

January 2010

New Members for Boston City Council & School Committee

Budget challenges will dominate early action

The Boston City Council and School Committee both welcomed two new members who start their terms having to deal with the continued budget constraints. Also, Mayor Menino has appointed a new Chief-of-Staff.

City Council

Newly elected At-Large City Councilors Ayanna Pressley and Felix G. Arroyo were both sworn in by the Mayor on January 4, 2010. They fill the seats vacated by Councilors Michael Flaherty and Sam Yoon, who both ran for Mayor last year. The Council also re-elected Michael Ross to his second consecutive term as President of the Boston City Council.

Ayanna Pressley is a Dorchester resident and the first African-American woman ever elected to the City Council. She began her career working as a constituent services representative for Congressman Joseph Kennedy and then became the Political Director for Senator John Kerry.

Felix G. Arroyo is a resident of Jamaica Plain. He has worked in public service and community organizing for nine years. He is Boston's second Latino City Councilor. The first was his father, Felix D. Arroyo, who joined the City Council in January 2003 and served for five years.

School Committee

New Boston School Committee members Mary Tamer and John Barros attended their first meeting on January 4, 2010 after being appointed by the Mayor. They succeed Elizabeth Reilinger and Helen Dájer, both of whom decided not to seek another term. Reverend Gregory G. Groover was re-elected as Chairperson and Marchelle Raynor returns to her position of Vice-Chair.

Mary Tamer is a resident of West Roxbury and a graduate of the Boston Public Schools (BPS). She is a freelance writer who primarily concentrates on issues associated with higher education.

John Barros is a native of Roxbury and a graduate of the BPS. He is the Executive Director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, a non-profit organization focused on revitalizing the Dudley Street area.

New Chief-of-Staff for Mayor

Mayor Thomas M. Menino has selected Mitchell Weiss to serve as Chief-of-Staff for his fifth term. Weiss was a Harvard Business School fellow in the Mayor's Office in 2004, and was appointed by the Mayor to the Boston Retirement Board in 2006. Prior to his appointment as Chief-of-Staff, he was the Executive Director of the Tobin Project at Harvard. Judith Kurland is now the Chief of Programs and Partnerships in the Mayor's Office.