



Public File

Issues/Programs List for January, February, March
Submitted to the public file April 10th, 2019

Issues

The following issues were of importance to the local community during the previous quarter, addressed by WERS.

1. Migrant Rights in Massachusetts
2. Helping the Needy in Boston
3. The Opioid Crisis
4. Race and Racism in Boston's Past
5. Activism and Music
6. Climate Change
7. Relationships and Technology
8. Action and Activism

1. Migrant Rights in Massachusetts

You Are Here (Public Affairs/Talk Show) 7-8 AM

- 02/24/19 - Reporter package on a President's Day protest in solidarity with undocumented immigrants in Massachusetts. The rally came in reaction to the president declaring a national emergency at the southern border. The reporter spoke with several attendees of the rally, along with Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley on how immigration policy affects the community in Boston.
- 02/24/19 - Exclusive discussion with an organizer for a human rights organization based out of Rhode Island over a recently-ended hunger strike out of Suffolk County Jail. Inmates, who were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said conditions and treatment were unacceptable. The protest was also part of an ongoing movement of protests against ICE and in support of undocumented immigrants.

2. Helping the Needy in Boston

You Are Here (Public Affairs/Talk Show) 7-8 AM

- 03/10/19 - An exclusive interview with an activist from the Massachusetts Coalition to End Human Trafficking, in light of recent charges filed against New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and the attention given to human trafficking issues. The interview discusses the work the MCEHT does to combat trafficking and sex exploitation, the kind of trafficking and exploitation problems that exist in the city, and what people can do to prevent and educate themselves on the issue of human trafficking.
- 02/10/19 - Reporter package on the situation for homeless people in Boston during the winter, and the shelters that work to house, feed, and clothe Boston's homeless population. The reporter spoke to people who work in several homeless shelters around the city about the different problems created by cold weather, what shelters do to fill the need, and what the rest of the city's population can do to lend a helping hand.

3. The Opioid Crisis

You Are Here (Public Affairs/Talk Show) 7-8 AM

- 03/17/19 - Reporter package on the doctor's perspective on the opioid epidemic. The reporter speaks with several boston-area medical professionals that work with people with opioid addictions, and the different points of view by those in the medical community on the reasons opioid addiction has become so widespread, what the best means of treating addiction are, and the kind of help available to people dealing with opioid addiction.
- 03/24/19 - Reporter package discussing in-depth the "harm reduction" tactic for combating the opioid crisis, which has recently become a controversial topic in public policy. The strategy focuses on saving lives by giving those addicted to opioids a cleaner, safer way to use the drugs. The reporter speaks to doctors and others who have studied the harm-reduction method in-depth, and discusses the arguments for and against this type of treatment.

4. Race and Racism in Boston's Past

You Are Here (Public Affairs/Talk Show) 7-8 AM

- 03/10/19 - An exclusive discussion with the founder and co-head of King Boston, an organization dedicated to honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King in the city of Boston. The interview followed the announcement by King Boston that they had picked a design for a memorial to the Kings on Boston Common. The discussion covered the Kings' work in Boston in the 60's.
- 03/24/19 - An exclusive discussion with an expert on race relations in America on the history of racism within the scientific and medical community, particularly at universities in Boston. The interview followed a new lawsuit filed against Harvard University that dealt with photographs taken as part of a pseudo-scientific study designed to advance a racist agenda. The interview also covered the modern discussion on the possibility of reparations for descendents of enslaved Americans.

5. Activism and Music

You Are Here (Public Affairs/Talk Show) 7-8 AM

- 03/17/19 - Exclusive interview with a radio/music industry professional on how controversies surrounding music artists, particularly R&B artist R. Kelly, are handled by programmers, and the types of discussions that arise as artists with large well-established libraries have to be potentially entirely pulled. The discussion also covers the importance of listening to voices from the community when it comes to issues like these.
- 03/31/19 - Exclusive interview with music artist and activist Maimouna Youssef, who performs under the name Mumu Fresh. Youssef's work and activism often deals with intersectional feminism and her own identity as an African American and Native American woman. The interview covers Youssef's perspective on issues, her life and identity, and her work.

6. Climate Change

You Are Here (Public Affairs/Talk Show) 7-8 AM

- 02/10/19 - Exclusive discussion with a leader of Boston University's Carbon-Free Boston Initiative, which has a stated goal of working with the city to reduce the city's net emissions to zero by 2050. The interview followed the release of an in-depth study on exactly what the city needs to do to reach that goal and how the changes would impact the lives of Boston's citizens.
- 03/31/19 - Reporter package on different initiatives designed to make different aspects of Boston's transportation system function better and deal with longer and tougher winters. The reporter speaks to several organizers of transportation infrastructure initiatives, including plans for the bay, roads, and MBTA. The piece also discusses the specific ways a changing global climate and rising sea levels may affect the city in years to come.

7. Relationships and Technology

You Are Here (Public Affairs/Talk Show) 7-8 AM

- 02/17/19 - Reporter package on different negative aspects of dating and relationships, and how these things, like break-ups and rejections, have evolved with the advent of dating apps. The reporter speaks to a psychologist and dating expert on different ways break-ups and rejections commonly happened in different time periods, and how this compares to modern dating.
- 02/17/19 - Reporter package on the rise of the dating app Tinder, and how different aspects of the app, particularly the 'swiping' method, have affected modern dating. The reporter speaks to an expert, along with several users of the app, on their personal experiences with meeting people over the app. The piece also discusses the potential threats posed by online dating.

8. Action and Activism

- 01/06/19 - The First Church Boston leads a discussion on the importance of responding to events and injustices in the world around you, particularly concerning human rights issues. The discussion goes into specific events that threatened the safety and equality of people in the United States, using examples like the Charlottesville white supremacist 'Unite the Right' rally, and the different things someone removed from the situation - someone in Boston - can do to work towards a better future and combat injustice. The piece stresses that everyone has a role to play in standing up for what they believe in, and the importance of not overlooking bad things happening in the wider world.

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