

## National Championship Coaches



The only coaches in the history of Massachusetts Community College to win a NJCAA men's basketball national championship. They are Malcolm Wynn, Roxbury Community College, 2000 and Darren Stratton, Northern Essex Community College, 2026.

**Entrevista con Santiago Matías - Pg. 5**  
**Santiago Matías' interview - Pg. 7**

## LHS Record Breakers in track



Congratulations to the Lawrence High School girls 4X2000 relay team of Sarah Feliciano, Danieliz Mercedes, Kayra Gutierrez, and Amelia Diodati. They finished the indoor track season in style, breaking the school record with a time of 1:51.86.

## Lawrence recibe \$100,000 del Programa de Equidad Digital



Celebrating the grant were Cheryl Coss; Massachusetts Broadband Institute Digital Equity Outreach Manager; Janelle Abreu, Lawrence Public Library Director; Mayor Brian DePeña; and Ilialis 'Lily' Reyes, Director of Project Management and Development.

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## Lawrence announces \$100,000 grant from Municipal Digital Equity

### Auditor DiZoglio Invites Gov. Healey to File Amicus Brief in Support of Legislative Audit

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio is inviting Governor Maura Healey to file an amicus brief in The Supreme Judicial Court in support of the Auditor's attempt to audit the Legislature in accordance with the 72% voter mandated law.

Governor Healey stated on many occasions that she supports the Legislative audit that was mandated by 72% of Massachusetts voters in 2024. While Auditor DiZoglio very much appreciates the Governor's verbal support, she's asking for tangible assistance from Governor Healey in court where it counts.

"As our former Attorney General, Governor Healey understands the impact an amicus brief can have on the Court. I am inviting Governor Healey to back up

her claim that she supports the audit of the Legislature by submitting her formal support of our office's endeavors to the SJC in writing," said Auditor DiZoglio. "If the Governor truly stands with the People on this audit, as she says, this is an easy way to demonstrate to the public that she's really on the side of the 72%. Public comments with no action won't help us defeat the Speaker, Senate President and current AG in court right now on behalf of the will of the People. The Governor's submission could make all the difference on the Court's decision. I hope the Governor does not miss this opportunity to get on the record in court — where it counts — supporting due process, civil rights and the will of the 72%."

## El Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico recibió \$25,000 del Rep. Morán



Vea la información y otras fotos en la página 9.

# El Comité Republicano de Lawrence anuncia su reactivación Nombra a John Rigal como presidente



El Comité Republicano de Lawrence anunció hoy su reactivación oficial, renovando sus esfuerzos para involucrar a la diversa comunidad de Lawrence en torno a valores compartidos: familias sólidas, espíritu emprendedor y un gobierno limitado y fiscalmente responsable. John Rigal, un dedicado líder comunitario e inmigrante de la República Dominicana, ha sido nombrado presidente.

“Nuestra ciudad es una comunidad vibrante, mayoritariamente hispana, edificada sobre la base de la familia, el trabajo arduo y el espíritu emprendedor estadounidense”, declaró el presidente John Rigal. “Llegué a los Estados Unidos en 1985 y, desde 1998, he llamado a Lawrence mi hogar con orgullo. Me siento honrado de liderar un comité que escuchará a los vecinos, apoyará a los propietarios de pequeñas

empresas y promoverá soluciones prácticas que respeten los valores familiares y la libertad individual”.

## El comité reactivado se dedicará a:

- Desarrollar iniciativas de alcance comunitario de base para conectar con las comunidades hispanas e inmigrantes de Lawrence.
- Apoyar a las pequeñas empresas locales y al espíritu emprendedor mediante la defensa de políticas y programas comunitarios.
- Promover el compromiso cívico, la educación electoral y la participación en los diversos vecindarios de la ciudad.
- Abogar por un gobierno local eficiente y responsable que priorice la seguridad pública, la educación y las

oportunidades económicas.

“Como residente de larga data y defensor de las pequeñas empresas, conozco las prioridades de nuestra comunidad”, añadió Rigal. “Tenemos la intención de ser una voz inclusiva y constructiva en Lawrence, colaborando con familias, líderes religiosos, emprendedores y grupos cívicos para mejorar el futuro de nuestra ciudad”.

El Concejal de Lawrence Marc Laplante dijo, “Le deseo a John lo mejor en su nuevo emprendimiento. Es importante contar con un sistema bipartidista saludable en todo nuestro país, incluida nuestra ciudad. Al

asumir su nuevo cargo, también quiero agradecer a su predecesor, David Camasso, por sus contribuciones.”

El Comité Republicano de Lawrence invita a los residentes, a las organizaciones comunitarias y a los propietarios de negocios locales a participar en los próximos foros comunitarios, oportunidades de voluntariado y eventos para miembros. Los detalles y los calendarios de eventos se publicarán en LRCLawrence.org y en los canales de redes sociales del comité.

John Rigal, Presidente  
Comité Republicano de Lawrence

## Lawrence Republican Committee Announces Revival. Names John Rigal as Chair

The Lawrence Republican Committee today announced its official revival, renewing efforts to engage Lawrence’s diverse community around shared values of strong families, entrepreneurship, and fiscally responsible, limited government. John Rigal, a dedicated community leader and immigrant from the Dominican Republic, has been appointed Chair.

“Our city is a vibrant, largely Hispanic community built on family, hard work, and the American entrepreneurial spirit,” said Chair John Rigal. “I came to the United States in 1985 and have proudly called Lawrence home since 1998. I’m honored to lead a committee that will listen to neighbors, support small business owners, and promote practical solutions that respect family values and individual freedom.”

### The revived committee will:

- Build grassroots outreach to connect with Lawrence’s Hispanic and immigrant communities.
- Support local small businesses and entrepreneurship through policy advocacy and community programs.
- Promote civic engagement, voter education, and participation across diverse neighborhoods.

• Advocate for efficient, accountable local government that prioritizes public safety, education, and economic opportunity.

“As a longtime resident and small-business supporter, I know our community’s priorities,” Rigal added. “We intend to be an inclusive, constructive voice in Lawrence — collaborating with families, faith leaders, entrepreneurs, and civic groups to improve our city’s future.”

Lawrence city councilor Marc Laplante added, “I wish John the very best in his new endeavor. It’s important to have a healthy two party system throughout our country, including our city. As he assumes his new position, I also want to thank his predecessor, David Camasso, for his contributions.”

The Lawrence Republican Committee invites residents, community organizations, and local business owners to join upcoming town halls, volunteer opportunities, and membership events. Details and event schedules will be posted at LRCLawrence.org and on the committee’s social channels.

Chair: John Rigal  
Lawrence Republican Committee

## Life is Good. Make it Better: Give blood or platelets with the Red Cross Grab an American Red Cross x Life is Good® T-shirt for coming to give March 30-April 12

The American Red Cross asks people to help patients in need by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now. Donors of all blood types remain critical to keeping momentum up and the blood supply stable as spring begins.

We’re joining forces with positive lifestyle brand Life is Good to invite donors to show the power of doing good by giving blood. Those who come to give blood or platelets March 30-April 12, 2026, will get an exclusive Red Cross x Life is Good T-shirt, while supplies last. See RedCrossBlood.org/LifeIsGood for details.

“Life is Good has always been about more than a T-shirt; it’s a reminder that the world is full of good worth fighting for, and that spreading optimism starts with the everyday choices we make,” says Linne Kimball, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships for Life is Good. “For us, partnering with the Red Cross was a natural fit, because giving blood is proof that one person and one simple

act can make a real difference. We hope this collaboration inspires donors old and new to turn positivity into purpose — because doing good doesn’t have to be complicated, sometimes all it takes is rolling up a sleeve.”

Between spring break plans and the return of outdoor activities, busy spring calendars can impact the availability of lifesaving blood products — but the need for blood never stops. “It’s critical that donors make and keep appointments in the weeks to come to help the blood supply stand up to any seasonal disruptions or challenges,” said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president of donor services for the Red Cross. “The Red Cross is grateful to Life is Good for joining us in an important mission — sparking optimism and kindness through blood donation.”

It’s good to give. Grab a spot to donate blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

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# Desde Mi Esquina

POR DALIA DÍAZ  
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# From My Corner

BY DALIA DÍAZ  
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## Reunión de la LRA del 18 de marzo de 2026

¡Me echaron! Bueno, Carlos Matos me pidió amablemente que esperara en el frío vestíbulo porque iban a entrar en sesión ejecutiva. Intenté asistir, aunque no me sentía bien, pero decidí marcharme ya que nadie sabe cuándo terminarían esas sesiones. Le pedí que me llamara más tarde, pues hacía mucho tiempo que no asistía a una reunión y necesitaba que me respondiera algunas preguntas. Nunca llamó.

## Contratación de candidatos no capacitados para empleos en la ciudad

Hay una sombra que acecha al alcalde de Lawrence, Brian De Peña: la cuestión del nombramiento de empleados para puestos para los que no poseen la cualificación necesaria. Por ejemplo:

Caryl García, la directora de Recursos Humanos. Ella es abogada y trabajaba en el departamento legal; sin embargo, cuando despidieron al director anterior, se le pidió que cubriera el puesto temporalmente en esa oficina. Al cabo de unos meses, decidió que le gustaba ser directora y solicitó el cargo.

El hecho de ser abogada no la calificaba para el puesto, ya que los recursos humanos constituyen una especialidad distinta sobre la cual ella no tenía conocimientos; por ello, el alcalde De Peña le ofreció la oportunidad de tomar cursos —pagados por la ciudad— para ponerse al día con las leyes pertinentes y adquirir los conocimientos propios de dicho trabajo. Lleva en el cargo cerca de dos años y no ha hecho nada para ganarse el derecho a permanecer como directora de Recursos Humanos.

Mientras tanto, su desempeño deja mucho que desear; es arrogante y trata incluso al alcalde como si fuera su subordinado. Recuerdo que, durante una conversación telefónica, le solicité al alcalde unos documentos y, dado que ella se encontraba en su oficina, él le indicó que debía enviármelos. Su respuesta fue tan fuerte que pude oírla: “No le voy a enviar nada a Dalia”; y, efectivamente, no me envió nada. ¡Y, sin embargo, sigue conservando su empleo!

Charlinette Pascual es otro caso similar. Cuando compareció ante el Concejo Municipal para solicitar la aprobación de un ascenso en el departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, la defendí debido a la forma en que ciertos concejales la menospreciaron, insultándola por no poseer las credenciales o la experiencia adecuadas para el puesto que deseaba ocupar. Fue un trato casi inhumano. Eso no se hace en público.

Da la casualidad de que Charlinette ocupa ahora el puesto que se le había negado, y sus credenciales —o su experiencia— no han cambiado en absoluto. ¿Tenemos un sistema, o existe alguna manera de eludir las normas? Dice mucho sobre la seriedad del concejo el hecho de que los empleados puedan pasar por encima de ellos impunemente.

Desde antes de las elecciones de noviembre, surgió un problema con Jennifer Pagán en el Departamento de Elecciones, por lo que fue enviada a casa con derecho a su salario. No es necesario exponer el motivo, ya que no he hablado con ella para conocer los detalles; sin embargo, el hecho innegable es que ella sigue cobrando desde casa. ¿Es esa la manera adecuada de administrar una ciudad? No sé si la responsabilidad debería recaer en el Concejo Municipal —dado que ellos controlan las finanzas— o si el alcalde debería mostrarse firme para resolver lo que sea que haya sucedido.

Y luego, la nueva contratación que más comentarios suscitó fue la de Santiago Matías como director interino de Planificación y Desarrollo. Conversé con el alcalde De Peña sobre lo que la gente comenta respecto a las calificaciones de Matías para ese cargo, y él me aseguró que deseaba tener a alguien en ese puesto que fuera capaz de implementar cambios.

En primer lugar, consulté la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad y no logré comprender cómo se permitió que esta situación continuara. Posteriormente, solicité más información a la Secretaria Municipal, Eileen Bernal, y recibí un memorando que ella había enviado al Departamento de Personal, el cual corrobora mis sospechas. Dicho documento establece lo siguiente:

*La Carta Constitucional estipula un requisito muy específico en la Sección 4.4 referente a los Nombramientos Temporales; y si bien el presente memorando guarda similitud con dicho requisito, no contiene la redacción obligatoria exigida por la norma, ni tampoco ha sido firmado por el alcalde. A continuación, adjunto la sección pertinente de la Carta Municipal para su referencia:*

### 4.4 Certificado de Nombramiento.

*Siempre que se produzca una vacante —ya sea temporal o permanente— en una oficina municipal, y las necesidades de la ciudad exijan que dicha oficina sea cubierta, el alcalde podrá designar al titular de otra agencia municipal, o a un funcionario o empleado de la ciudad, para que desempeñe las funciones del cargo de manera temporal, hasta que dicha posición pueda ser cubierta conforme*

(Cont. en la página 4)

## LRA meeting on March 18, 2026

I got kicked out! Well, Carlos Matos gently asked me to sit in the cold lobby because they were going on an executive session. I tried to attend because I was not feeling well and decided to leave because no one knows when those sessions would end. I asked him to call me later because I have not been to a meeting for a long time and need questions answered. He never called.

## Hiring unqualified candidates for employment in the city

There is a shadow following Lawrence Mayor Brian De Peña and it is the issue of appointing employees to positions for which they are not qualified. For example:

Caryl García, the Human Resources director. She was an attorney working in the legal department, but when the previous director was fired, she was asked to cover temporarily in that office. After a few months, she decided that she liked being director and applied for the position.

Being an attorney did not qualify her because human resources is a different specialty of which she had no knowledge so Mayor De Peña offered her the opportunity of taking courses paid by the city to bring her up to date with proper laws and knowledge pertaining to that job. She’s been there for about two years and has done nothing to earn the right to remain HR director.

Meanwhile, her delivery leaves a great deal to be desired, she is arrogant and treats even the mayor as if he is her subordinate. I remember that I asked him during a telephone conversation for some documents and, since she was in his office, he indicated that she should send them to me. Her response was so loud that I heard it, “I’m not sending Dalia anything”, and she didn’t. But she still has her job!

Charlinette Pascual is another case. When she went before the City Council for approval of a promotion in Community Development, I spoke up and defended her because of the way certain councilors belittled her, insulting her for not having the proper credentials or experience for the job she wanted. It was almost inhuman. You don’t do that in public.

It just happens that Charlinette now has the position that was denied to her and her credentials or experience have not changed. Do we have a system or is there a way to go around the rules? It says a lot about the seriousness of the council when employees can walk all over them.

Since before the November elections, there was a problem with Jennifer Pagán in the Elections Department and she was sent home on leave with pay. There’s no need to relate the reason since I have not spoken to her to find out the details but, the fact remains that she is still collecting her salary at home. Is that any way to run a city? I don’t know if the City Council should be responsible since they hold the purse or if the mayor should put his foot down to solve whatever happened.

And then, the most talked about new hire was Santiago Matías as Acting Director of Planning and Development. I spoke with Mayor De Peña about what people are saying about his qualifications for that job, and he assured me that he wanted to have someone there who could make changes.

First, I checked the City Charter and could not understand how this was allowed to go on. Then, I requested from City Clerk Eileen Bernal more information and received a memo she sent to the Personnel Department that corroborates my thoughts. It says:

*The City Charter outlines a very specific requirement in Section 4.4 for Temporary Appointments, and while this Memo is similar, it does not contain the mandated language, nor is it signed by the Mayor. I am providing the relevant section of the charter below for your reference.*

### 4.4 Certificate of Appointment.

*Whenever a vacancy, either temporary or permanent occurs in a city office and the needs of the city require that such office be filled, the mayor may designate the head of another city agency, or a city officer or city employee to perform the duties of the office on a temporary basis until such position can be filled as provided by the charter, by law, or by ordinance. The mayor shall sign and file with the city clerk a certificate substantially in the following form:*

*I name (name of appointee) to perform the duties of the office of (office in which vacancy exists). I certify that (name of appointee) is a person especially fitted by education, training or experience to perform the duties of the office and to assume the responsibilities which will devolve upon him/her, and that I make this appointment solely in the interests of the City of Lawrence.*

I don’t believe that memo reached the city councilors, and we know that most of them have never read or consulted the City Charter.

People have been talking for a long time about the fact that no one gets along

(Cont. on page 4)

# Lawrence Public Schools Sees Jump in Graduation Rate Matches Highest Rate of Past 20 Years

Lawrence Public Schools experienced one of the largest graduation rate increases in Massachusetts in 2025, according to recently released data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

The districtwide 4-year graduation rate, which includes Lawrence High School (LHS) as well as three separate alternative schools serving grades 9-12, was 82.2 percent for the 2025 cohort. The jump of 8 percentage points from 2024 was exceeded by only 15 K-12 districts in the Commonwealth, and just two of 26 Gateway Cities.

DESE also released statewide dropout rate data for districts and schools. The LPS districtwide dropout rate declined significantly to 3.6 percent in 2025, while the LHS dropout rate lowered to below the state average at 1.6 percent.

“We continue to build a system that ensures every single student has not just a path to a high school diploma, but the tools to excel in life after receiving it,” said LPS Superintendent Ralph Carrero. “There is still more work ahead, and our team and city are ready and excited to keep the momentum going.”

The 2025 rate represents a 30 percent improvement since the start of receivership in 2012, and matches the highest LPS rate (2022) in at least the past 20 years.

“As Mayor of Lawrence, I am proud to see the students and educators of our city achieve such a significant milestone,” said Mayor Brian A. DePeña. “I commend the determination of our students, the dedication of our teachers and school staff, and the commitment of families throughout our community. These results demonstrate what we



can accomplish when we invest in our young people and work together. We will continue moving forward to ensure every student in Lawrence has the support, resources, and opportunities they need to graduate and succeed.”

The 4-year graduation rate for Lawrence High School (LHS) also increased slightly to 86.7 percent, exceeding 86 percent for the fourth straight year.

“Thanks to the collaborative efforts of our teachers, staff, and school and district leaders, Lawrence High School has continued to evolve and innovate,” said LHS Head of School Victor Caraballo-Anderson, citing the growth of one of the state’s largest early college programs; a diploma/Associate’s dual degree pathway; new arts, aviation and health assisting pathways; an 82 percent advanced coursework enrollment rate; and the expansion of LHS’ Abbott Lawrence Academy exam school.

“Our students and families have shown up, put in the work, and achieved progress that our entire community can be proud of,” he continued. “LHS’ success is Lawrence’s success.”

## Desde mi Esquina... (Viene de la página 3)

a lo dispuesto en la Carta Municipal, en la ley o en las ordenanzas. El alcalde deberá firmar y presentar ante la Secretaria Municipal un certificado redactado, sustancialmente, de la siguiente forma:

Por la presente, nombro a (nombre del designado) para que desempeñe las funciones correspondientes al cargo de (cargo en el que existe la vacante). Certifico que (nombre del designado) es una persona especialmente idónea, por su educación, formación o experiencia, para desempeñar los deberes del cargo y asumir las responsabilidades que recaerán sobre él/ella, y que realizo este nombramiento única y exclusivamente en interés de la Ciudad de Lawrence.

No creo que ese memorando haya llegado a los concejales de la ciudad, y sabemos que la mayoría de ellos nunca ha leído ni consultado la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad.

Desde hace mucho tiempo se comenta que nadie se lleva bien con otros en ese gran departamento. Aunque tengo algunos amigos allí, evitaba visitarlos por temor a verme envuelta en tantos chismes; sin embargo, ha llegado el momento y pronto lo haré.

Al menos, tuve una reunión con Matías hace unos días para preguntarle sin rodeos qué opina sobre todos los comentarios que circulan en las redes sociales acerca de él. Fue muy abierto y honesto en su respuesta. Sabe que dichos comentarios son acertados, pero el alcalde le pidió que aceptara e hiciera cambios, y eso es precisamente lo que está haciendo.

Si desea leer sobre lo que conversamos, por favor, consúltelo en la página 5.

# Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence registran un aumento en la tasa de graduación

## Iguala la tasa más alta de los últimos 20 años

Las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence experimentaron uno de los mayores aumentos en la tasa de graduación de Massachusetts en 2025, según datos publicados recientemente por el Departamento de Educación Primaria y Secundaria (DESE).

La tasa de graduación en cuatro años de todo el distrito, que incluye a Lawrence High School (LHS) así como a tres escuelas alternativas independientes que atienden a los grados 9 a 12, fue del 82.2% para la cohorte de 2025. El aumento de 8 puntos porcentuales con respecto a 2024 solo fue superado por 15 distritos de K-12 en el estado, y por apenas dos de las 26 ciudades Gateway.

El DESE también publicó datos sobre la tasa de deserción escolar a nivel estatal para distritos y escuelas. La tasa de deserción escolar en todo el distrito de LPS disminuyó al 3.6% en 2025, mientras que la tasa de deserción de la LHS se redujo por debajo del promedio estatal, situándose en el 1.6%.

“Seguimos construyendo un sistema que garantice que cada estudiante no solo tenga un camino hacia el título de secundaria, sino también las herramientas para sobresalir en la vida después de obtenerlo,” afirmó el superintendente de LPS, Ralph Carrero. “Aún queda mucho trabajo por delante, y nuestro equipo y nuestra ciudad están listos y entusiasmados para mantener este impulso.”

La tasa de 2025 representa una mejora del 30% desde el inicio de la administración judicial en 2012, y coincide con la tasa más alta de LPS (2022) en al menos los últimos 20 años. “Como alcalde de Lawrence, me enorgullece ver a los estudiantes y

educadores de nuestra ciudad alcanzar un hito tan significativo,” afirmó el alcalde Brian A. DePeña. “Felicitó la determinación de nuestros estudiantes, la dedicación de nuestros maestros y personal escolar, y el compromiso de las familias de toda nuestra comunidad. Estos resultados demuestran lo que podemos lograr cuando invertimos en nuestros jóvenes y trabajamos juntos. Seguiremos avanzando para garantizar que cada estudiante de Lawrence cuente con el apoyo, los recursos y las oportunidades que necesita para graduarse y tener éxito.”

La tasa de graduación en cuatro años de la Escuela Secundaria de Lawrence (LHS) también aumentó ligeramente hasta el 86,7 por ciento, superando el 86 por ciento por cuarto año consecutivo.

“Gracias a los esfuerzos de colaboración de nuestros maestros, personal y líderes escolares y del distrito, Lawrence High School ha seguido evolucionando e innovando,” afirmó el director de LHS, Víctor Caraballo-Anderson, citando el crecimiento de uno de los programas de ingreso temprano a la universidad más grandes del estado; una vía de doble titulación de diploma y título de asociado; nuevas vías de formación en artes, aviación y asistencia sanitaria; una tasa de matriculación en cursos avanzados del 82 por ciento; y la ampliación de la escuela de exámenes Abbott Lawrence Academy de la LHS.

“Nuestros estudiantes y sus familias han acudido, se han esforzado y han logrado un progreso del que toda nuestra comunidad puede sentirse orgullosa,” continuó Caraballo-Anderson. “El éxito de la LHS es el éxito de Lawrence.”

## From my Corner... (Continues from page 3)

with anyone else in that big department. Although I have some friends there, I avoided visiting them afraid of getting mixed up in so much gossip, but the time has come and I will be doing so soon.

At least, a meeting was scheduled with Matías a few days ago to ask him point blank how he feels about all the social media comments about him. He was very open and honest in his response. He knows they are correct, but the mayor asked him to accept and make changes, and that’s what he is doing.

If you wish to read about what we discussed, please find it on page 5.

- Sprains
- Minor animal bites or stings
- Minor cuts or burns
- Dehydration
- Pink eye
- Rashes or other skin issues
- Primary care concerns (if unable to see primary care provider)

# Matías asume el cargo de director interino de Planificación en medio de interrogantes e impulsa reformas internas

(Read it in English on page 6)

**Por Dalia Díaz**

Santiago Matías asumió el cargo de director interino de Planificación y Desarrollo mientras el alcalde Brian De Peña busca un nombramiento permanente, una decisión que ha generado críticas en la comunidad.

La Secretaria Municipal, Eileen Bernal, envió un correo electrónico a la directora de personal citando la Carta Constitucional, pero el asunto no prosperó (pueden leerlo en mi columna en la página 3), alegando que se trataba de una infracción por parte del alcalde.

No se tomó ninguna medida al respecto, y Matías comenzó a trabajar en medio de escasas explicaciones públicas y constantes especulaciones.

En una entrevista, Matías afirmó que pretende realizar cambios sustanciales independientemente de cuánto tiempo permanezca en el cargo. "Ya sea que esté aquí tres meses o que se extienda por otros tres, haré cambios", declaró Matías. El alcalde le pidió que asumiera el cargo tras escuchar inquietudes sobre conflictos internos y falta de coordinación dentro del departamento.

Esa fue la razón por la que Brian le asignó esta responsabilidad. Escuchó todos los rumores sobre la falta de armonía y colaboración entre los trabajadores y que esa situación debía solucionarse antes de encontrar un director permanente.

Una de las primeras medidas de Matías fue reorganizar el espacio de oficinas. El departamento de Planificación y Desarrollo se trasladará al edificio municipal ubicado en el 255 de la calle Essex, eliminando así la necesidad de alquilar un espacio privado. La Autoridad de Reurbanización de Lawrence permanecerá en la planta baja, mientras que el departamento escolar continuará operando en el 257 de la calle Essex. Matías afirmó que la mudanza refleja un esfuerzo más amplio por reducir gastos innecesarios.

"Nunca entendí por qué pagamos

alquiler en otro lugar cuando la ciudad es propietaria de este edificio", declaró Matías.

Explicó que cada departamento trabaja de forma independiente y que existe poca cooperación entre ellos en lo que respecta a las decisiones importantes de la ciudad. Por ello, creó el Grupo de Trabajo de Zonificación de la Ciudad de Lawrence (City of Lawrence Zoning Task Force), una Iniciativa de Revisión Estratégica y Modernización.

Tras tres reuniones, el grupo de trabajo elaboró un plan escrito que se presentará al alcalde y al Concejo Municipal. La revisión examinó la disponibilidad de vivienda, el desarrollo económico, la salud pública, la calidad ambiental, la habitabilidad de los barrios, la seguridad pública, el cumplimiento de las normas urbanísticas y la inversión a largo plazo. La reforma de la zonificación se consolidó como un tema central.

El grupo de trabajo concluyó que la continua construcción de apartamentos a gran escala podría ejercer una presión significativa sobre los servicios municipales. Los miembros mencionaron el aumento de la demanda de personal policial, inspecciones de los bomberos y capacidad escolar. El Departamento de Servicios de Inspección expresó preocupaciones similares. Si bien los ingresos adicionales por impuestos a la propiedad siguen siendo una consideración a largo plazo, el grupo cuestionó si compensarán los costos inmediatos de la ampliación de los servicios municipales.

A menudo escuchamos que la ciudad necesita un estudio de viabilidad, especialmente con la expansión de los edificios de apartamentos. Pues bien, ese estudio ya se ha realizado. Este grupo ha abordado la disponibilidad de vivienda, el crecimiento empresarial y el desarrollo económico, la salud pública y la calidad ambiental, el carácter y la habitabilidad de los barrios, la seguridad pública y el cumplimiento de las normas urbanísticas, así como la

inversión a largo plazo y el valor de las propiedades.

Examinaron todos los sectores de Lawrence, respetando el trabajo previo, y enfatizaron la importancia de esta colaboración entre los departamentos. Entre su plan de acción se encuentra la reorganización de toda la ordenanza de zonificación, y sus principales prioridades son la estabilidad de la vivienda, el desarrollo económico, la previsibilidad de los permisos, la preservación de los barrios, la salud pública, la mejora del cumplimiento de los códigos y la resiliencia ambiental.

Santiago Matías explicó cómo llegaron a la conclusión de que continuar construyendo apartamentos en la ciudad perjudicará a todos los departamentos. El departamento de policía tendría que contratar muchos más agentes para atender la creciente demanda y el excesivo número de vehículos.

El departamento de bomberos no tiene forma de inspeccionar regularmente miles de apartamentos adicionales con su personal actual, y el departamento de educación se verá igualmente afectado. Si hay 20 alumnos por aula, esa cifra aumentará a 30 ó 35.

El servicio de inspección hizo un comentario similar y, en general, coincidió en que construir apartamentos es una decisión equivocada en este momento. El alcalde De Peña espera con interés el día en que esos edificios comiencen a pagar impuestos prediales a la ciudad, y el Grupo de Trabajo se pregunta si esos impuestos algún día compensarán los gastos adicionales que Lawrence debe comenzar a cubrir lo antes posible con la contratación de personal adicional.

Envíé un correo electrónico al jefe de bomberos y dejé dos mensajes telefónicos al jefe de policía solicitando su opinión sobre los hallazgos, pero no me devolvieron las llamadas.

Antes de que concluyera la entrevista, Matías compartió un estudio de la Universidad de Boston centrado en el rediseño de la imagen de la ciudad de Lawrence. La propuesta, actualmente disponible en inglés, destaca la historia, el legado laboral



y la vida cultural de la ciudad con el objetivo de atraer visitantes y nuevos residentes. Matías afirmó que la ciudad suele pasar desapercibida para quienes no son de allí, a pesar de su actividad económica y cultural.

Este rediseño de la imagen de la ciudad que me mostró en su computadora portátil está disponible únicamente en inglés, con el fin de atraer a nuevas personas a la ciudad, abarcando diversas áreas de interés tales como nuestra historia, nuestro legado en el movimiento obrero y nuestra vida cotidiana. Han realizado un trabajo maravilloso con esta presentación, la cual el concejo podrá ver muy pronto.

Lawrence está prosperando; contamos con una excelente selección de restaurantes y comercios de diversa índole, pero siempre pensando en la comunidad latina. Fuera de Lawrence, la gente suele creer que esta es una ciudad de minorías, compuesta mayoritariamente por inmigrantes recién llegados que no tienen nada que ofrecer a los visitantes. Incluso durante las celebraciones de la Semana Hispánica —momento en el que acuden tantas personas, incluso de otros estados—, nuestros comercios permanecen cerrados, justo cuando deberían estar exhibiendo lo que ofrecen y mostrando quiénes somos.

Matías reconoció que su mandato podría ser breve, pero afirmó que su objetivo es impulsar iniciativas que puedan ser continuadas por su sucesor.

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# Matías Takes On Planning Role Amid Questions, Pushes Internal Reforms

(Léalo en español en la página 5)

By Dalia Díaz

Santiago Matías has assumed the role of acting Director of Planning and Development as Mayor Brian De Peña searches for a permanent appointee, a move that has drawn criticism within the community.

The City Clerk, Eileen Bernal, sent an email citing the City Charter to the personnel director which didn't go any further (you can read it in my column on page 3), stating that it was a violation on the mayor's part.

No action followed, and Matías began work amid limited public explanation and ongoing speculation.

In an interview, Matías said he intends to make substantive changes regardless of how long he remains in the position. "Whether I'm here for three months or it gets extended for another three, I'll be making changes," Matías said. The mayor asked him to step in after hearing concerns about internal conflict and a lack of coordination within the department.

That was the reason for Brian placing this responsibility on him. He heard all the rumors about the lack of harmony and collaboration among the workers and that situation must be fixed before a permanent director is found.

One of Matías's first actions was to reorganize office space. Planning and Development will relocate to the city-owned building at 255 Essex St., eliminating the need to lease private space. The Lawrence Redevelopment Authority will remain on the first floor, while the school department will continue operating at 257 Essex St. Matías said the move reflects a broader effort to reduce unnecessary expenses.

"I never understood why we pay rent someplace else when the city owns this building," Matías said.

He said each department works independently and there's little cooperation between them when it comes to big decisions in the city. That's

why he created the City of Lawrence Zoning Task Force, a Strategic Review & Modernization Initiative.

After three meetings, the task force produced a written plan that will be presented to the mayor and City Council. The review examined housing availability, economic development, public health, environmental quality, neighborhood livability, public safety, code enforcement, and long-term investment. Zoning reform emerged as a central focus.

The task force concluded that continued large-scale apartment development could place significant strain on city services. Members cited increased demands on police staffing, fire inspections, and school capacity. Inspectional Services raised similar concerns. While additional property tax revenue remains a long-term consideration, the group questioned whether it would offset the immediate costs of expanded municipal services.

We often hear that what the city needs is a viability study particularly with the expansion of apartment buildings. Well, that has been done. This group has tackled housing availability, business growth and economic development, public health and environmental quality, neighborhood character and livability, public safety and code enforcement, and long-term investment and property values.

They examined every sector of Lawrence respecting the work that came before them, emphasizing why this collaboration among the departments matters. Among their action plan is the reorganization of the entire zoning ordinance and their top priorities are housing stability, economic development, predictable permitting, neighborhood preservation, public health, code enforcement improvements and environmental resilience.

Santiago Matías explained how they concluded that continuing to build apartments in the city will be a

detriment to all departments. The police department would have to hire many more officers to cope with the demand of more people, and the excessive number of autos.

The fire department has no way of inspecting thousands of additional apartments on a regular basis with the current staff, and the school department will suffer equally. If there are 20 students per classroom, that will increase to 30 or 35.

Inspectional service made a similar comment and, generally, they agreed that building apartments is the wrong decision at this time. Mayor De Peña looks forward to the day when those buildings start paying property taxes to the city and the Task Force wonders if those taxes someday will compensate the additional expenses Lawrence must start providing as soon as possible hiring extra personnel.

I sent an email to the fire chief and placed two telephone messages to the police chief asking for their opinion on the findings, but they didn't return my calls.

Before the interview concluded, Matías shared a Boston University study focused on rebranding the City of Lawrence. The proposal, currently available in English, highlights the city's history, labor legacy, and cultural life with the goal of attracting visitors and new residents. Matías said the city is often overlooked by outsiders despite its economic and cultural activity.

This Rebranding that he showed me in his laptop is only in English to attract new people here covering



different areas of interest such as our history, our legacy in the labor movement, and our daily life. They have done a wonderful job with this presentation that the council will be seeing very soon.

Lawrence is thriving, we have a great selection of eateries and different stores but with the Latino community in mind. Outside of Lawrence, people think that this is a minority city made up mostly by recent immigrants that have nothing to offer to visitors. Even during the Hispanic Week celebrations, when so many people come even from out of state, our stores are shut down when they should be showcasing what they have and who we are.

Matías acknowledged that his tenure may be brief but said his goal is to advance initiatives that can be carried forward by his successor.

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# LPS Middle School Musical Theater Festival



Lawrence Public Schools middle school theater students couldn’t be stopped by a little snow last month. After a Saturday storm forced a delay to the LPS Middle School Musical Theater Festival, staff and students rallied just a few days later to put on five shows in two days on the big stage of the Lawrence High School Performing Arts Center.

Sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council, the festival featured performances by Oliver Middle School (Beetlejuice Jr.); Parthum Middle School (Alice in Wonderland Jr.); Guilmette Middle School (Seussical Jr.); Arlington Middle School (Mean Girls Jr.); and Wetherbee School (Annie Jr.).

Photographs of these shows and lots of other school events can be viewed and downloaded at the LPS flickr account: [www.flickr.com/people/lawrencepublicschools](http://www.flickr.com/people/lawrencepublicschools).



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# State Rep. Frank A. Moran Presents \$100,000 Check to Lawrence Prospera at Annual Legislative Breakfast



Dan Halloran thanking the Lawrence delegation in their time of need," said State Representative Moran. "I am honored to advocate for Lawrence Prospera's leaders, staff, and participants on Beacon Hill for as long as I can."

State Representative Frank A. Moran presented a \$100,000 check to leaders and staff at Lawrence Prospera on March 20 to celebrate the funding secured by the Lawrence delegation for its SISU Center in Lawrence.

"Thank you to Lawrence Prospera for inviting me to their legislative breakfast, as well as for your continued efforts to build stronger communities in Lawrence," said State Representative Moran (D-Lawrence). "I am especially grateful to Executive Director Dan Halloran and Deputy Director Paul Heithaus for their leadership of these vital programs, as well as their long-time partnership with my office and the entire state delegation."

The state funding came from this year's FY2026 budget and will support Lawrence Prospera's mission of building thriving communities in the Merrimack Valley.

Through a variety of programs in and around the city, Lawrence Prospera transforms the lives of its many participants, ranging from children and young people to adults and parents. The delegation also spent the annual breakfast discussing the importance

of some of these programs, including the SISU Center for at-risk youth, ESL classes, and citizenship services.

"I am grateful to State Representative Moran and the Lawrence delegation for their continued support in the City of Lawrence and on Beacon Hill," said Executive Director Halloran. "The work of Lawrence Prospera and its SISU Center will not only improve one life today but result in lasting changes that will have positive ripple effects on many lives down the road."

"Dan understands that uplifting communities is a complex process that begins with the simple act of helping one person or family in their time of need," said State Representative Moran. "I am honored to advocate for Lawrence Prospera's leaders, staff, and participants on Beacon Hill for as long as I can."

"Lawrence Prospera is doing the kind of work that changes lives in real, lasting ways," said Senator Pavel Payano (D - Lawrence). "From supporting young people through the SISU Center to helping families access education and citizenship resources, they are meeting people where they are and helping them move forward. This investment is about strengthening opportunity in Lawrence and cross the Merrimack Valley, and I am proud to support an organization that continues to show what community-driven impact looks like."

"Lawrence Prospera plays an important role in strengthening our community by providing meaningful opportunities and support to residents in Lawrence," said State Representative Estela Reyes (D - Lawrence). "I am grateful for the continued collaboration of the Lawrence delegation in securing this funding, and I look forward to seeing the lasting impact of the SISU Center and its programs on individuals and families in our city."



## Dan Blair Named Athletic Director of the Year

The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics has named Northern Essex Community College Athletics Director Dan Blair as one of its 2026 Athletic Director of the Year (ADOY) Award recipients. NACDA announced the 28 winners ADOY today. The award spans seven divisions (NCAA FBS, FCS, Division I-AAA, II, III, NAIA/Other Four-Year Institutions, and Junior College/Community Colleges).

The ADOY Award highlights the efforts of athletics directors at all levels for their commitment and positive contributions to student-athletes, campuses and their surrounding communities.

"NACDA is once again proud to recognize an impressive class of Athletics Directors of the Year who are strong, inspiring and innovative in the way they lead and serve others," said Pat Manak, NACDA chief executive officer. "For an award that spans almost three decades, we continue to honor both rising stars and industry veterans who make an impact across an ever-changing industry."

It's been another banner year for NECC Athletics, and the spring season is just getting underway. The men's soccer team won its first-ever national tournament match, finishing the season in fifth place. The women's basketball and volleyball teams both made it to post-season play. And, just this past weekend, the men's basketball team became the first team in college history to win a national title. They defeated Dallas-Richmond College to secure the NJCAA DIII National Championship on Saturday.



Blair, a lifelong Newburyport resident, took the helm of NECC's athletics program in the fall of 2017. He previously won the ADOY award in 2022.

Winners will be recognized in conjunction with the 61st Annual NACDA & Affiliates Convention at Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, Nev., at the beginning of the Association-Wide Featured Session on Tuesday, June 9, starting at 4 p.m.

The ADOY Award program is in its 28th year and has recognized a total of 633 deserving athletics directors to date.

Northern Essex currently has 13 athletic teams for men and women. Each year, many students successfully transfer to four-year institutions, where some continue their athletic careers at the Division 1, 2, and 3 levels. To learn more about athletics at NECC, visit the webpage.

# El Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico en Lawrence recibió un cheque de \$25,000 del Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán

El Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán entregó un cheque de \$25,000 a José Dávila el 13 de marzo para celebrar los fondos asignados al Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico en el presupuesto estatal del año fiscal 2026.

"Pude asegurar estos fondos gracias al apoyo esencial de mis colegas de la delegación de Lawrence en Beacon Hill", declaró el Representante Estatal Morán (D – Lawrence). "Estoy eternamente agradecido de que, con su apoyo, organizaciones sin fines de lucro como el Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico puedan continuar fomentando el orgullo puertorriqueño en el Valle de Merrimack".

El Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico financia programas educativos y artísticos en el área metropolitana de Lawrence y en todo Massachusetts, como parte de su misión de preservar y promover la cultura puertorriqueña. También ofrece becas, programas de desarrollo personal y pasantías para los miembros de la comunidad latina.

"Estoy increíblemente agradecido con el Representante Estatal Morán y con la delegación de Lawrence por su larga trayectoria de colaboración con nuestra organización", expresó el presidente y director ejecutivo, Dávila. "Es importante que continuemos celebrando el aprendizaje y la cultura puertorriqueña con orgullo y alegría en el Valle de Merrimack y en todo Massachusetts".

José Dávila es el fundador, presidente y director ejecutivo del Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico. Bajo su liderazgo, el instituto ha crecido hasta convertirse en una vibrante comunidad compuesta por personal,

miembros de la junta directiva y voluntarios comprometidos con la celebración y el enaltecimiento de la población puertorriqueña del estado.

"Invertir en organizaciones como el Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico significa invertir en la identidad, la historia y el futuro de nuestra comunidad", afirmó el Senador Pavel Payano (D – Lawrence). "Estos fondos ayudan a garantizar que la cultura puertorriqueña continúe siendo celebrada, preservada y transmitida a la próxima generación, tanto aquí en Lawrence como en toda la Mancomunidad. Me enorgullece unirme a mis colegas para respaldar esta importante labor".

"El liderazgo del Representante Morán, sumado a los continuos esfuerzos de la delegación de Lawrence, hizo posible esta inversión", señaló la Representante Estatal Estela Reyes (D – Lawrence). "El Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico desempeña un papel fundamental en la ampliación del acceso a oportunidades culturales y educativas; me enorgullece apoyar una labor que fortalece a nuestras comunidades".

"Me enorgullece estar junto al líder y Representante Estatal Frank Morán para apoyar a las instituciones que enaltescen a nuestra comunidad. El Instituto Cultural de Puerto Rico exhibe el folclore, el espíritu y la vibrante cultura de Puerto Rico, al tiempo que amplía las oportunidades y asegura que las familias de Lawrence y Methuen sean vistas, valoradas y respaldadas", afirmó el Representante Estatal Francisco Paulino (D – Methuen).



## State Representative Frank A. Moran Presents \$25,000 Check to Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico in Lawrence

State Representative Frank A. Moran presented a \$25,000 check to José Dávila on March 13 to celebrate the funding allocated for the Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico in the FY2026 state budget.

"I was able to secure this funding with the essential support of my Lawrence delegation colleagues on Beacon Hill," said State Representative Moran (D – Lawrence). "I am eternally grateful that, with their support, nonprofits like the Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico can continue to foster Puerto Rican pride in the Merrimack Valley."

The Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico funds educational and artistic programs in Greater Lawrence and Massachusetts as part of its mission to preserve and promote Puerto Rican culture. It also provides scholarships, personal development programs, and internships for members of the Latino community.

"I am incredibly grateful to State Representative Moran and the Lawrence delegation for their long-time partnership with our organization," said President and CEO Dávila. "It is important that we continue to celebrate Puerto Rican learning and culture with pride and joy in the Merrimack Valley and across Massachusetts."

José Dávila is the founder, president, and CEO of the Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico. Under his leadership, the institute has grown into a vibrant community of staff,

board members, and volunteers committed to celebrating and uplifting the Commonwealth's Puerto Rican population.

"Investing in organizations like the Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico means investing in the identity, history, and future of our community," said Senator Pavel Payano (D – Lawrence). "This funding helps ensure that Puerto Rican culture continues to be celebrated, preserved, and passed on to the next generation here in Lawrence and across the Commonwealth. I am proud to stand with my colleagues in supporting this important work."

"Representative Moran's leadership, along with the continued efforts of the Lawrence delegation, made this investment possible," said State Representative Estela Reyes (D – Lawrence). "The Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico plays an important role in expanding access to cultural and educational opportunities, and I am proud to support work that strengthens our communities."

"I'm proud to stand with Leader State Representative Frank Moran in supporting institutions that uplift our community. The Cultural Institute of Puerto Rico showcases the folklore, spirit, and vibrant culture of Puerto Rico while expanding opportunity and ensuring families in Lawrence and Methuen are seen, valued, and supported," said State Representative Francisco Paulino (D – Methuen).



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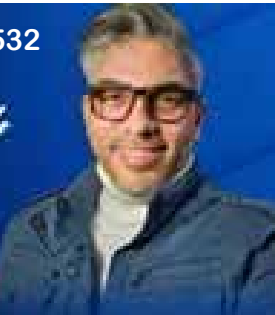
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# Líderes Estatales se Unen a Elevated Thought Para Celebrar una Inversión de \$75,000 en Murales Comunitarios en Lawrence



(Read it in English on page 11)

El 20 de marzo de 2026, el senador estatal Pavel M. Payano se unió a líderes comunitarios, artistas y jóvenes en Elevated Thought para presentar \$75,000 en fondos estatales asegurados en el presupuesto del año fiscal 2026, destinados a apoyar la continuación de una serie de murales en la ciudad de Lawrence.

Esta inversión refleja un esfuerzo colaborativo entre el senador Payano, la concejal de la ciudad de Lawrence Vivian Marmol y Elevated Thought para expandir una serie de murales públicos en toda la ciudad, de una manera arraigada en la voz comunitaria y la identidad cultural. El financiamiento se basa en una inversión estatal previa que apoyó murales anteriores en Lawrence, continuando un compromiso compartido de garantizar que los espacios públicos reflejen a las personas que viven aquí.

Los fondos apoyarán el diseño e instalación de murales adicionales como parte de esta serie en crecimiento en Lawrence, en colaboración con Elevated Thought, artistas locales y jóvenes. Estos proyectos buscan transformar espacios públicos mientras crean oportunidades para que los jóvenes contribuyan a la identidad visual de sus vecindarios.

Lawrence, conocida durante mucho tiempo como una ciudad puerta de entrada para inmigrantes con una

rica historia industrial a lo largo del río Merrimack, continúa evolucionando a través de esfuerzos que honran tanto su pasado como su presente. El arte público se ha convertido en una forma poderosa de contar esa historia, resaltando las voces, culturas y experiencias que definen la comunidad hoy.

En el 92 de Broadway, los asistentes se reunieron junto a un vibrante mural del artista local Wilfred Acosta, creado con financiamiento previo como parte de esta serie. Titled Esperanza en Ritmo, el mural representa a una bailarina dominicana del estudio de danza Ritmo Canela en Lawrence, vestida con un traje típico. Está rodeada por la rosa de Bayahíbe, la flor nacional de la República Dominicana, con el paisaje urbano de Lawrence como fondo. Inspirado en la danza y el movimiento tradicional dominicano, la obra refleja la identidad, la resiliencia y el espíritu cultural de la comunidad predominantemente afro-latina de Lawrence.

Elevated Thought, una organización sin fines de lucro con sede en Lawrence, ha desempeñado un papel clave en involucrar a jóvenes a través del arte, la narración y la mentoría, siendo un socio fundamental en la realización de esta serie de murales.

“Esta inversión continua nos permite seguir construyendo sobre un trabajo que ya es visible en toda la ciudad de Lawrence,” dijo el senador estatal Pavel M. Payano (D-Lawrence).

“Los murales en nuestra ciudad reflejan quiénes somos, nuestra cultura, nuestras historias y nuestro orgullo. Crean espacios donde los jóvenes pueden verse reflejados, apropiarse de su comunidad y aportar a algo duradero. Apoyar este trabajo es seguir invirtiendo en las personas que están dando forma al futuro de Lawrence.”

“Nuestra comunidad tiene una larga y rica historia con las artes, y proyectos como este contribuyen significativamente a celebrar el diverso tejido cultural de la ciudad de Lawrence,” dijo el Segundo Asistente del Líder de la Mayoría, Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence). “Elevated Thought es una organización excepcional que va más allá para impulsar la creatividad de nuestros jóvenes, y me enorgulleció unirme al senador Payano para celebrar los \$75,000 en fondos que hicieron posible este impresionante mural.”

“Elevated Thought representa lo mejor de Lawrence: creatividad con propósito, cultura con voz y jóvenes liderando el camino. Esta inversión garantiza que nuestra juventud no solo se vea reflejada en su ciudad, sino que también tenga la oportunidad de transformarla. Cuando apoyamos a organizaciones como Elevated Thought, no solo financiamos arte, sino que construimos identidad, orgullo y una comunidad más fuerte,” dijo el representante estatal Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen).

“Hoy celebramos más que

una inversión; celebramos visión, creatividad y comunidad,” dijo la concejal de la ciudad de Lawrence, Vivian Marmol. “A través de esta colaboración y el apoyo logrado por el senador Pavel Payano, estamos llenando de color, cultura y orgullo a la ciudad de Lawrence. Estos murales no son solo arte, son un reflejo de nuestra gente, nuestras historias y nuestro futuro.”

Wilfred Acosta, productor creativo de Elevated Thought y artista del proyecto de mural, habló sobre el impacto personal y comunitario de su trabajo.

“Primero que todo, estoy profundamente agradecido con Pavel Payano y Vivian Marmol por la increíble oportunidad de representar a mi comunidad, y también agradezco a todas las personas que hicieron esto posible, especialmente a mi mentor Alex J. Brian, a mi aprendiz Adelina Rodríguez, y por supuesto a Elevated Thought,” dijo Wilfred Acosta. “Mi esperanza con esta obra es honrar a mi comunidad e inspirar a la próxima persona que está tratando de encontrar su camino y su ritmo en todo lo que aspira lograr, sin importar de dónde venga o cómo sea percibida.”

La entrega del cheque se llevó a cabo en el 92 de Broadway, donde residentes, artistas y aliados comunitarios se reunieron para celebrar tanto el impacto de inversiones anteriores como la expansión continua de esta serie de murales en Lawrence.

# State Leaders Join Elevated Thought to Celebrate \$75,000 Investment in Community Murals in Lawrence

(Léalo en español en la página 10)

On March 20, 2026, State Senator Pavel M. Payano joined community leaders, artists, and youth at Elevated Thought to present \$75,000 in state funding secured in the FY26 budget to support the continued creation of a series of murals across the City of Lawrence.

This investment reflects a collaborative effort between Senator Payano, Lawrence City Councilor Vivian Marmol, and Elevated Thought to expand a series of public murals across the city in a way that is rooted in community voice and cultural identity. The funding builds on a previous state investment that supported earlier murals throughout Lawrence, continuing a shared commitment to ensuring that public spaces reflect the people who live here.

The funding will support the design and installation of additional murals as part of this growing series across Lawrence, led in partnership with Elevated Thought and local artists and youth. These projects aim to transform public spaces while creating opportunities for young people to contribute to the visual identity of their neighborhoods.

Lawrence, long known as an immigrant gateway city with a rich industrial history along the Merrimack River, continues to evolve through efforts that honor both its past and present. Public art has become a powerful way to tell that story, bringing forward the voices, cultures, and experiences that define the community today.

At 92 Broadway, attendees gathered beside a vibrant mural by Lawrence-based artist Wilfred Acosta, created through earlier funding as part of this series. Titled *Esperanza en Ritmo* ("Hope in Rhythm"), the mural depicts a Dominican dancer from the Lawrence-based dance studio Ritmo Canela, wearing traditional *vestido típico*. She is surrounded by the Bayahíbe rose, the national flower of the Dominican Republic, set against a backdrop of the Lawrence skyline. Rooted in traditional Dominican dance and movement, the piece reflects the identity, resilience, and cultural spirit of Lawrence's predominantly Afro-Latino community.

Elevated Thought, a Lawrence-based nonprofit, has played a key role in engaging youth through art, storytelling, and mentorship, serving as a critical partner in bringing this series of murals to life.

"This continued investment allows us to keep building on work that is already visible across Lawrence," said Senator Pavel M. Payano (D-Lawrence). "Murals throughout our city reflect who we are, our culture, our stories, and our pride. They create spaces where young people

can see themselves, take ownership of their community, and contribute to something lasting. Supporting this work means continuing to invest in the people shaping the future of Lawrence."

"Our community has a long and storied history with the arts and projects such as this go a long way towards celebrating the rich cultural tapestry of the City of Lawrence," said Second Assistant Majority Leader Frank A. Moran (D - Lawrence). "Elevated Thought is an outstanding organization that goes above and beyond to unlock the creativity of our young people and I was proud to join Senator Payano to celebrate the \$75,000 funding that was able to make this impressive mural possible."

"Elevated Thought represents the best of Lawrence, creativity with purpose, culture with voice, and young people leading the way. This investment ensures that our youth not only see themselves reflected in their city, but also have the opportunity to shape it. When we support organizations like Elevated Thought, we are not just funding art, we are building identity, pride, and a stronger community," said Representative Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen).

"Today we celebrate more than an investment, we celebrate vision, creativity, and community," said Lawrence City Councilor Vivian Marmol. "Through this partnership and the support secured by Senator Pavel Payano, we are bringing color, culture, and pride to the city of Lawrence. These murals are not just art, they are a reflection of our people, our stories, and our future."

Wilfred Acosta, Elevated Thought's Creative Producer and a Lawrence-based artist leading the mural project, spoke to the personal and community impact of the work.

"First and foremost, I am profoundly grateful to Pavel Payano and Vivian Marmol for the incredible opportunity to represent my community, and I am also grateful to all the parties involved with helping me get it done, especially my mentor Alex J. Brian, my mentee Adelina Rodriguez, and of course Elevated Thought," said Wilfred Acosta. "My hope with this piece is to both honor my community and inspire the next individual trying to find their stride and rhythm in all they hope to accomplish, regardless of where they come from and how they might be perceived."

The check presentation took place at 92 Broadway, where residents, artists, and community partners gathered to celebrate both the impact of past investments and the continued expansion of this series of murals across Lawrence.



Members of the Lawrence delegation joined Senator Pavel Payano posing for pictures in front of one of their creations at 92 Broadway.



During the check granting ceremony were, Alex J. Brien, Senator Pavel Payano, and Wilfred Costa Creative Producer of Elevated Thought.



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# Lawrence anuncia una subvención de \$100,000 del Programa de Equidad Digital

La Ciudad de Lawrence se enorgullece en anunciar que ha recibido una subvención de \$100,000 del Programa Municipal de Implementación de Equidad Digital, financiado a través del Instituto de Banda Ancha de Massachusetts (MBI) en el Mastech Collaborative.

Esta importante inversión respaldará la iniciativa de "Modernización de Espacios Públicos", proporcionando tecnología esencial a organizaciones locales, ampliando el acceso público a través de quioscos de servicios municipales y aumentando significativamente el alcance del programa insignia de la Ciudad: ELEVATE.

Los fondos de la subvención se asignarán estratégicamente para garantizar un enfoque integral hacia la inclusión digital: un 40% para capacitación en alfabetización digital, un 40% para educación y difusión, y un 20% para la distribución de dispositivos. Esta estructura asegura que los residentes no solo obtengan acceso a la tecnología, sino que también desarrollen las habilidades necesarias para prosperar en la economía digital actual.

## Varios socios comunitarios se beneficiarán directamente de esta iniciativa:

MACIR (Asociación de Massachusetts para Recursos Informáticos y de Internet): Codirige el programa ELEVATE junto con la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence.  
LAWRENCE COMMUNITY WORKS (LCW): Recibió una pizarra interactiva (Smart Board) y 50 Chromebooks.  
LAZARUS HOUSE: Recibió 6 computadoras portátiles para uso del personal y de los huéspedes.  
LAWRENCE COUNCIL ON AGING (Centro para Personas Mayores): Recibió 20 computadoras portátiles para revitalizar su laboratorio de computación.

Para ampliar aún más el acceso a los servicios municipales esenciales, se instalarán nuevos quioscos digitales en departamentos municipales clave, entre ellos: la Oficina del Secretario Municipal, la Oficina del Recaudador de Impuestos, el Departamento de Servicios de Inspección (ISD) y el Departamento de Agua y Alcantarillado.

Cada quiosco incluirá un monitor

de pantalla táctil, una minicomputadora, un teclado y un ratón para mejorar la accesibilidad y la eficiencia para los residentes. El alcalde Brian A. DePeña enfatizó la importancia de esta inversión: "Estos fondos representan un gran paso adelante para cerrar la brecha digital en Lawrence. Al invertir tanto en tecnología como en educación, estamos asegurando que cada residente tenga las herramientas que necesita para tener éxito en un mundo moderno y conectado".

Carlos Castillo, Director de TI, agregó: "Esta iniciativa fortalece nuestra capacidad para proporcionar un acceso equitativo a la tecnología, al tiempo que empodera a nuestra comunidad con habilidades digitales esenciales".

Janelle Abreu, Directora de la Biblioteca, destacó el impacto en los jóvenes y las familias: "Esta subvención nos permite expandir ELEVATE y crear más oportunidades de aprendizaje, creatividad y acceso para todos los residentes". Martha Vélez, Directora de Salud y Servicios Humanos, añadió: "Se trata de equidad y oportunidad; de garantizar que nadie en nuestra comunidad se quede atrás en la era digital".

La ciudad de Lawrence mantiene su compromiso de cerrar la brecha digital mediante la innovación, las alianzas estratégicas y la inversión continua en sus residentes.

"La obtención de esta subvención de 100.000 dólares para la equidad digital requirió un año entero de colaboración con nuestra Biblioteca, el Centro para Personas Mayores, el Departamento de TI, diversas organizaciones comunitarias y CTC Technology & Energy; lo que convierte a Lawrence en una de las pocas comunidades en todo el estado que cuenta con un plan integral de equidad digital. Esta es solo la primera de muchas subvenciones por venir a medida que cerramos nuestra brecha digital", afirmó Ilialis 'Lily' Reyes, Directora de Gestión de Proyectos y Desarrollo.

Este proyecto fue financiado por el Massachusetts Broadband Institute, bajo el Mastech Collaborative y en el marco del Programa Municipal de Implementación de la Equidad Digital. Los fondos fueron proporcionados a través de los Fondos Estatales de Recuperación Fiscal ARPA de Massachusetts.

# Lawrence announces award of \$100,000 grant from the Municipal Digital Equity



From the left, they are Stephanie Guyotte, Merrimack Valley YMCA VP of marketing and communications; Rachid Moukhabir, MACIR Inc.; Mayor Brian DePeña; Janelle Abreu Lawrence Public Library director; and Sophan S. Smith, ED of Entrepreneurship for All Non-Profit.

The City of Lawrence is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program, funded through the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) at the Mastech Collaborative.

This significant investment will support the "Public Space Modernization" initiative, providing essential technology to local organizations, expanding public access through city service kiosks, and significantly increasing the reach of the City's flagship ELEVATE program.

The grant funding will be strategically allocated to ensure a comprehensive approach to digital inclusion: 40% for Digital Literacy training, 40% for Education and Outreach, and 20% for Device Distribution. This structure ensures that residents not only gain access to technology but also develop the skills necessary to succeed in today's digital economy.

## Several community partners will directly benefit from this initiative:

MACIR (Massachusetts Association for Computer and Internet Resources): Co-leads the ELEVATE program alongside the Lawrence Public Library.  
LAWRENCE COMMUNITY WORKS (LCW): Awarded a Smart Board and 50 Chromebooks.  
LAZARUS HOUSE: Awarded 6 laptops for staff and guest use.  
LAWRENCE COUNCIL ON AGING (Senior Center): Awarded 20 laptops to revitalize its computer lab.

To further expand access to essential city services, new digital kiosks will be installed in key municipal departments, including: City Clerk's Office, Tax Collector's Office, Inspectional Services Department (ISD), and the Water and Sewer Department".

Each kiosk will include a touchscreen monitor, minicomputer, keyboard, and mouse to improve accessibility and efficiency for residents. Mayor Brian A. DePeña emphasized the importance of this investment: "This funding represents a major step forward in closing the digital divide in Lawrence. By investing in both technology and education, we are ensuring that every resident has the tools they need to succeed in a modern, connected world."

Carlos Castillo, IT Director, added: "This initiative strengthens our ability to provide equitable access to technology while empowering our community with essential digital skills".

Janelle Abreu, Library Director, highlighted the impact on youth and families: "This grant allows us to expand ELEVATE and create more opportunities for learning, creativity, and access for all residents".

Martha Vélez, Director of Health and Human Services, added: "This is about equity and opportunity, ensuring that no one in our community is left behind in the digital age".

The City of Lawrence remains committed to closing the digital divide through innovation, partnerships, and continued investment in its residents.

"Securing this \$100K digital equity grant took a full year of collaboration with our Library, Senior Center, IT Department, and community organizations and CTC Technology & Energy—making Lawrence one of the few communities statewide with a comprehensive digital equity plan. This is just the first of many grants to come as we close our digital gap," said Ilialis 'Lily' Reyes, Director of Project Management and Development.

This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the Mastech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.



Santiago Matías, acting director, Planning and Development; Lissy Rivas, conductora de un programa radial; Mayor/Alcalde Brian DePeña and Janelle Abreu, Lawrence Public Library director.



## UN PUNTO DE VISTA © 1996

Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, BS, CSP

El Dr. Montesino, totalmente responsable por este artículo, es el Editor de LatinoWorldOnline.com

# Fechas que importan

Todos nosotros, sin duda, vivimos una existencia caracterizada por fechas en el calendario que dan sentido a nuestras vidas.

En 21 de abril de 1962, sí, hace sesenta y cuatro años, en Miami, Florida, subí a un avión de Eastern Airlines con destino, tras tres paradas intermedias, al Aeropuerto Internacional Logan de Boston, Massachusetts. Al día siguiente era Domingo de Resurrección.

Nunca había visitado Boston ni estaba familiarizado con sus nevadas extremas en invierno ni sus temperaturas récord mínimas. Mi viaje fue responsabilidad del programa de asistencia cubana de Miami cuando quedó claro que no podía encontrar empleo en una ciudad inundada por miles de exiliados cubanos con el mismo objetivo.

Había llegado de Cuba menos de un mes antes, el 27 de marzo, y necesitaba encontrar una forma decente de ganarme la vida para ayudar a mi madre y a mi hermana que también vivían en Miami, y a mi mujer y mi padre aún en Cuba esperando para unirse a nosotros, así que encontrar una fuente de ingresos era importante.

Estoy pensando en aquellos días de los sesenta. No se me ocurre ninguna expresión pública de animosidad hacia nuestra condición de inmigrantes, nuestra causa política o nuestra necesidad de obtener ayuda pública de fuentes federales o estatales, al contrario. Iglesias de diferentes denominaciones, especialmente la Iglesia Católica, se esforzaron mucho por ayudarnos a encontrar empleo y vivienda.

Dos días después de mi llegada a Beantown, el conocido apodo de Boston, un amigo local que había trabajado en un banco de Boston me recomendó a su antiguo empleador, "United States Trust Company (USTC) - Boston." Yo había trabajado varios años para el Banco Nacional de Cuba, y no fue difícil conseguir una entrevista para un puesto de bajo nivel que no requiriera un uso hábil del inglés, cosa que obviamente no podía tener siendo hablante de español que solo llevaba un mes en Estados Unidos.

Una familia judía fundó USTC en 1895 y miembros de esa familia lo administraban ahora, su apellido era Morse. Estaba claro que estas personas conocían las dificultades y dificultades que viven los refugiados políticos y, tras un par de reuniones con tres de ellos el

24 de abril, me ofrecieron un puesto en el departamento de procesamiento de cheques. Mi principal responsabilidad era revisar y verificar los endosos de esos cheques, no hablar con ellos. Acepté la oferta y empecé a trabajar el lunes de la semana siguiente: 30 de abril de 1962.

Después de llegar de Cuba 35 días antes, sin dinero, experiencia laboral local o conocimientos básicos de idiomas, me aceptaban a una institución financiera respetable.

En ese momento de mi vida no tenía ninguna de las cartas académicas que ve adjuntas a mi nombre en el membrete de este artículo. Me llevaría mucho tiempo trabajando a tiempo parcial o completo en universidades estadounidenses antes de poder ganarme el derecho a exponerlas.

Como puede ver, además de mi cumpleaños, que permanecerá anónimo, y otras fechas personales importantes en mi vida, abril registra momentos importantes que vienen a la mente cada año como fechas especiales de primavera. No eran importantes antes de que ocurrieran, sino que lo hicieron después de que hiciera lo que tenía que hacer a medida que avanzaba mi vida. Pero no me interpreten mal. No soy el único inmigrante que trabajó duro para alcanzar su objetivo. Hay otros que hablan otros idiomas y han hecho lo mismo y merecen crédito por hacer de América la tierra de oportunidades, si creen que lo es.

Después de pasar treinta y cuatro años en la organización bancaria que me abrió sus puertas cuando la necesitaba, decidí seguir adelante y compartir mi experiencia y formación con las generaciones más jóvenes a nivel universitario, un trabajo que duró dieciséis años. Para esa fecha, me habían ascendido a Senior Vice Presidente y Tesorero.

Y, por supuesto, esos cincuenta años juntos se convirtieron en un terreno fértil para escribir y publicar sesenta libros de ficción y no ficción en los dos idiomas que me son familiares: inglés y español.

No tenía duda de que mi viaje del 21 de abril de 1962 a Boston desde Miami había sido productivo, ¿no cree? Oh, y hablando de fechas importantes, no olvide que este abril 15 es cuando tenemos que reportar nuestros impuestos.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy. Agur.



## A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, BS, CSP

# Dates that Matter

All of us, without doubt, live an existence characterized by dates in the calendar that give meaning to our lives. April 21, 1962, yes, sixty-four years ago, In Miami, Florida, I entered an Eastern Airlines aircraft with a destination, after three intermediate stops of Logan International Airport in Boston, Massachusetts. The next day was Easter Sunday.

I had never visited Boston or was familiar with its extreme winter snowstorms or record low temperatures. My trip was the financial responsibility of the Miami Cuban assistance program when it became clear that I could not find employment in a city flooded by thousands of Cuban exiles with the same goal.

I had arrived from Cuba less than a month before, March 27, and needed to find a decent way to make a living to help my mother and sister also living in Miami and my wife and my father still in Cuba waiting to join us, so finding an income source was important.

Thinking about those days in the nineteen sixties. I cannot remember any public expression of animosity towards our immigrant condition, our political cause, or our need to get public assistance from federal or state sources, on the contrary. Churches of different denominations, the Catholic Church in particular, went out of their way to help us find employment and housing.

Two days after my arrival to Beantown, Boston's well-known nickname, a local friend who had worked at a Boston bank recommended me to his former employer, the "United States Trust Company (USTC) - Boston." I had worked for several years for the National Bank of Cuba, and it was not difficult to get an interview for a low-level position that did not require a skilled use of the English language, which I obviously could not have as a Spanish language speaker who had been in America barely one month.

A Jewish family founded USTC in 1895 and members of that family managed it now, Morse being their last name. It was clear that these folks were familiar with the pains and tribulations experienced by political refugees and after a couple of meetings with three

of them on April 24, they offered me a clerical position in the check processing department. My main responsibility was looking at and verifying checks endorsements, not talking to them. I accepted the offer and began working Monday of the following week: April 30, 1962.

After arriving from Cuba 35 days before lacking money, local working experience, or basic language skills I was joining a respectable financial institution.

At that moment in my life I did not have any of the academic letters that you see attached to my name on this article's letterhead. It would take me a long time of part-time or full-time work at American universities before I could earn the right to display them.

As you can see, besides my birthdate, which will remain anonymous, and other personal important dates in my life, April records important moments that come to mind every year as special Spring dates. They were not important before they happened but did so after I did what I had to do as my life went on. But do not get me wrong. I am not the only immigrant who worked hard to reach my goal. There are others who speak other languages and have done the same and deserve credit for making America the land of opportunity if you think it is.

After spending thirty-four years in the banking organization that opened its doors to me when I needed it, I decided to move on and share my experience and education with younger generations at the university level, a job that lasted sixteen years. By then, I had been promoted to Senior Vice President and Treasurer.

And, of course, those fifty years combined became fertile ground for writing and publishing sixty fiction and non-fiction books in the two languages familiar to me: English and Spanish.

There was no question in my mind that my April 21, 1962, trip to Boston from Miami had been productive, wouldn't you say so? And, speaking of important dates, do not forget to file your taxes by the end of the day, April 15.

And that is my Point of View today. So Long.

**"Honor al soldado y al marino de todas partes que defienden con valentía la causa de su país. Honor, también, al ciudadano que se preocupa por su hermano en el campo de batalla y sirve, como mejor puede, a la misma causa".**

**"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."**

Abraham Lincoln

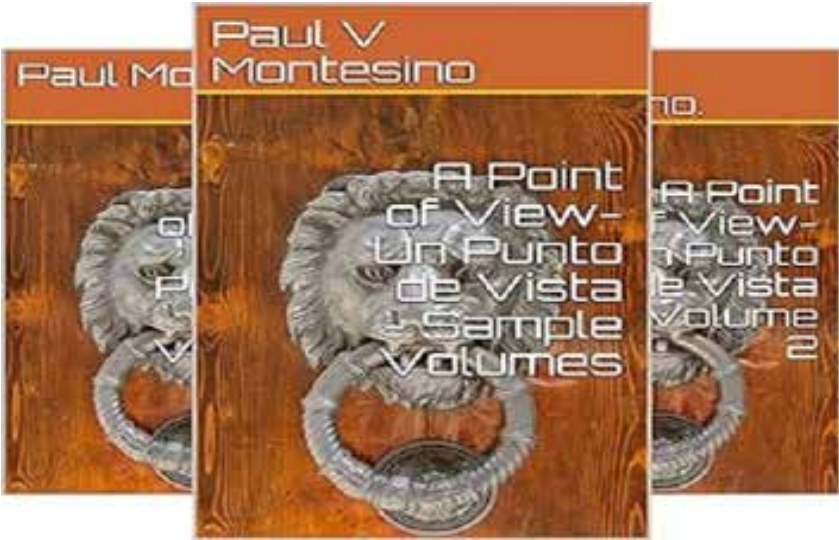
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# More pictures from the Hibernians luncheon

Photos: Richard Russell



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ROBERTO CLEMENTE LEAGUE OF LOWELL 2026

# BASEBALL

INSCRIPTIONS  
5- 18 YEARS  
OLD

TIME:  
6:00 PM

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EVERY TUESDAY AND  
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8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

LOCATION

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GOLF; CART (1 OR 2 PLAYERS PER CART);  
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## STARTING APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 METHUEN POLICE CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



**Chief Scott McNamara**  
Is proud to announce that the  
**METHUEN POLICE DEPARTMENT IS  
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**

The academy is an exciting, dynamic, and informative 12-week course designed to provide participants with an interactive, hands-on, comprehensive overview of the Methuen Police Department. Class time will include an introduction to patrol, detectives, swat, communications, CPR, and various other department programs. At the completion of the academy, you will have knowledge of CPR with the option of certification.

Applications can be picked up at the Methuen Police Department dispatch window or printed from our website, [Methuenpolice.com](http://Methuenpolice.com). Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. You must fill out the application and all the waivers to be considered. You must live or work in the city of Methuen to be considered.

Participants cannot have any felony convictions, be on parole or probation, or have been arrested in the last 2 years.

**WHEN:** April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Every Tuesday Night

**COST:** FREE

**WHERE:** Methuen Police Department  
90 Hampshire St. Methuen, MA 01844

**\*\*apply early due to a limited amount of space\*\***

For more information contact:  
Officer Mark Aiello  
Community Outreach Division  
Call (978) 983-8701 or  
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# YaR Youth at Risk

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### REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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HOSTED BY FELIPE COLLAZO

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**FEBRUARY 15**  
**MARCH 15**  
**APRIL 12**  
**MAY 17**  
**6:00PM**



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[www.essexartcenter.org](http://www.essexartcenter.org)



# Separa la fecha!

## Esencia Cubana

### Esta Noche Cubana

**SABADO 16 DE MAYO 2026**  
ELK'S LODGE 652 ANDOVER ST. LAWRENCE MA 01843  
**6PM-12AM**

We're excited to announce that starting next month, our board member, Felipe Collazo, will host Open Mic Nights at the Center! Mark your calendars for Sundays: February 15, March 15, April 12, and May 17, and get ready to unleash your creativity!

Whether you want to share spoken word, sing a solo, or showcase your unique performance style, this is your moment to shine. Open Mic Nights will kick off at 6:00 PM—come ready to express yourself and connect with fellow artists in our vibrant community.



Spring Celebration  
COMMUNITY TEAM WORK

Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Andover Country Club  
6:00 PM

Join us as we honor these Champions of Community Action:

**Mercy Anampiu, Lowell Community Health Center**  
**Steve Joncas, Housing Development Champion**  
**Lala Books, Local Bookstore and Community Advocate**

Money raised at our Spring Celebration will support our efforts to strengthen communities and reduce poverty.

# Taste of Haverhill

Celebrating Greater Haverhill's culinary scene



Food vendor registration now available.  
No cost to participate. To register or inquire about tables or sponsorship opportunities go to [MerrimackValleyChamber.com](https://MerrimackValleyChamber.com)

Title Sponsor



April 13, 2026 | 5:30-7:30P  
at Michael's Function Hall

## 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.

<http://heallawrence.org/>      [heallawrence@aol.com](mailto:heallawrence@aol.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

## ¿Eres una joven embarazada o un(a) padre/madre menor de 25 años?



**¡Únete a nuestro Programa para Padres Jóvenes!**  
Apoyamos a madres y padres jóvenes y a sus hijos para que alcancen su máximo potencial, ofreciendo ayuda en todos los aspectos de la salud, el crecimiento personal y el bienestar.

**Nos enfocamos en:**

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**Ofrecemos:**

- Acceso a recursos comunitarios
- Educación e información sobre la crianza
- Apoyo con la escuela secundaria, universidad, GED y programas de capacitación laboral
- Ayuda para encontrar cuidado infantil seguro y confiable
- Grupos de bienestar y apoyo entre padres

**Requisitos:**

- Estar embarazada o ser padre/madre menor de 25 años y residente de Lawrence o Haverhill.
- Participar activamente en el programa, incluyendo visitas en el hogar, crear metas educativas, personales y profesionales.

**¿Te interesa aplicar?**

Escanea el código QR o llámanos al (978) 327-6646





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## Are you an expectant or parenting young adult under 25?



**Join Our Young Parents Program!**  
Supporting young parents and their children to reach their full potential with care for health, wellness, and personal growth.

**We focus on:**

- Social & emotional support
- Education assistance
- Access to medical care
- Support with basic needs (Food, Clothing, Diapers)
- Connections to other needed services

**We provide:**

- Access to community resources
- Parenting education & information
- Support with high school, college, GED, and job training
- Help finding safe and reliable childcare
- Wellness & peer support groups

**Eligibility**

- Must be under 25, expecting or parenting, and live in Lawrence or Haverhill.
- Actively participate in program activities, including home visits, and work on your educational, personal, and professional goals.

**Interested in applying?**

Scan the QR Code or call us at (978) 327-6646





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