



# State of the City Chelsea 2019

*Presented by City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino  
to the Chelsea City Council and the Residents of Chelsea*

**Photo credit cover page:** Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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Photo Credit Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Photo Credit: Isaac Subillage



Photo Credit Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Photo Credit Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation





Photo Credit Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## City Manager's Statement

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Dear Reader:

It's a privilege for me to serve you as City Manager and to present to you the *2019 State of the City Report*. As you will see from a review of this *Report*, it has been another productive year for Chelsea.

The purpose of the *Report* is to highlight certain important developments that took place during the past year. Although Chelsea has its share of challenges, City employees and community partners are working hard to find innovative solutions to problems, to better respond to constituent needs and to improve the health, wealth and safety of all Chelsea residents. We're excited about our progress in 2018 and hope to continue to build momentum as we close out this decade.

I hope you enjoy reading this Report. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments or concerns. You can visit me in City Hall in Room 302, write me at [Tambrosino@chelseama.gov](mailto:Tambrosino@chelseama.gov) or call me at 617-466-4100. You can also text CHELSEAHAPPENING to 22828 to sign up for my monthly newsletter covering updates from the City.

Respectfully,

Thomas G. Ambrosino  
City Manager





# Progress In Chelsea

## Improved Communication and Transparency

### **Social media: Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat**

- The City continues its efforts to increase its social media presence. The [City of ChelseaMassachusetts-Gov Facebook page](#) has grown to more than 2100 followers. Chelsea has also grown its Twitter page, [@ChelseaGov MA](#), with a current follower base nearing 1000 followers. Included on these pages are many informational updates, along with community events. To keep up to date, please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Our goal in 2019 is to expand our social media presence to include Instagram, and revamp our website to ease the navigation and make it more accessible to all residents.

### **Open Data Portal: Increasing accessibility to government data**

- In August of 2018, the City launched its open data portal. The portal is a transparency software program which allows residents and all visitors to the City's website to access public information and data about the City, including its financial information, in easily accessible, consumer friendly formats. You can access the site by going to <https://chelseama.ogopendata.com>

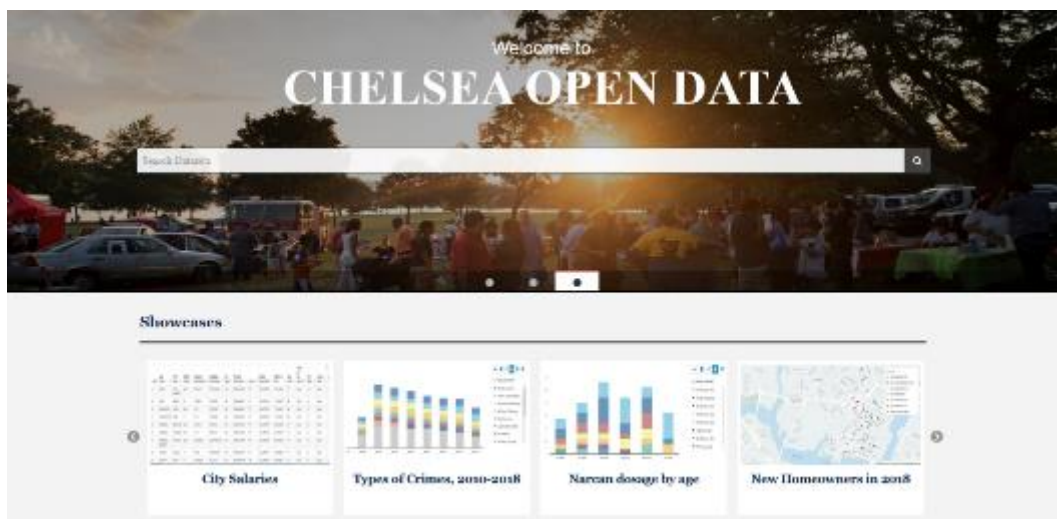


Photo Credit: City of Chelsea

# Progress In Chelsea

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## **Online licensing: Easing the permitting application and license renewal process**

- In recognition of the growing demand for online permitting on behalf of businesses and residents, the City has set up new online applications. Liquor license renewals are now all done online. The City has also launched new software programs for park permits and building permits, which we expect will eliminate the need for many residents to come in-person to City Hall for permits.

## **Improved Community Engagement and Collaboration**

### **Strong Partnerships with Nonprofits**

- The City continues its strong partnerships with community organizations such as The Neighborhood Developers, ROCA, the Chelsea Collaborative, and GreenRoots. Some of these collaborations include: the “Hub”, a weekly meeting of nonprofits and government agencies aimed at providing individuals wraparound support; “Chelsea Thrives,” a monthly meeting of City leaders focused on reducing crime and on cross-sector and cross-agency awareness of initiatives; and the “Beautification Committee,” a monthly convening aimed at increasing the city’s environmental and aesthetic beauty.



Photo Credit Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# Progress In Chelsea

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Photo Credit Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## **Beautification Committee**

The Beautification Committee is a team of residents, City officials, nonprofit employees and others who come together each month to take on initiatives that make Chelsea safer and more beautiful. Some of the accomplishments and ongoing projects from this past year include:

**Welcome to Chelsea signs:** The City commissioned a local artist to paint “Welcome to Chelsea” signs. These signs are now visible at the entrance to Chelsea from Broadway, from Route 1 north and from Everett. More will be installed in 2019.

**Neighborhood signs:** The City has also commissioned neighborhood signs in Chelsea Square, in Cary Square and at the Soldiers’ Home. Additional signs are planned for Prattville and Bellingham Hill.



# Progress In Chelsea

**Cigarette Butlers and Dog Waste Stations:** As part of an effort to rid the sidewalks and parks of trash, the City has installed cigarette butlers and dog waste stations. We now have a total of 29 dog waste stations and 22 cigarette butlers. To date, we have collected 23,100 cigarette butts! You can find a full map of these locations on the DPW section of our website: <https://www.chelseama.gov/public-works/bulletins/dog-waste-station-and-cigarette-butt-map>

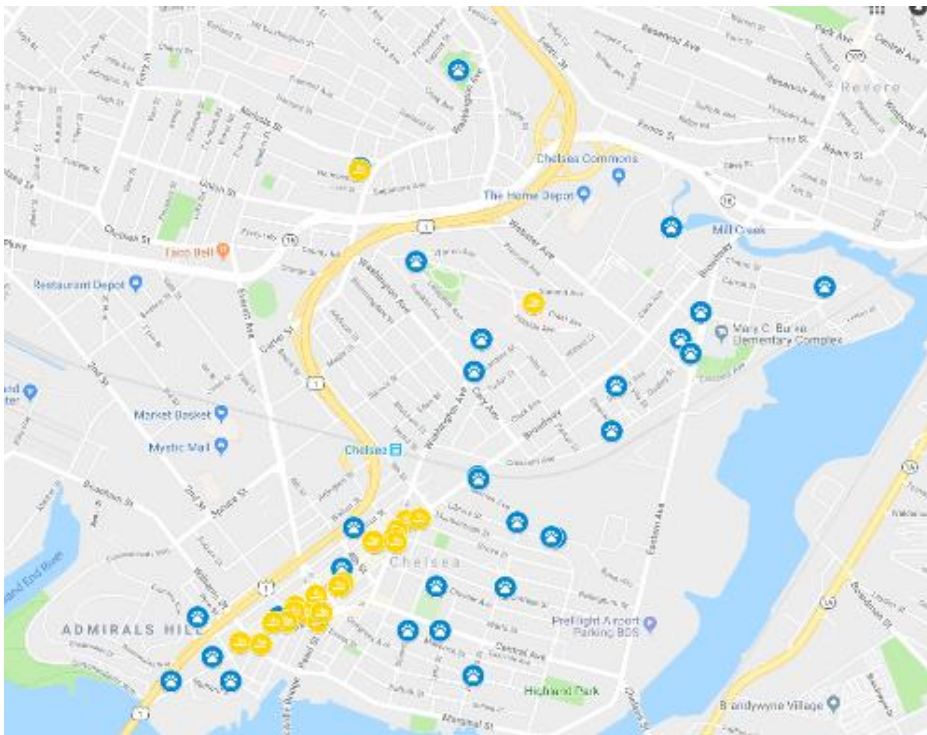


Photo Credit: City of Chelsea

## New Initiatives



### Trash Barrels

The City completed delivery of its new trash barrels to all residents who are part of the municipal trash program. The goal is to reduce litter and rodents. Residents have begun to utilize these heavy duty, covered barrels for all of their trash needs. Any resident in need of an additional barrel, or seeking to dispose of an old barrel, should contact the DPW office at 617-466-4200. More information about the program can be [online](#) on the Department of Public Works webpage.



Photo Credit: City of Chelsea



Photo Credit: City of Chelsea



### Ban of Sales of Alcohol Miniatures

This past May, Chelsea's Licensing Commission voted to ban the sale of nips (50ml bottles) by all retailers in Chelsea. Testimony at the public hearing cited the broad and significant human, environmental and economic impacts of nips in the City, particularly in the City's Downtown. Although the issue is currently on appeal before the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC), the ban remains in effect pending a final decision by the ABCC.

## New Initiatives

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### Bunker Hill/Chelsea High School Scholarship Program

The City has partnered with Bunker Hill Community College on a pilot program to provide free Associates Degrees to Chelsea High School graduates. During the pilot program, any Chelsea High School senior who has successfully completed 12 dual credit courses while at Chelsea High School is eligible for free tuition at Bunker Hill Community College to complete an Associates Degree. This is an effort by the City to ensure that financial need is no longer a barrier to Chelsea residents attaining a college education.



Photo Credit: Chelsea Public Schools



### Community Scholarship Program

The City also launched its community scholarship program this year. The program provides an opportunity for taxpayers to donate funds to a municipal scholarship that will be utilized to provide financial aid to residents of the City who have been accepted to pursue post-secondary school education. Final decisions on the award of such scholarships will be made by a Scholarship Committee to be appointed by the City Council. More information about the Community Scholarship is available [online](#).



## New Initiatives

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### Recreational Marijuana Ordinance

Earlier this year, the City passed an ordinance allowing for recreational marijuana uses, and its sale, in the Highway Business, Shopping Center and Industrial Districts. The City is required by law to allow up to 4 recreational marijuana facilities in the City, and it expects stores to open in Chelsea sometime in 2019. To learn more, please visit the Licensing page on the City's website: <https://www.chelseama.gov/licensing>.



### Community Preservation Act Surcharge

The Community Preservation Act surcharge has been in effect in Chelsea since Fiscal Year 2017. Thus far, it has generated in excess of \$1.5 million, which must be spent on affordable housing, historic preservation and open space and recreation. This year, for the first time, the Community Preservation Act Committee will be taking applications for funding projects from residents and community groups. The CPA Committee will then submit its recommendations for spending to the City Council. The first round of projects will likely be approved by the City Council in mid-2019.



### Partnership with Universities

The City continued its collaboration with the Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center and the students in the Innovative Field Lab team who are working to develop a predictive model for addressing problem properties in the City, and improve City operations to address high-risk individuals' needs.

The City also engaged in two other University partnerships. The City worked with students from Northeastern to analyze our building permit data. The City also worked with students from Boston University to assess the extent of homelessness in the area and create innovative solutions.

# A Focus on the Downtown

The City has put numerous resources in improving its Downtown Business District.



## Game Nights at City Hall Plaza

Each Tuesday this Summer, the City sponsored several fun game nights in Bellingham Square.



Photo Credit: Chelsea Prospers

## Gallery 456

This Gallery opened earlier this year and is located in the former Salvation Army Building at 456 Broadway. The Gallery featured a special exhibit by Arnold Jarmak, with photos of Chelsea in the 1970s and early 1980s on display throughout August. The Welcome to Chelsea Photo Contest Winner was also on display.



Photo Credit: Darlene DeVita Photography

## Fiesta Verano

This August, the City brought together performers including Chelsea's own Pillook, El Rancherito de Oro, members of the Veronica Robles Cultural Center and more for a fun Summer Festival.

## Microenterprise Program for Downtown Businesses

This past May, the City launched a new grant program for small businesses located in the Broadway Business District. The City now offers low- and moderate-income business owners free technical assistance to help improve sales, market their establishments and enhance both their physical and digital presence. Free consulting is available for business marketing and planning, interior and exterior design and customer service and sales techniques. Grants of up to \$1500 help implement the recommendation.

# A Focus on the Downtown



Photo Credit: Chelsea Prospers

## Dia de Esperanza

In November, the City brought together residents for All Saints Day where they were able to make kites, enjoy musical performances and stop by and reflect in Gallery 456.



## Tree Lighting

This past November, Chelsea hosted its annual tree-lighting with over 400 people gathering to ring in the Winter holiday season. The event was presented by the City of Chelsea's Recreation Division and Chelsea Prospers in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. This year's program included performances by Berkowitz School student singers, Off Broadway Dance Studio and the Back Bay Bell Ringers. It was a wonderful and festive celebration!



Photo Credit: Chelsea Prospers

Photo Credit: Chelsea Prospers

## New Public Art

Visitors to the Downtown will notice some new murals and banners. The first phase of the Chelsea Walk art project is now completed. The mural was made possible through grant writing and fundraising by GreenRoots, and designed and painted by Chelsea artist Silvia Lopez Chavez. There is also a new mural underway at the corner of Cherry Street and Everett Avenue, sponsored by the Chelsea Cultural Council and designed by Chelsea Schools Art Department Director Demetrius Fuller. That mural will be completed in the Spring of 2019. And, the City has installed on street poles throughout the Downtown new decorative banners, also designed by Silvia Lopez Chavez.



# Improved Transit Options

## Silver Line

- The Silver Line Project Phase I came to completion in April of this year. The SL<sub>3</sub> goes between Chelsea, East Boston, and South Station, making connections through the Airport and Seaport neighborhoods. Stops in Chelsea occur at Market Basket, Bellingham Square, the Box District and Eastern Avenue. A second phase of the Silver Line project will commence in 2019, involving full traffic signalization of all Silver Line intersections in Chelsea and relocation of the current commuter rail stop to Market Basket.



Photo Credit: MBTA

## LimeBike and Lime Access Program

- The City, through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, unveiled its regional, dockless bikesharing program in Chelsea this past June in partnership with LimeBike. This bikeshare option provides a low-cost, healthy transit option. More recently, LimeBike launched its Lime Access program, which allows for members to receive a 95% discount on bike rentals. To qualify, you simply need to demonstrate eligibility or participation in any state or federally-run assistance program. Learn more and qualify here: <https://www.li.me/community-impact>

# Improved Transit Options



Photo Credit: LimeBike

## New Senior Transportation

- The City's also started a new transportation pilot program for seniors. The program allows for seniors to be transported back and forth from the Senior Center from five different elderly/disabled sites throughout the community. The transportation program operates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. More information is available by contacting the Senior Center at 617-466-4370.



Photo Credit: Chelsea Record

# Increasing Capacity Through Grants

## Bloomberg Grant

- In February of 2018, the City was selected as one of 35 Finalist Champion Cities in the 2018 U.S. Mayors Challenge, a nationwide competition that encourages municipal leaders to uncover bold ideas that confront the toughest problems cities face. Chelsea generated an idea to strengthen and scale up the “Hub” crime prevention strategy, in which a team of community and government agencies meets weekly, identifies individuals or families facing high levels of risk of harm, and then immediately connects them to the services they need. The City embarked on a six month testing phase, utilizing the \$100,000 grant to purchase new technology, improve communications among partners and solidify numerous components of the Hub. You can find out more information on the Bloomberg Grant here: <https://mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org/ideas/chelsea/>



Photo Credit: City of Chelsea

## EDA Grant

- In April of 2018, the City was awarded a \$3,000,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the reconstruction of Beacham and Williams Street from the Everett line to Spruce Street. The City hopes to begin this important corridor reconstruction project in 2019.



# Increasing Capacity Through Grants

## TDI Grant

- In May of 2018, the City was awarded a MassDevelopment Transformative Development Initiative Grant for our Downtown, specifically focusing on Broadway between 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Grant provides a funded Fellow, Carlos Matos, to work in the City for two years and gives the City access to MassDevelopment financial resources to assist with our Downtown Revitalization efforts. You can read more about the grant here: <http://chelsearecord.com/2018/05/04/city-gets-multi-million-dollar-federal-grant-to-fund-beacham-street/>



Photo Credit: MassDevelopment

## Byrne Grant

- This year, the City began implementing a three-year, \$1 million U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Grant for the Re-imagining Broadway initiative. The funds are utilized to supplement the City's ongoing efforts to address quality of life issues in the downtown, provide technical assistance to downtown businesses and increase public events in the area. Find out more about the Byrne Grant here: [https://www.chelseama.gov/sites/chelseama/files/uploads/byrne\\_grant\\_press\\_release.pdf](https://www.chelseama.gov/sites/chelseama/files/uploads/byrne_grant_press_release.pdf)

# Public Safety

Improving public safety remains among the City's highest priorities.

## Improvement and Expansion of the Chelsea Hub

- The Chelsea Police Department continued to lead the "Hub," an innovative crime-reduction initiative. It includes a team of community and government agencies that meets weekly to identify individuals facing elevated levels of risk for harm, and who require the support of more than one agency. Each Hub case receives immediate and coordinated responses through multi-agency mobilization of resources. The CPD is the lead agency of the Hub; 20 other agencies are participating voluntarily. Over 400 cases have come up since its inception in 2016. The Hub is now being replicated in a number of other cities and neighborhoods, including East Boston, Jamaica Plain, Springfield, Worcester, Lawrence, and Medford. To learn more about the HUB, watch the video here: <https://chelseapolice.com/chelsea-hub/>



Photo Credit: EmVision



Photo Credit: EmVision

## Opening of the Selah Day Resource Center

- This year, the City continued its partnership with Iglesia La Luz de Cristo and brought in CAPIC to help operate a Resource Center for individuals at risk. The Resource Center is open from 9am to 1pm and offers breakfast and lunch to individuals struggling with homelessness, addiction and other issues. Visitors are able to take a shower on site, get clothing from a clothing bank and access a full array of social service resources through CAPIC.

# Public Safety

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## Continuation of the Downtown Taskforce

- To address lingering crime and quality of life problems in the Downtown, the Police Department continued its second year of the Downtown Task Force. The group is led by 4 Police Patrol Officers who are permanently assigned solely to the City's downtown business district. The Task Force meets each Tuesday with business leaders, City officials and court representatives to address specific problem areas and individuals, and to develop long-term solutions to chronic quality of life problems in the area.



Photo Credit Tracy Van Auken, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## Police Academy

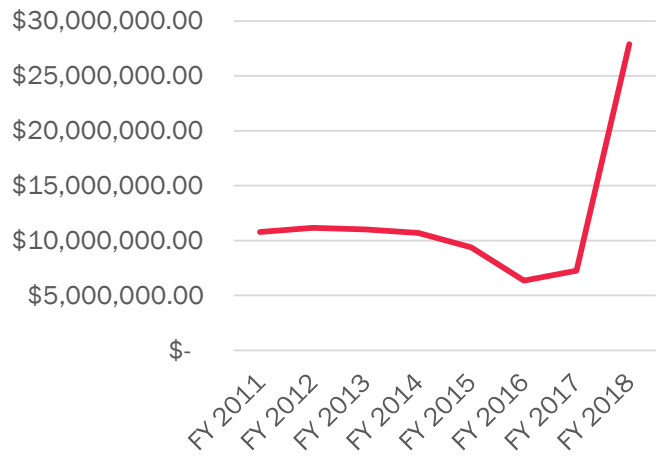
- This past April, the Police Department launched its Police Academy for Chelsea Residents. Participants learned more about how and why police departments operate and how they are organized. They also learned about the nature of policing and new strategies of community policing.



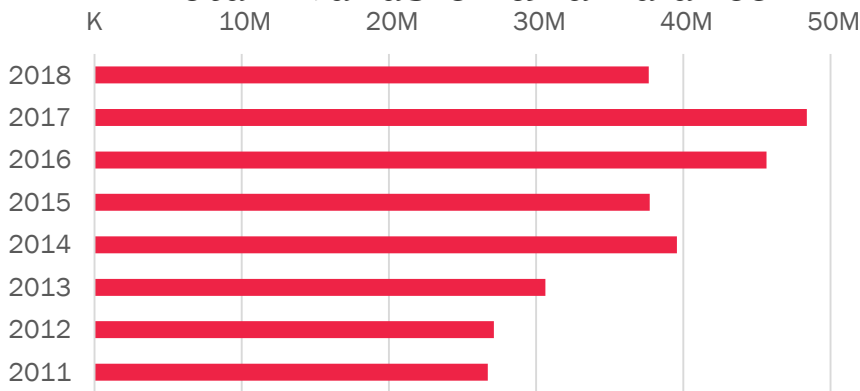
# Financial Investment

The City continues to do well financially, allowing continued investments in facilities, equipment and programs to serve its residents.

## Stabilization Funds



## Total Available Fund Balance



## Government Funds Balance Sheet

ASSETS	General	Clark Avenue School Construction	City Capital Projects	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Government Funds
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>					
Nonspendable.....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,392	\$ 22,392
Restricted.....	\$ 1,655,090	\$ 1,983,861	\$ 10,941,290	\$ 26,877,957	\$ 41,458,198
Committed.....	\$ 5,165,078	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,165,078
Assigned.....	\$ 6,265,910	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,265,910
Unassigned.....	\$ 37,651,385	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,823,819)	\$ 35,857,566
<b>Total Fund Balances.....</b>	<b>\$ 50,737,463</b>	<b>\$ 1,983,861</b>	<b>\$ 10,941,290</b>	<b>\$ 25,076,530</b>	<b>\$ 88,739,144</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances.....</b>	<b>\$ 63,686,926</b>	<b>\$ 5,114,969</b>	<b>\$ 11,544,268</b>	<b>\$ 28,640,449</b>	<b>\$ 108,986,612</b>

To learn more details, you can review the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as of June 30, 2018 on the Finance section of the City's website [here](#).

# Infrastructure Improvements

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During the past year, the City invested heavily in its infrastructure to improve the quality of life in all neighborhoods.

## **Capital Improvement Plan**

The new Capital Improvement Plan for FY20 proposes to spend \$18.4 million on improvements throughout the City, including park development, building enhancements, water and sewer upgrades and neighborhood street and sidewalk reconstruction. A copy is available here:

[https://www.chelseama.gov/sites/chelseama/files/uploads/fy2020\\_cip.pdf](https://www.chelseama.gov/sites/chelseama/files/uploads/fy2020_cip.pdf)

## **Re-Imagining Broadway – City Hall to the Courthouse**

Throughout the past year, the City has engaged businesses and residents in the Broadway Central Business District and encouraged them to participate in Re-Imagining Broadway. The project includes design and parking studies of the corridor from Chelsea Square through Bellingham Square to Fay Square. At this point, the City Council has approved the schematic designs presented for two parts of the Re-Imagining Broadway scheme: the changes proposed for Fay Square and the changes proposed for Chelsea Square. Additional alternatives are being designed for Bellingham Square and the One Way Broadway scheme. Over the next several years, this Downtown Business Corridor will be reconstructed to enhance public safety, enable businesses to thrive and make Downtown Chelsea a welcome place for visitors, shoppers and diners.

## **Reconstruction of Broadway from City Hall to the Revere Line**

At the same time, the Department of Planning and Development and Department of Public Works is advancing the design of infrastructure improvements for the other portion of Broadway, from City Hall Avenue to the Revere City line. Funded through the City's FY19 Capital Improvement Program, this design process will involve numerous opportunities for public input that will be announced in the coming months. The scope of work includes full depth roadway reconstruction, sidewalk reconstruction, traffic signal modernization, the installation of bike lanes and the planting of new street trees. Through the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program, the City has successfully obtained over \$10 million in federal construction funding to help implement this project.

# Infrastructure Improvements

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## Mass DOT Chelsea Projects

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is currently involved in two significant reconstruction projects in the City. The first is rehabilitation of the Tobin Bridge. That project is currently underway. The second project, the Route 1 Viaduct project, will commence in 2019 and involves the full rehabilitation and replacement of the structural supports, decking and roadway on Route 1 in Chelsea from the end of the Tobin Bridge until the curve at Chelsea High School. Both projects will likely cause delays and inconvenience in the City. However, one benefit to Chelsea is that, at the completion of the projects, MassDOT will turn over to the City two new, completely rehabilitated parking lots under the Tobin Bridge, adding 133 parking spaces near the Downtown to the City. Schematics of the two new lots can be viewed [here](#).

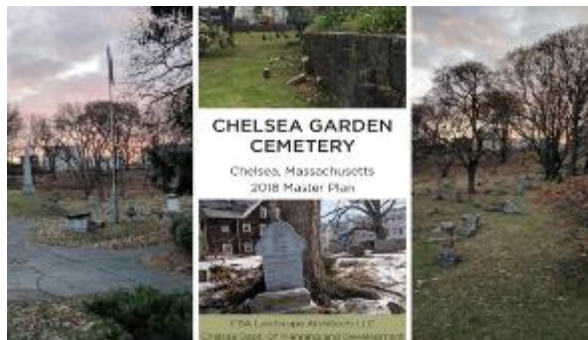


Photo Credit: City of Chelsea

## Garden Cemetery Master Plan

The City recently completed a comprehensive study for rehabilitation of the Garden Cemetery. The proposed rehabilitation plan provides for full renovation of the Garden Cemetery in 9 Phases spread over 6 years, concluding in 2024, at a cost of approximately \$2 million. The first phase of the rehabilitation involves the renovation of the stone walls. That Phase 1 work, estimated at approximately \$365,000, has been funded by the City Council in the FY19 Capital Improvement Program and will commence this construction season. Phase 2, for the continued rehabilitation of the perimeter fencing, is funded in the FY20 CIP. Future phases will be funded in subsequent Capital Improvement Plans until the entire project is completed in 2024. You can view the plan on the City's website [here](#).

# Infrastructure Improvements

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## **Sewer & Drainage Infrastructure**

In June, the City Council approved almost \$1 million for a comprehensive Sewer & Drainage Plan for the City. The goal of this plan is to properly prioritize and schedule utility infrastructure improvements throughout the City that will eliminate long-term flooding problems and sewerage issues. In the interim, while that plan is being developed, the City has funded massive sewer, drainage and infrastructure improvements on Shurtleff St. (completed in 2018), Maverick Street (started in 2018; completed in 2019) and Essex Street (funded in 2018; to be commenced in 2019).

## **Tree Management**

The City has developed an 8 year Tree Management Plan for the entire City. In 2018 alone, as part of this plan, the Chelsea Department of Public Works, with the help of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation, planted 350 public street trees. This is the most that we have planted in the last 5 years. The City plans to fully fund the 8 year Tree Management Plan until its completion in Fiscal Year 2025.



# Housing and Economic Development

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The City continues to seek new economic development opportunities to enhance its tax base and improve the City's already strong economic position.

## **New Projects in 2019 include:**

- ✓**New Hotels:** A new Hampton Inn is fully permitted and now under construction on Second Street. And, a 78 room expansion of the Marriott Residence Inn is also underway. The City will now focus its attention on a hotel for the waterfront near the Chelsea Street Bridge, the area identified as having the best prospects for hotel success in the City's Hotel Market Study. A copy of the Hotel Market Study is available [here](#).
- ✓**New Residential Development:** Phase I of the Fairfield Residential Project, at the old Chelsea Clock site across from Chelsea High School, is well underway. When fully completed in 2020, this project will contain 694 residential units and 8,000 sq. ft. of new business retail space. And, Acadia Lofts will open its doors in early 2019, a new 35 unit affordable housing project at the site of the old French Club.
- ✓**Acorda expansion:** The biopharmaceutical manufacturer Acorda, at 190 Vale Street, is currently doing construction on a more than \$20 million expansion of its manufacturing plant. Once complete, the site will be the worldwide manufacturing facility for Acorda's groundbreaking Parkinson's disease drug.
- ✓**Forbes Site:** The ZBA is considering approval of a substantial, mixed use development of the former Forbes site. This new development, if approved, will include 590 residential units and approximately 15,000 square feet of rental/restaurant space. Groundbreaking would likely occur in 2020.

# Housing and Economic Development

## New Projects Continued:

- ✓ **Innes Development:** The City Council continues its deliberation of the redevelopment of the Chelsea Housing Authority's Innes Apartments. The proposed redevelopment, a new 330 unit residential development that will include 96 new CHA units and 40 workforce units interspersed throughout the complex, hopes to attain final approval this year.



Photo Credit: Chelsea Housing Authority

- ✓ **Harbor Development:** The draft Municipal Harbor Plan has been submitted to the Commonwealth for approval. The goal of the Plan is to create some flexibility for the City regarding development within the State's Designated Port Area along the Chelsea River. The City expects to receive State approval of the Plan this year. A copy of the draft Plan is available [here](#). As part of the planning process, the City has proposed some zoning changes to implement the goals of the Municipal Harbor Plan. Those zoning changes are now pending with the City Council, and the expectation is that the Council will approve some iteration of those changes in 2019.

# Housing and Economic Development

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## New Projects Continued:

- ✓ **New Casino:** The Encore Casino will be opening in Everett in June of 2019. The Chelsea 500, a partnership of the City of Chelsea, the Chelsea Collaborative, TND/CONNECT, the Chelsea Housing Authority and Bunker Hill Community College, seeks to ensure that at least 500 casino jobs are for Chelsea residents. The City hosted a Job Fair at City Hall in December.



Photo Credit: Encore Casino

- ✓ **Façade Improvements:** The Signage and Façade program is now underway with the drafting of new Ordinances. Phase One of this effort involved creation of Broadway Façade Design Guidelines and then using that document to develop designs for downtown businesses. The Guidelines have now been incorporated into a new Sign Ordinance, which was presented to the City Council in February. The proposed changes provide for more aesthetically pleasing and business-friendly signage in the Downtown. We anticipate adoption of a new signage Ordinance this Spring, enabling the roll-out of much anticipated signage and façade grants to area businesses immediately after.

# Parks and Playgrounds

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The City is committed to the development of parks and open space each year.

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

- The City of Chelsea, through the Department of Planning and Development, has completed and submitted the **Open Space and Recreation Plan** to the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In addition to the standardized open space plan format, we also undertook an evaluation of possibilities for green infrastructure and public art in the City's parks, as well as an assessment of the City's maintenance procedures and capacity. The plan can be viewed [here](#).
- **Dog Park:** The construction of a new dog park underneath the Tobin Bridge is underway and progressing smoothly. Comprised of a multi-level enclosed park with stone dust surfacing, irrigation, site furniture and play elements, the City hopes to open the park to the public in the Spring.
- **O'Neil Playground:** The Department of Planning and Development is finalizing work for the renovation of O'Neil Playground. The project includes new playground equipment, new landscaping, installation of new site furniture, lighting and trash receptacles, as well as the construction of a new entrance plaza with accessible ramp. Work should be completed by June 30, 2019.



Photo Credit: City of Chelsea



# Parks and Playgrounds

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (continued)

- **Chelsea Greenway:** Parallel to the Silver Line bus corridor, the Chelsea Greenway will provide mobility and recreational facilities for Chelsea residents and the general public. The City has secured over \$1 million in funding to expand and enhance this Greenway. The contract has been awarded, and construction will occur throughout the Spring and Summer of 2019. The scope of work includes new plazas and entryways, the installation of numerous shade trees, shrubs, and plantings, wayfinding signage, on-road bike lanes and expanded seating areas, which will be made possible in part by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Gateway City Parks' program.



Photo Credit: Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# School Activity

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- The **New Clark Avenue Middle School** officially opened for the start of the 2018-2019 School Year in August of 2018. The new \$59 million facility includes state of the art technology and a new gymnasium, library and music room. Over 500 middle school students attend this complex.



Photo Credit: Clark Avenue Middle School

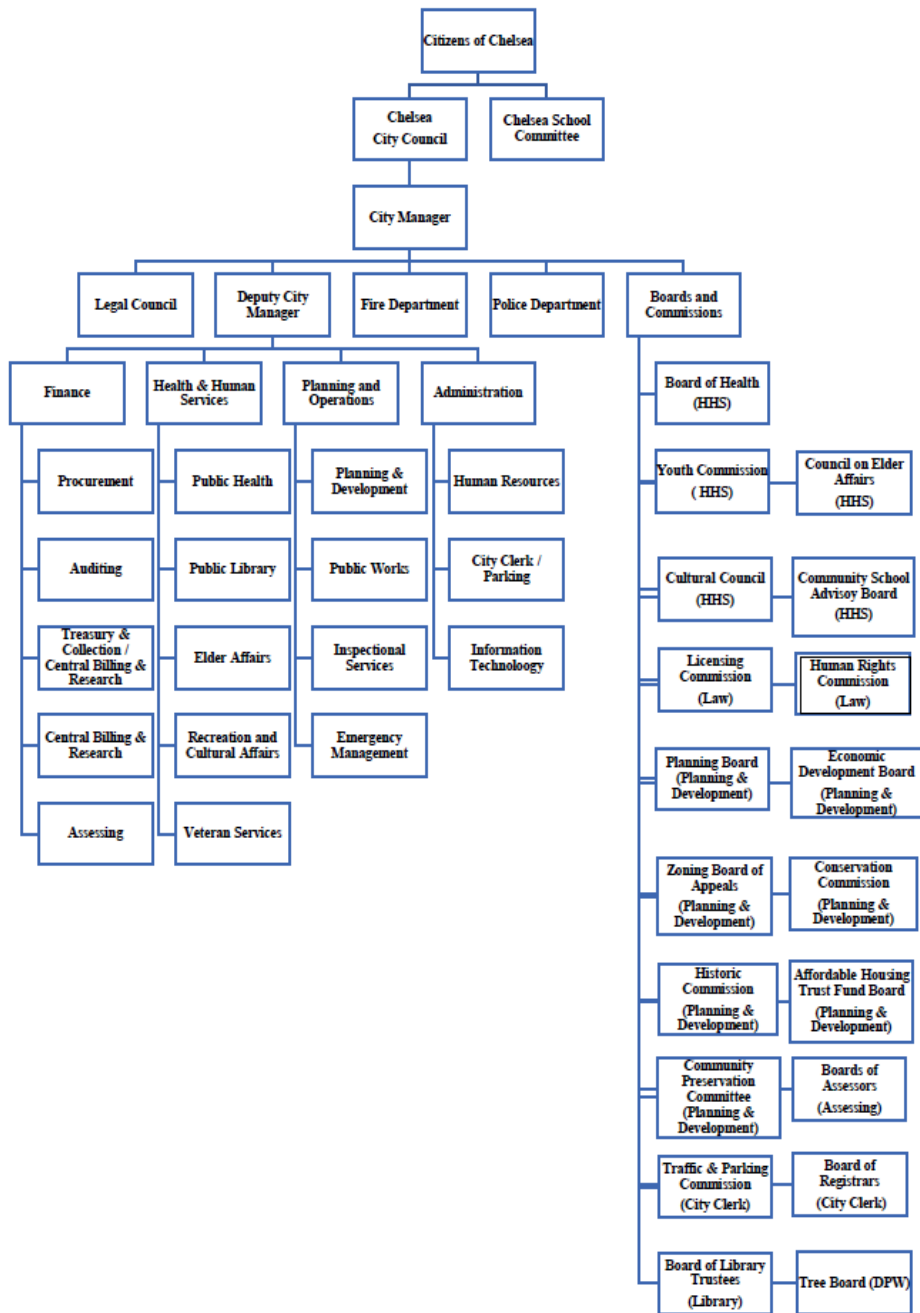


Photo Credit: Clark Avenue Middle School

- The new **Chelsea Opportunity Academy** opened at Chelsea High School. This separate high school targets student at risk of drop out and has been initially funded with a multi-year grant from the Barr Foundation. The school currently enrolls 75 students but is seeking to expand to 200 and will likely be seeking a separate physical location in the near future.
- **Superintendent Mary Bourque** has announced her retirement. Superintendent Bourque has provided over 30 years of dedicated service to the Chelsea School Department. She will continue through December of 2019 in order to assist with the transition. The City is currently engaged in a search process for a new Superintendent to take the reins on July 1.
- Finally, the reconstruction of **Veterans Field** at Chelsea High School is coming to completion. The reconstructed athletic area includes a new artificial turf field and new track. Future phases of construction will involve a new press box and improved bathroom facilities. The new Veterans Field will be the site of outdoor graduation for Chelsea High School seniors in June of 2019, the first outdoor graduation in many years.



# Organizational Chart



## Contacts

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Assessor (617) 466-4010	Licensing (617) 466-4160
Central Billing (617) 466-4042	Non-Emergency 911 (617) 466-4662
Chelsea Fire Alarm: (617) 466-4662	Parking (617) 466-4054
Chelsea Retirement System (617) 466-4230	Planning & Development (617) 466-4180
City Auditor (617) 466-4030	Police Department (617) 466-4855
City Clerk (617) 466-4050	Public Library (617) 466-4350
City Council (617) 466-4060	Public Schools (617) 466-4477
City Manager (617) 466-4100	Purchasing (617) 466-4220
Elder Services (617) 466-4370	Department of Public Works (DPW) (617) 466-4200
Finance (617) 466-4035	Recreation & Cultural Affairs Division (617) 466-4070
Fire Department (617) 466-4600	Rubbish, Recycling, & Yard Waste (617) 466-4200
Health & Human Services (617) 466-4080	Treasurer / Collector (617) 466-4240
Human Resources (617) 466-4170	Veteran's Services (617) 466-4250
Inspectional Services Department (ISD) (617) 466-4130	Water & Sewer Services (617) 466-4240
Law Department (617) 466-4150	

## Boards and Commissions

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Below is a list of our most updated Boards and Commissions. If you are interested in serving on a Board, please view our openings here:

<https://www.chelseama.gov/home/pages/board-openings>.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board - 617 466-4180	Cultural Council - 617 466-4090
Board of Assessors - 617 466-4010	Economic Development Board - 617 466-4180
Board of Health - 617 466-4090 or 617 466-5953	Historical Commission - 617 466-4180
Board of Library Trustees - 617 466-4350	Housing Authority Board of Commissioners - 617 409-5312
Board of Registrars - 617 466-4050	Human Rights Commission - 617 466-4100
Community School Advisory Board - 617 466-4070	Licensing Commission - 617 466-4050
Community Preservation Committee - 617 466-4100	Planning Board - 617 466-4188
Conservation Commission - 617 466-4180	Traffic and Parking Commission - 617 466-4054
Council on Elder Affairs - 617 466-4370	Tree Board - 617 466-4204
	Youth Commission - 617 466-4073
	Zoning Board of Appeals - 617 466-4182



# Chelsea City Council



Photo Courtesy of Derek Kouyoumjian Photography. From left to right, **top row:** City Council Clerk Paul Casino, Councillor At-Large Leo Robinson, District 5 Councillor Judith Garcia, District 3 Councillor Joe Perlatonda, District 1 Councillor Robert Bishop, District 7 Councillor Yamir Rodriguez, District 4 Councillor Enio Lopez, District 6 Councillor Giovanni Recupero, State Representative Daniel Ryan, Administrative Assistant Ledia Koco. **Bottom Row:** District 2 Councillor Luis Tejada, Councillor At-Large, President, Damali Vidot, District 8 Councillor, Vice President, Calvin Brown. **Not pictured here:** Councillor At-Large Roy Avellaneda.