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LAWRENCE

## Calls intensify for mayor's resignation

William Castro, chief of staff, terminated after tape leak

By Jill Harmacinski  
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LAWRENCE — There were calls for Mayor Brian DePeña's resignation Thursday — the same day the mayor fired his chief of staff William

Castro amid controversy and potentially illegal video- and audio-taping at Lawrence City Hall.

The New England Police Benevolent Association, the union that represents Lawrence police officers,

described Castro's removal as "insufficient and does not address the seriousness of these allegations or the leadership failures at the highest level."

"Given the potential violation of criminal law, NEPBA

is calling for the immediate resignation of Mayor Brian A. DePeña. Leadership demands accountability, and any authorization, awareness, or failure to stop unlawful recording practices inside City Hall represents a clear breakdown in governance," according to the NEPBA statement.

News releases from DePeña initially indicated Castro resigned effective immediately and that the mayor was making leadership changes. Officials later confirmed Castro, a retired county corrections officer, was terminated



William Castro

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## Historic threads



Historical interpreter Sarah Walsh talks about the gown believed to be worn by Abigail Adams and handed down to generations on her parents' side of the family. A dozen people attended with plenty of questions for historical interpreter, Sarah Walsh, who discussed the life of first lady Abigail Smith Adams and colonial dressmaking during a special visit to the Buttonwoods museum in Haverhill. She was the wife and closest adviser of John Adams, the second president of the United States, and the mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States.

## Abigail Adams interpreter visits Buttonwoods Museum in Haverhill

By Jonah Frangiosa  
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Haverhill — A curiosity for colonial stitches brought folks face to face with a first lady of early American history Wednesday night.

Historical interpreter Sarah Walsh breathed the 18th-century back to life with her portrayal of America's second first lady Abigail Adams Wednesday at Buttonwoods Museum on Water Street.

The program, "Abigail Adams and 18th Century Clothing," blended storytelling with an up-close look at colonial dressmaking.

Walsh delivered her interpretation of Adams, the wife of John Adams — the second president of the U.S. — and the mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the U.S. Her portrayal of the first lady recounted tales from the 1700s, from fashion to family and nation building.

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A dozen people attended with plenty of questions for historical interpreter, Sarah Walsh, who discussed the life of first lady Abigail Smith Adams and colonial dressmaking during a special visit to the Buttonwoods museum in Haverhill.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

## Weed shop owners sue to block pot ban from ballot

By Jonah Frangiosa  
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Haverhill — A legal fight over the future of marijuana in Massachusetts has reached the state's highest court, as cannabis operators hope to block a proposed ballot question from the November election.

Stem Haverhill LLC's Caroline Pineau is one of the four cannabis business owners that filed a lawsuit Wednesday in the state Supreme Judicial Court seeking to stop a potential ballot question that would ban recreational marijuana.

The lawsuit is against Attorney General Andrea Campbell and Secretary of State William Galvin, and argues that the initiative titled "An Act to Restore Sensible Marijuana Policy" violates constitutional requirements and shouldn't appear on the ballot.

Joining Pineau as plaintiffs are Gyasi Sellers of Treevit in Athol, and Lisa Mauriello and Boey Bertold of Paper 4 Crane Provisions in Hubbardston. All of them are participants in the Cannabis Control Commission Massachusetts' Social Equity Program that would be eliminated if the proposed act is adopted, the plaintiffs said.

Their lawsuit states that the ballot petition "fails constitutional muster" as it groups unrelated subjects to build its case, which is prohibited under state law, the attorney general's summary is misleading and deficient and it eliminates an established state grant program.

"On its face, the Petition is a classic example of logrolling, which Article 48 [the law governing initiative petitions] prohibits," the lawsuit reads. "Its so-called 'sensible policy' is an incoherent combination of repeal of adult-use marijuana, elimination of protections for professionals, dismantling of social equity initiatives, elimination of public safety protections, and purported measures relating to youth, among other things."

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## Politicians pack reception in support of disability services

By Jonah Frangiosa  
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Haverhill — Caregivers, legislators, and advocates gathered Thursday morning as a call for support as many disability services and support systems are at stake.

Folks filled the Tech Center at Northern Essex Community College for a legislative reception

hosted by The Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport and the Merrimack Valley Citizens Advisory Board to the Merrimack Valley Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Advocates and people with disabilities shared breakfast with elected officials at the local, regional and state levels. Everyone had come together in support

for the disabled community amid growing uncertainty around funding and policy.

The morning opened with a performance by the Spectrum of Sound Choir from Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. The group of six singers delivered renditions of popular songs

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Keynote speaker Barbara L'Italien, the executive director and CEO of the Disability Law Center, speaks during the legislative reception held at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill.

TIM JEAN/Staff photo

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