

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023

## Mayor's Update



### Tragedy: Two Years Later

Today marks the two-year anniversary of when tragedy struck the City of Newton. That tragic incident left behind a grieving family, poignantly distraught police officers, and a disquieted Police Department and community.

The family of Michael Conlon, the man killed in the officer-involved shooting that day, has initiated a wrongful death lawsuit against the City of Newton and the officers involved. This lawsuit comes after a fair, impartial and transparent inquest presided over by the

Honorable District Court Judge Jeanmarie Carroll.

Having reviewed the evidence, facts and circumstances of what happened on January 5, 2021, Judge Carroll found that when Newton Police Officers fired their weapons, any reasonable law enforcement officer in the same position would reasonably believe that fellow officers as well as others were in imminent danger of being seriously injured or killed. The Judge wrote, "At that moment no reasonable alternative existed, except for the use of deadly force."

As part of the ongoing healing process, it is important to understand that critical life or death situations such as this occur in a split second.

Lethal force decisions are what every police officer prays they will never be forced to make and trains to avoid. The primary officers that were on scene that day were and are fine members of the department – professional and compassionate.

As the Mayor of Newton and on behalf of the Chief of the Newton Police Department, we know the death of anyone in such circumstances is tragic, and there is a lot of healing that must take place for all of those impacted by this incident. Our hearts go out to the Conlon family as well as to our officers and their families.

---

### Restaurant & Apartments in West Newton Square

The façade and front portion of the iconic building at the corner of Washington and Highland Avenue in the heart of West Newton Square, most recently used as a Santander Bank, will become a restaurant along with a new adjoining five story 50-unit residential apartment building behind it.

The City Council this week approved the rezoning and special permit from Mark Development to redevelop the property. (Mark Development is the same firm involved in Trio in Newtonville, Riverside, the Dunstan East project in West Newton Square, and a senior housing and memory care project on Crafts Street.)



Nine of the 50 units will be made affordable, including eight at 65% of the area's median income and one at the 110% level. This is in compliance with Newton's requirements, known as inclusionary zoning. In addition, the developer is required to make an affordable housing payment of \$173,000 which will be split evenly between the Newton Affordable Housing Trust and the Newton Housing Authority.

Mark Development will spend \$289,000 to design and implement improvements to Captain Ryan Park next to Newton Police Headquarters (across Washington Street from the building).

Plans include an outdoor seating area for al-fresco dining at the restaurant in the front portion of the building. The five-story apartment building will have both underground and surface parking.



*Newton's youngest learners walked into their new classrooms at the new home for the Newton Early Childhood Program at 687 Watertown Street around the corner from Albemarle. The renovation of the former Horace Mann School was completed on time and on budget. (Thank you Josh Morse and Tommy Rooney from Public Buildings.) Join us outside on Wednesday, January 25 at 8:45 a.m. for a Ribbon Cutting OR between 10:00 a.m. and noon on Saturday, January 28 for a community open house indoors.*

## Community Survey

The federal government allocated approximately \$5.4 million in one-time funding to consortium of 13 area communities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funds are for addressing the housing, shelter, and service needs of people who are experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking, and other vulnerable populations. (More info on the program is available [here](#).)

The City of Newton is the lead community of this consortium, known as the *WestMetro HOME Consortium*.

They are looking for our input on how best to use this funding before developing the required allocation plan.

Find the anonymous survey at [tinyurl.com/WestMetroSurvey](https://tinyurl.com/WestMetroSurvey). It takes about 15 to 20 minutes and will be open through Thursday, Jan. 12.

Questions? Please reach out to Shaylyn Davis, Senior Community Development Planner for the City of Newton, at [sdavis@newtonma.gov](mailto:sdavis@newtonma.gov).

---

## C-19 Booster Clinics

Additional C-19 booster clinics are scheduled in Newton through the month of January.

The Newton Department of Health and Human Services is again partnering with Holtzman Medical Group to offer the updated, bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine. These clinics are open to anyone ages 6 months and older (ages 6 months - 5 years will be Moderna only).

People who recently had COVID may consider delaying the booster by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test. Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine [here](#).

The clinics will be held at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St., in Druker Auditorium by appointment only: Register at [Holtzmanmedical.org](https://Holtzmanmedical.org).

Friday, Jan. 13 - 10:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23 - 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 - 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 31 - 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Additional clinics are anticipated in February. Please continue to check the link for updates.

Can't make it to one of these clinics? Check [vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov) for locations in and around Newton to get a vaccine. Not sure when your last vaccine was? Click [here](#) to download your vaccine record.

---

I had a wonderful (but not necessarily restful!) holiday break with my grandsons Jeremiah and Henry.

Now it's back to work.

Warmly,

Ruthanne



---

P.S. We're collecting **Christmas trees through Friday, Jan. 13**. Place *undecorated* trees at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your collection day during this two-week window (not in a plastic bag, please). Greens from wreaths can also be collected with the trees if the sprigs are pulled from the wire or plastic framing and placed in a neat pile or bundled with twine. (fyi: The trees and greens will be chipped into mulch.)



P.P.S. The Newton Police Department is teaming up with the Nonantum Boxing Club and Stay Boxing to host **free boxing classes** for kids ages 10 to 17 on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Classes follow the Newton Public School schedule. Drop ins are welcome at 75 Adams St. (*Photo: Officer Robert Dragone teaching a recent class.*)

P.P.P.S. Interested in helping a member of our community learn English? Become a **tutor in Newton Free Library's active English Language Learning Program**. Tutors work one on one with English learners one hour a week, virtually or in person. A virtual information session for people considering becoming a tutor is Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 10:00 a.m. We'll teach you with training on Monday and Wednesday mornings later this month and in February. No prior teaching or foreign language experience is required. Find more info [here](#) or contact Andrew Shapira at 617-796-1364 or at [newtonell@minlib.net](mailto:newtonell@minlib.net).

P.P.P.S. The **Rebecca Pomroy Foundation 2023 grant application process is now open** for organizations that provide health-building, educational and recreational opportunities to people of all ages. Preference will be given to Newton organizations that provide training, education and counseling to girls and women in need. Find more info [here](#).



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller | 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02459

[Unsubscribe jmulvey@newtonma.gov](mailto:jmulvey@newtonma.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [rfuller@newtonma.gov](mailto:rfuller@newtonma.gov) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!