



WHARF DISTRICT
COUNCIL
B O S T O N

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Wharf District Council Meeting

BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT A-1 MONTHLY UPDATE – CAPTAIN KENNETH FONG

In February, crime continues to remain at very low levels in the district. Some of the incidents that occurred include: A break-in at 200 High Street; A fight involving a knife, in the street area, by bar patrons at High Street & McKinley Square; A fight at 160 State Street; Two bank robberies – 389 Hanover Street and near 75 State Street, the suspects were apprehended.

Broadluxe Residents Voice Complaints about Continued Late Night Noise Coming from Umbria
Residents voice complaints regarding loud noise from music emanating from the Umbria/Ascend Nightclub between the hours of 10 PM to 2 AM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. They stated the following: "it is impossible to sleep." "Very difficult to live there." "Trash around the property is incredible." "One resident's baby's crib shakes against the wall of the home because of the vibration from the band at Umbria". "We're attending this meeting asking for help!"

Captain. Fong: When the doors to Umbria are closed, it's unlikely they are breaking noise ordinance. Suggest Broadluxe work with others. For example, the Hilton across the street doesn't sell many rooms on the east side of the building because of the noise.

This has been going on for some time. At the October meeting of the Wharf District Council, the nightclub owners met with Broadluxe residents, WDC members, the BPD, and Neighborhood Services to try to work things out. While there appears to have been some adjustments made to reduce the sound coming from the nightclub, clearly it did not solve the problem. Maria Lanza, the Mayor's Neighbor Services representative for the Wharf District, has offered to work on this, starting with setting up a meeting among all the affected parties

PRESENTATION BY MILLENNIUM PARTNERS ON THE 115 WINTHROP SQUARE PROJECT

A \$1 Billion, 775-foot tower, one of the tallest in Boston, will replace the currently condemned City-owned garage. This multi-use high rise will include a large public atrium, underground parking, retail space, 14 floors of office space and 300 condominiums. The City will receive \$153 million from the sale of the downtown garage. Much of this money will go to the Boston Common, Franklin Park, other greenspaces, and housing projects around Boston.

The owner, Millennium Partners, is working through the Article 80 process with BPDA. This process includes, but is not limited to, review of the project's impacts on transportation, public realm, the environment, and historic resources. It also covers the impact of new shadows. The 775' tall building will cast a shadow on the Public Garden and the Boston Common. This is in violation of the State Shadow Law. The developer is asking the State for a one-time variance to permit the building to be built at this height. The Friends of the Public Garden and others are opposing this because they do not want new shadows on the Garden and Common and are concerned that giving a variance will be precedent setting.

UPDATE ON GREENWAY EVENTS – MICHAEL NICHOLS, GREENWAY CONSERVANCY CHIEF OF STAFF

Michael thanked the Wharf District Council and its members for the tremendous support that they have received from this community. The Wharf District neighborhood has participated in the numerous events in the Wharf District parks, provided written support for various projects and given much needed financial support. He is looking forward to the 2nd Annual Wharf District Neighborhood Volunteer Event being coordinated by our WDC event chair Judy Ehrlich.

In 2016 there were 1.4 million trackable visits to the Greenway. The highest number of visitors to the Greenway since it opened. The Greenway Conservancy is excited about their 2017 plans and events. Go to their website for the complete, up to date list. Here are some of the scheduled events: The Open Market will begin May 6. The Farmer's Market and the Fitness Classes are coming back. There are Block Parties on Dewey Square every Thursday 5pm - 8pm. In the tent on the park in front of Rowes Wharf, there is the annual Gala on June 8 and Glow in the Dark on June 9. Let's Dance Boston is back September 13-17. They are hoping to open a Beer Garden on the park in front of the Boston Harbor Hotel; dates and times to be determined.

MARC MARGULIES, WDC PRESIDENT

Gave a review of the MHP draft that includes the 50% lot coverage restriction for the Harbor Garage. The MHP will be reviewed by the BPDA Board on March 3. Upon approval by the Board, the document will go to the State for review and approval to be implemented. There is a 30-day comment period with the State.

DISCUSSION OF WDC FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Raising money for the New Year's Eve Fireworks – Joanne Hayes Rines

The City is no longer funding the fireworks on New Year's Eve. This was very apparent last New Year's Eve, when much to everyone's surprise and disappointment, the skies over Boston Harbor were dark. All the activity was over in Copley Square. We all agree, this should not happen again. So, three groups got together and created a plan to ensure that there would be fireworks. WDC is working with the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park and Boston Harbor Now to raise the funds necessary to bring fireworks back to the Boston Harbor for New Year's Eve Dec. 31, 2017. Throughout the spring and summer, we are reaching out to the businesses and the people who live and work in the North End, Wharf District and Waterfront communities asking for a donation to the Fireworks Fund.