



Líderes escolares y gobierno discuten violencia en las escuelas públicas



Foto de Ismael Rondón

Vista parcial de la reunión en la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence. Pg. 5
Partial view of the meeting at the Public Library of Lawrence. Pg. 5

Letter from Lawrence Teachers Union Admin

Emergency meeting called to address violence in Lawrence schools

Elected officials in Lawrence have called an emergency meeting for Monday evening to address violence in their schools and they want state Education Commissioner Jeff Riley to join them.

Mayor Kendrys Vasquez, who also chairs the Lawrence School Committee, called Thursday for the committee and the Lawrence City Council to sit jointly for the meeting, and asked that Riley, or his designee, and Lawrence Schools Superintendent Cynthia Paris, be in attendance.

"Members of the public are deeply concerned about the developments at Lawrence High School," Vasquez said in a statement. "I have done everything in my power to provide aid to the district within the constraints of receivership."

Vasquez added that "while the District and DESE have scarcely participated in the City's public forums, School Committee or Council meetings, when asked to appear," he hopes that "in this opportunity they will participate and at the very least acknowledge the concerns of community members."

The purpose of the meeting is to address "the altercations at Lawrence High School over the past few weeks and the District's response to the incidents," the mayor said, and to allow the public and elected city officials to ask questions of Paris and Riley "relative to the state of receivership in Lawrence and the overseer's relation to Lawrencians particularly during times of crisis as the ones our schools are living through today."

Monday's meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Lawrence Public Library, 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence.

Question #1 Voter Information Sheet

Question #1 asks you to vote Yes (in favor) or No (against) allowing the city to borrow money to fund the construction of a new Francis M. Leahy School. Pg. 10

Pregunta #1 - Hoja de Información para el Votante

Pregunta #1 le pide que vote Si (a favor) or No (en contra) permitiendo a la ciudad aprobar un préstamo para financiar la construcción de la nueva Francis M. Leahy School. Pg. 11

Padres, Maestros piden control de las escuelas



Photo Richard Russell

Vea carta enviada por el Comité Escolar / Read letter sent by the School Committee Pg. 2

Carta del Sindicato the Maestros de Lawrence

Se convocó una reunión de emergencia para abordar la violencia en las escuelas de Lawrence

Los funcionarios electos en Lawrence han convocado una reunión de emergencia para el lunes por la noche para abordar la violencia en sus escuelas y quieren que el Comisionado de Educación del estado, Jeff Riley, se una a ellos.

El alcalde Kendrys Vasquez, quien también preside el Comité Escolar de Lawrence, pidió el jueves que el comité y el Concejo Municipal de Lawrence se

sienten juntos para la reunión y pidió que Riley, o su designado, y la Superintendente de las Escuelas de Lawrence, Cynthia Paris, estuvieran presentes.

"Los miembros del público están profundamente preocupados por los desarrollos en Lawrence High School", dijo Vásquez en un comunicado. "He hecho todo lo que estaba en mi poder para brindar ayuda al distrito dentro de las limitaciones de la administración judicial".

Vásquez agregó que "si bien el Distrito y el DESE apenas han participado en los foros públicos de la Ciudad, en las reuniones del Comité Escolar o del Concejo cuando se les pidió comparecer", espera que "en esta oportunidad, participen y al menos reconozcan las preocupaciones de la comunidad miembros."

El propósito de la reunión es abordar "los altercados en Lawrence High School durante las últimas semanas y la respuesta del Distrito a los incidentes", dijo el alcalde, y permitir que el público y los funcionarios electos de la ciudad hagan preguntas a Paris y Riley "en relación con el estado de la quiebra en Lawrence y la relación del supervisor con los residentes de Lawrence, particularmente durante tiempos de crisis como los que nuestras escuelas están atravesando hoy".

La reunión del lunes comienza a las 7 p.m. en la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence, 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence.

El Comité Escolar de Lawrence solicita al Departamento de Primaria y Educación Secundaria para poner fin a la administración judicial en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence

El Comité Escolar de Lawrence vota para avanzar hacia el control local

Lawrence, MA - El lunes por la noche, el Comité Escolar de Lawrence y el Concejo Municipal se reunieron en una Sesión Conjunta de Emergencia para discutir los altercados en la Escuela Secundaria Lawrence y el estado actual de la Administración Judicial de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence. El distrito escolar más diverso del estado ha estado bajo el control del Departamento de Educación Primaria y Secundaria (DESE) durante más de diez años. DESE ha recibido críticas en las últimas semanas de los miembros de la comunidad a raíz de los altercados en curso en Lawrence High School y las frustraciones de las familias por que la voz de su comunidad fuera excluida de la conversación sobre la educación de sus propios estudiantes en Lawrence.

"Lawrence merece respeto, sin embargo, a la comunidad más diversa del Commonwealth se le ha negado la autonomía durante más de diez años y eso debe terminar", dijo el alcalde Vásquez en su declaración de apertura, y luego agradeció a todos los que están "luchando para liberar a nuestro distrito de las garras del supervisor".

Cientos de familias, maestros y estudiantes se reunieron en el auditorio de la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence en Lawrence Street, así como virtualmente, para expresar sus preocupaciones y escuchar directamente a los administradores del Distrito sobre la situación. El alcalde, que convocó la reunión, invitó tanto al comisionado del DESE, Jeff Riley, como a la superintendente de distrito Cynthia Paris. Paris llegó para la reunión de las 7:00 pm; Riley, que no se presentó, envió una carta minutos antes de que comenzara la reunión excusando su ausencia que leyó el alcalde Vásquez. Madeline Rosa, madre de un estudiante de Lawrence High School dijo: "Lo siento por mi hija ... No ha ido a la escuela durante una semana porque teme por su seguridad... estamos lidiando con COVID, Delta - también estamos lidiando con el estrés". Rosa continuó: "Estos niños van a terminar con trastorno de estrés postraumático por todo lo que están presenciando, todos los

días en Lawrence High. Y alguien debe rendir cuentas por esto. Suficiente es suficiente."

También estuvieron ausentes los concejales de la ciudad de Lawrence Pavel Payano, Ana Levy, Estela Reyes y Dave Abdo. Aún así, el Ayuntamiento logró su quórum gracias a la presencia de los concejales Celina Reyes, Jeovanny Rodríguez, Jorge González, María De La Cruz y la presidenta del Concejo Laplante. Todos los miembros de la Escuela electa.

El comité estuvo presente: Jonathan Guzman, Rafaela Pichardo, Enrique Matos, Patricia Mariano, Joshua Alba, y el presidente del Comité Escolar de Lawrence, el alcalde Kendrys Vasquez.

Hacia el final de la reunión se propusieron dos mociones. La primera moción puesta sobre la mesa por el Ayuntamiento para pedir el fin de la Sindicatura fue aprobada por cuatro de los cinco Concejales presentes, pero finalmente fracasó dado que dos tercios del Concejo no estuvieron presentes por las ausencias de los Concejales Pavel Payano, Ana Levy, Estela Reyes y David Abdo. Una moción posterior presentada por el miembro del Comité Escolar Joshua Alba para solicitar al DESE que elimine al Síndico, fue aprobada por unanimidad por un voto de seis a cero, incluido el voto del presidente, el alcalde Vásquez.

Kimberly Barry, presidenta del Sindicato de Maestros de Lawrence declaró: "No podemos reparar Lawrence High sin reconocer el papel que ha desempeñado la Administración Estatal en nuestra ciudad durante la última década. Durante los últimos 10 años de la administración judicial, el Estado ha ignorado las voces de nuestros educadores, familias, estudiantes y grupos comunitarios". Barry continuó: "Avanzando con una llamada agenda de cambio que no ha funcionado y que realmente no ha evolucionado en 10 años. Como educadores, siempre se nos enseña a reflexionar sobre nuestro trabajo y hacer ajustes por el bien de nuestros estudiantes; el Estado no ha logrado eso".

Lawrence School Committee Petitions the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to End Receivership in Lawrence Public Schools

Lawrence School Committee votes to move toward local control

Lawrence, MA – Monday evening, the Lawrence School Committee and City Council met in an Emergency Joint Session to discuss the altercations at the Lawrence High School and the current status of the Receivership of the Lawrence Public Schools. The state's most diverse school district has been under the control of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for over ten years. DESE has drawn criticism in the last few weeks from community members in the wake of the on-going altercations at Lawrence High School and families' frustrations over having their community-voice shut out from the conversation about their own students' education in Lawrence.

"Lawrence deserves respect, yet the most diverse community in the Commonwealth has been denied autonomy for more than ten years and that must end," said Mayor Vasquez in his opening statement, then thanking everyone that is "fighting to free our district from the grasp of the overseer."

Hundreds of families, teachers, and students gathered in the auditorium at the Lawrence Public Library on Lawrence Street, as well as virtually, to express their concerns and hear directly from the District's administrators about the situation. The Mayor, who convened the meeting, invited both DESE Commissioner Jeff Riley and District Superintendent Cynthia Paris. Paris arrived for the 7:00pm meeting; Riley, a no-show, sent a letter minutes before the meeting began excusing his absence that Mayor Vasquez read.

Madeline Rosa, a parent of a student at the Lawrence High School stated, "I feel for my daughter ... She hasn't been in school for a week because she is afraid for her safety ... We're dealing with COVID, Delta – we're also dealing with stress." Rosa continued, "These kids are going to end up with PTSD from everything that they're witnessing, every single day at the Lawrence High. And someone needs to be held accountable for this. Enough is enough."

Also absent, Lawrence City Councilors Pavel Payano, Ana Levy, Estela Reyes, and Dave Abdo. Still, the City Council achieved its quorum thanks to the presence of Councilors Celina Reyes, Jeovanny Rodriguez, Jorge Gonzalez, Maria De La



Photo Richard Russell

Cruz, and Council President Laplante. All of the members of the elected School

Committee were present – Jonathan Guzman, Rafaela Pichardo, Enrique Matos, Patricia Mariano, Joshua Alba, and Chair of the Lawrence School Committee, Mayor Kendrys Vasquez.

Toward the end of the meeting, two motions were proposed. The first motion put on the table by the City Council to call for the end of Receivership was approved by four out of the five Councilors present, but ultimately failed given that two-thirds of the Council was not present due to the absences of Councilors Pavel Payano, Ana Levy, Estela Reyes, and David Abdo. A later motion introduced by School Committee Member Joshua Alba to petition DESE to remove the Receiver, passed unanimously by a vote of six to zero, including Chair, Mayor Vasquez's vote.

Kimberly Barry, President Lawrence Teachers Union stated, "We cannot mend Lawrence High without acknowledging the role that the State Receivership has played in our city for the last decade. Over the last 10 years of receivership, the State has ignored the voices of our educators, families, students, and community groups." Barry continued, "Plowing forward with a so-called turn-around agenda that hasn't worked and that hasn't really evolved in 10 years. As educators, we're always taught to reflect on our work and make adjustments for the good of our students – the State has failed to do that."

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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



CARTAS AL EDITOR
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Las cartas deben tener menos de 300 palabras de largo. Favor de incluir un número de teléfono o dirección electrónica para confirmar quién la envía.

La identificación de votantes

Durante muchos años, la gente de todo el país ha estado pidiendo que se implemente una identificación de votante adecuada, lo que ha provocado un caos que condujo a procedimientos legales y mucha desinformación.

Las noticias informaron de un crucero que partía de Fort Lauderdale, Florida, y las personas mostraban su identificación antes de abordar. No escuché a nadie quejarse. Sabemos que para volar en un avión es necesario mostrarlo y cuando recojo mis medicamentos en la farmacia tengo que sacar mi licencia de conducir.

Lo mismo sucedió con los teatros de Broadway en New York cuando comenzaron a abrir y vi en la televisión la larga fila de personas esperando felices para ver a Bruce Springsteen con una identificación en mano.

Lo que realmente me inspiró a escribir sobre esto fue ir a la cooperativa de crédito de donde me jubilé y tener que mostrarla también.

El propósito de pedir identificación es asegurarnos de que nuestras elecciones sean honestas y limpias y luego de las últimas rondas electorales, debemos pensar en esto como imperativo para garantizar que el sistema resulte como lo que esperamos que sea.

Hemos escuchado las razones más absurdas de por qué no debería suceder, como que es difícil o imposible que las minorías adquieran una tarjeta de identificación debido a la distancia de sus hogares al Registro de Vehículos Motorizados, el costo, la falta de transporte o simplemente que esta práctica discrimina a las minorías.

Ahora está sucediendo en todo el estado; las personas están sintiendo tal frustración que hay más de 6,000 voluntarios recogiendo firmas para ponerlo en la boleta electoral el próximo noviembre del 2022. Con mucho gusto que me ofrecí para poner de mi parte y estoy buscando apoyo. Si alguien quiere cooperar conmigo, por favor llámeme.

Tenemos solamente 3 semanas para reunir las planillas, dárselas a la City Clerk para que las certifique y enviárselas a los coordinadores.

Esto será un requisito para todos los ciudadanos de cualquier raza o color, no

específicamente para nadie. Mi respuesta es simple: cualquier persona que conduzca un automóvil debe tener una licencia y eso es lo suficientemente para votar. Cualquiera que no conduzca puede obtener una identificación similar a la licencia de conducir a un costo de \$15.

El requisito de identificación para votar significa mostrar algo oficial que le diga al trabajador electoral que usted es la persona en la lista. Mientras le pidan a cada persona que lo demuestre, nadie puede reclamar discriminación sin embargo, he estado escuchando últimamente la palabra "racista".

Lawrence, donde hacemos las cosas al revés

El Concejo Municipal aprobó el pasado martes 19 de octubre, una nueva regla que dice lo siguiente:

Campaña electoral. Durante el período de tiempo designado para la votación ausente en persona y el Período de Votación Anticipada del Estado de Massachusetts, ningún cartel, tarjeta, folleto, fotografía o circular que tenga la intención de influir en la acción del votante, excepto los expresamente autorizados por GL c. 54, § 65, se colocarán, exhibirán, circularán o distribuirán en cualquier edificio donde se lleve a cabo la votación anticipada, incluso en las paredes del mismo, en las instalaciones en las que se lleva a cabo la votación anticipada, o dentro de los ciento cincuenta pies de la puerta de entrada del edificio.

Después de las elecciones preliminares, escuchamos muchas quejas sobre violaciones de esta regla con la excusa de que no era aplicable a los sitios de votación anticipada.

Bueno, no hay ningún argumento de que no se permitirá. Veamos cómo pueden controlar a los empleados de la ciudad que van a las Cámara del Concejo para "ayudar" a los votantes con sus boletas (¡y usted sabe que estoy hablando de usted!)

La razón para decir que hacemos las cosas al revés es porque el Concejo Municipal no pudo esperar los 30 días requeridos porque el 2 de noviembre llegará pronto, por lo que renunciaron al período de espera o publicar la Audiencia Pública.

Disfruta el barrido



En otra medida despreciable, el alcalde interino desperdició fondos de la ciudad al contratar dos barredoras a un costo de \$80 por milla. De vez en cuando, los veo subir y bajar por mi calle, pero no puedo decir sobre su eficacia porque los residentes de Mt. Vernon se enorgullecen de sus propiedades y mantienen todo en orden.

Mientras tanto, la gente se queja de haber visto las barredoras en medio de las calles en lugar de limpiar las aceras donde se acumula la basura. Eso requeriría que se coloquen letreros que prohíban estacionarse en un lado de la calle para limpiarla. Eso

nunca ha sucedido, por lo que no se logra nada.

Lo curioso es que terminarán el día de las elecciones. No fue más que una táctica vergonzosa para conseguir votos. No sé quién lo está aconsejando sobre su estrategia porque esa, más lo que les hizo a los bomberos (cancelar la licencia por enfermedad a la que habían contribuido) fue un error de cálculo astronómico.

Una cosa de la que convenció a todos es que no es inteligente en absoluto. No es más que un ser egoísta.

"Success is not final, failing is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

"El éxito no es el fin, el fracaso no es mortal. Es el valor de continuar lo que cuenta."

- Winston Churchill

BALLOT QUESTION/PREGUNTA ELECTORAL

Proposition 2 1/2 Debt Exclusion
Leahy Elementary School Bonds

Shall the city of Lawrence be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of constructing a new Leahy Elementary School located at 100 Irving Avenue in Lawrence, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs related to designing the project, demolishing the existing building, equipping and furnishing the school, site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

Propuesta 2 1/2 de exclusión de la deuda
Bonos de la Escuela Primaria Leahy

¿Se le permitirá a la ciudad de Lawrence eximir de las disposiciones de la proposición dos y medio/a, "así llamada", las cantidades requeridas para pagar los bonos emitidos con el fin de pagar los costos de construcción de una nueva escuela primaria Leahy ubicada en la Avenida 100 de la Irving en Lawrence, Massachusetts, incluido el pago de todos los costos relacionados con el diseño del proyecto, la demolición del edificio actual, el equipamiento y el mobiliario de la escuela, las mejoras del sitio y todos los demás costos incidentales y relacionados con los mismos?

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Si quiere saber
quien lo controla,
mire a quién no le
permite que lo critique.

- Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

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Desorden en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence Disorder in Lawrence Public Schools

Photos: Richard Russell and Ismael Rondón



Declaración conjunta del alcalde interino Kendrys Vasquez y el jefe Roy Vasque

Tras el despido del campus de Lawrence High School, estalló un altercado en el cercano Sullivan Park. Como parte del plan de seguridad implementado por el Distrito Escolar y la Ciudad, varios miembros del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence se encontraban en el área en el momento del altercado. Cuatro menores fueron arrestados como resultado de su participación en el incidente. Además, una

mujer adulta que se cree que es la madre de una de las personas involucradas fue arrestada por alteración del orden público.

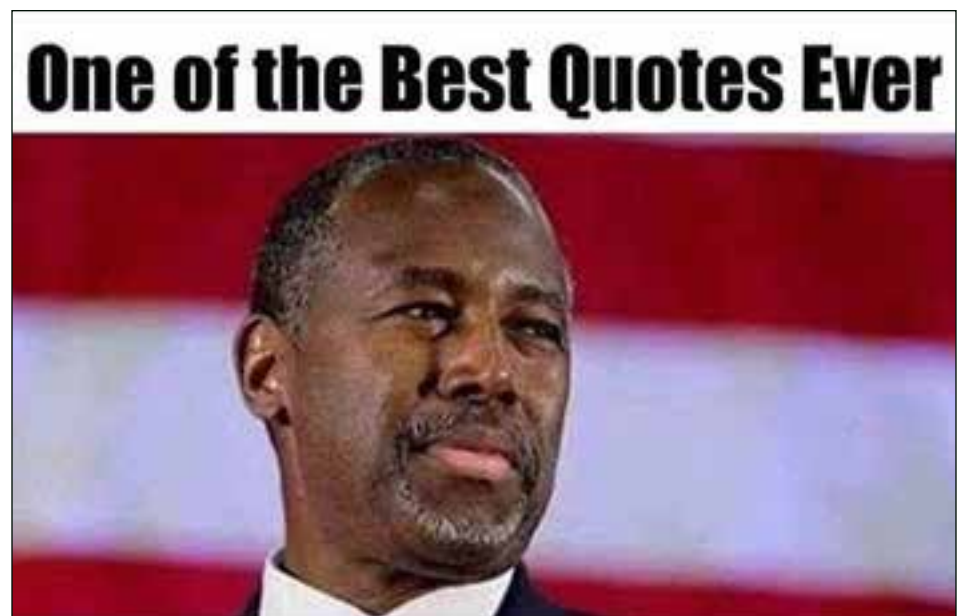
La seguridad de los estudiantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence sigue siendo de suma importancia para el alcalde Vásquez y el jefe Vasque, por lo que continuaremos abordando este problema de manera proactiva.

Joint Statement from Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez and Chief Roy Vasque

Following the dismissal of the Lawrence High School campus an altercation broke out in nearby Sullivan Park. As part of the safety plan that has been put in place by the School District and the City, several members of the Lawrence Police Department were in the area at the time of the altercation. Four juveniles were arrested as a result of their

involvement in the incident. Additionally, an adult female who is believed to be the mother of one of the individuals involved was arrested for disorderly conduct.

The safety of the students of the Lawrence Public Schools continues to be of paramount importance to Mayor Vasquez and Chief Vasque, as such we will continue to proactively address this issue.



One of the Best Quotes Ever

"We've been conditioned to think that only politicians can solve our problems. But at some point, maybe we will wake-up and recognize that it was the politicians who created our problems."

— BEN CARSON

VETERANS DAY 2021



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The American Legion and this publication salute our military veterans of all eras this November 11 - and every day. Thank you for serving America with honor, courage and commitment.

Merrimack Valley Hospice Teaches Grievers to Navigate Mealtime Solo

For those who are grieving, navigating new rhythms of grocery shopping, preparing meals and dining without a beloved partner can cause added daily distress.

Recognizing the deep connection between food and mourning, Merrimack Valley Hospice offers “Cooking and Eating for One” classes among its free, virtual support groups offered via the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

The series of three interactive workshops, taking place on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., will teach straightforward, healthy recipes with minimal ingredients: One Chicken Eight Meals on October 7; Roasted Butternut Squash Soup on November 4; and Very Gingery Gingerbread on December 2. Participants are invited to register for one, two or all three sessions.

Merrimack Valley Hospice’s support groups for adults, children, spouses/partners and individuals in the LGBTQ+ community who are grieving a death are free of charge and open to the public. To register and learn more, call 978-552-4510 or visit www.MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit agency providing comfort care and supportive services to patients nearing the end of life and bereavement services to their families and loved ones. Together with Home Health VNA, the agencies provide a full continuum of home health and hospice care in more than 110 communities throughout northeastern Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and southern Maine as York Hospital Hospice. For more information, visit MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

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“Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.”

- Thomas Jefferson

LA COMISIÓN FEDERAL DE COMERCIO
PROTEGIENDO A LOS CONSUMIDORES

El informe indica un impacto desproporcionado de las estafas en las comunidades de color y destaca las respuestas de la agencia

Una nueva investigación publicada en un informe del personal de la Comisión Federal de Comercio (FTC, por su sigla en inglés) indica una serie de diferencias clave en la manera en que el fraude y otras estafas afectan a las comunidades de color, desde el tipo de estafas dirigidas específicamente contra estas comunidades hasta los métodos que usan para pagar cuando pierden dinero con una estafa.

El nuevo informe, titulado “Al servicio de las comunidades de color”, destaca las tareas de aplicación de la ley y de difusión y alcance comunitario llevadas a cabo por la FTC para abordar las cuestiones de protección del consumidor que enfrentan estas comunidades y también describe la investigación recientemente publicada.

Samuel Levine, Director del Buró de Protección del Consumidor de la FTC, dijo al respecto: “Nuestra misión es proteger a cada uno de los consumidores estadounidenses contra el fraude y otras estafas, y para hacerlo, es vital que comprendamos el efecto que tienen estos problemas en las comunidades de color. Aunque hemos tomado energéticas medidas para combatir los problemas que afectan a estos consumidores de manera desproporcionada, hay más trabajo por hacer, y estamos comprometidos a hacerlo”.

En uno de los estudios del informe se examinan las diferencias entre los reportes recibidos por la FTC de parte de consumidores que viven en comunidades con mayoría de residentes negros y latinos comparándolos con los reportes presentados por aquellas personas que viven en comunidades mayoritariamente blancas.

Este análisis indica que las personas que viven en comunidades con mayoría de residentes negros y latinos reportaron con mayor frecuencia haberles pagado a los estafadores con medios de pago que ofrecen pocas o ninguna protección contra el fraude, por ejemplo, con dinero en efectivo, criptomonedas, órdenes de pago y tarjetas de débito. La gente que vive en comunidades con mayoría de residentes blancos presentó la mayor proporción de reportes que indican haber pagado con tarjeta de crédito, que es un medio de pago que ofrece una mejor protección contra el fraude.

La investigación también halló diferencias notables en los tipos de fraude reportados ante la FTC por la gente que vive en comunidades con mayoría de

residentes negros y mayoría de residentes latinos, indicando para estos grupos una mayor proporción de fraudes relacionados con problemas con la compra de carros, bancos y prestadores, asuntos de crédito y cobranza de deudas en comparación con lo reportado por la gente de comunidades mayoritariamente blancas.

Otro estudio del informe analizó la información recabada a partir de una cantidad de casos de la FTC que indicó que, en los casos que involucraban solicitudes de préstamos de día de pago, programas de alivio de deudas para préstamos estudiantiles, y algunos casos de oportunidades de negocio, la mayor cantidad de consumidores residía en comunidades predominantemente negras.

Además de la nueva investigación, el informe también ofrece un resumen de los más de 25 casos entablados por la FTC en los últimos cinco años en los que se perpetró alguna conducta dirigida específicamente contra las comunidades de color o que afectó de manera desproporcionada a los miembros de estas comunidades. En el informe también se ofrece información sobre el continuo programa de difusión y alcance comunitario de la agencia para las comunidades de color, el cual incluye eventos, colaboraciones locales y nacionales y una serie de videos y publicaciones diseñadas para proveer información relevante y oportuna.

Este informe subsigue al informe ante el congreso de 2016, “Combatiendo el fraude en las comunidades afroamericanas y latinas: Plan estratégico integral de la FTC,” (en inglés).

El resultado de la votación de la Comisión para autorizar a su personal a publicar el nuevo informe fue 4-0-1, con el Comisionado Chopra registrado como no participando.

La Comisión Federal de Comercio trabaja para promover la competencia y proteger y educar a los consumidores. Usted puede aprender más sobre los temas de interés de los consumidores y cómo reportar estafas, fraudes, y malas prácticas comerciales en ReporteFraude.ftc.gov. Haga clic en la opción “me gusta” la FTC en Facebook(link is external), “síguenos” en Twitter(link is external), reciba alertas para consumidores, lea nuestro blog y suscríbese para recibir los comunicados de prensa para acceder a las noticias y recursos más recientes de la FTC.

RUSSELL

AT LARGE

El alcalde Kendrys Vasquez y CAFO Ianello toman represalias contra los bomberos

Por Frank Bonet



Un día, después de que los Bomberos de Lawrence del Local 146 respaldaran unánimemente a Brian DePeña, el Alcalde Interino Kendrys Vásquez tomó represalias contra la fuerza informando (a través del corrupto CAFO Mark Ianello) al presidente del grupo

que la ciudad ya no reconocería el banco de licencias por enfermedad de los bomberos.

Probablemente se preguntará qué es exactamente un "banco de licencias por enfermedad". Bueno, durante más de 50 años, cada bombero dona uno o dos días al año a lo que se llama un "banco de licencias por enfermedad". Es una acumulación de días de enfermedad que la hermandad utiliza para ayudar a sus hermanos en caso de que necesiten tiempo libre debido a una lesión personal o enfermedad personal, evitando las dificultades financieras debido a la falta de saldo de la licencia por enfermedad.

Conozco esta práctica porque yo mismo he aprobado, conocido y escuchado quejas

sobre este tema varias veces mientras trabajaba para la Ciudad, como Director de Personal. Sé que los bomberos no juegan trucos ni mienten cuando se trata de ayudar a sus hermanos, realizar sus tareas responsables o poner en marcha procesos sin autorización.

Sin embargo, la excusa que utiliza el CAFO Mark Ianello para desmentir dicha práctica es decir que los días de baja laboral acumulados nunca fueron ingresados al Sistema de Información Municipal (MUNIS). MUNIS es un sistema financiero que utiliza la ciudad; tiene menús para recursos humanos y más.

Ahora, la ciudad no les está diciendo a los bomberos que los días donados no están registrados, porque están registrados en un libro. Una libreta impresa se guarda en la oficina administrativa del Jefe de Bomberos. Entonces, en tecnicismo, CAFO Ianello y el alcalde interino Vásquez le están diciendo al sindicato que solo porque el Jefe de Bomberos Moriarty (y su equipo administrativo) no agregaron esos días a MUNIS, los días no son reales. Excepto que, ahora, cada uno de esos bomberos que donaron a ese banco de

licencia por enfermedad no puede recuperar el reembolso de su licencia por enfermedad en sus acumulaciones.

Hubo autorización mucho antes de que Kendrys Vasquez asumiera el cargo, y ciertamente hubo autorización antes de que CAFO Ianello asumiera el cargo. Uno solo tiene que llamar al ex alcalde Michael Sullivan para confirmar que este sistema estaba en vigor a principios de 2000.

La cantidad de trucos sucios, represalias y corrupción contra mucha gente buena, y buenos grupos trabajadores, es tan evidente,

que debemos votar en contra de este tipo de trucos solapados.

Los bomberos conocían las razones para respaldar a Brian y tiene que ver con no respaldar a alguien que quiere usar la fuerza para obtener apoyo utilizando sus juegos mentales.

Estoy seguro de que el CAFO Mark Ianello está buscando que Kendrys permanezca en el cargo. Si Kendrys no es elegido en noviembre, el CAFO Ianello será expulsado del Ayuntamiento y será por el nuevo Jefe de Gabinete.

Mayor Kendrys Vasquez and CAFO Ianello Retaliate Against Firefighters

By Frank Bonet



One day, after Local 146 Lawrence Firefighters unanimously endorse Brian DePeña, Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez retaliated against the force by informing (through corrupt CAFO Mark Ianello) the group president

that the city would no longer acknowledge the firefighters' sick leave bank.

You would probably be asking yourself exactly what a sick leave bank is. Well, for over 50 years, each firefighter donates one or two days a year into what is called a "sick leave bank." It's an accumulation of sick days that the brotherhood utilizes to help their brethren in case of need time off due to personal injury or personal illness while avoiding financial difficulties due to having no balance of sick leave.

I know this practice because I, myself, have approved, known, heard complaints on this issue a few times while working for the City, as Personnel Director. I know that the firefighters don't play tricks or lie when it comes to assisting their brothers, working their responsible tasks, or placing processes in place without authorization.

However, the excuse that CAFO Mark Ianello is using to deny said practice is by saying that the accumulated sick leave days were never entered into the Municipal Information System (MUNIS). MUNIS is a financial system that the city utilizes; it has

menus for human resources, and more.

Now, the city is not telling the firefighters that the donated days are not recorded, because they are recorded on a book. A hard copy notebook is kept at the Fire Chief's administrative office. So, in technicality, CAFO Ianello and Interim Mayor Vasquez are telling the union that just because Fire Chief Moriarty (and his administrative team) did not add those days into MUNIS, that the days are not real. Except, now, each of those firefighters that donated into that sick leave bank can't get their sick leave reimbursed back into their accruals.

There was authorization long before Kendrys Vasquez came into office, and there was certainly authorization before CAFO Ianello came into office. One only has to call on former Mayor Michael Sullivan to confirm that this system was in place back in early 2000.

The number of dirty tricks, retaliation, and corruption against many good people, and good hard-working groups, is so evident, that you must vote against this type of underhanded trickery.

The firefighters knew the reasons for endorsing Brian and it has to do with not endorsing someone who wants leverage for support by utilizing their mind games.

I am sure CAFO Mark Ianello is looking to have Kendrys remain in office. If Kendrys is not elected in November, CAFO Ianello is being walked out of City Hall, and it will be by the new Chief of Staff.

"En política, el bolígrafo es más pesado porque está abrumado por la responsabilidad colectiva que tiene hacia su gente y su futuro en los ojos del mundo".

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— Aysha Taryam



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Preguntas y cálculos de la boleta electoral de Leahy School

(Read it in English on page 9)

Por Frank Bonet



Como todos sabemos a estas alturas, el Alcalde Interino Kendrys Vásquez ordenó que se colocara en la boleta electoral de noviembre una pregunta para aumentar los impuestos más allá del máximo de 2.5% para la construcción de la escuela Leahy. Ese máximo del 2.5% se calcula a partir de su presupuesto actual para 2022. Pero en noviembre (ahora si votan temprano como yo) le están haciendo la pregunta a los votantes de aumentar sus impuestos más allá de ese máximo de 2.5%.

Un voto "SI" significa que la ciudad aumentaría sus impuestos por encima del 2.5% (el funcionario municipal electo aún no ha informado a los votantes el número real (o el administrador en jefe de la ciudad ni el funcionario financiero Mark Ianello) y un voto "NO" no lo aumentará por encima del 2.5%.

La mayoría de los residentes de Lawrence saben que necesitamos más edificios escolares nuevos/renovados para los estudiantes de la ciudad. Eso es un hecho. Lo que molestó a muchos votantes de Lawrence es que saben que los funcionarios electos, la superintendente escolar y el CAFO Mark Ianello están efectuando juegos mentales con este aumento propuesto. No están siendo transparentes con sus residentes, y muchos creen que estas mismas personas están engañando a los votantes sobre la naturaleza real de la cantidad, los préstamos y usando tácticas de miedo para convencerlos de que vote "SI". Hasta aquí la transparencia en la administración del Alcalde Interino Vásquez.

Permitame explicar, el Concejo Municipal no pidió ninguna información al Alcalde Interino Vásquez y al CAFO Mark Ianello para la anulación propuesta, a pesar de que tanto Ianello como Vásquez (incluyendo el equipo de finanzas (del que yo era miembro) lo sabían a principios de junio que se necesitaba una anulación desde antes que el presupuesto fuera ante el concejo. Ni siquiera agregaron ningún aumento al presupuesto de este año porque pensaron que podrían ocultárselo a los votantes mientras asistían a estas elecciones. Si quiere una prueba de esto, todo lo que debe hacer es solicitar (como parte de los registros públicos) el Informe de calificación de bonos de la Ciudad de Lawrence, que está fechado el 3 de junio de 2021.

El Informe de calificación de bonos, establece específicamente que la administración les avisó a principios de marzo de 2021 que tendrán que pedir una anulación de los impuestos máximos en noviembre. El principal analista de crédito de este informe fue Danielle L Leonardis de Nueva York y Victor M Medeiros de Boston que trabajaban para S&P Global.

En el informe de calificación crediticia, S&P Global indicó a Lawrence como "flexibilidad presupuestaria muy débil", "Perfil de deuda y pasivo contingente muy fuerte", "Economía débil, con un valor de mercado per cápita de \$64,837" y "Desempeño presupuestario adecuado, con resultados operativos que esperamos se debilite en el corto plazo en relación con el año fiscal 2020". También indicaron que "si experimentaran más presiones fiscales", reducirían la calificación crediticia de la ciudad. Además, insistiendo en

que "si bien esperamos que Lawrence Massachusetts tenga al menos resultados operativos equilibrados, no esperamos que los resultados sean tan favorables como lo habían sido en 2020".

También sé con certeza que en junio del 2021, la ciudad había recibido o se esperaba que recibiera un total de \$7.1 millones en dinero de la Ley CARES, \$41.8 millones en dinero ARPA, \$10 millones adicionales del condado y un reembolso completo de FEMA para sus seis proyectos presentados (que incluyen un sitio de vacunación). Se esperaba que las escuelas recibieran \$31 millones adicionales en fondos de ESSR. Para continuar con sus prácticas presupuestarias conservadoras, solo \$2.0 millones de dinero ARPA se han incluido en el presupuesto fiscal 2022.

Y finalmente, los comentarios en este informe del 3 de junio de 2021 incluyeron "La ciudad planea emitir aproximadamente \$130 millones para dos proyectos escolares: la Escuela Oliver y la Escuela Leahy en el corto plazo. La ciudad no planea anular la deuda de la escuela Oliver a medida que el servicio de la deuda disminuya en el año fiscal 2028, pero probablemente requerirá el uso planificado de una parte del dinero en caja (free cash), mientras que Leahy School probablemente requiera una anulación, que podría ir a los votantes ya en el otoño de 2021".

¡Ellos lo supieron a principios de este año! Lo sabían en marzo de 2021, que es cuando se estaba llevando a cabo esta auditoría/calificación crediticia. ¡No hicieron nada! Sin transparencia, sin comunicación, sin nada para informar a los votantes que esto estaba en camino en noviembre. Y luego, enviar a la superintendente Paris a recibir la presión por colocar la pregunta en la boleta electoral fue la presión que le pusieron encima este grupo de personas corruptas y poco transparentes, y es la razón por la que me fui.

El 23 de septiembre de 2021, el presidente del Consejo Laplante solicitó (como parte de una reunión del concejo) información a CAFO Ianello sobre cómo se vería la estructura de los préstamos para la Escuela Leahy. El 3 de octubre de 2021, CAFO Ianello respondió al presidente del Concejo con algunos cálculos de "números difusos". Afirmó en su memorando lo siguiente.

"El Proyecto de Construcción de Escuelas Leahy tiene un costo estimado de \$103,7 millones, de los cuales se espera que la Autoridad de Construcción de Escuelas de Massachusetts financie un máximo del 59.08% de los costos del proyecto, o \$61.3 millones. La ciudad de Lawrence será responsable de los costos restantes del proyecto, que se estiman en \$42,4 millones, ó 40.92% de los costos totales del proyecto. Pedir prestados \$42.4 millones durante 20 años requerirá \$3 millones anuales, 25 años requerirán \$2.6 millones anuales y 30 años requerirán \$3 millones anuales".

\$2.6 millones, o \$3 millones, al año no suena tan mal para que una ciudad pague a los acreedores. ¿O lo hace? Recuerde, Lawrence es una ciudad de línea roja, al igual que otras comunidades pobres del Commonwealth, lo que significa que obtenemos préstamos a tasas de interés altas. Las tasas de interés no se incluyeron en la carta al presidente del Concejo. Solo las cantidades de dinero y una página adicional indican los aumentos estimados promedio

en los propietarios. Pero calculemos la cantidad de la letra como se muestra en la carta.

1. Tres millones de dólares, durante 20 años, totalizan \$60 millones. Esto significa que de un préstamo de \$42.4 millones, Lawrence pagará \$17.6 millones solo en intereses. Eso es un interés del 29.4% durante la vigencia del préstamo y del 69% en el pago del principal.

2. \$2.6 millones, durante 25 años, totalizan \$65 millones. Esto significa que de un préstamo de \$42.4 millones, Lawrence pagará \$22.6 millones solo en intereses. Eso es un 38.5% de interés durante la vigencia del préstamo y un 65% en pagos de capital.

3. \$3 millones, durante 30 años, totalizan \$90 millones. Esto significa que un préstamo de \$42.4 millones, Lawrence pagará \$47.6 millones solo en intereses. Eso es 47.1% de interés en la vida del préstamo y 53% en pagos de capital.

Mientras tanto, algunas comunidades como Newton, Winchester o Andover pueden ver tasas tan altas. Los acreedores no los tachan de rojo como ocurre con Lawrence. Es un círculo vicioso en el que estamos porque somos pobres. Es el equivalente a que las personas con mal crédito reciban ofertas de tarjetas de crédito, pero a una tasa de interés del 33% y multas por pago anticipado.

Además, CAFO Ianello afirma (en la tabla de evaluación de impuestos de \$2.3 millones) que el aumento promedio, para viviendas unifamiliares, será de \$101 más por año. Las casas de dos familias y las casas de tres familias verán aumentos de impuestos de \$137 y \$156, respectivamente. Pero esa no es una afirmación verdadera. Es posible que su vivienda unifamiliar no se evalúe como mi vivienda unifamiliar. Es posible que su casa, o la mía, se evalúen más alto y pagará más impuestos. De la misma manera que no existen tres viviendas unifamiliares se evalúan por igual.

Debería haberse elaborado un informe más detallado; después de todo, ya tienen toda esta información en su software financiero. Pueden estimar impuestos futuros o detallados ingresando el porcentaje o monto de la recaudación. CAFO Ianello puede proporcionar detalles de cada hogar, negocio en esta ciudad. Ahora eso sería transparencia real. Pero eso es demasiado trabajo para alguien que gana \$175,000 por año y no desperdicia un centavo en Lawrence (porque no vive en Lawrence).

Para empeorar las cosas, al final del año, el ayuntamiento establece una tasa de impuestos para el nuevo año (es obligatorio que la ciudad obtenga fondos del DOR para la segunda mitad de su presupuesto). El concejo puede elegir una tasa impositiva que aumente aún más sus impuestos, lo que convierte la declaración de CAFO Ianello en una declaración falsa. Oiga, este sistema está hecho para exprimir tanto dinero de sus propiedades como el estado pueda obtener, y crearán todas estas leyes y reglas para que no las entendamos. Sin embargo, si llega a comprenderlo, es demasiado tarde, sus impuestos y posiblemente una anulación (el override) ya se habrá realizado.

El departamento escolar publicó su propia versión del monto promedio de impuestos por hogar. Déjeme decirle que eran diferentes a lo que se le proporcionó al concejo. Pero lo que fue tan descarado en su volante fue que las personas buscadas

en el lado norte de la ciudad sienten que están recibiendo menos que en el lado sur de Lawrence al colocar declaraciones como; "Proporcionar equipos y laboratorios de ciencia y tecnología de vanguardia equitativos, así como espacios de arte y música que actualmente están disponibles para los estudiantes que asisten a las escuelas Wetherbee, Guilmette, Parthum y South Lawrence East".

Seguramente, esta información no debería mostrarse como los que tienen y los que no tienen. Los residentes de Lawrence no están en guerra entre sí. Pero la superintendente Paris está utilizando la política comparada. El método comparativo es uno de los cuatro enfoques metodológicos principales en las ciencias (los otros son el método estadístico, el método experimental y el método de estudio de casos).

El método comparativo es importante para las ciencias políticas porque las otras metodologías científicas principales son más difíciles de emplear. Es por eso que puedo entender (pero no estoy de acuerdo) que la Superintendente Paris empleará este método para influir en los votantes para que anulen los impuestos. Ella no tiene datos (o pruebas) que indiquen que los edificios educativos de Wetherbee, Guilmette, Parthum y South Lawrence East tienen un impacto positivo directo en el aprendizaje de los estudiantes de Lawrence. Verá que MCAS no se usa para calcular eso, MCAS solo se usa para calcular una prueba escrita realizada por los estudiantes.

Finalmente, lo que CAFO Ianello no ha indicado es que él mismo ha declarado en reuniones a principios del verano pasado que la Autoridad de Construcción Escolar de Massachusetts generalmente no pagará más del 21% del costo del edificio escolar.

Entonces tenía razón, pero ¿por qué cambió de posición? ¿Quizás un pequeño empujón del Alcalde Interino Vásquez? Existe una fórmula que se utiliza para calcular los gastos reembolsables estimados asociados con las escuelas por la MSBA. El MSBA toma una tasa base del 31% y agrega un factor socioeconómico como; factor de ingresos de la comunidad (proporcionado por el Departamento de Ingresos), tasa del factor de riqueza de la propiedad comunitaria (también proporcionada por el DOR) y tasa del factor de pobreza de la comunidad (proporcionada por DESE).

Nadie en esta administración ha mostrado ningún documento de que la MSBA haya prometido un reembolso de devolución del 59% del proyecto. Eso es porque no lo hay. He solicitado esto como un registro público y no tienen tales documentos.

Estos cálculos son estimaciones de CAFO Ianello y los funcionarios de finanzas escolares (posiblemente el comité de construcción escolar que está de incógnito y no se ha escuchado de él). La preocupación, así como las preocupaciones anteriores, es que la MSBA no pagará por partes del proyecto que se supone que no deben ser aprobadas por sus reglas. Reembolsable es la única discreción de la MSBA.

Para obtener más información sobre el cálculo de la tasa de reembolso, visite la sección 10 de MGL 70B. Mientras esté allí, lea el proyecto de ley de junio de 2021 presentado por los senadores estatales para renovar o actualizar dichas leyes.

¡Feliz Votación!

Leahy School Ballot Question and Calculations

(Léalo en español en la página 8)

By Frank Bonet



As we all know by now, Interim Mayor Kendrys Vasquez order to be placed onto the November ballot a question to increase taxes beyond the maximum of 2.5% for the construction of the Leahy School. That's maximum of 2.5% is calculated out of your current 2022 budget. But in November (now if you vote early like me) the question to increase your taxes beyond that maximum of 2.5% is being asked of the voters.

A "YES" vote means that the city would increase your taxes above 2.5% (actual number still not told to the voters by your elected city official (or by City Chief Administrator & Financial Officer Mark Ianello) and a "NO" vote will not increase it above the 2.5%.

Most of the residents of Lawrence know that we need newer/updated school buildings for city students. That's a given. What upset many Lawrence voters is that they know the elected officials, the school superintendent, and CAFO Mark Ianello are playing mind games with this proposed increase. They are not being transparent with its residents, and many believe that these same people are deceiving voters of the actual nature of the amount, the loans, and using scare tactics to convince you to vote "Yes". So much for transparency in the Interim Mayor Vasquez administration. But hey, by the book right. Sure.

Let me explain, the City Council did not ask for any information, from Interim Mayor Vasquez and CAFO Mark Ianello for the proposed override, even though both Ianello and Vasquez (including the finance team (which I was a member) knew in early June that an override was needed before the budget went to council. They didn't even add any increases to this year's budget because they thought they could hide it from the voters while they were going into these elections. If you want proof of this, all you must do is request (as part of the public records) the City of Lawrence Bond Rating Report, which is dated June 3, 2021.

The Bond Rating Report, specifically states that the administrations told them in early March 2021, that they will have to go for an override of the maximum taxes in November. He primary credit analyst of this report was Danielle L Leonardis of New York and Victor M Medeiros of Boston working for S&P Global.

In the credit rating report, S&P Global indicated Lawrence as "very weak budgetary flexibility", "Very strong debt and contingent liability profile", "Weak economy, with a market value per capita of \$64,837" and "Adequate budgetary performance, with operating results that we expect could weaken in the near term relative to fiscal 2020". They also indicated that "were to experience further fiscal pressures" they would reduce the city's credit rating. Furthermore, insisting that "while we expect Lawrence Massachusetts to have at least balanced operating results, we do not expect results to be as favorable as they had been in 2020."

I also know for a fact that as of June 2021, the city had received or was expected to receive a total of \$7.1 million in CARES Act money, \$41.8 million in ARPA money, an additional \$10 million from the county and full reimbursement from FEMA for their six submitted projects (which include a

vaccination site). The schools were expected to receive an additional \$31 million in ESSR money. To continue their conservative budgeting practices, only \$2.0 million of ARPA money has been included in the fiscal 2022 budget.

And finally, comments in this June 3rd, 2021 report included "The city plans to issue roughly \$130 million for two school projects: the Oliver School and the Leahy School over the near term. The city does not plan to do an over-ride for the Oliver school as debt service declines in fiscal 2028 but will likely require the planned use of a portion of free cash, while the Leahy School will likely require an override, which could go to the voters as early as the Fall of 2021."

They knew early this year! They knew in March 2021, which is when this audit/credit rating was taking place. They did nothing! No transparency, no communication, no anything to inform the voters this was on its way in November. And then to send Superintendent Paris to take the heat for placing the question on the ballot was the cherry on top of this untransparent and corrupt group of individuals – hence why I left.

On September 23, 2021, Council President LaPlante requested (as part of a council meeting) information from CAFO Ianello regarding how the structure of the Leahy loans would look. On October 3, 2021, CAFO Ianello responded to Council President with some "fuzzy number" calculations. He stated in his memorandum the following.

"The Leahy School Building Project has an estimated cost of \$103.7 million, of which the Massachusetts School Building Authority is expected to fund a maximum of 59.08% of the project costs, or \$61.3 million. The City of Lawrence will be responsible for the remaining project costs which are estimated at \$42.4 million, or 40.92% of the total project costs. Borrowing \$42.4M for 20-years will require \$3M annually, 25-years will require \$2.6M annually, and 30-years will require \$3M annually."

\$2.6 million, or \$3 million, a year does not sound that bad for a city to pay back the creditors. Or does it? Remember, Lawrence is a redline city, as are other poor communities across the Commonwealth, which means we get loans at high-interest rates. The interest rates were not included in the letter to Council President. Only money amounts and an additional page indicate average estimated increases on property owners. But let's calculate the amount of the letter as shown in the letter.

1. Three million dollars, for 20 years, total \$60 million. This means that of a \$42.4 million loan, Lawrence will pay \$17.6 million in interest alone. That's 29.4% interest in the life of the loan, and 69% in principal payment.

2. \$2.6 million, for 25 years, totals \$65 million. This means that of a \$42.4 million loan, Lawrence will pay \$22.6 million in interest alone. That's 38.5% interest over the life of the loan and 65% in principal payments.

3. \$3 million, for 30 years, totals \$90 million. This means that of a \$42.4 million loan, Lawrence will pay \$47.6 million in interest alone!!! That is 47.1% interest in the life of the loan, and 53% in principal payments.

Meanwhile, some communities such as Newton, Winchester, or Andover do get

to see rates this high. They are not getting redlined by creditors like they do Lawrence. It's a vicious circle that we are in because we are poor. It's the equivalent of people with bad credit getting offers for credit cards, but at a 33% interest rate payback and early payoff penalties.

Additionally, CAFO Ianello states (in the \$2.3 million levy assessment chart) that the average increase, for single-family homes, will be \$101 more per year. Two-family homes and three-family homes will see tax increases of \$137 and \$156, respectively. But that is not a true statement. Your single-family home may not be assessed as to my single-family home. Your, or my house, may be assessed higher and will pay more taxes. In the same manner that there are no three family homes are assessed alike.

A more detailed report should have been produced – after all they already have all this information in their financial software. They can estimate future or detailed taxes by plugging in the levy percentage or amount. CAFO Ianello can provide detail of every home, business in this city. Now that would be real transparency. But that's too much work for someone who earns \$175,000 per year and doesn't waste one cent in Lawrence (because he does not live in Lawrence).

To make matters worse, at the end of the year the city council sets a tax rate for the New Year (it's mandatory for the City to get funds released from the DOR for the second half of its budget). The council may choose a tax rate that further increases your taxes, making the statement by CAFO Ianello a false statement. Hey, this system is made to squeeze as much money from your properties as the Commonwealth can get, and they will create all these laws and rules to get you not to understand. However, if you get to understand it, it's too late, your taxes, and possibly an override, will have already taken place.

The school department released its own version of the average amount of taxes per home. Let me tell you they were different than what was provided to the council. But what was so brazen in their flyer was that the wanted people in the north side of the city feel like they were receiving less than the south side of Lawrence by placing statements such as; "Provide equitable state of art Science and Technology equipment and labs as well as art and music spaces which are currently available to students attending the Wetherbee, Guilmette, Parthum and South Lawrence East Schools."

Surely, this information should not

be shown as the haves and have nots. Lawrence residents are not at war with one another. But Superintendent Paris is using Comparative Politics. The comparative method is one of four main methodological approaches in the sciences (the others being statistical method, experimental method, and case study method).

The comparative method is important to political science because the other main scientific methodologies are more difficult to employ. This is why I can understand (but not agree) that Superintendent Paris would employ this method to influence voters for the override in taxes. She has no data (or proof) to indicate that the Wetherbee, Guilmette, Parthum, and South Lawrence East educational buildings have a direct positive impact on the learning of Lawrence students. You see MCAS is not used to calculate that, MCAS is only used to calculate a written test taken by the students.

Finally, what CAFO Ianello has not indicated is that he, himself, has stated in early meetings this past summer that the Massachusetts School Building Authority usually won't pay more than 21% of the school building cost.

He was correct then but why did he change his position? Maybe a little nudge by Interim Mayor Vasquez? There is a formula that is used to calculate estimated reimbursable expenses associated with schools by the MSBA. The MSBA takes a base rate of 31% and adds a socioeconomic factor such as, community income factor (provided by Department of Revenue), Community Property Wealth Factor rate (also provided by DOR), and Community Poverty Factor rate (provided by DESE).

No one in this administration has shown any documents that the MSBA has promised a return reimbursement of 59% of the project. That's because there is not. I have requested this as a public record, and they don't have such documents.

These calculations are estimates by CAFO Ianello and school finance officials (possibly the school building committee which is incognito and hasn't been heard from). The concern, as well as the above concerns, is that the MSBA won't pay for pieces of the project that is not supposed to be approved by their rules. Reimbursable is the sole discretion of the MSBA.

For further information on reimbursement rate calculation visit MGL 70B section 10. While you are there read the June 2021 bill introduced by state senators to revamp or update said laws.

Happy Voting!



Question #1 Voter Information Sheet

Question #1 asks you to vote Yes (in favor) or No (against) allowing the city to borrow money to fund the construction of a new Francis M. Leahy School.

Yes Vote

- Will alleviate overcrowding by combining the students from the Leahy, Lawlor, and UP Leonard Schools. Total 1000 seats.
- Provide adequate indoor gymnasium space to support physical activity and student health as well as space for students with disabilities.
- Provide equitable state of art Science and Technology equipment and labs as well as art and music spaces which are currently available to students attending the Wetherbee, Guilmette, Parthum and South Lawrence East Schools.
- Accepts the building cost of \$103.7 million with reimbursement from Mass School Building Authority of \$61.3 million, leaving \$42.4 million of the total cost for the city to go out to bond for 20 years.
- Tax increase: Single Family Home \$130 or \$32.50 per quarter.
Two Family Home \$175 or \$43.75 per quarter.
Three Family Home \$199 or \$66.34 per quarter.
Condominium \$70 or \$17.50 per quarter.
Commercial \$466 or \$116.50 per quarter.
Industrial \$1371 or \$342.75 per quarter.



No Vote

- Projected enrollments indicate class sizes will be over 30 students in each class in four years.
- Physical education will continue outdoors weather permitting. No adequate space for children with disabilities.
- Students at the Leahy will NOT have the same opportunities as other students in the newer facilities.
- Refuses the state contribution toward the school, the city does not go out to bond and the students continue to be educated in a 100-year-old building which does not meet their educational needs.
- No tax increases and NO new school for the students.



EDUCATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION

The design chosen by the Leahy Elementary School Building Committee is based on the school district's visionary educational program with a design framework that matches other schools with a K-8 Education Complex. In these schools learning methods are more robust and challenging, such as 'project-based learning'. The goal is to create an environment where all modes of learning can flourish as students learn and understand in an enriching and inclusive environment. The new school's design offers appropriately sized classrooms for project-based learning organized by grade level and the integration of Art, Music, and Physical Education classes. The design of the new school is focused on creating a joyful place to learn. The "Small Learning Community" for each group brings together social and academic learning. The commitment of families with the education of their children

will be beneficial in creating a dynamic and enriching environment.

Families and community members are working very hard to make the new Leahy School a reality.

Please consider a donation, no matter how small and send a check to:

Friends of the Leahy School
c/o Missy Carrol
165 Ferry Street, Lawrence, MA 01841

The Leahy School students and families thank you!

Why Not Now?
A Voters Guide to making the right choice on ballot

Question #1
Should our children be educated here?

EDUCACIÓN DE LA PRÓXIMA GENERACIÓN

El diseño elegido por el Comité de Construcción de la Escuela Primaria Leahy se basa en el programa educativo visionario del distrito escolar con un marco de diseño que coincide con otras escuelas con un Complejo Educativo K-8. En estas escuelas, los métodos de aprendizaje son más sólidos y desafiantes, como el "aprendizaje basado en proyectos". El objetivo es crear un entorno en el que todos los modos de aprendizaje puedan prosperar a medida que los estudiantes aprenden y comprenden en un entorno enriquecedor e inclusivo. El diseño de la nueva escuela ofrece aulas de tamaño adecuado para el aprendizaje basado en proyectos organizados por nivel de grado y la integración de clases de arte, música y educación física. El diseño de la nueva escuela se centra en crear un lugar alegre para aprender. La "pequeña comunidad de aprendizaje" para cada grupo reúne el aprendizaje social y académico. El compromiso de las familias con la

educación de sus hijos será beneficioso para crear un entorno dinámico y enriquecedor.

Las familias y los miembros de la comunidad están trabajando muy duro para hacer realidad la nueva Leahy School.

Considere una donación, no importa cuán pequeña sea, y envíe un cheque a:

Amigos de la escuela Leahy
c/o Missy Carrol
165 Ferry Street, Lawrence, MA 01841

¡Los estudiantes y las familias de Leahy School les agradecen!

¿Por qué no ahora?
Una guía para votantes para tomar la decisión correcta en la boleta

Pregunta #1
¿Deberían educar a nuestros hijos aquí?



Pregunta #1 - Hoja de Información para el Votante

Pregunta #1 le pide que vote Si (a favor) or No (en contra) permitiendo a la ciudad aprobar un préstamo para financiar la construcción de la nueva Francis M. Leahy School.

Voto Sí

- Aliviará el hacinamiento al combinar a los estudiantes de las escuelas Leahy, Lawlor y UP Leonard. Total 1000 asientos.
- Proporcionar un espacio interior adecuado en el gimnasio para apoyar la actividad física y la salud de los estudiantes, así como un espacio para los estudiantes con discapacidades.
- Proporcionar equipos y laboratorios de ciencia y tecnología de vanguardia y equitativos, así como espacios de arte y música que están actualmente disponibles para los estudiantes que asisten a las escuelas Wetherbee, Guilmette, Parthum y South Lawrence East.
- Acepta el costo de construcción de \$103.7 millones con reembolso de la Autoridad de Construcción de Escuelas Masivas de \$61.3 millones, dejando \$42.4 millones del costo total para que la ciudad obtenga un préstamo pagadero por durante 20 años.
- Aumento de impuestos: Vivienda unifamiliar \$130 ó \$32.50 por trimestre.
Casa para dos familias \$175 ó \$43.75 por trimestre.
Casa de tres familias \$199 ó \$66.34 por trimestre.
Condominio \$70 ó \$17.50 por trimestre.
Comercial \$466 ó \$116,50 por trimestre.
Industrial \$1371 ó \$342,75 por trimestre.



Voto No

- Las inscripciones proyectadas indican que el tamaño de las clases será de más de 30 estudiantes en cada clase en cuatro años.
- La educación física continuará al aire libre si el clima lo permite. No hay espacio adecuado para niños con discapacidades.
- Los estudiantes de Leahy NO tendrán las mismas oportunidades que otros estudiantes en las instalaciones más nuevas.
- Rechaza el aporte estatal a la escuela, la ciudad no sale a fianza y los estudiantes continúan educándose en un edificio de 100 años que no satisface sus necesidades educativas.
- No hay aumentos de impuestos y NO hay nuevas escuelas para los estudiantes.



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Endowed Scholarship is Created in Memory of NECC Professor Emerita

Haverhill and Lawrence, MA (October 19, 2021) Thanks to a lifetime of effort by Mary DiGiovanni, a longtime resident of Reading, MA, who passed away in October, people with disabilities in the Merrimack Valley and beyond continue to receive a higher standard of care.

A nurse with a master's in community mental health, DiGiovanni founded the Human Service Program at Northern Essex Community College and served as its coordinator for three decades, until her retirement in 2001.

The college now offers an associate degree in human services as well as certificates in alcohol/drug abuse counseling, children's behavioral health specialist, community support human services practitioner, direct support, and peer recovery specialist, and all can be traced directly to DiGiovanni, and her passion for advocating for individuals who can't advocate for themselves, said Dr. Paul Bevilacqua, who was her colleague and then, as vice president of academic affairs, her supervisor for many years.

"Where she found the time to do all the things she did, I have no idea," he said. "She was continuous motion. Students loved her because they knew she cared deeply."

Human service professionals work in a range of settings with seniors, adults, adolescents, and children with substance abuse issues, mental illness, or developmental and/or emotional disabilities.

"Mary was connected with everyone in the Merrimack Valley in the human service field," said Bevilacqua. "She had either taught them or partnered with them to place students in practicums or jobs."

DiGiovanni also provided leadership for human services at the national level, serving on the Council for Standards in Human Service Education from 1992 to 2002. In 2009, she researched and wrote a national study creating recognition for the human service profession and developing skills standards for those working in the field.

Well aware of her dedication to the human services profession, DiGiovanni's family has created an endowed scholarship in their mother's name, which will be given to a human service student each year.

In creating the scholarship, her son Mark DiGiovanni wrote "We are creating this scholarship in memory of our mother and her dedication to the human services profession. Her passion in life was teaching and advocating for people with disabilities. She found her calling while at NECC in educating students on caring for others. We hope this scholarship will help others to follow in her footsteps."

After retiring from the college, DiGiovanni continued her work, spearheading grants designed to improve the skills and educational levels of those working with people with disabilities.

She was named Professor Emerita of

Human Services soon after her retirement, and, in 2013, she received the Making a Difference Award in conjunction with the college's 50th anniversary.

Permanently endowed scholarships, with naming opportunities and criteria restrictions, can be created with a minimum commitment of \$25,000, according to Allison Dolan-Wilson, vice president of institutional advancement.

"This is a wonderful way to carry on Mary's legacy," said Dolan-Wilson. "Our students will benefit for many years to come."

Donations can be made via check or online (www.necc.mass.edu/giving) to The NECC Foundation, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill, MA 01830. Please write (The Mary DiGiovanni Human Services Scholarship) on the memo line or in the comments for online giving.

To learn more, contact Dolan-Wilson at adolanwilson@necc.mass.edu or 978 556-3624.



Professor Emerita Mary DiGiovanni,

Mi abuelo me dijo una vez que hay dos tipos de personas: los que hacen todo el trabajo y los que se llevan el mérito. También me dijo que debo estar en el primer grupo; hay menos competencia.

My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.

— Indira Gandhi

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El equipo de Riverwalk Limpia O'Connell South Common

El mes pasado, el equipo de el complejo de apartamentos Riverwalk Lofts en Lawrence organizó un esfuerzo de limpieza en O'Connell South Common en South Union Street. Varios miembros del equipo y residentes estuvieron presentes para ayudar a limpiar el parque.

“Nuestro equipo siempre está buscando formas de apoyar a la comunidad, así como de conectarse con nuestros residentes”, dijo Carla Jacobson, directora de arrendamiento residencial. “Limpiar el parque fue una excelente manera de mostrar nuestro amor por Lawrence, así como divertimos conociendo a la gran gente que vive en The Lofts.”

Riverwalk Lofts, ubicado en 210 Merrimack Street, es un complejo de apartamentos con cerca de 600 apartamentos de lujo tipo loft y 10,000 pies cuadrados de espacio de servicios para residentes. Para obtener más información sobre Riverwalk Lofts y comunicarse con el



En la foto (de izquierda a derecha) Carla Jacobson, Directora de Arrendamiento Residencial y Anna Jodka, Especialista en mercadeo.

equipo de arrentamiento sobre el apoyo a su organization, visite www.theriverwalklofts.com

The Merrimack Valley Chamber joined in on MD Esthetics Grand Opening celebration of their North Andover location!

It was great celebrating with their team as well as Senator DiZoglio and Tarr's office and Representatives Minicucci and Nguyen

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“Obstáculos son las cosas que una persona ve cuando no sigue su meta.”

“Obstacles are things a person sees when he takes his eyes off his goal.”

- E. Joseph Cossman

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Letter to the Editor / Cartas al Editor



Leo Lamontagne deserves to be re-elected as a representative to The Greater Lawrence Technical School District Committee on Election Day November 2

To the Editor:

He has served the City of Lawrence with integrity, stability and passion. Under his Committee Chairmanship the school and surrounding campus were expanded and renovated resulting in more career opportunities for all students.

He spearheaded the achievement of GLTS reaching its Level 1 status. His knowledge of and commitment to Vocational/Technical Education serve as an example for all committee persons.

Now more than ever Greater Lawrence Tech needs Leo Lamontagne's experience and institutional knowledge to help all students graduate with the skills needed to be successful contributing members of The Merrimack Valley work force.

It has been an honor and extreme privilege to learn from and serve alongside this GLTS graduate and Lawrence businessman.

Marilyn Fitzgerald
Elected Representative
Andover

To all Lawrence Voters who support vocational/technical education:

Please remember to cast your very important vote for LEO Lamontagne!

L..... is for LEADER!
E..... is for EDUCATION!
O..... is for OCCUPATIONS!

Leo Lamontagne is, and has been the longest serving member of the Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee. He has led the amazing growth of the school's consistent success in preparing our Lawrence youth for vocational, technical, and academic success. His enthusiastic and positive leadership as chairman of the committee has enabled GLTS students and graduates to secure academic and vocational success, leading them to achieve high personal and professional success in their career options.

Leo has been a diligent advocate and leader in overseeing the addition of many new technical and academic programs and career options, a huge building expansion program, and an amazing success rate in placing students in co-op opportunities which yielded highly successful employment immediately upon their graduation.... while also giving the GLTS students many postgraduate curriculum options in higher education, so they could achieve their highest potential in college and beyond!

Leo Lamontagne has earned the admiration and respect of many other Voc-Tech school committees who work in collaboration, across the Commonwealth, and he is a gift to our greater Lawrence community! Please be sure to cast your vote for him on Election Day!

Thank you very much, Lawrence Voters!

Sincere appreciation and gratitude,
Dr. Marsha McDonough
Former superintendent, GLTS

Deborah L. Lamontagne, Director
North Andover School Of Dance

To The Editor:

I am honored to write this letter of endorsement supporting the reelection of Mr. Leo Lamontagne to the School Committee of Greater Lawrence Technical School. During my tenure as Superintendent-Director at the nationally recognized school, Mr. Lamontagne served as Chairperson.

As superintendent, it was a productive and rewarding experience for me personally and professionally. Our roles, Leo in governance and mine as the school district's chief education officer always had one clear and motivating goal...the academic and career success of each and every student.

One of the crowning achievements during my time working with Leo is the present 52 million dollar educational facility that is not only home to the Reggies but is regularly used by other schools, organizations and businesses in the Merrimack Valley. Thanks to the efforts of many selfless and enterprising individuals, led by Mr. Lamontagne, this campus is a benchmark of excellence and state of the art technology.

The GLTS Model inspired other vocational-technical schools in the Commonwealth to restructure their school buildings. Under Leo's leadership, the school was the first to use the "High Schools That Work Framework" to revitalize teaching, improve educational standards and evaluate results. Further, it is important to note that the school helped subsidize education by bringing in more than 1 million dollars in funds each year generated solely from grants.

The school also instituted after-school academic programs to help a diversified student population improve their math and reading skills. Summer Camps and ancillary programs, ranging from academics to arts to athletics were an important part of the learning platform and personality of the ever-growing school.

The GLTS campus also accommodates the very popular and much needed "Meals on Wheels Program" for the region's much esteemed senior citizens. At the time of my superintendency, over 1,000 meals were delivered daily. Mr. Lamontagne ensured that whatever the weather, our senior citizens would have the welcome benefit

of a meal. The students worked with the adult staff to make this program widely recognized as a leader across the state. Leo was an important proponent of connecting the generations, young and old.

On average, the vocational-technical academies performed over 40 community service projects annually. The house building project in partnership with The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce attests to Mr. Lamontagne's tireless commitment to the continued improved quality of life in the City of Lawrence and the surrounding communities. He was truly a proponent of partnerships and collaboration to advance educational success for the students but also to improve opportunities and prosperity.

One important component in the educational strand for GLTS students and staff is a faithful and respectful appreciation for our nation's beloved veterans and active military. The "Wall of Honor" in the school's magnificent foyer is only one validation of his commitment. During my tenure as superintendent working closely with Leo and other school committee members, the Korean War Memorial in The Campagnone Common and The United States Marine Corp and Corpsman Monument and Garden at the Bellevue Cemetery are timely and significant reminders that we can enjoy and appreciate our freedom because of our military heroes and patriots.

It is without reservation that I endorse the reelection of Mr. Leo Lamontagne to the school Committee at Greater Lawrence Technical School. His leadership has brought forth many significant and timely advancements not solely for the school but for the entire region. The 52 million dollar campus that students use today may be considered as his most important achievement. However, I venture to go beyond the facility. For Leo, it has been and will always be about the students and the city that he loves.

He has pledged his life to create opportunities that go beyond the classrooms and learning labs of the school and extend into the neighborhoods where life can be lived with hopes and dreams of success for one and for all.

Frank S. Vacirca, Superintendent-Director (Retired)
Greater Lawrence Technical School

"The political process does not end on Election Day. Young people need to stay involved in the process by continuing to pay attention to the conversation and holding their leaders accountable for the decisions they make."

"El proceso político no termina el día de las elecciones. Los jóvenes deben permanecer involucrados en el proceso al seguir prestando atención a la conversación y responsabilizar a sus líderes por las decisiones que toman".

Patrick Murphy

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Paul Ratha Yem for District 7 in Lowell City Council



This is Paul Ratha Yem candidate for Lowell City Council to represent District 7, the Acre.

He came with his family from Cambodia as refugees and have lived on Mount Vernon Street, Lowell for over 30 years.

He came to the United States as a young man soon after the fall of Cambodia in 1975. "He was adopted by an American family living in San Bernardino California. After school and on weekends, I volunteered to help Cambodian families in Long Beach, California," he said.

In early 1980's, he found a job offer working with Cambodian refugee families in the greater Boston area, and jumped at the opportunity and drove across the country without knowing how cold it is in Massachusetts.

"I became the leader and activist for the Cambodian community in the Boston area in addition to being a case worker and soon I was hired to work for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Attorney General Scott Harshbarger as the Asian Liaison to help break cultural barrier between the Asian communities and law enforcement," Paul continued. "In this role I was a member of the Lowell gang task force led by the then Middlesex DA attorney Tom Reilly and Chief Ed Davis creating community policing and hiring the 1st two Cambodian police officers and creating a youth program, which later became UTEC. The gang violence was under controlled."

Paul left the state job 1989 to become a banker working for Lowell Institution for Savings and Enterprise bank as the community officer providing personal banking, business loans, and mortgages.

By 1995, he left the bank to become the executive director of the Cambodian American League of Lowell (CALL) to promote micro enterprise training, micro loans to individuals starting a business, to provide first time home buyers training in English, Spanish and Khmer in conjunction with the Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership, and to develop affordable housing for those who are not ready to buy a house at 60 Middlesex St. next to

Washington Savings bank creating 24 affordable units and 4 commercial spaces on the ground level that include the Garnick's music center, Majestic Barber Shop, and Sim's Driving School.

"I left the organization in 2002 to start my own businesses that include a convenience store, a Laundromat in South Lowell and my own real estate office in the Acre. As a real estate broker, I was able to bring Tasty Dumpling restaurant to the Acre at 351 Market St; Gormley's Breakfast to 347 Market St. And I will continue to fight for our small businesses to receive grants and other assistance."

Paul's priorities are:

1. Affordable Housing for low income family in the District;
2. Community Safety that keep our families and children safe;
3. Revitalized the Acre to include clean streets, sidewalks, parks for our children to play sports and recreation;
4. Economic Recovery to help small businesses in our neighborhood get back on their feet after COVID-19

"I am the right candidate to represent District 7, the Acre because I am an immigrant and I understand the struggle the Acre residents are going through. I will be your strong voice at the City Hall."

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- Must be able to lift 30-50 lbs.
- Must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and a basic set of your own tools.
- Must be able to work overtime in emergency situations.
- Must be available for night/weekend on call duty (rotates among the team).

The primary job responsibilities include:

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- repair/replace window screens
- appliance repair and installation
- electrical repairs
- roofing inspection/minor roof repair
- HVAC troubleshooting and filter change
- minor drywall and carpentry repair
- painting
- cleaning/grounds maintenance
- other tasks as needed to maintain property appearance

EDUCATION: A high school education or equivalent is required (college hours preferred). Background screening is required.



Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims of the recent fires in Lawrence. The website has a list of donated items and things that are still needed.

Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

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REMEMBER TO VOTE FOR



Richard L. Russell

34 Cross Street
508-982-9562

Candidate - Councilor at Large

dickrussell0817@gmail.com
ARMY VETERAN - HOMEOWNER



AVISO

El Departamento de Obras Públicas de la Ciudad de Lawrence, MA está buscando equipos para la recogida de la nieve para esta temporada de invierno

Estamos buscando camionetas (pick-up truck) de ¾ de toneladas o más, camiones de 6 y 10 ruedas con regadoras de sal (sanders) de 3 yardas o más, niveladoras (graders) y cargadores frontales (front end loaders).

Por favor, llame con la información del número de equipos disponibles.

Para fines de precios de pagos, llame al 978-620-3372.

Franklin Miguel
Director-Interino del
Departamento de Obras Públicas

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
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LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

315 Mt. Vernon St.
Lawrence MA 01843
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

Voter ID

For many years, people all over the country have been asking for proper voter identification to be implemented, causing chaos leading to legal proceedings, and plenty of misinformation.

The news also had reports of a cruise ship leaving from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and people were showing their ID before boarding. I didn't hear anyone complaining. We know that to fly in a plane you need to show it and when I pick up my medicines at the drug store I have to pull my driver's license.

The same for the theatres on New York's Broadway began to open up and I watched on television the long line of people waiting to see Bruce Springsteen with ID on hand and happy about it.

What inspired me to write about this was going to the credit union from where I retired and having to show it as well.

The purpose of asking for identification is to make sure that our elections are honest and clean and after the latest rounds of elections, we should think of this as imperative to guarantee that the system is what we expect it to be.

We've heard the most absurd reasons as to why it should not happen such as it's difficult or impossible for minorities to acquire an ID card due to distance from their homes to the Registry of Motor Vehicles, the cost, lack of transportation, or just that this practice is discriminatory against minorities.

Now, it's happening all over the Commonwealth; people are becoming so frustrated that there are over 6,000 volunteers collecting signatures to add it to the ballot next November of 2022. I gladly volunteered to do my part and I'm going around asking for support. If anyone wants to cooperate with me, please give me a call.

We only have 3 weeks left to collect the signature sheets, have them certified by the city clerk, and send them to the coordinators.

This will be a requirement for all

citizens of any race or color, not specifically for anyone. My response is simple: any person who drives a car must have a driver's license and that's good enough to vote. Anyone who doesn't drive can get an ID similar to the driver's license for \$15.

The requirement of identification to vote means showing something official that tells the poll worker that you are the person on the list. As long as they ask every single person to show it, no one can claim discrimination yet, I've been hearing lately the word "racist."

Lawrence, where we do things backward

The City Council approved last Tuesday, October 19th, a new rule that reads as follows:

Electioneering. For the time period designated for in-person absentee voting and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Early Voting Period, no poster, card, handbill, placard, picture, or circular intended to influence the action of the voter, other than those expressly authorized by G. L. c. 54, § 65, shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or distributed in any building where early voting is to take place, including on the walls thereof, on the premises on which the early voting takes place, or within on hundred and fifty feet of the building entrance door.

After the Preliminary Election, we heard lots of complaints about violations of this rule with the excuse that it was not applicable to Early Voting sites.

Well, there's no argument that it will not be allowed. Let's see how they can control city employees going to the council chambers to "help" voters with their ballots (and you know who you are!)

The reason for saying that we do things backward is because the City Council couldn't wait the required 30 days because November 2 will be here soon so they waived the 30-days waiting period or

Enjoy the sweep



In another despicable move, the interim mayor wasted city funds by hiring two street sweepers at a cost of \$80 per mile. Occasionally, I see them going up and down my street but I cannot tell about their efficacy because Mt. Vernon's residents take pride in their properties and keep everything in order.

Meanwhile, people complain of having seen the sweepers in the middle of the roads instead of cleaning along the sidewalks where trash accumulates. That would require signs to be posted prohibiting parking on one side of the street to clean it.

That has never happened so nothing gets accomplished.

The funny thing is that they are to finish on Election Day. It was nothing but a disgraceful tactic to get votes. I don't know who's advising him on his strategy because that one, plus what he did to the firefighters (canceling the sick leave they had contributed to) was an astronomical miscalculation.

One thing he convinced everyone of is that he's not intelligent at all. He is nothing more than an egotistical being.

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

When a fire occurs in Lawrence, usually many families are left homeless and in need of everything. Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims. The website has a list of items and things that are needed as well as victims' names, ages, sizes, etc. but they suggest giving them gift cards to grocery stores and department stores in any denomination.

Cuando un incendio ocurre en Lawrence, por lo regular muchas familias se quedan sin hogar y necesitadas de todo. Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que necesitan así como nombres, edades, tallas, etc. de las víctimas pero ellos sugieren que les compren tarjetas de mercados o tiendas por departamentos de cualquier denominación.

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

BALLOT QUESTION/PREGUNTA ELECTORAL

Proposition 2 1/2 Debt Exclusion
Leahy Elementary School Bonds

Shall the city of Lawrence be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called "the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of constructing a new Leahy Elementary School located at 100 Erving Avenue in Lawrence, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs related to designing the project, demolishing the existing building, equipping and furnishing the school, site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?"

Propuesta 2 1/2 de exclusión de la deuda
Bonos de la Escuela Primaria Leahy

¿Se le permitirá a la ciudad de Lawrence eximir de las disposiciones de la proposición dos y medio/a, "así llamada", las cantidades requeridas para pagar los bonos emitidos con el fin de pagar los costos de construcción de una nueva escuela primaria Leahy ubicada en la Avenida 100 de la Erving en Lawrence, Massachusetts, incluido el pago de todos los costos relacionados con el diseño del proyecto, la demolición del edificio actual, el equipamiento y el mobiliario de la escuela, las mejoras del sitio y todos los demás costos incidentales y relacionados con los mismos?

If you want to know who controls you, look at who you are not allowed to criticize.

— Voltaire

AZ QUOTES



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Lawrence, MA 01841

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11th Annual In Pink Brunch and Comedy Show

Judy Carter to headline virtual comedy show

Honoring Borislow Insurance with the Rosalyn Kempton Wood Award for Inspirational Leadership

Later this month, renowned comedienne Judy Carter is pitching in to benefit women's health initiatives at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC). Her stand-up comedy will be featured as part of the organization's 11th Annual In Pink Brunch and Comedy Show fundraiser on Thursday, October 28 at 7:00 pm. This year's event is virtual.

Four members of Borislow Insurance will be honored with the health center's Rosalyn Kempton Wood Award for Inspirational Leadership during the event. The award honors the memory of philanthropist Wood, a longtime friend of the health center whose generosity helped ensure women in need throughout the Merrimack Valley received basic and critical

health care. The 2021 award will be presented to Jen Borislow, Melissa Marrama, Judy Tomeo and Collette Turgeon. Each of these outstanding women have given to those in need during the pandemic in countless ways. They mobilized teams of people to provide resources to the homeless, and also provide frontline health care workers with thousands of sandwiches, hot meals, fresh fruit cups, personal protective equipment, care baskets and inspirational messages.

In addition to Carter's performance, the event will feature raffles and the sale of the fan-favorite Mystery Boxes. For further information about the event and prizes, view the health center's In Pink webpage: <https://glfhc.org/event-post/11th-annual-in-pink-comedy-show/>.



www.rumbonews.com

¡La Fundación Big Brother Big Sister necesita tu ayuda!



Si tienes ropa usada y pequeños artículos del hogar que ya no usas, dónalos para quienes si los necesitan. Llegaremos a tu puerta para recibir lo que puedas entregar.

Para programar una cita, llama al 1.800.483.5503 o visítanos en nuestra página web en internet: www.bbbsfoundation.org.

Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FREE Veterans Recognition



Breakfast Program

Keynote Speaker
FRANCISCO URENA

Veteran United States Marine Corps

Former MA Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Former Veterans Service Officer for the Cities of Boston and Lawrence

And a Panel of Veteran Entrepreneurs

*Salvatore DeFranco - Co-Owner Battle Grounds Coffee Co.,
Veteran Navy SEAL

*Cal Williams - MV Director, United Way - Veteran Marine Corps

*Luis Yopez - COO, Mainstream Global - Navy Commander, Retired
and

Special Presentation of the
MV Chamber of Commerce

US Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo Memorial Award

FREE
complimentary
breakfast program

Wednesday, November 10, 2021
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM



Salvatore's at the Riverwalk, Lawrence Entrance B



Thank you to our Sponsors: Title Merrimack Valley Credit Union

Friend: Merrimack Valley Chamber Means Business Program

Sponsorships are available. Please contact the MVCC at office@merrimackvalleychamber.com or 978.686.8900

ALL INVITED!

EVENT IS FREE, BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

PLEASE REGISTER AT WWW.MERRIMACKVALLEYCHAMBER.COM OR BY CALLING 978.686.8900

Return to: Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, 264 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA 01840

Telephone: (978) 686-8900 www.merrimackvalleychamber.com



SAVE THE DATE for our virtual event



In Pink



FEATURING

Judy Carter, internationally acclaimed motivational humorist

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

7:00 pm

Our 11th Annual Comedy Show is being held virtually for your safety, and will include:

Raffles - Mystery Boxes - Sponsorships

The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

The former Asian Center at 439 South Union St., building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843 is enrolling students for an intensive ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

The classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays either from 9 AM to 11:30 AM or 6 M to 8:30 PM.

Class fee is \$50. Call 978-683-7316 for more information.

MassDOT Alerts Drivers to Bus-on-Shoulder Testing on Section of I-93

Intermittent field testing with empty MBTA, Massport, and MVRTA buses to occur on the shoulder of I-93 between I-95 and Somerville beginning Wednesday, October 20th

Testing is to continue for about three weeks



The photograph shows the view from inside an MBTA bus during a test run on the I-93 shoulder lane.

La fotografía muestra la vista desde el interior de un autobús MBTA durante una prueba de funcionamiento en el carril lateral de la I-93.

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is alerting drivers to the October 20, 2021, start of additional field testing for the viability of allowing buses to travel in the breakdown lane of I-93, between I-95 and Somerville.

This testing will last approximately three weeks, occurring on weekdays only, and will involve Massachusetts Bay Transportation

Authority (MBTA), Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA), and Massport's Logan Express buses. Motorists on I-93 may observe empty MBTA, MVRTA, and Logan Express buses traveling in the breakdown lane during the morning on I-93 southbound and in the afternoon on I-93 northbound. The bus on-shoulder travel area is 7 miles long in each direction and the

MBTA estimates the MBTA Route 354 bus currently gets in traffic congestion for 15 to 20 minutes on I-93. The Bus-on-shoulder route would allow buses to bypass this congestion. No motor vehicle travel is permitted in breakdown lanes with the exception of buses involved in the field testing.

MassDOT is advising drivers to be aware of buses traveling in the breakdown lane -- digital message boards and signage will also alert drivers to testing. The driver should continue to use the lane in case of an emergency or a roadway incident. Should bus operators involved in field testing encounter obstructions in the breakdown lane, they will safely maneuver to return to the mainline, pass the obstruction, and return to breakdown lane use.

Following several weeks of field testing, information will be evaluated to determine longer-term viability and potential next steps.

MassDOT and the MBTA have been increasingly taking steps to improve

the efficiency of traveling on buses. For example, this past June, MassDOT and the Cities of Medford and Somerville announced the implementation of a municipal dedicated bus lane pilot between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Mystic Avenue. In summer 2020, the Cities of Medford and Somerville were awarded a grant from the Baker-Polito Administration's Shared Streets and Spaces Program to implement a "quick-build" morning peak hour inbound dedicated bus lane, as a trial, on Mystic Avenue.

Other steps taken by MassDOT and the MBTA include the installation of a dedicated bus lane on the Tobin Bridge for southbound buses and a partnership with the City of Boston and the MBTA to install dedicated bus lanes on major routes of travel including a section of Washington Street in Roslindale.

Dedicated bus lanes are effective in increasing the efficiency and reliability of public transportation, decreasing delays, and improving access to regional jobs and other essential services.

MassDOT alerta a los conductores sobre la prueba de autobús sobre el hombro en la sección de la I-93

Pruebas de campo intermitentes con autobuses MBTA, Massport y MVRTA vacíos que se realizarán en el arcén de la I-93 entre la I-95 y Somerville a partir del miércoles 20 de octubre

Las pruebas continuarán durante unas tres semanas.

BOSTON - El Departamento de Transporte de Massachusetts (MassDOT) está alertando a los conductores sobre el inicio de pruebas de campo adicionales del 20 de octubre de 2021 para determinar la viabilidad de permitir que los autobuses viajen en el carril de avería de la I-93, entre la I-95 y Somerville.

Esta prueba durará aproximadamente tres semanas, ocurrirá solo los días de semana e involucrará a la Autoridad de Transporte de la Bahía de Massachusetts (MBTA), la Autoridad de Tránsito Regional de Merrimack Valley (MVRTA) y los autobuses Logan Express de Massport. Los conductores de la I-93 pueden observar los autobuses MBTA, MVRTA y Logan Express vacíos que viajan en el carril de avería durante la mañana en la I-93 en dirección sur y por la tarde en la I-93 en dirección norte. El área de recorrido del autobús en el arcén tiene 7 millas de largo en cada dirección y la MBTA estima que el autobús de la ruta 354 de MBTA se encuentra actualmente en congestión de tráfico durante 15 a 20 minutos en la I-93. La ruta del autobús en el arcén permitiría a los autobuses evitar esta congestión. No se permite el desplazamiento de vehículos motorizados en carriles averiados con la excepción de los autobuses que participan en las pruebas de campo.

MassDOT recomienda a los conductores que estén atentos a los autobuses que viajan en el carril de avería; los tableros de mensajes digitales y la señalización también alertarán a los conductores sobre las pruebas. El conductor debe continuar usando el carril en caso de una emergencia o un incidente en la carretera. Si los operadores de autobuses involucrados en las pruebas de

campo encuentran obstrucciones en el carril de avería, maniobrarán de manera segura para regresar a la línea principal, pasar la obstrucción y volver al uso del carril de avería.

Después de varias semanas de pruebas de campo, se evaluará la información para determinar la viabilidad a más largo plazo y los posibles próximos pasos.

MassDOT y MBTA han tomado cada vez más medidas para mejorar la eficiencia de viajar en autobuses. Por ejemplo, en junio pasado, MassDOT y las ciudades de Medford y Somerville anunciaron la implementación de un piloto de carril exclusivo para autobuses municipal entre las 6 a.m. y las 9 a.m. en Mystic Avenue. En el verano de 2020, las ciudades de Medford y Somerville recibieron una subvención del Programa de Calles y Espacios Compartidos de la Administración de Baker-Polito para implementar un carril exclusivo para autobuses de entrada en las horas pico de la mañana de "construcción rápida", a modo de prueba, en Mystic Avenue.

Otras medidas tomadas por MassDOT y MBTA incluyen la instalación de un carril exclusivo para autobuses en el puente Tobin para los autobuses en dirección sur y una asociación con la ciudad de Boston y la MBTA para instalar carriles exclusivos para autobuses en las principales rutas de viaje, incluida una sección de Washington Street, en Roslindale.

Los carriles exclusivos para autobuses son efectivos para aumentar la eficiencia y confiabilidad del transporte público, disminuir las demoras y mejorar el acceso a trabajos regionales y otros servicios esenciales.



Spanish interpreters, CART, and ASL will be available during the meeting.

We look forward to connecting with everyone and celebrating accomplishments! Most importantly, we encourage consumers of NILP to vote for the Board of Directors and ensure a commitment to consumer control.

You may vote in one of the following ways:

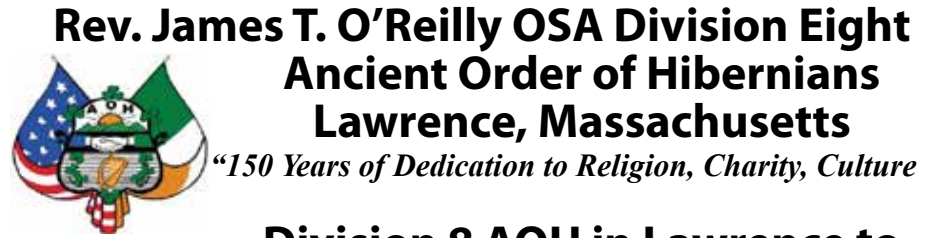
- At the annual meeting
- By proxy (authorize someone else in writing to vote on your behalf)
- By absentee ballot if you are unable to attend the annual meeting

Absentee ballots must be received no later than October 22, 2021.

Please reply to this e-mail for an absentee ballot or proxy authorization.

P.S. Although this will mostly be a business meeting, you can join us for fun and festivities at our Reimagined Gala on November 4th, which will be hosted online here: <https://NILPGALA21.givesmart.com>.

We hope to see you at both events!



Division 8 AOH in Lawrence to Celebrate its 150 Anniversary

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight AOH was founded on November 5, 1871, in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and for the past 150 years has helped preserve Irish culture, history and traditions in a multifaceted way. The talents of its members have been recognized beyond the borders of the Lawrence area. The Men's Division has produced two National Presidents, and the Ladies Division one. In addition to these three National Presidents, three members have served as National Directors of the Order. Several members have gone on to serve in elected and appointed positions at the National, State and County Board levels.

Division 8 locally has been involved in a host of community endeavors and has been supportive of many civic and charitable causes. The Division yearly hosts numerous social events and activities and has scholarship opportunities on the high school and college level, including a college scholarship for study in Ireland.

The Division has developed and assists in maintaining a collection of over 15,000 plus Irish books, media and memorabilia that is housed at the South Lawrence Branch

Library in Lawrence. This collection is one of the largest Irish Collections on the east coast of the United States. The Division has partnered in many cultural endeavors with the New England Irish Cultural Center in Canton, MA, the Burns Library at Boston College, the Maine Irish Heritage Center in Portland Maine amongst others.

Locally, Division 8 AOH meets at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant in Lawrence on the second Wednesday of each month. Membership is open to those who are 16 years of age or older; Irish by birth, descent, or adoption, and who are practicing Catholics. For an application, please write to PO Box 1407, Lawrence, MA, or email: division8aoh@verizon.net

In recognition of their 150th Anniversary milestone, Division 8 will host a number of events this fall. The 150th Anniversary Celebration will continue into 2022. Below is a listing of some of the events planned for later this month and this November. Division 8's 150th Anniversary Celebration is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Calendar of Events – Fall 2021

Division 8 AOH 150th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 23, 2021: Lecture by Professor Richard Padova of Northern Essex Community College on "The Irish Settlement of Lawrence" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 - LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY - South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA: OPEN HOUSE 10:30 am – 1 pm Showcase of Irish Books, CD's, DVD's, photos, and memorabilia – Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, October 31, 2021 - The 24th Annual Lawrence Vietnam Memorial Run or Walk 4 Mile Road Race @ 11:00 a.m. (Rain or Shine) Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. Start/Finish: Claddagh Pub 399 Canal St. Lawrence, MA – For more information & race applications, please e-mail Hoppy Curran, Race Director at: TheCooze14@yahoo.com

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY - South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA: OPEN HOUSE 10:30 am – 1 pm Showcase of Irish Books, CD's, DVD's, photos, and memorabilia – Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Friday, November 5, 2021 - IRISH FLAG RAISING Across from City Hall – Common St. @11 a.m.

Friday, November 5, 2021 - THE 150th Anniversary Celebration of Division 8 AOH at the Elks Hall, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA featuring the Silver Spears Irish Showband, the O'Shea-Chaplin Irish Step Dancers 7 pm – 11 pm – Awarding of the 50 Year AOH Membership Pins. For more information, please contact Jack Lahey at 603 560 8192. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, November 13, 2021: IRISH AUTHOR SERIES: with Michael Connelly – Mr. Connelly will discuss his book, "Murkey Overhead" - at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Copies of Mr. Connelly's book may be purchased beforehand at www.towerpub.com Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 - LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY - South Lawrence Branch, 135 Parker Street, Lawrence, MA: OPEN HOUSE 10:30 am – 1 pm Showcase of Irish Books, CD's, DVD's, photos, and memorabilia – Sponsored by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, November 21, 2021 – JOIN PIANIST TERRI KELLEY AND VOCALIST BILL DONELAN FOR A PROGRAM OF CELTIC MELODIES – A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS A. O'CONNOR SR. - at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51

"Nuestra libertad depende de la libertad de prensa y no puede ser limitada pues la perderemos."

"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

- Thomas Jefferson



Even though our Gala is going virtual, we're still getting dressed up! **Here's what you need to know** to participate in our 50/50 Best Dressed Contest:

- Register at <https://NILPGALA21.givesmart.com> (\$20 entry)
- **Posting begins October 28th**
- Post a photo in your fanciest attire on NILP's social media. Tag us on Facebook or LinkedIn (@NortheastIndependentLivingProgram) or tweet us (@northeast_ip)
- **In your post, include your unique code (you will receive after registering) and the hashtags #NILP #BestDressed**
- Make sure your post settings are public
- Contest ends November 4th after our [Special Presentation](#)
- Winners will be contacted November 5th and announced on social media

Encourage your friends & family to join the fun! Remember the more entries, the bigger the pot. Good luck!