

# Mayor addresses Hyde Park Board of Trade meeting



Boston Mayor Marty Walsh came to the Hyde Park Board of Trade to discuss the relationship between housing and economic development last week.

PHOTO BY ARIANE KOMYATI

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A Hyde Park Board of Trade (HPBOT) meeting took place on Tuesday, May 28 at the Fairmount Grille. The room was completely filled with residents, eager to listen to guest speaker Mayor Marty Walsh.

Walsh opened his speech by thanking Councilor Tim McCarthy for his service and dedication to Hyde Park. "He has brought a lot of reason to the city of Boston and Hyde Park, so I want to thank him," Walsh stated.

Walsh discussed the need for housing and development in Boston. He explained that when he became Mayor in 2014, his administration inherited a housing crisis. So he released Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030, a comprehensive housing plan designed to address the housing needs of Boston's growing population. In 2018, a planned assessment found that Boston's population was growing faster than anticipated, with 759,000 residents expected to live in Boston in 2030. The administration wants to help create 69,000 new units of housing at a variety of income levels across the City, including nearly 16,000 new units of income-restricted housing that will bring Boston's total number of income-restricted units to 70,000 by 2030.

Walsh explained that when he first entered office, areas such as Copley, Back Bay, South Boston, and Beacon Hill were the focus of housing development. Many parts of

Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and Hyde Park were being overlooked. "We want to do Boston 2030 without gentrification and displacement," remarked Walsh. "We do not want to lose the people who grew up here and built the community."

"We have a couple of proposals in Hyde Park that are big, but if we truly want to continue to grow as a city, we have to have an honest conversation with each other about where we are in economic development," Walsh stated. "I'm not looking to change the community, what I'm looking for is to make sure we support our businesses, support our main streets, and having people in our community supporting what we have. If we don't do something about [the housing shortage] we won't be able to." Walsh remarked that there needs to be more honest conversations about development during community meetings.

Scott Batey, HPBOT President, opened the meeting by discussing a recently published study focused on newly diverse communities in Boston.

The study, titled Changing Faces of Greater Boston, is collaboration between Boston Indicators, the UMass Donahue Institute, and the four free-standing research institutes at UMass Boston dedicated to the major communities of color and faculty from UMass Boston's McCormack Graduate School. The report discusses a regional analysis, newly diverse communities in Boston, and Asian Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos in

Greater Boston.

A section titled Newly Diverse Communities in Greater Boston highlighted the growing Latino and African American populations in Hyde Park. The study shows that Hyde Park has gotten much more diverse since 1990. From 1990 to 2016, the Latino population in Hyde Park grew by 428%, while the African American population grew by 112%. In 2016, Hyde Park became the third most diverse neighborhood in Boston.

Batey explained that community groups, such as the HPBOT, are critical when creating an inclusive community because it helps neighborhoods reflect and make sure "everyone is invited to the table". The report can be found online at <https://www.bostonindicators.org/reports/report-website-pages/changing-faces-of-greater-boston/changing-faces-of-greater-boston-report>.

The next HPBOT meeting will take place on June 25 at the Fairmount Grille. An election of officers will be held at that meeting.

## St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 9<sup>th</sup> day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude. My Prayers were answered.

In gratitude for helping me.  
—P.L.T.