

## Letters to the Editor

### W Hotel

Many thanks to *The Boston Courant* for its front-page June 5 article, "Mayor Saves Key Project."

According to your article by Scott Van Voorhis, Boston's mayor has loaned \$10 million in low-cost federal funds from the Department of Neighborhood Development to complete a downtown luxury hotel and condo complex. What does the city get in return for this loan besides the 9 percent interest rate for the seven-year loan? Good question. The city investment loan guarantees the \$234 million W hotel and condo complex will open this fall. It will include "650 permanent jobs while keeping hundreds of construction workers busy in the meantime, officials said." It will result in a continuing and rising revenue tax stream from the real estate taxes on the privately owned condos.

It will greatly enhance the Theater District at the edge of Chinatown. The hotel will bring thousands of new tourists into the area. At least 123 high-income buyers will move into the building's 123 expensive condos and, along with the hotel's guests, will provide new customers for the local neighborhood's many services, along with much needed sales taxes and additional state income tax.

Not bad, Mr. Mayor. I doubt that there is a single section of the president's new stimulus programs that will produce such profitable, long-term benefits. The public and voters have to give Menino credit and his administration credit for demonstrating how the government should be stimulating the economy with real job-producing projects and not just make-work, dead-end busy work.

Even if the loan is never repaid, the returns to the city should more than justify this small loan (and \$10 million is a small loan on an almost completed \$234 million private investment). Hopefully, the city will indeed secure other collateral from the developer, but once the project is finished and actually functioning, the loan should be safe. The alternative would be an empty, blighted building paying no taxes and providing no jobs except for some bankruptcy lawyers and security guards to keep the building from being destroyed by thieves and scavengers. Or perhaps it would become another non-real estate tax paying college dorm?

Good job, Mr. Mayor. Maybe the Feds will take a lesson from what you've done?

*James Holland, Commonwealth Avenue*

### W Hotel

As a Boston taxpayer, I was really disappointed to hear this week that the City of Boston is giving a \$10 million loan to the W Hotel/Condo project to complete construction. Also troubling is the smaller loan to Pappas Enterprises to open Gloria's Market in South Boston. These two loans strike me as examples of corporate welfare for wealthy companies who sell products to well-off people.

The W loan in particular is the most dubious given the glut of high-end condos for sale in downtown Boston. Why is the City of Boston bailing out companies who appeared to have made bad business decisions?

Also was the city aware when it gave the W project a loan that a very similar W project in Scottsdale, Arizona was being foreclosed in April of this year: <http://www.hotelbusiness.com/hb/links/news/news.asp?ID=35341#top>

Will Boston taxpayers be on the hook if the Boston W project ends up being foreclosed on also?

*Richard M. Smith, Washington Street*

*Letters to the editor may be sent to [letters@bostoncourant.com](mailto:letters@bostoncourant.com).*



*Zubin and Semone Bamboat*

## Father's Day

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a father at the birth."

Semone and Zubin Bamboat follow *Zoroastrianism*, an ancient religion with roots in the Middle East.

"It is the custom not to tell the name of the child until after the baby is born," Bamboat said. "You're also not allowed to name the child after a living person. You need to pick a name according to custom — everyone, including both our families, have discussed it and now agree, but I can't tell you the name we've picked."

Due on July 26 with the delivery scheduled at MGH, Bamboat will be rotating at a Salem hospital during that month.

"I have a car, and unless I'm in surgery, I will definitely attend the birth," Bamboat said.

The future dad's concerns about being a father revolve mostly around having enough time to be there as much as he would like, especially now that he is in residency at MGH.

The Bamboat family is planning a trip to Dubai in March to see Zubin's parents and introduce their child to the family. Next year they will celebrate their first Father's Day. The proud doctor said, "I can hardly wait!"

## Road Repair

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repaving schedule because that is up to the contractor the city hires, but he said that they usually work in one area at a time.

Back Bay streets that will be repaved include Columbus Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue, Hadassah Way, Massachusetts Avenue, Newbury Street, Tremont Street and a public alley. In the

Fenway, Comm Ave., Newbury Street, Fenwood Road, Fullerton Street, Haviland Street, Huntington Avenue, Miner Street and Vining Street.

In the South End, Chandler Street, Herald Street, Pembroke Street, Trask Street, Columbus Ave., Tremont Street and West Springfield Street are scheduled for repaving.

On Beacon Hill, South Russell Street is slated for work, as is Shawmut Street in Bay Village.

## Street Fair

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While the cost of the event is still unclear, Petro said the BHBA would have to keep very closely to whatever it budgets for the fair.

"The Taste of Beacon Hill is actually paying for this," she said. "Anytime we have an event, we need to make sure another event can pay for it, or that the event pays for itself."

Stores will set up tables on the sidewalk

to display new wares for the season. Businesses like travel agents could be paired with shops that sell clothes that people would wear at a resort, and representatives from local banks could be set up alongside real estate agents, Petro said. Entertainment for children will likely include face painting and jugglers. Like the holiday stroll in December each year, many of the shops along Charles Street would open their doors and offer refreshments inside.

Petro said she thinks the best day for the event is Sunday, to avoid disrupting residents, as well as truck deliveries.