

September 3, 2020

The Bulletin



Residents and the Livable Streets Alliance have teamed up to try to decrease the number of traffic collisions that occur on American Legion.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Livable Streets releases survey for American Legion

**Jeff Sullivan**  
Staff Reporter

Residents of the American Legion Corridor in East Roslindale, Hyde Park and Mattapan have had issues with speeding, drag racing and what they say is neglect from City Hall for decades.

The neighborhood is a tough one, as it sits at the borders of three neighborhoods and three Boston Police Department enforcement districts: E-18, E-5, and B-3. In the past, incidents of crime and severe motor vehicle crashes have occurred with little or no communication among districts, and neighbors have had to take documenting incidents into their own hands.

Local resident and U.S.

Postal Worker Abner Bonilla detailed his crash documentation extensively, which was detailed in the July 30 issue of the West Roxbury Roslindale and Hyde Park Bulletin (BulletinNewspapers.com). Mount Hope Canterbury (MHC) Coordinator Lisa Beatman said now they have partnered with the Livable Streets Alliance to hear from other residents in an online survey, which can be found at <https://bit.ly/32Kt9FM> in English and at <https://bit.ly/3hMQmgO> in Spanish. Beatman said they have worked a long time with Livable Streets on the issues described in the survey, and both she and Livable Streets Community Engagement Coordinator Shavel'le Olivier said direct

input from residents of the area will help to get these issues to the forefront of City Hall.

"This is a very collaborative effort," she said. "The Nature Center's Julie Brandlen posted the survey in five different ways to the parents of her campers on their e-bulletin, the Haley School posted it on Facebook to their parents, the Woodbourne Pocket Neighborhood Association sent it around and, very importantly, the Lena Park Community Center and the Olmsted Green Development Families are also sharing it. We're trying to get as many stakeholders, as many people who are affected every day by the dangers of American Legion to speak up. It's an anonymous survey."

**American Legion**  
Continued on page 5

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Date of Death: 02/10/2015

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Adjudication was filed by:

**Doreen Elaine Williams Palmer** is requesting that the Court enter a formal judgment as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Lauren K Dowley of Medford, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate of Dalton A. Williams, Surety on the bond in an unsupervised proceeding.

IMPOR- You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition. You have a right to object to this proceeding by filing a written appearance and objection at or on or before 10/06/2020. This is NOT a hearing. You must file a written appearance and objection if you wish to be heard. The time for filing a written appearance and objection is thirty (30) days of the return day, acting on the return day.

UNSUPERVISED ADJUDICATION OF THE ESTATE OF DALTON A. WILLIAMS, MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE ACT.

A Personal Representative appointed by the Court in an unsupervised proceeding is not required to file a Petition for Formal Adjudication. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to be heard by the Court. The Personal Representative of the estate, including the distribution of the estate, including the distribution of the estate.

**WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, Jr.**  
Date: August 25, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

**Election** continued from page 1

of the difficult challenges posed by this pandemic we have



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## American Legion *continued from page 3*

mous survey, but it's an opportunity for the city to hear from numbers of people with details."

Beatman said the MHC has been partners with Livable Streets for this effort as well as a project to expand the Emerald Necklace to the area. For this, Beatman said, a local resident recently compiled a list of 29 crashes in 30 days in the neighborhood, and just last week Bonilla posted a notification from Boston Fire Department Alert (@BostonFireAlert on Twitter) detailing another collision with injuries.

"It's a crisis," Beatman said.

One of the big issues is that American Legion can feel like a highway. It's named a highway, a designation Beatman has been fighting against, as she said it is supposed to be a Parkway as in some original city documentation. Residents are concerned about the number of crashes, careless driving, speeding and the reputation the area has received as a major drag racing hub. Arrests for drag racers have been made sporadically in the past, and usually, it's offenders from out of town who come to frequent the strip. It's also a major commuter hub, as it connects dense areas of the city to the more

suburban neighborhoods of Roslindale, Hyde Park and West Roxbury. This all leads to what Beatman has called a bad reputation for the area, and increased instances of unsafe driving and speeding.

"There are more crashes due to regular speeding and other reckless driving than drag racing crashes numerically, but they're all tied together with the reputation that American Legion has," Beatman said.

Olivier said residents are responding to the survey in a positive way. She said in the first three weeks, they have already garnered 412 responses online. She said the end goal is to uplift the issue in the eyes of Boston City Hall so residents can see some aid to the crashes and unsafe nature of how the road is currently used.

"We are going to create a report or summary of the answers that were given with the survey and analyze what the key trends and themes are from the responses we were given and then give that to the city," Olivier said. "Our street ambassadors, the ones who have been going out on American Legion, actually met with the Boston Transportation Department (last Wednesday) to present their findings so that the city staff

can hear what they've been hearing from residents as well as their experiences on American Legion."

Livable Streets Street Ambassador Gary Chin said he went out recently and his experience with the road was not a positive one when he was biking back from taking survey responses.

"First off, there's two lanes going in each direction and then the bike lane goes off into just a marker on the road later on, and when the other street ambassador and I were riding back to Walk Hill after doing the surveys one day, a car almost hit us," he said. "They were impatient and decided to move over into another lane and I have a video of it, and it was probably within one foot or six inches of hitting me on one side. So that was my experience."

Chin said he heard from residents who have had their parked vehicles hit by drag racers, have seen or been involved in crashes or have had close calls on bicycles like himself. He said one theme rang through.

"In my experience with talking with people is that there are plenty of people riding the bus, on bicycles,

jogging or walking in that area and the only thing that seems to have priority are the drivers on the road and everything else seems to be an afterthought," he said.

Chin said improvements to the corridor could include permanent protected bike lanes, lane narrowing and actual bus stop shelters so residents aren't sitting on the curb waiting.

Olivier and Beatman said they've heard from city officials that it's becoming a priority, but Beatman said she's heard that before.

"We don't hear anything, and finally someone from the city comes back and says 'we're studying that,'" she said. "You know people are now used to not being able to walk or bike, and

being nervous about driving. I mean, no wonder people don't feel like it was a neighborhood. Normally you'd see someone and say 'oh, you're going to Stop & Shop? I'll go with you.' And parents don't let kids bike a few blocks to get to their friends' house or to the Nature Center, and the folks at the Lena Park end, they don't let their kids cross the street to walk to Franklin Park."

Olivier said the response so far has made her hopeful, as 412 survey responses is not chump change.

"I was surprised at the numbers," she said. "This is a span of four weeks."

For more information on Livable Streets, go to <https://www.livablestreets.info/>.

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## Correction

The caption on the photo on the front page of the Boston Bulletin 8/27, accompanying the article 'Committee Votes to Support Pine St. Housing', has an error. The JPNC Housing Committee did not vote to support the 3371-75 Washington St. proposal. The Committee heard an informational-only presentation on that property from Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development & New Atlantic Development. No vote was requested and no vote was taken on that proposal. We apologize for the mistake.



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