

WMBR 88.1 FM
QUARTERLY ISSUES & COMMUNITY ASCERTAINMENT
2nd QUARTER / March 1 – June 30, 2022

The following is a list, of issues, the management, of WMBR Radio, has determined to be of significant importance, to the citizens of Cambridge and the Greater Boston Area of Massachusetts. Each issue was treated through the station's most significant issue-responsive programming and community activities, during the reporting period.

“Radio with a View” – Alternating Sundays, 10am – 11am

“WMBR Nightly News” – Monday – Friday, 5:30pm – 6:00pm

CAPITALISM

PROGRAM: Radio with a View
HOST: Marc Stern
GUEST: Michael Mechanic - author
TOPIC: The super-rich, their lives, the harm they cause the rest of us
AIRED: Sunday, April 10th
DURATION: 60 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

WMBR's "Radio With a View" an episode featuring a conversation with Michael Mechanic, a senior editor at Mother Jones, and the author of the new book "Jackpot: How the Super-Rich Really Live-and How Their Wealth Harms Us All", on Simon and Shuster. Mr. Mechanic argued that wealth isolates the rich from the rest of society. Whatever their personal intentions, their wealth leads them to procure further advantages, from the political system, and helps to warp the flow, of wealth, to the top .1%. This creates distorted lives of their children and promotes an unjustified sense of superiority that validates their wealth and privilege.

HEALTH

PROGRAM: WMBR Nightly News
HOST: Linda Pinkow
TOPIC: COVID-19 Health Protections in Massachusetts
AIRED: Friday, May 20th
DURATION: 28 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

The "WMBR Nightly News" aired excerpts from a press conference by the Massachusetts Coalition for Health Equity, held on May 18, with physicians, public health experts, elected officials and community leaders, all urging the Baker administration and the MBTA to reinstitute public health protections, as most of the state had entered the highest risk category. The speakers focused on the dangers to vulnerable adults and children, and the responsibility of government and the private sector to protect the vulnerable.

PATRIOTISM

PROGRAM: WMBR Nightly News
HOST: Linda Pinkow
TOPIC: Patriotism and Resistance in the 20th Century
AIRED: Friday, May 27th
DURATION: 28 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

The "WMBR Nightly News" aired excerpts from a speech by historian and Boston University Professor Howard Zinn, given on Patriots Day in 2007, at Faneuil Hall in Boston. Zinn talked about his experience as a veteran of World War II and how it informed his understanding of what patriotism is. He defined patriotism as commitment to democracy rather than loyalty to government.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

PROGRAM: WMBR Nightly News
HOST: Linda Pinkow
TOPIC: Gun Violence in Cambridge
AIRED: Friday, May 6th
DURATION: 28 minutes
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: N/A

The “WMBR Nightly News” aired excerpts from a virtual community meeting on public safety, focusing on recent incidents of gun violence. The April 28 public meeting was co-sponsored by Cambridge City Councilor Denise Simmons and the Cambridge Police Department. Discussants included Cambridge Police Commissioner Christine Elow, other officers, detectives, community leaders and Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan. They talked about recent shootings, causes, consequences, and potential solutions. The participants recommended more outreach to young males and cooperation with the City of Somerville leaders, as the violence is a regional problem.