 Retreat

St. Peter Academy, South Boston, is an independent private school with a Catholic focus offering unique programs enhancing the educational experience for all of its students in grades PreK through 8. They are currently accepting applications for their summer program and 2014-15 school year. To schedule a private tour or request an application call 617-268-0750 or email spacademy2004@yahoo.com
M STREET SOFTBALL

The Feeney “B” division plays on Tuesday’s (615 & 8pm) and Wednesday’s (6, 730, & 9pm) with Friday’s reserved for makeup games.

In other league related news, one of our players mistakenly left an equipment bag on First Street after a game last week. If you picked it up please return it to me so I can get it to the rightful owner. Speaking of First Street, the city’s traffic department has been writing tickets for those posted over the 2 hour limit and also for not having a resident sticker. The city just changed these signs this year so this is a new issue for us to work through with the city. Please watch the signs and avoid parking in the resident only areas until I work something out with city officials. Also, be aware of the “No Parking” section on First Street near center field. This section of the street is used for the “T” buses that swing wide when they come out of the parking lot across the street from the field. If you park in this area you will be immediately towed.

Keeping with the city government theme, we applaud the city for replacing the many lights that were out at the field. This became a safety issue for batters and fielders so we thank Paul McCaffrey and his team for getting this work completed. While the light crew did their job we are all more than frustrated that the M Street playing field hasn’t seen a rake or truck since the renovation project was completed last summer. I don’t get how a Parks & Recreation field crew can drive to the field and chalk line the N Street field but not touch the M Street side. More so, because this diamond gets more use than any field in the city I would think they would want to keep up with the field maintenance. Frustrating!

As always, supporting fans can follow the league through our website (www.sbsports.com), right here in the South Boston Today, or experience the league up front and personal by taking in a game or two. Have a great week everyone!

With the first month of softball entered into the history books, a few of the M Street “regulars” have found their place in the standings a bit surprising and alarming. In fact, the five-time champion Shenanigan’s squad remains winless to date. That’s right folks; Shenanigan’s (0-2-1) who have dominated the league over the past five years are experiencing a rough ride here in the early going of the season. Another league heavyweight, The Warehouse (0-2), is also winless and trying to fight their way back to redemption in the Lucas division. While those two teams are certain to bounce back and contend for their place in the standings a bit, the Southside Tavern has lived up to its billing and is the early front runner. Coach Brian Pacheco and the Southside Tavern are the league’s best at 5-0.

By Mark Senna

The Islanders (3-1), Lincoln Tavern (2-2), and Harp & Bard (1-2-1) round out the rest of the Lucas division and each have enjoyed some success while hitting a bump or two along the way. The Islanders played a flawless defensive game last week as they nipped Shenanigan’s 1-0 in a contest that took just an hour to play. It was the Islanders second shutout of the season. On the flip side, the Lincoln Tavern squad has surrendered plenty of runs but has also been putting up some great offensive numbers. Max Vignolotti has led the way for Lincoln as he leads the league in hits (7), RBI’s (8), and homeruns (3).

Meanwhile, over in the Feeney division things have followed the script as STATS Bar & Grille (3-1) and the Cranberry Cafe (3-1) are tied and on top. Although he doesn’t have much M Street pitching experience, Eric MacDonald (2-1 with a 2.88 ERA) has taken the ball to the mound for STATS and has filled in nicely for the missing Atton boys. M Street pitching experience certainly isn’t a problem for Cranberry as they feature two wily veterans in Jay Malley (1-0) and Jack Flanagan (2-0). In fact, I would guess that there is more than 40 years of combined M Street service between them. When the pitching needs a lift for Cranberry, John Young, Brian Goodman, and Mark Goodman have provided the offensive punch.

Sitting in the middle of the pack in the Feeney division are The Underdogs (2-2) and The Playwright (2-3). Pj Serrano, Scott Hackett, Dave Hoerburger, and Kris Manilenko have been the hitting stars for The Underdogs while Zack Smith has flashed some glove work in the field. The bats have been quiet and the pitching has been less than stellar for the Playwright but their leadership and experience has kept them in games. Just off the pace and working their way through the “ups and downs” that first year teams experience are the Dragons (1-3), JW Brokerage (1-3) and Village Pizza (0-1). Stick with it boys as the wins will come in time.

For those of you following the league through these writings, our Lucas “A” division games are played on Monday’s (615 & 8pm) and Thursday’s (6, 730, & 9pm).
A SHERROD BLAKELY: When we first started hearing the rumblings about him being dissatisfied in Minnesota and we started to try and draw connections with the Celtics, I still thought that Minnesota was kind of in the driver’s seat with all this. But this visit this weekend, clearly, it’s the Kevin Love show right now. He is driving this trade from Minnesota.

And as much as you’ll say this was just a visit, this was about more than just a visit. This guy wanted to get a sense of what Boston was like in the offseason, because he understands that whatever team he goes to or is traded to, they’re going to want a long-term commitment from him. So it would just be in his best interest to get a feel for that city while he can. And some of the other cities that have shown some interest in him, like Golden State and LA, he’s familiar already with those cities, so it’s not like he needs to make a special trip there to really know what that life is like. Boston? A little different story. And [on Sunday], I had a chance to talk to a couple of his former teammates in Minnesota. And the one thing they each told me, in separate interviews, was that with Kevin, he’s intrigued with the idea that Danny Ainge has been able to put together really good teams on the fly. And when you look at some of the situations of some of the other teams that are interested in him, they’re going to have to figure out a way to win, but they don’t necessarily have the kind of track record that Danny has, of putting together quality championship-contending teams in a short period of time. That is something that’s very alluring to him. And the fact that they’ve won 17 championships. This is a guy that -- everyone I’ve spoken to has said -- is absolutely focused, locked in on trying to get into a winning situation, and that’s not only in the short term, but also long term.

DP: I have never seen anything like this, Sherrod. And it sounds like you haven’t either.

ASB: I’ve been covering the league for 15 years now, and I’ve never seen a guy -- who was rumored to be possibly going to another city -- basically take an unofficial recruiting trip or visit to that city to just get a feel for things. It is unprecedented, from what I’ve ever seen. Usually guys do this after they either sign with a team, or they’re absolutely in that city to talk with that respective team about playing for them. But this is something that’s very, very unprecedented. And I think it speaks a lot to how the Celtics have slowly but surely shifted themselves away from this image of being this anti-free-agent type city. Because if Kevin Love comes here, even though it would be by trade, he’s coming here understanding it’s going to be for the long haul. And I think that, more than anything else, is what drove this trip. For him to get a feel of, what am I going to be able to do when I’m not playing the game. Let’s be mindful of the fact that the dude is only 25 years old. He’s going to have a life outside of basketball. And clearly, he’s looking to spend that down time in the city of Boston.

DP: The quote from him is, “I’m here to just check out the city and see what it’s like.” You’re buying that there’s more to this, and I am too. I’m buying that maybe the agent, maybe his agent is up to this too. Because Love’s first statement was going to the Timberwolves and saying, “I’m not going to re-sign” or “I’m going to opt out after next season.” This is clearly his next statement to the Minnesota Timberwolves. So, how do you think the Minnesota Timberwolves react to this?

ASB: Well, I think they have to play it straight and just say what Flip Saunders was saying on Sunday. And that was, “We plan for him to be with the Minnesota Timberwolves next season.” And that’s what he’s supposed to say. But, to me, I read that as, “If you want this guy, you better come prepared to give up a whole lot of assets to get him. Because we’re not going to give him away, just to give him away.” I really do think this trip came together after one of those conversations with a player and an agent, where the agent knows the teams that are very interested in the player, and Kevin Love probably says, “I really don’t know a whole lot about Boston.” So his agent, who’s from the New England area, says, “Hey, why don’t we just hang out there for a weekend, and get a feel for it.” Something as simple as that could have been the trigger for all this. But really, when you look at the big picture, and the big picture is that this is a guy who can certainly help the Celtics, certainly a trip like this and the positive vibes that Kevin Love got while being in Boston, it can only help the Celtics chances of landing him down the road.

DP: How close were we to some sort of NBA violation here? Because Kevin Love is still under contract.

ASB: They were nowhere close to that, because the Celtics had absolutely nothing to do with this. It would be the same as LeBron James, for example, coming to Boston and hanging out and meeting people. As long as the Celtics were not involved, which they weren’t, there’s no violation. And as far as Love meeting Rajon Rondo at Fenway Park, that’s not unusual. Both of those guys are in the offseason, and Rondo is known to attend Red Sox games. So it’s not like that, in itself, is all that unusual. I don’t think there was anything remotely close to being a violation of league protocol, or league tampering, or anything like that. And Flip Saunders, he alluded to it on Sunday, when he said it’s the offseason and guys can go wherever they want. They can’t tell them where and where not to go. And this was Kevin Love’s decision to hang out in Boston. But reading into the obvious, clearly he’s looking at Boston as a city that he wanted to get a feel for whether this was a place he could see himself long term. And I do believe that he came away from it feeling very good about Boston, if the Celtics were to be able to engineer a trade and getting him.

DP: When I mention a possible league violation, I wasn’t talking about Love just coming to Boston specifically, because obviously any player can go wherever they want and visit any city or any ballpark. But there is that picture of him shaking hands with Rondo at Fenway. When I start to think about that image, it wouldn’t be crazy to me, if there was -- or, I start to think, if I’m Danny Ainge, and I hear that Kevin Love is in town, certainly I’m not going to go shake hands with him, but maybe I give my point guard a call to maybe go meet up with Kevin Love. Is that possible, that the Celtics could have put Rondo up to something to go introduce himself to Kevin Love, or do you really think Rondo did this on his own and they
something that Rondo did on his own.

Boston and the Celtics organization.

help Love feel more comfortable with

be an opportunity for him to try to

enough to know that maybe this will

guys I've ever been around, is smart

Rondo, who is one of the smartest

clearly has interest in the Celtics.

He's going to need help. Kevin Love

go-between for something like this.

going to be the mouthpiece or the

much whatever he does is what Rondo

come to see with Rondo is, pretty

But certainly, if you’re the Celtics,

you’re not going to try to stand in

the way of him doing something like

that. Rondo knows that, when you

look at the guys that the Celtics could

potentially land in this offseason

that we know of right now, without

question, Kevin Love is at the top of

that list. And if you’re Rajon Rondo,

you’re going to do whatever you can
to help that come about.

DP: Alright, so we see all this, and

now, Celtics fans are giddy. You see

the picture of Love and Rondo, and

it’s got everybody thinking of what

could be. The question is, after all this

and this visit, is a trade realistic right

now? Can we see this happen?

ASB: You can definitely see

it happen, but you won’t see it

happen at the earliest until the
days leading up to the NBA Draft.

Because that is when teams start
to put forth real offers. Right now,

anything that comes across the

Timberwolves’ plate, you’re not

going to get a response from them

on that, because they know the

best deals don’t come about until

shortly before the draft, or until the
days following. The Celtics’ level

of interest, the degree of their level

of interest won’t be known until we

get much closer to the NBA Draft.

But certainly, when you

look at the kind of assets that they

have, clearly, they are going to be

one of the teams in the hunt to get

Kevin Love. It’s just a matter of

whether Minnesota wants young

assets in the form of draft picks, or
do they want multiple players that

can maybe build around going

forward? But the problem with

that is, you’re the 10th best team

in the West right now, and frankly,

most of the teams that have shown

interest, you take a couple players

off that team, and it’s not going
to make you all that much better.

You’re much better off taking a

lottery ticket, which we know as

draft picks. So I think, at the end

of the day, I think Minnesota is

going to realize their best chance

of getting over the hump and

becoming a player out West is to

get as many draft picks or lottery

tickets as possible, so that maybe

they can find another Kevin Love.

--Listen to entire conversation by

subscribing to “I’m Just Sayin” on

Twitter and Facebook.

CONTINUED FROM page 6

we are also looking for a ‘conscience’.

This community trusts that the

pending impartial audit will uncover

the whereabouts of the thousands,

if not hundreds of thousands, of

‘mitigation’ dollars promised for

distribution to benefit this community,

but otherwise hoarded by the BRA

over the years for their pet projects.

The BRA of the Walsh era will

likely not make as many downtown

millionaires, as did the previous

administration, through the building

of skyscrapers, expanded college

and university facilities, or through

the granting of valuable liquor

licenses. But, if his team can leverage

and manage the pressure to build,

build, build by creating the broader

economic development agenda that

the Mayor and John Barros envision,

then this will become a ‘pretty cool’

dynamic international city. If we

understand it right, this economic

development agenda will include

not only a reformed BRA approvals

process, but also tangible support for

small business, smarter community

development and preservation, an

expanded ‘Main Streets’ program,

multi-ethnic entrepreneurship and a

passionate embrace of tourism that

finds its ways into our historic and

culturally rich neighborhoods as its

key elements.

If they are able to do this, then

Mayor Walsh will make for healthier

and more prosperous neighborhoods.

In other words, the neighborhoods

would directly share in the imminent

and palpable opportunity for wealth

creation. Should he succeed, his tenure

could very well be characterized as not

just enviable, but indeed historic.
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Boston, MA 02127
617-765-8636

Lucky’s Lounge
355 Congress Street
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617-357-LUCK

Local 149
149 P Street
South Boston, MA 02127
617-269-0900

The Playwright
658 East Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127
617-269-2037

The Whiskey Priest
150 Northern Avenue
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617-426-8114

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617-356-7369

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South Boston, MA 02127
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