

OPINION: “‘Overkill’ and ‘fear-mongering’ come to mind to describe the self-appointed COVID Czars during this Soviet-style event”

“As one of the multitudes of professionals and employees who have been deemed “nonessential” by the power-hungry, self-thought-of-as “almighty”, self-appointed “COVID Czars”, a very glaring reality has become apparent to me and should have become apparent to the rest of the population: the shutdown and “furlough”/lay-off of so-called “nonessential” businesses and workers has lead to a Great Recession of epic proportions.

It could be called the second Great Depression since unemployment claims have exceeded the last Great Depression levels at more than 30 million claims. And that is claims, which does not account for those who have not filed unemployment claims. Yet, the shutdown businesses and furloughed/laid-off workers are deemed “nonessential”, even when this has had far-reaching and severe economic consequences to the country at large and every state and a majority of their municipalities.

I for one, am far beyond extraordinarily sick and tired of all the, “We’re all sacrificing” and “We’re in this together” rhetoric in advertising, in the media, and by the talking heads. Yes, I acknowledge all the health care, first responders, grocery, and food (from farming/growing/processing to shipping to selling) workers are all doing a stellar job. And it’s most appreciated. But I’m taking a different tact here that has not been given attention at all.

Let's face the harsh reality. Money matters a lot, especially in this country that places such an extremely high value on and has the highest regard for money and unbridled capitalism. So the many people who are still working, still receiving their paycheck, are not sacrificing anything financially.

To add insult to injury there are many non-emergency/law-enforcement/public-infrastructure/public-health civil servant employees who have been "furloughed" with pay; they are actually on paid vacations at the expense of taxpayers, and, it's causing greater exacerbation of the current financial hardship to towns, counties, and states in this time of extreme loss of tax revenue due to the furlough/lay-off of "nonessential" workers and shut down of "nonessential" businesses.

Ultimately, it is the "nonessential" workers and businesses who are paying the heaviest price financially and will continue to have the burden of those financial effects for months, even years to come for some people, due to this shutdown and furlough/lay-off.

As far as all the bloviating about the "lethal" coronavirus, I suggest looking closely at the back of your little antiseptic wipes bottle/container. Surely, you will find a statement similar to, "Kills human coronavirus". That wipes canister was probably manufactured more than six months ago. Whether "human" or "novel" coronavirus, it is still a "coronavirus". So why all the uproar over coronavirus because it is so virulent and "lethal"? I truly think the full story of coronavirus' high level of virulence, lethality and severity of infection caused in "certain individuals" {italics mine} has been avoided in most reporting.

"Those with pre-existing conditions" are most susceptible and suffer the most, is continually said. But what has been completely omitted in this rhetoric is just what causes those pre-existing conditions. Realize two main facts about this:

One, that those pre-existing conditions primarily make up what are termed, "lifestyle diseases", which are at or near epidemic levels in the population in this country. Two, the vast majority of lifestyle caused diseases and conditions seriously compromise a person's immunity.

So, in the vast majority of COVID cases (and yes there are exceptions!), is there the possibility and how high is the probability that lifestyle caused diseases and conditions are the primary factors in causing greater susceptibility to coronavirus' severe effects and symptoms? Yes, and high? {hearing crickets chirp}

"Overkill", "extreme", "fear-mongering", and a host of other adjectives come to mind to describe all that is being conjured up by the COVID Czars during this Soviet-style event. After the decades of chicanery engaged in and myriads of lies on myriads of issues at all levels of government from all parties of all administrations, this unceasing fear-mongering and these overly extreme "orders" imposed on the public, are the coup de gras for me.

My regard and respect for all *politeers* aka political privateers/pirates, their appointed minions, and, everything concerning politics, has fallen far, far below zero. No longer will I follow, read about or engage in conversations about politics or *politeers* on any level for even a second. And since I am deemed a "nonessential" worker by these "oh so great" COVID Czars, my vote must also be considered "nonessential".

So I will never again vote in any election on any level, even insisting that the City Clerk unregister me to vote.

As far as I am concerned, these power-hungry, self-thought of as "almighty", self-appointed "COVID Czars" and their minions can take just one action that results in really good for the public. That is, when they pass from this earth.

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Sincerely,
David Robinson
New Bedford MA

David was a practicing chiropractor for just over 30 years, and has been a nationally certified personal fitness trainer for more than 23 years."

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra offers FREE live-stream "The Lightness of Spring"

Tune in on our website or on Facebook for a LIVE STREAM of The Lightness of Spring with NBSO musicians Emmy Holmes-Hicks (violin) and Peter Zay (cello).

Continuing our living room tour, Emmy and Peter bring you an evening filled with a sprinkling of Scottish fiddle tunes, Italian songs, Disney classics, a sparkly Mozart duo and more. During these challenging and solitary times, join us for some familiar and lively favorites to give you a little break from the day-to-day uncertainty we're facing.

You have two options to view this live stream. Both options will not appear until very close to 7pm, and it is possible that the performance may start a bit late.

Option 1: If you have a Facebook account, go to the NBSO Facebook Live Videos page where you will see current and past

live videos. Click on “The Lightness of Spring” title to open the post so that you can comment and see others’ comments.

Option 2: Or visit our Upcoming Events page on our website and click on The Lightness of Spring, then simply scroll down to find the video.

All of our live stream performances can be viewed afterward in either place.

Boston Police apprehend 11-year-old suspect for allegedly stealing motor vehicle in Dorchester

“At about 8:31 PM on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, officers assigned to District B-3 (Mattapan) responded to a radio call for a larceny in progress in the area of 1007 Blue Hill Ave in Dorchester. On arrival, officers met with the victim who stated her motor vehicle had been stolen.

The victim stated she had left the car occupied by her son and nephew. Officers spoke to one of the male victims who stated an unknown black female wearing a blue medical face mask approached the vehicle and demanded the victim roll down the window. The victim stated when he complied, the female ordered the two male victims out of the vehicle, entered the driver’s seat and drove off.

Additional officers in the area were able to locate the stolen vehicle on front of 1575 Blue Hill Ave. Officers observed the

vehicle to be occupied by a young female. The female suspect was removed from the vehicle and taken into custody. The vehicle was successfully recovered by officers.

Further investigation revealed the female suspect to be 11-years-old and due to her age, officers were unable to charge the suspect with a crime. The suspect was released to the care of the Department of Children and Families.

As a reminder, drivers should never under any circumstances leave their motor vehicle running while unattended. Not only is this a citable offense in the City of Boston, the driver is left vulnerable to a possible vehicle theft.”-Boston Police Department.

Wahlburgers host another event to give back to Massachusetts first-responders

“Earlier today Wahlburgers hosted an event to give back to first responders. They have been traveling the area providing meals to different departments. Today involved Worcester Police and Fire Departments, Worcester EMS and MSP. Thank you Wahlburgers!”

From left to right: SPAM Vice President Patrick McNamara, Dan Wheeler – CMO Wahlburgers, Bob Wahlberg, Congressman Joe Kennedy III, Lt Darren Brock Worcester EMS, Michael Papagni President- Worcester Fire Fighters Local 1009 and Lt John Franco Worcester Fire Department.”-Massachusetts State Police.



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

Massachusetts State Police

seize 3 kilos of Fentanyl after traffic stop

“On April 22, Massachusetts State Troopers assigned to State Police-Charlton stopped a white Toyota SUV on the Massachusetts Turnpike, I-90 Eastbound in Charlton.

A Trooper had contact with the female operator. As a result of the stop and subsequent investigation, three kilograms of suspected Fentanyl were found concealed in a spare tire.

No further information is being released at this time.”

Highest Rate of COVID-19 still in Chelsea followed by Brockton

Katie Lannan

State House News Service

Chelsea remains the Massachusetts community with the highest rate of COVID-19 diagnoses in the third week that public health officials reported municipal level case breakdowns.

The 1,965 confirmed cases in Chelsea translate to a rate of 5,217 per 100,000 residents, according to the Department of Public Health. The next highest rate is Brockton’s nearly 2,784 per 100,000, followed by Everett (2,069), Lynn (2,038), Randolph (1,879) and Lawrence (1,859). With 2,735 confirmed cases, Brockton also had the state’s second-highest COVID-19 caseload, after Boston’s 9,284.

There are 21 towns where no cases have been reported.

Massachusetts State Police capture suspect who dragged trooper after a stop and charge him with attempted murder

Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section and from the MSP Gang Unit, after conducting an investigation throughout the night, located and arrested the driver who dragged a State Trooper in Taunton last night.

As a result of their investigation, Troopers identified the driver as CLAUDE REMY, 32, with a last known address in Dorchester. Fugitive Section (MSP VFAS) and Gang Unit Troopers learned of an address in Framingham where REMY was potentially hiding and this morning set up surveillance of that address, on Marian Road.

Around 11 a.m. today Troopers approached that residence and made contact with occupants. At that time, suspect REMY presented himself to troopers and was taken into custody without further incident. Troopers transported him to State Police-Middleborough where he was charged with the following offenses:

1. Attempted Murder;
2. Assault and Battery with Dangerous Weapon:

3. Assault and Battery on Police Officer;
4. Disorderly Conduct;
5. Resisting Arrest;
6. Larceny Under \$1,200;
7. Assault With Intent to Murder;
8. Failure to Stop For Police;
9. Reckless Operation of Motor Vehicle;
10. Speeding;
11. Left Lane Restriction Violation; and
12. Marked Lanes Violation.

The search for and arrest of REMY followed last night's incident in which he dragged a Trooper a short distance with his pickup truck. The Trooper, a member of the MSP Troop D Community Action Team, around 8 p.m. yesterday stopped the Dodge Ram pickup being driven by REMY on County Street (Route 140) in Taunton for a motor vehicle violation.

REMY pulled to a stop in a Mobil Gas parking lot and the Trooper approached the pickup. After a brief struggle REMY drove off erratically at a high rate of speed while the Trooper held on to him.

The Trooper was separated from the vehicle and thrown to the ground as REMY sped onto County Street. The Trooper struck his head and body on the pavement as the pickup fled northbound and out of site.

A short time later a resident of the town of Berkley called police to report that a suspicious pickup truck parked in a neighbor's driveway and a man had run away from the area and entered a small sedan. Troopers confirmed the pickup was the suspect vehicle.

Troopers from State Police-Middleborough, MSP K-9 units, and the MSP Air Wing began searching the area for REMY but did not locate him.

MSP VFAS joined the investigation as a team and worked through

the night, ultimately developing information about the Framingham address.

REMY was ordered held on \$75,000 bail today in Bristol County and was transported to Ash Street Jail in New Bedford to be held unless and until he posts bail.

Navigating the South Coast Real Estate Market with Rose Homes

There is no doubt about it – coronavirus has dramatically changed the world markets and our daily lives. Despite the day-to-day stresses on all of us, one thing we have seen is that the housing market is still moving along steadily. Here in Massachusetts, we still have more demand than supply, so it is still a heavy seller's market.

If you are thinking about potentially **selling your home** but are cautious about how it works in the era of COVID-19, we are here to help you. We can make the process as smooth as possible while also limiting your exposure to anyone that isn't 100% necessary.



- Each home, apartment, or business receives free professional photography and a virtual video walkthrough. This means that we can “show” your house by sending buyers the

walkthrough without them ever having to come into it.

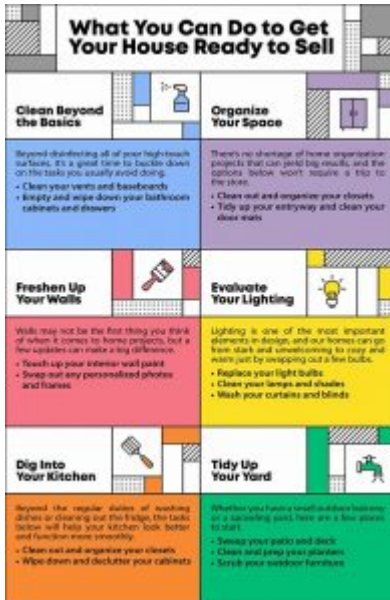
- All of your paperwork can be signed electronically. No need to get together, we can practice social distancing!

- You have a lot less competition right now! Like any market, your home doesn't exist in a vacuum – it is competing against many homes all over your area. So less competition = more eyes on just your home and more buyers coming your way.

- Curb appeal is easier than ever! Curb appeal is key to selling your home for the price you want and most of the time people are way too busy to have time for it. Now that you are at home, put some of that energy into sprucing up your front yard and making it shine.

- Buyers are a lot more serious. You have heard the stories of the buyer who looks at 20+ homes before making a decision right? Sadly they are true. During this crisis though, we have seen that buyers are much more serious about purchasing and not wasting seller's time.

- No in-person open houses!



At Rose Homes – LAER Realty Partners, we are fully committed to working with you while keeping both of us and our families safe. We will work to create a virtual experience for you so that you can get the most out of selling your home while also coming in contact with as few people as possible. Together, we have 33 offices and over 500 agents, so we have a lot of experience and expertise to draw on! We also have Spanish and Portuguese speaking agents ready to help as well. Let's talk today.

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Massachusetts looking into unreported COVID-19 deaths

Colin A. Young

State House News Service

Gov. Charlie Baker said Wednesday that he generally agrees with federal officials who suggested COVID-19 deaths are probably being undercounted in the hardest hit states, including Massachusetts, and he said the state is making an effort to get a more precise count.

Officially, 3,153 people have died of COVID-19 in Massachusetts and the first death was reported on March 20. But the U.S. Centers for Disease Control released new data late Tuesday that suggested the number of people who died of all causes was roughly 50 percent higher than normal in seven states including Massachusetts from March 8 through April 11.

In breaking down the CDC data, the New York Times reported that deaths in Massachusetts were 120 percent of the five-year average during the March 8 to April 11 timeframe, meaning there were about 1,200 more deaths than the average. In that timeframe, reported COVID-19 deaths totaled 686, the Times said.

Asked about the CDC data Wednesday, Baker said public health officials in Massachusetts have begun the work of determining whether any deaths prior to the one reported on March 20 should be attributed to the virus.

“I think most people believe that COVID-19 death rates are probably undercounted because it was here – well, it was in a lot of places – before people truly understood and appreciated what it was,” the governor said. “People have gone back and started to do some work to try and figure out if there are cases where people presented with what would have been deemed

as COVID-19 type symptoms and possibly were categorized in some other way.”

Baker said that effort is being undertaken by the coroner’s office in conjunction with the chief medical examiner, Dr. Mindy Hull. He also added, “generally speaking, once we were aware of the presence of the disease, we test pretty much everybody.”

The undercounting of deaths has been an issue in other states and countries throughout the pandemic. In New York City, the fire department reported a surge in at-home deaths and the mayor said it was “right to assume” that the vast majority of the at-home deaths – which are not counted in official COVID-19 statistics unless the person had tested positive – were coronavirus related. The city later added more than 3,700 deaths to its official tally, all people who never tested positive for COVID-19 but are presumed to have died of the disease.

Part of the undercounting issue has to do with testing. For weeks, COVID-19 tests have been reserved for people who met a specific set of symptom criteria, frontline health care workers, other first responders and, at least in Massachusetts, people living in long-term care facilities like nursing homes. Test are only now beginning to become more accessible. So far, 254,500 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Massachusetts and the state has been averaging between 8,000 and 10,000 new tests per day over the last two weeks.

Expanded access to testing was flagged Tuesday by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito as a top priority as the state begins to craft a plan to reopen the economy. The governor has been calling on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to play a larger role in ramping up testing capacity and said Wednesday he is encouraged by recent conference calls with federal officials.

“This is a classic example of where the federal government has a big role to play, testing and treatment. They can make an enormous difference,” Baker said, singling out specimen collection, not test processing, as the single biggest issue. “There’s a lot of processing capacity. The big issue is around the swabs and the transport media and the reagents and, again, there are people who are working this one. But this is one where the federal government has the ability to put their foot on the accelerator, and I’ve been heartened by the fact that the last two or three conversations that we’ve been on with ... people in the administration, there’s been a lot of focus on enhancing the country’s ability to test and the federal government’s ability to support states with respect to what they believe is the level of testing they need to do.”

He added, “And I fully expect that it’s going to ramp up.”

Massachusetts reports record 252 COVID-19 related deaths on Wednesday

Massachusetts Coronavirus Update



On April 29, the Massachusetts Public Health Department reported that the state added 1,963 more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing to total to 60,265. This is an increase from Tuesday’s 1,840 reported cases.



252 new COVID-19 related deaths were reported on Wednesday

bringing the total deaths in Massachusetts to 3,405. As of 4 pm today, 265,618 people in Massachusetts have been tested for COVID-19 – 11,118 new tests since yesterday.



The Supreme Judicial Court on Tuesday urged the Baker administration to consider how it could commute sentences, furlough prisoners or allow early parole to “mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth’s prison system,” but denied a request from defense attorneys to stay the sentences of non-violent offenders and those nearing the end of prison terms. Full details **here**.

New Bedford Coronavirus Update

Mayor Jon Mitchell’s office Wednesday reported 46 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 581, **up from 535 on Monday**. One more COVID-19 related death was reported today and two on Tuesday bringing the total to 16 in the city.

The City of New Bedford will distribute more than 50,000 masks manufactured at Joseph Abboud Manufacturing Corporation in the City’s North End to New Bedford’s vulnerable populations and frontline workers to protect against the spread of COVID-19. Full details **here**.

Fall River Coronavirus Update

36 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River, according to Mayor Coogan. This brings the total in Fall River to 484. The City has been notified of its fifth fatality due to COVID-19. Full details **here**.