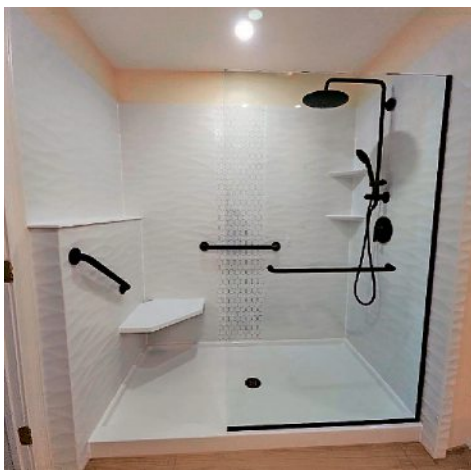


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Challenger Tony Rodrigues, left, and incumbent Brockton State Rep. Michelle Dubois debate at BCA on Aug. 20, ahead of the Democratic primary on Sept. 1. MARK JARRET CHAVOUS/THE ENTERPRISE

State rep candidates exchange personal attacks in debate

Jacob Posner
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

BROCKTON – State representative candidates Tony Rodrigues and Michelle DuBois tried to define each other as unfit for the role during a debate hosted by the Brockton NAACP.

DuBois, the incumbent, called Rodrigues a “misogynist,” “aggressive, confrontational,” and said his record is filled with “scandal after scandal” at the debate Thursday night, Aug. 20, at Brockton Cable Access. Rodrigues, currently Ward 4 Brockton School Committee member, described DuBois as a member of the “old guard” who doesn’t hold

Brockton leaders accountable for major issues. He also claimed she’s failed to take on leadership roles on Beacon Hill and doesn’t understand Brockton as well as him because she’s not a parent, and he is.

They clashed over topics including Brockton Public Schools’ \$18 million deficit in 2023, the School Committee’s controversial call for the National Guard, youth violence and the delayed Boys & Girls Club expansion.

Voters will choose between DuBois and Rodrigues in the Sept. 1 Democratic primary for state representative of the 10th Plymouth District. That election effectively decides the race, as there is no Republican candidate. Early voting

starts Aug. 22.

Rodrigues part of ‘scandal after scandal’

During Rodrigues’ time on the School Committee, which he joined in 2019, multiple, high profile fiascos have occurred, including the \$18 million deficit and ensuing chaos at the high school, which prompted the request for National Guard. DuBois argued that Rodrigues handled these situations poorly, while Rodrigues claimed DuBois failed to help Brockton Public Schools or hold leaders accountable.

See DEBATE, Page 2A

Town halts plan to install Flock cameras

Janson McNair
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

After contentious public outcry, the East Bridgewater Police Department has stepped back from its plan to install Flock cameras in the town.

Earlier this month, East Bridgewater Police Chief Michael Jenkins fielded comments and concerns from residents at a Select Board meeting on Aug. 10 concerning the implementation of Automated License Plate Recognition cameras, or ALPRs.

ALPR cameras are capable of using artificial intelligence to collect data about drivers such as license plates and makes and models of cars, but have raised privacy concerns across the country as to the full scope capabilities of the technology, and the extent to the data which they store.

Then on Friday, Aug. 21, the chief announced plans to terminate the program.

“When we originally evaluated the program, we believed ALPR technology could provide an additional investigative tool to help recover stolen vehicles, locate missing or endangered persons, and assist investigators in solving serious crimes,” the department said in a post on Facebook. “We also developed policies and safeguards intended to govern its use within the East Bridgewater Police Department.”

“After considering recent developments surrounding ALPR technology, concerns regarding data practices and security, and the questions and concerns raised by members of our

See CAMERAS, Page 2A

Challengers in election race slam high salary for new hire

Jacob Posner
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

The race for a seat on the Plymouth County Commission has heated up following a controversial hire.

The county board selected former Brockton CFO Troy Clarkson as county administrator and gave him a salary of \$185,000, which is \$61,000 higher than the upper limit in the job posting.

The move has drawn criticism, and The Enterprise asked each of the candi-

dates for their view. Republicans Anthony O’Brien, Korey Welch and Sandra Wright, the incumbent, face off in a primary on Sept. 1. Early voting starts Aug. 22. The winner faces Democrat Rhonda Nyman in the Nov. 3 general election.

What does Plymouth County Commission do?

The three Plymouth County commissioners oversee a \$13 million budget for services including operating a dredge, managing a regional retirement fund and

employing a county entomologist, according to county websites.

Anthony O’Brien, Republican challenger

Anthony O’Brien, one of three Republican candidates, said, “This is an unprecedented action that just does not happen.”

“The reason I’m running is the only accountability for leaders who conduct waste, fraud and abuse like this is elections,” he said.

He said commissioners also get overpaid for the amount of work they do. They receive a salary of a bit over \$39,000 per year for what he described as a job with few “day-to-day functions.” In his view, all they do is hold a few meetings each month.

Incumbent Sandra Wright defended her record in an interview with The Enterprise, saying that her pay was \$7,200 per year when she first started, and she worked up to 60 hours per week back

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