GROVE HALL

Neighborhood Study
Second Edition

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THE YOUTH VIOLENCE SYSTEMS PROJECT (YVSP) began as a partnership between Emmanuel Gospel Center (EGC), the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston (BMA), the Boston TenPoint Coalition, the High Risk Youth Network, and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, and continues today as a partnership between EGC and the BMA. YVSP worked closely with members of several high-violence neighborhoods in Boston to understand their view of the dynamics of youth violence. This community understanding was combined with research and criminal, demographic, and economic data from public sources, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard's Department of Health Policy and Management, Northeastern University, and Children's Hospital. This information was used to create a computer model that can help everyone from neighborhood youth to policy makers to evaluate and better understand the effectiveness of various youth violence intervention strategies. Our goal is to enable a higher quality of dialogue about these strategies. For more information, including copies of all of our Neighborhood Studies and the YVSP model itself, please visit our website at www.gettingtotheroots.org.

THE EMMANUEL GOSPEL CENTER (EGC) seeks to understand and help nurture the vitality of urban churches in the context of their broader urban communities, particularly low-income and immigrant communities. We help urban Christian leaders in Greater Boston grow in their ability to lead healthy churches and ministries that noticeably and significantly contribute to healthy communities. Together with these leaders, we learn about the changing dynamics of the city. We connect leaders and systems, building bridges that are needed for effective ministry. And we equip urban Christian leaders through various forms of teaching, training, consulting, partnering and resourcing. By working with and through churches and ministries, EGC seeks to build a community that supports and cares for the spiritual and physical needs of all the individuals throughout the city. Visit www.egc.org.

APPLIED RESEARCH is the method of community engagement used by EGC that involves intentional learning, growing relationships, and biblical understanding which both informs and leads to effective ministry practice. Applied Research is at the heart of all we do at EGC, and it's through Applied Research we have and continue to prepare these Neighborhood Studies as resources to the Youth Violence Systems Project and, more importantly, to the Boston communities. See www.egc.org/appliedresearch.
The name “Grove Hall” comes from the name of the mansion of the wealthy merchant, Thomas Kilby Jones, built about 1800 on a knoll overlooking the intersection of what is now Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street. This area remained largely rural in character during the first half of the 1800s. However, after Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1868, it developed more rapidly. From 1906 until the 1950s, Grove Hall and surrounding areas were important centers of Jewish life and religion. By the 1930s, some African Americans had moved to upper Roxbury, and by 1950, the numbers had grown in the areas around St. Mark's Congregational Church and Charles Street AME Church. The Grove Hall area experienced a major racial transition in the 1950s and 1960s with the Jewish population moving out to the suburbs. Those years and some of the following period were turbulent times. In the last 15 years the areas along Blue Hill Avenue and the heart of Grove Hall have seen considerable investment and renaissance with a new shopping center, renovations, and new buildings.

One of the early landholders in the area was Edward Payson who owned more than a thousand acres in the 1600s. He came to Roxbury in 1634 and moved to Dorchester near the Roxbury line in 1658. When he died in 1689, he left property to his sons and sons-in-law. His son Samuel received the western part of his lands near the Grove Hall area, including the homestead where he farmed all his life. He was a constable, selectman, and one of the leading citizens. This homestead or its site was then owned by John Goddard, and in 1747 he began operating a tavern there. Between 1754 and 1756, Stephen Kent moved from Chelsea to Roxbury, and in 1763 he received approval to operate the tavern at this site. “He hath lately hired a house in Roxbury which hath for many years been occupied as a tavern and was not

3. Ibid.
long since improved as such by one Goddard." Stephen died four years later, in 1767, and his wife took over as innkeeper for about the next 30 years. In 1796, it ceased operations as a public house. Not many years after that, Grove Hall was built on this site (what is now the South East corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street).

In the 1700s Governor Increase Sumner (Jr.) also owned land in the Grove Hall area. The governor’s grandfather, Edward Sumner, owned several lots in Roxbury and Dorchester, and his father, Increase (Sr.) was an industrious farmer with legendary strength who developed what was called the Morgan Farm. When his father died in 1774, Increase, Jr. inherited the farmland, although he made his home on what is now Bartlett Street in town. He was for many years a judge on the Massachusetts Supreme Court before becoming governor in 1797. He was also a talented farmer and taught his son the art of grafting fruit trees. His son, General William Hyslop Sumner, who inherited the estate in 1799, was a founder of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the developer of East Boston. In 1832 Marshall P. Wilder purchased the Sumner estate, and for the next half century used the land to experiment with many varieties of fruit trees, plants and flowers. The property included most of the land between Washington Street, Columbia Road and Normandy Street. At one time his pear orchard included 2,500 trees of 800 varieties. He introduced several new pears including the Anjou pear. He also grew America’s finest collection of Camellias (300 varieties) and was the first in the U.S. to grow and display a number of other flowers like orchids and Japanese lilies. In his own way, Mr. Wilder sought to bring beauty to Grove Hall. In general, Grove Hall in the first half of the nineteenth century was sparsely settled and mostly characterized by country estates, farms, and orchards.

Roads, street railways, and railroads have influenced the development of the Grove Hall neighborhood over the years. In 1663 a road was laid out along the lines of the present Warren Street and Washington Street (Dorchester) and was known as the “Way to Braintree” or the “Upper Road to Dorchester.” It was later known as “The Great Plymouth Road,” and

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6 Francis Samuel Drake, The Town of Roxbury (Boston: Municipal Print Office, 1908), 223.
9 Ibid.
10 Drake, 199.
the Roxbury segment was renamed “Warren Street” in 1825. In 1735 Paul Dudley set out the “Four Mile Stone” on this road near Bugbee’s Tavern opposite what is now 473 Warren St. In March 1805 the Brush Hill Turnpike Corporation was formed with the intent of laying out a new road from the west side of the Blue Hill in Milton to the “Four Mile Stone in Roxbury.” By 1809 this Brush Hill Turnpike had been built as a toll road, but it stopped at Grove Hall a half mile short. This enterprise was not very successful, and in 1856 the company gave it over to the county. It was renamed Grove Hall Avenue and in 1870 became Blue Hill Avenue. The part between Grove Hall and Dudley Street was also called East Street at one time. The road called “Long Crouch” was later named Seaver Street after Ebenezer Seaver whose house, built in 1721, was located near the intersection of Cheney Street and the present Blue Hill Avenue. Grove Hall was therefore a crossroads for travel to and from the south and southeast into Roxbury and Boston.

The Grove Hall estate and mansion stood at this crossroads for nearly a century from 1800 to 1898, although it served many different purposes over the years. The original owner, Thomas Kilby Jones, was “a prominent merchant and auctioneer of Boston and a gentleman of liberal hospitality.” He joined the First Church of Roxbury in 1804 and was a trustee of the Roxbury Latin School. In 1832 the original Grove Hall mansion was enlarged and became a hotel and summer boarding house resort. By 1837 it was owned by Edward D. Clarke and managed by C. A. Flagg. Bowen’s 1838 travel guide describes it as “a delightful resort for private parties, having every accommodation for their recreation and amusement.” The estate was converted into the American Orthopedic Institute in the 1840s by Dr. Alanson Abbe. The institute treated various medical conditions (curvature of the spine, paralysis of the limbs, club feet, etc.) and offered several regular school courses so young people could continue their studies.

In 1871 Dr. Charles Cullis remodeled the facilities, converting the estate into the Cullis Consumptives’ Home. When it was founded in 1864 on Vernon Street, this was only the third free hospital in America for the treatment of consumption (tuberculosis). When it moved to Grove Hall, it was able to care for 80 male and female patients in the last stages of pulmonary tuberculosis. This was a faith-based organization with a sign over the door, “Faith in God.” “The earnest and kind workers rely upon no endowment, but believe their aid comes in answer to prayer; and upon that they depend for daily expenses.” In 1897 a new, attractive building

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11 Ibid., 199-200.
13 Ibid., 146-148.
15 Henry A. Sprague, A Brief History of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1893), 35. (T.K. Jones was a trustee, vice president and president of this organization).
17 Abel Bowen, Bowen’s Picture of Boston or the Citizen’s and Stranger’s Guide to the Metropolis of Massachusetts, 3rd ed. (Boston: Otis, Broaders, and Company, 1838), 246.
20 Sammarco, Roxbury, 69.
was erected facing Franklin Park opposite Seaver Street. The abandoned old building was considered an eyesore. Therefore, when neighborhood boys set fire to the historic structure in July 1898, the fire department let it burn. Near the new Consumptive Home, also under the same management, were two other homes: the Spinal Home and a Children's Home for children of patients at the Consumptives' Home. The facility always served those without funds and family to take care of them. It was still in operation in the early 20th century.

Because large landowners like the Wilder family, the Cullis Consumptives' Home, the Wales family, Charles Cotting, William McKechnie, Warner Spencer, and the Adams family held on to large tracts of land on both sides of Washington Street at Grove Hall, much of the land south of Quincy Street was still undeveloped even by 1894. With better public transportation and the annexation of Roxbury (1868) and Dorchester (1870) to Boston, some new residential development began, but the economic depression of 1873 slowed new building construction for about a decade. Wabon, Wyoming, and Howland Streets near Warren Street were built up by 1884, but much of the land toward Elm Hill was still undeveloped. From Waumbeck St. to what is now Ruthven St. between Elm Hill Avenue and almost to Humboldt Avenue, land had been subdivided, but only four houses had been built by 1884. However, from 1885 to 1895 there was a building boom, especially west of Blue Hill Avenue. In 1886 Franklin Park was established south of Seaver Street. Also, Oakland Garden, an outdoor summer amusement park, was operating during this period. This so called “Summer Garden” was located between Erie Street and Columbia Road. It offered nightly theatrical presentations, regular band concerts, occasional outdoor sports, and an opportunity to see animals in a caged zoo.

The Roxbury Highlands neighborhood of the 1870s and following decade was mostly middle and upper middle class Yankee Protestants or Irish. Although the highlands was dominated by native [born] American Protestants in 1880, 38.9 percent of the population of this area were foreign-born and their children; by 1905 the proportion had risen to 57.5 percent.”

Dorchester side, housing was developed earlier close to the Mount Bowdoin (Erie at Washington Street) and Harvard Street stations of the New York and New England Railroad. Other housing development was spurred on by the expansion first of the horse drawn street railways (Metropolitan and Highland Companies), and after 1889 by the electric street railways. The West End Railway Company located one of its large streetcar barns right at the northeast corner of Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street. Until the coming of the street railways and their five-cent fares into town, it was simply impractical for most people to live in the Grove Hall area and commute into Boston. The street railways often expanded to areas before they were developed and therefore stimulated development and an increase in property values.

In 1894 the map of Dorchester shows no evidence yet of Jewish property owners along Blue Hill Avenue. However, by 1906 the maps reveal quite a number of Jewish property owners and a new and impressive synagogue on Blue Hill Avenue, called Adath Jeshurun. 25 This huge and influential synagogue was built by a congregation of only 140 families in 1906. 26 Some of the leaders of the synagogue were also in the real estate business. With the attraction of the new synagogue and the assistance of its leaders, the Jewish community nearby grew rapidly. Three other centers of Jewish settlement on Elm Hill, Erie Street/Mount Bowdoin, and Woodrow Avenue (Mattapan) grew rapidly in the coming years until they all merged into one large Jewish community. The early, upwardly mobile, middle-class Jewish residents were soon joined by thousands of lower-income Eastern European Jews from the West End and Chelsea, where the 1908 fire had left many people homeless. For example, the Russian grandparents of the famous author and journalist, Theodore H. White, bought a wooden-frame house on Erie Street in 1912 for $2,000. 27 He was born there three years later. His extended family was representative of the Eastern European Jewish immigrants settling into the area. White describes the neighborhood at that time, “When I was a child, milk was delivered in winter by horse-drawn sleigh... and Erie Street was lit by gas; and a real lamplighter passed before our house each dusk. Storekeepers had transformed Erie Street from the quiet residential neighborhood my grandparents had sought as Jewish pioneers in the district into a semi-permanent bazaar...Herrings were stacked in barrels outside fish stores...All butcher shops were kosher, sawdust on the floor, chopping blocks scrubbed clean every day, unplucked chickens piled in flop heaps in the store window...Pedlars, leading their horse-and-wagons through Erie Street, would yodel and chant their wares.” 28

In this same area about two blocks from the Mount Bowdoin train station, Beth El, the Fowler Street Synagogue was completed in 1912. By that time, 300 Jewish families had settled in

26 Jonathan D. Sarna and Ellen Smith, eds., The Jews of Boston (Boston: The Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, 1995), 144.
28 Ibid., 16, 26, 27.
building what would become a great central synagogue-center for New England. The $750,000 Temple Mishkan Tefila was dedicated on September 13, 1925 and became the dominant Conservative Jewish institution in the area.32 That same year the Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) building opened a block away to provide gymnasium and meeting facilities for young men of the area. To meet the needs of the rapidly growing Jewish population, many substantial apartment blocks were built during these years. Notable leaders included Rabbi Mordecai Savitsky, an authority on Jewish law and kosher inspections, who was “reputed to possess the greatest memory of any living Rabbi.”33 In 1932 Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, who was regarded as the leader of modern Jewish orthodoxy, came to live on Ruthven Street. He and his wife Tonya founded the Maimonides School in 1937. Their educational goal was to produce young men and women who “integrated the secular knowledge that fits them for the American scene and the religious and spiritual wealth of their own tradition.”34

In October 1926 St. Mark’s Congregational Church became the first African American church to move to upper Roxbury, purchasing the former Quaker Meeting House at Townsend Street and Humboldt Ave. Under Rev. Samuel Leroy Laviscount’s leadership, the church experienced considerable growth even though the neighborhood was not predominantly black. The church soon founded the St.

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30 Ibid.
32 Ibid., 193. (This is the building now owned by the United House of Prayer for All People.)
34 Ibid., 40.
Mark’s Social Center that for many years played an important role in service to the community, especially with programs for children and youth. Charles Street AME Church became the second African American church to move to Upper Roxbury when it bought the St. Ansgarius Swedish Episcopal Church building in 1939. The African American community grew around these two churches, especially around Humboldt Avenue and northwest of St. Marks. 35

Theodore White and Nat Hentoff reveal in their tales of growing up in the area that there was a long-standing hostility between the Irish youth of nearby areas and the Jewish youth in the neighborhood. 36 In the second half of 1943 violent attacks on Jewish youth increased from two or three reported incidents per month to eight in July, 11 in September, and many incidents in October. 37 Wallace Stegner commented in the Atlantic Monthly, “Sometimes, fairly clearly, the violence was the ‘kid stuff’ that the Boston mayor and the police commissioner called it, and sometimes it was semi-organized warfare between neighborhood gangs. But very often it was a planned assault, preceded by the question, ‘Are you a Jew?’” 38

After the anti-Semitic violence in the fall of 1943, Protestant clergy organized an interfaith committee in the area for the purpose of promoting good will between all religious and racial groups and equal police protection for all groups.

In 1950 there were about 70,000 Jews in Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan. This was still the largest Jewish community in New England even though some families had moved to Brookline and Newton over the two previous decades. During the next seventeen years, almost every Jewish institution in Roxbury and Dorchester either closed or moved. The initial post-war exodus to the suburbs of synagogue members and a significant proportion of key leaders led the Jewish schools and synagogues to consider moving. For example, “by the early 1950s half of the approximately 800 families [of Mishkan Tefila] lived in the suburbs and commuted back to Roxbury for religious services and Hebrew school.” 39 Also 28 out of 30 executive committee members lived in the suburbs or downtown. 40 As key institutions such as the Hebrew Teachers College and four schools along with several synagogues moved or closed in the 1950s, this triggered an even larger movement to the suburbs. In 1958 the move of Mishkan Tefila, which had been one of New England’s leading synagogues, to Newton, was especially significant.

Gerald Gamm argues in his book, Urban Exodus, that racial change took place more rapidly in Jewish neighborhoods like Grove Hall than in Catholic neighborhoods because the synagogues were not deeply rooted in a geographic area like Catholic parishes, the members were not required to live within the local neighborhood, and the synagogue congregations could make autonomous decisions to change or leave. 41 These factors probably predisposed Jewish residents to move when faced with some other issues like real-estate agents encouraging panic selling and blockbusting, discriminatory lending and insurance practices, increased crime and

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35 Gamm, 61-64. See Map 11 and Map 12.
38 Ibid.
39 Hillel Levine and Lawrence Harmon, 59.
40 Ibid.
41 Ibid., 18,19.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TYPE OF INSTITUTION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DATE EVENT (MOVED, CLOSED, OR MERGED)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hebrew College</strong> (Crawford Street; high school and college)</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Moved to Brookline; sold its building to Freedom House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Menorah Institute</strong> (school of Adath Jeshurun Synagogue)</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>These three schools were discontinued and merged to form the Combined Roxbury Hebrew School that continued from 1955-1957 before closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yavneh Hebrew School</strong> (Beth Hamidrash Hagadol Synagogue’s school)</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mishkan Tefila School</strong></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maimonides School</strong></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Purchased land in Brookline in 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Altereth Israel</strong> (Orthodox)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Building burned; congregation closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mishkan Tefila</strong> (Seaver St.)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Moved to Newton; building originally sold to an orthodox Jewish group; eventually was renovated by United House of Prayer for All People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sons of Abraham</strong> (Wayland St.)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anshe Sheptovka</strong> (Lawrence Ave.)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Israel of Greater Boston</strong></td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agudath Achim</strong> (Intervale St.)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shara Tefilo</strong> (Otisfield St.)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Closed; sold to Mount Calvary Holy Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nusach Sfard</strong> (Lawrence Ave.)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1962-3</td>
<td>Closed; sold to Rehoboth Church of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beth Hamidrash Hagadol</strong> (Crawford St. Synagogue)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Closed; city purchased the property for a community center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Israel of Dorchester</strong></td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nusach Hoari Anshei Lubavitz</strong> (Glenway St.) Lubavitcher</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Closed; sold to the Church of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beth-El School</strong></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Relocated to Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beth-El</strong> (Fowler St. Synagogue)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Merged into the daughter synagogue it had started in Newton in 1956; sold its building to Church of God and Saints of Christ church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linas Hazedek</strong> (Michigan Ave.)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Closed; sold to Rehoboth Bethel Church Apostolic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adath Jeshurun</strong> (Blue Hill Ave)</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Closed; now 1st Haitian Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
arson, and racial change in adjacent areas. Blacks and other urban residents for many years faced discriminatory policies of the FHA and financial institutions which “redlined” some urban areas, refusing to give mortgage and home improvement loans. In the summer of 1968, the Boston Banks Urban Renewal Group (BBURG) was established to make available home mortgage funds to low-income Black families within a designated area including Roxbury, South End, parts of Dorchester and Jamaica Plain, and the northern part of Mattapan. The BBURG program had some negative unintended consequences such as reckless speculation, a more rapid and tense process of racial change, and a later increase in foreclosures. However, as Gamm argues, it was not the primary cause of most of the Jewish exodus from the city. By 1970 that exodus was almost complete, even though some community members like Otto and Muriel Snowden had hoped for and worked to promote an integrated neighborhood.

One important community organization that has a long history of working to improve the neighborhood is Freedom House, founded in 1949 by Otto and Muriel Snowden. Otto had been directing the St. Mark Social Center, and Muriel was a graduate of Radcliffe and the New York School of Social Work. In 1952 they were able to raise funds to buy the Hebrew Teachers College building on Crawford Street. They set out with the mission “to conserve and improve the Upper Roxbury neighborhood and to provide opportunities for greater interracial contact and understanding both within the community itself and between its residents and those of Greater Boston.” The Snowdens planned programs and events to bring together Jewish and Black youth. They sought to promote an integrated community living in peace and understanding. In those years their “efforts included the establishment of block organizations to deal with neighborhood services including public safety, recreation, trash removal, and street cleaning.” As most of the Jewish residents moved out of Roxbury, Freedom House began to work more on the Washington Park Urban Renewal project. In the 1960s, Freedom House’s Work and Study Project sought to improve the neighborhood by involving high school and college youth in painting houses and tutoring school children. Over the years, Freedom House worked on many issues such as affirmative action, innovative educational programs, school integration, urban renewal, and sponsored many programs to provide opportunities for urban youth. The organization became a nationally renowned civic center, and Muriel Snowden received a MacArthur Foundation Grant in 1988.

The most explosive events in Grove Hall’s history were the 1967 riots that took place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 2-4. About a year before this, Doris Bland had organized a group called the Mothers for Adequate Welfare (M.A.W.), and they had held several marches

42 Ibid., 37-42.
43 Ibid., 50.
44 Hillel Levine and Lawrence Harmon, 57.
during the year to seek improvements in the welfare system. On Thursday afternoon, June 1, about 30 M.A.W. members started a silent vigil in the Grove Hall welfare office at 515 Blue Hill Ave. A small group of protesters also marched outside, and the vigil became an overnight sit-in. The mothers were upset with their welfare checks being cut off without warning, and hostile treatment by social workers, supervisors, and police in the Blue Hill welfare office, in addition to several other grievances.45

On Friday afternoon about 50 men and women, including some children, were still holding the sit-in when the welfare workers attempted to close the office for the weekend. The protesters chained the doors shut and requested to speak to the city Welfare Director, Daniel J. Cronin. When he came, they asked to speak with him in the presence of the crowd outside rather than let him come in. About this time a welfare worker inside was reported to have had a heart attack. Police then sought to assist the worker and get the other welfare workers out, but bystanders attempted to block their entry. The police eventually made their entry through a window and cut the chains. A woman inside yelled that the police were beating people, a door window smashed, and things became chaotic as police tried to remove the workers and the women involved in the sit-in. Black leaders believed the excessive force used by police started and furthered the riot.46 A large crowd had gathered, and several times it surged across the street at the line of police. Rocks, bottles, and bricks flew through the air, battering civilian and police cars and injuring people. Cars were overturned. The crowd grew to 1,000, and an equal number of police were called in. The police fired 60 rounds over the heads of the rioters. Through the night many store windows were broken and the stores looted and set on fire up and down Blue Hill Avenue. This resulted in 15 blocks of debris-scattered sidewalks and streets, with 45 persons injured and 44 arrested, including civil rights leader, Thomas Atkins and Byron Rushing. There were accusations of police brutality during and after the arrests.47

On Saturday night, June 3, the violence continued with a fireman being shot in the wrist, and dozens of gangs of roving youth engaging in spontaneous violence. They went around smashing windows, looting stores, and sounding false alarms, while police tried to control the area. Even with the presence of 1,900 policemen, rioting continued on Sunday night. Although there was still tension in the air, the situation had quieted down by Monday evening. Over the three nights of rioting 75 people were injured and 60-70 were arrested.48 In addition to the millions of dollars of property damage, the rioting had an impact on the social and business life of Blue Hill Avenue that lasted for many years. Twenty years later in 1987, a new 28,000 square foot welfare office was opened nearby on Washington Street offering assistance with employment and training, housing, and health care enrollment.

The following April there were more riots in the Grove Hall area (and other neighborhoods) after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Some looting and arson took place, as well as stoning of cars and buses. A group of black volunteers with white armbands went around the community seeking to cool things down. On Friday, April 5, a group of 400 protesters went to the Jeremiah Burke High School and vandalized some furniture and displays. One

47 “Sit-In Escalates to Riot,” (and other articles), Boston Globe, 3 June 1967, 1, 4 (regular and evening editions).
teacher was injured and a couple of others were pulled from their cars. With the help of Black leaders, things were quiet by Saturday morning. Although 30 were arrested and 13 injured, these riots were far less extensive than in other cities at the time.\footnote{Tager, 185.}

In 1977 Mayor Kevin White set forth an ambitious plan to revitalize Blue Hill Avenue and Grove Hall, but four years later very little had been accomplished.\footnote{Kenneth J. Cooper, “Blue Hill Avenue: A Dream Gathers Dust: 4 Years Later, Business, Transit Plans Haven’t Happened,” \textit{Boston Globe}, 22 October 1981, 1.} This seemed to be typical of the 25 years following the Blue Hill Avenue riots. Various politicians promised plans to revive the Grove Hall community, but actual progress was quite limited. In April 1983 Governor Dukakis spoke to 400 people in Grove Hall about economic development in the neighborhood comparable to Lowell’s revival, cautioning that it would not happen overnight.\footnote{Joanne Ball, “City Revival a Long Road, Dukakis Tells Grove Hall,” \textit{Boston Globe}, 12 April 1983, 1} Indeed, it would not happen any time soon. In the 1987 \textit{Boston Globe} article, “A Street Forgotten,” Mike Barnicle commented, “In the short stretch between Grove Hall and Dudley Street, Blue Hill Avenue gives every outward appearance of being ready for the grave... In this one-and-a-half mile strip of asphalt, there are 58 boarded-up apartment houses and storefronts. There are 24 vacant lots, some of them as big as prairies.”\footnote{Mike Barnicle, “A Street Forgotten,” \textit{Boston Globe}, 1 April 1987, 17.} According to a 1987 city report, in the general area between Warren Street and Blue Hill Avenue, there were 360 empty lots and 117 vacant buildings (nine percent).\footnote{The Boston Plan: Revitalization of a Distressed Area: Blue Hill Avenue (Boston: City of Boston, 1987), I-9.} In the 1980s the new state welfare office opened, a Burger King restaurant started up, and the Franklin Park Zoo reopened, but overall trends in the community were not positive. This was a time of increased drug-related crime, shootings, murders, and gang activity. This caused an increased level of fear and slowed redevelopment of the business district.

In 1988 Mayor Ray Flynn tried to reassure community leaders that the city was committed to redeveloping their neighborhood. Later that year the city’s Public Facilities Department and community leaders initiated a $7.8 million effort “to attract new businesses, create jobs, develop housing, and improve the infrastructure.”\footnote{Desiree French, “Revitalization Gets Serious at Grove Hall: A $7.8 million Program Formed to Aid Roxbury Business District,” \textit{Boston Globe}, 26 March 1988, 41.} This involved the city selling five vacant buildings and making money available from Community Development Action Grants to develop other privately owned properties. Neighborhood leaders considered this a step in the right direction, but not a comprehensive enough plan.
During this period, one central building block in this effort has been the $13 million Mecca Mall in the heart of Grove Hall that opened in 2000-2001. The Neighborhood Development Corporation of Grove Hall was a key organization in developing the property. The Mall provided the retail anchor for the business district and also created many job opportunities. This has also encouraged additional business and housing development in the years since it opened. In 2007 the historic Silva Building (formerly called Regents Hall) was restored and reopened at the corner of Warren Street and Blue Hill Avenue, providing space for several businesses including OneUnited Bank and the Long Bay Management real estate firm (the owner and developer).\footnote{Ron DePasquale, “Grove Hall’s Renaissance: New Development Caps Hub Area’s Revival as a Commercial Mecca.” Boston Globe, 10 Feb. 2007, E23.} Also in the area, Habitat for Humanity’s Blue Hill Place is a five phase development including about 24 residential units. Nuestra Communidad Development Corporation has developed the former Kasanof Bakery site into 48 affordable and energy efficient residential units called the Thomas I. Atkins Apartments. Nuestra also incorporated green building features into its Quincy Commons development which includes about 40 affordable apartments for elderly residents and 5,800 square feet of retail space. These are just a few of the improvements along Blue Hill Avenue.\footnote{Mayor Menino Leads Tour of Blue Hill Avenue,” City of Boston Press Releases, 26 March 2003, www.cityofboston.gov/news/default.aspx?ID=1637 (accessed 1 June 2009).}
many recent redevelopment efforts in the community. In recent years Project RIGHT\textsuperscript{58} has provided a collaborative approach to improving other aspects of the community by supporting neighborhood associations, coordinating electoral advocacy efforts, and guiding community development.

Over its history Grove Hall slowly changed from an untamed wilderness to a thriving business and residential district, and back to a new wilderness of sorts, and once again has slowly changed back to a thriving business and residential district. In conclusion, we remember the words of hope written by a student at the Lewis Junior High School in 1965. In a prize-winning essay on “Urban Renewal in Roxbury,” eighth grader Brenda Bugg wrote, “Roxbury will be beautiful again because people cared. I hope people will always care.”\textsuperscript{59}

**Author’s Notes:**

Since no one, to my knowledge, has written a history of Grove Hall covering the last 350 years, I have attempted to research written sources and write a brief overview of some of the notable people, events, trends, and institutions that have played a role in the story of the neighborhood. Each of the hundreds of thousands of people who have lived here has a valuable story to tell. The dozens of organizations, religious institutions, and schools have interesting histories as well, and have had an influence on many lives. Only a few stories can be shared in any short history, and I have highlighted significant and representative ones from the different eras of the neighborhood.

The focus is more on earlier times because those are not as well known. In writing about the first 200 years of settlement (1650-1850), I have included most of what I could discover about the area, because these have not been previously compiled. In those years the area was characterized by farms, summer estates, and orchards best represented by the story of Marshall Wilder. The name “Grove Hall” is derived from the name of the estate and mansion owned by Thomas Kilby Jones. It is interesting to follow the history of that estate which dominated the Grove Hall crossroads for a century and served the community for many years as a health center.

Faith-based organizations have played a very significant role in the neighborhood’s development and culture, and therefore they have been covered in some detail. For example, the growth and decline of New England’s largest Jewish community centered in this neighborhood is documented as the most important facet of the neighborhood’s history between 1906 and 1966. The Mothers for Adequate Welfare protests and subsequent riot of 1967 were pivotal events that had an enduring and significant impact on the neighborhood. Although in recent years the neighborhood has faced problems and violence, its history can generally be characterized by revitalization and economic development.

Each era of the history of a neighborhood adds a layer identity to an area. Together these create the unique personality of a specific neighborhood. It is valuable to understand the layers of history of Grove Hall in affirming its identity today.

\textsuperscript{58} Project RIGHT stands for Rebuild and Improve Grove Hall Together

BOUNDARIES

The center of the Grove Hall area is commonly understood to be the intersection of Blue Hill Avenue with Washington Street and Warren Street. For the purposes of this study, we will define the Grove Hall neighborhood to include the area of the five U.S. Census tracts that surround that central crossroads. These five census tracts are 820, 821, 901, 902, and 903. The overall boundaries follow Seaver Street from Blue Hill Avenue to Humboldt Avenue and then follow Humboldt Avenue to Townsend Street. The boundary follows Townsend Street and Quincy Street across Warren Street and Blue Hill Avenue to Columbia Road. It then follows the railroad tracks down to Harvard Street, following that street until it turns right on Glenway Street for several blocks. It then goes along Bradshaw Street until turning up McLellan Street. The boundary follows McLellan Street to Blue Hill Avenue and then to the intersection with Seaver Street again.

Grove Hall Boundaries and Census Tracts
Racial and Ethnic Trends

During the last decade, the number of Hispanics in this area increased from 3,414 to 5,171, an increase of 1,757 or 51.5 percent. The proportion of Hispanics in the total population of the area rose from 20 percent to 29 percent. (For more detail, see the section on the Hispanic population of Grove Hall on the following page.)

The number of non-Hispanic Blacks decreased from 12,203 in 2000 to 11,441 in 2010. This overall decrease of 762 means the overall percentage of people in this area who are Black or African American decreased from 73 percent to 64 percent. The black population decreased in each of the census tracts except tract 821. The largest decrease (411) was in census tract 901.

The small number of non-Hispanic whites in the area increased from 176 to 287. The largest increase (48) in the white population was in census tract 901. People of Asian background who live in this area are mostly Vietnamese and live primarily in census tracts 821, 901 and 902. Asian Americans comprise less than one percent of the area’s population. The number of people who indicated they were of some other race increased slightly, while the number of people who indicated they were of two or more races decreased significantly (from 673 to 436). Each of these two groups represents about two percent of the area’s population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial and Ethnic Characteristics</th>
<th>People who are White alone*</th>
<th>People who are Black or African American alone*</th>
<th>People who are Asian alone*</th>
<th>People who are some other race†</th>
<th>People who are two or more races*</th>
<th>People who are Hispanic/Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 820</td>
<td>52 1.9</td>
<td>2,087 74.1</td>
<td>19 0.7</td>
<td>57 2.0</td>
<td>66 2.4</td>
<td>534 19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 821</td>
<td>62 1.2</td>
<td>3,093 61.6</td>
<td>32 0.6</td>
<td>66 1.3</td>
<td>111 2.2</td>
<td>1,661 33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 901</td>
<td>86 1.9</td>
<td>3,231 70.7</td>
<td>30 0.7</td>
<td>80 1.8</td>
<td>115 2.5</td>
<td>1,029 22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 902</td>
<td>40 1.8</td>
<td>1,176 52.7</td>
<td>45 2.0</td>
<td>58 2.6</td>
<td>49 2.2</td>
<td>865 38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 903</td>
<td>47 1.5</td>
<td>1,854 58.3</td>
<td>19 0.6</td>
<td>82 2.6</td>
<td>95 3.0</td>
<td>1,082 34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Grove Hall</td>
<td>287 1.6</td>
<td>11,441 64.2</td>
<td>145 0.8</td>
<td>343 1.9</td>
<td>436 2.5</td>
<td>5,171 29.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Set: Census 2010
*Not Hispanic or Latino
†Native American, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander
HISPANIC POPULATION

The Hispanic population of this area grew from 20% to 29% of the total neighborhood population between 2000 and 2010. This represents a numerical increase of 1,757 from 3,414 to 5,171 or a 51.5% increase in the number of Hispanics. All five census tracts experienced significant increases. The largest increase was in census tract 821 which added 717 more Hispanics. The largest Latino groups in this area are from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The number of Dominicans and Puerto Ricans are about equal in census tracts 820 and 903, while Dominicans outnumber Puerto Ricans by 47 in census tract 901. In census tracts 821 and 902, Dominicans significantly outnumber Puerto Ricans. Overall, there are 2,276 Dominicans and 1,846 Puerto Ricans in these five census tracts. Census tract 902 has the highest percentage of Hispanics (38.7%).

The area has a significant number of Central Americans (443), but relatively few South Americans (54), Cubans (56), and Mexicans (35). A significant number of people (461) only indicated “Other Hispanic / Latino” on the 2010 U.S. Census form. By far the largest nationality from Central America in the Grove Hall area is Honduran (279). Many of these Hondurans live in census tracts 821 and 901. There were also 69 Guatemalans, mostly concentrated in census tracts 902 and 903. Depending on the distribution of national backgrounds of those who just indicated “Other Hispanic,” and the accuracy of the census, these numbers may have some margin of error, but they give a general idea of the growth and backgrounds of the Hispanic population in this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HISPANIC POPULATION OF GROVE HALL</th>
<th>Census Tract 820</th>
<th>Census Tract 821</th>
<th>Census Tract 901</th>
<th>Census Tract 902</th>
<th>Census Tract 903</th>
<th>Total Grove Hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total (all races)</td>
<td>2,815</td>
<td>5,025</td>
<td>4,571</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>3,179</td>
<td>17,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic of any race</td>
<td># 19.0%</td>
<td># 33.1%</td>
<td># 22.5%</td>
<td># 38.7%</td>
<td># 34.0%</td>
<td># 29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic</td>
<td># 81.0%</td>
<td># 66.9%</td>
<td># 77.5%</td>
<td># 61.3%</td>
<td># 66.0%</td>
<td># 71.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>6 0.2%</td>
<td>14 0.3%</td>
<td>9 0.2%</td>
<td>2 0.1%</td>
<td>4 0.1%</td>
<td>35 0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>218 7.7%</td>
<td>553 11.0%</td>
<td>377 8.2%</td>
<td>265 11.9%</td>
<td>433 13.6%</td>
<td>1,846 10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban</td>
<td>11 0.4%</td>
<td>10 0.2%</td>
<td>14 0.3%</td>
<td>4 0.2%</td>
<td>17 0.5%</td>
<td>56 0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican</td>
<td>197 7.0%</td>
<td>794 15.8%</td>
<td>424 9.3%</td>
<td>414 18.5%</td>
<td>447 14.1%</td>
<td>2,276 12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central American</td>
<td>57 2.0%</td>
<td>99 2.0%</td>
<td>113 2.5%</td>
<td>94 4.2%</td>
<td>80 2.5%</td>
<td>443 2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
<td>0 0%</td>
<td>11 0.2%</td>
<td>8 0.2%</td>
<td>30 1.3%</td>
<td>20 0.6%</td>
<td>69 0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduran</td>
<td>42 1.5%</td>
<td>63 1.3%</td>
<td>83 1.8%</td>
<td>44 2.0%</td>
<td>47 1.5%</td>
<td>279 1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamanian</td>
<td>5 0.2%</td>
<td>15 0.3%</td>
<td>7 0.2%</td>
<td>6 0.3%</td>
<td>2 0.1%</td>
<td>35 0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other Central Am.*</td>
<td>10 0.4%</td>
<td>10 0.2%</td>
<td>15 0.3%</td>
<td>14 0.6%</td>
<td>11 0.3%</td>
<td>60 0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South American</td>
<td>10 0.4%</td>
<td>17 0.3%</td>
<td>6 0.1%</td>
<td>2 0.1%</td>
<td>19 0.6%</td>
<td>54 0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Hispanic</td>
<td>35 1.2%</td>
<td>174 3.5%</td>
<td>86 1.9%</td>
<td>84 3.8%</td>
<td>82 2.6%</td>
<td>461 2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Set: U.S. Census 2010, Summary File One (SF1), Table QT-P10, “Hispanic or Latino by Type” *not Mexican
Households in Grove Hall are more likely to be linguistically isolated than households across the nation and households across the state. Approximately 15.2% of households in Grove Hall are linguistically isolated, which means that no person age 14 and over speaks only English and no person age 14 and over who speaks a language other than English speaks English “very well.” Of the 984 linguistically isolated households in Grove Hall, 691 (70.2%) speak Spanish and 275 (27.9%) speak another Indo-European language. In census tract 821, 24.2% of the households are linguistically isolated, which is much higher than the other Grove Hall census tracts and higher than the city overall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Tract 820</th>
<th>Census Tract 821</th>
<th>Census Tract 901</th>
<th>Census Tract 902</th>
<th>Census Tract 903</th>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>Massachusetts</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of households that are linguistically isolated</td>
<td>Total # of linguistically isolated households</td>
<td># of linguistically isolated that speak Spanish</td>
<td># of linguistically isolated that speak other Indo-European languages</td>
<td># of linguistically isolated that speak other languages</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>5,434,568</td>
<td>3,397,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>144,964</td>
<td>57,623</td>
<td>53,975</td>
<td>33,366</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Boston</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>28,821</td>
<td>12,407</td>
<td>7,991</td>
<td>8,423</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Grove Hall</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 820</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 821</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 901</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 902</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 903</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U. S. Census, American Community Survey, 2007-2011, 5 yr. estimate. Table B1602.
AGE CHARACTERISTICS

The Grove Hall area has a significantly higher percentage of young people than the city of Boston as a whole. The neighborhood’s percentage of young people is also higher than that of the state and nation. The area has 5,450 youth under the age of 18 years, or 30.6 percent of the population, compared with 16.8 percent in the city and 21.7 percent in the state and 24 percent in the nation. There are 3,138 youth aged 10 to 19 years. Of these young people, 1,442 are 10 to 14 years, and 1,696 are 15 to 19 years. The percentage of youth in each of these age categories is significantly higher than the city, state, and national percentages. The number of 12 to 18 year olds in Grove Hall is 2,243 or 12.6 percent of the population, compared to only 7.5 percent in this age group for Boston overall. The neighborhood has 3,259 youth between the age of 15 and 24.

The percentage of young adults aged 20 to 34 years in Grove Hall is 22.3 percent, which is similar to the national percentage of 20.3 percent, but much lower than the city of Boston which has the highest proportion of that age group in the country at 35 percent.

This area has a low percentage of adults over the age of 65 years. The five census tracts average 8.8 percent in this age range compared to 13.8 percent in the state and 13 percent in the nation. Four of the five census tracts are significantly below Boston’s 10 percent, but census tract 820 has an older population with 12 percent over 65 years and 39 percent in the 35 to 64 year range (compared to 34 percent in the neighborhood area).

---

**Table: Percentage in each age group**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grove Hall</th>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>Mass.</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-19 yrs.</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34 yrs.</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-64 yrs.</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 &amp; over</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

60 Except for college age young people. Boston has an unusually large number and percentage of college students.
61 U. S. Census 2010, Summary File One (SF1), Tables P14, P12, DP-1, and QT-P2.
62 Ibid.
63 Ibid.
### AGE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Census Tract 820</th>
<th>Census Tract 821</th>
<th>Census Tract 901</th>
<th>Census Tract 902</th>
<th>Census Tract 903</th>
<th>Total Grove Hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (all ages)</strong></td>
<td>2,815</td>
<td>5,025</td>
<td>4,571</td>
<td>2,233</td>
<td>3,179</td>
<td>17,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-19 yrs.</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>1,323</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34 yrs.</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>1,105</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-64 yrs.</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>1,682</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>1,627</td>
<td>35.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 &amp; over</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 yrs.</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19 yrs.</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18 yrs.</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 yrs.</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 yrs.</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>1,581</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>1,312</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 &amp; over</td>
<td>2,112</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>3,444</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>3,259</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data Set: Census 2010 Summary File 1*

### MEDIAN AGE DIFFERENCES BY RACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall Population</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Both Sexes</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Boston</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 820</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 821</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 901</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 902</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 903</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data Set: Census 2010 Summary File 1 (SF 1)*
CHANGE IN MEDIAN AGE FROM 2000 TO 2010

Generally the median age has increased from 2000 to 2010 in each census tract except tract 821 where the median age stayed the same. The median age of females is significantly higher in each census tract than the median age for males. The median age in these census tracts is significantly lower than the median age in the state and in the U.S.

Comparing the median ages of males and females in 2000 and 2010 in Grove Hall, Boston, Mass., and the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>37.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Boston</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 820</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 821</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 901</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 902</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census Tract 903</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population of the Grove Hall area declined significantly from 1950 to 1990. Since 1990, the population has stabilized and has begun to grow. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of census tracts 820 and 821 continued to decline, while the other three census tracts showed an increase or stayed about the same. Between 2000 and 2010, census tracts 821 and 902 had a population increase, while the other three census tracts remained about the same in total population.

Earlier population trends are characterized by especially large population declines between 1950 and 1970. The decline was already beginning in the 1940s, except in census tract 820. The declines need to be understood in the context of the exodus of the Jewish synagogues, schools, and population. Sharp population declines again took place in census tract 901 during the 1970s and in census tract 821 in the 1980s.

### POPULATION TRENDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Tract 820</th>
<th>Tract 821</th>
<th>Tract 901</th>
<th>Tract 902</th>
<th>Tract 903</th>
<th>Total Grove Hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pop.</td>
<td>pop.</td>
<td>pop.</td>
<td>pop.</td>
<td>pop.</td>
<td>pop. percent change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>5,249</td>
<td>7,248</td>
<td>8,186</td>
<td>3,342</td>
<td>6,282</td>
<td>30,307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1950 | 5,606     | 6,826     | 7,841     | 3,232     | 5,805     | 29,310          | 3.3 ↓  
| 1960 | 4,925     | 5,798     | 6,627     | 2,702     | 4,970     | 25,022          | 14.6 ↓  
| 1970 | 3,537     | 5,523     | 6,377     | 2,453     | 3,294     | 21,184          | 15.3 ↓  
| 1980 | 3,450     | 5,705     | 4,711     | 2,106     | 3,253     | 19,225          | 9.2 ↓  
| 1990 | 3,188     | 4,628     | 4,340     | 2,009     | 2,962     | 17,127          | 10.9 ↓  
| 2000 | 2,806     | 4,251     | 4,588     | 1,996     | 3,130     | 16,771          | 2.1 ↓  
| 2010 | 2,815     | 5,025     | 4,571     | 2,233     | 3,179     | 17,823          | 6.3 ↑  

U.S. Census, 1940-2010
FAMILY STRUCTURE

Grove Hall has a total of 6,769 households with 4,423 of these family households (65.3%) and 2,346 non-family households. A “family household” is defined by the census as “a household that has at least one member of the household related to the householder [head of the household] by birth, marriage, or adoption.” The average family size in this area is somewhat higher than the average family size in Boston and the state. Census tract 902 has the highest average family size at 3.44 compared to the average size of families in the city and state of 3.08. The average household size ranges from 2.43 to 2.89 compared to the city average of 2.26, the state average of 2.48 and the national average of 2.58. Census tracts 820 and 821 have distinctly lower average household and family sizes compared with census tracts 901, 902, and 903, where the average household size is substantially higher than the nation, state and city averages.

In Grove Hall, 79% of all families with related children under 18 years are single parent families, compared with national percentage of 34% and the statewide percentage of 32% single parent families. In Boston as a whole, 53% of families are single parent families. In this area, 72% of families with related children under 18 years are single parent families headed by females (the other 7% are single parent households led by men). In each census tract, the percentage of female-headed families with no male present is much higher than in the city as a whole or in Massachusetts. The proportion of female-headed households is highest in census tract 821 at 76.7 percent, but all of the five census tracts have a proportion of approximately 70 percent. The percentage of male headed households with children but with no female present is lower than the city and nation, but slightly higher than the state. Only about 21 percent of families with related children under 18 years have two parents present.
### NUMBER AND SIZE OF HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th>Family Households</th>
<th>Non-family Households</th>
<th>Average Household Size</th>
<th>Average Family Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tract 820</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td># 695</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 60.0</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 821</td>
<td>2,035</td>
<td># 1,265</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 62.2</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 901</td>
<td>1,681</td>
<td># 1,099</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 65.4</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 902</td>
<td>772</td>
<td># 535</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 69.3</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 903</td>
<td>1,123</td>
<td># 829</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>2.83</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 73.8</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove Hall</td>
<td>6,769</td>
<td># 4,423</td>
<td>2,346</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>3.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>% 65.3</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>252,699</td>
<td># 116,244</td>
<td>136,455</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 46.0</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass.</td>
<td>2,547,075</td>
<td># 1,603,591</td>
<td>943,484</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>3.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 63.0</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>116,716,292</td>
<td># 77,538,296</td>
<td>39,177,996</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>% 66.4</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data set: U.S. Census 2010, Summary File 1 (SF 1), Table QT-P11, “Households and Families.”
ECONOMY AND POVERTY

The percent of people below the poverty level\textsuperscript{64} in Grove Hall is much higher than the city of Boston as a whole. The average of the percentages of people in poverty in each of the five census tracts is 37 percent compared to the city of Boston’s rate of 21 percent, the state’s rate of 10.5 percent and the national rate of 13.8 percent. In three of the five census tracts, the percentage of residents under 18 who are living below the poverty level is above fifty percent and in one census tract the percentage of youth in poverty is 73 percent. Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of youth under age 18 living below the poverty level increased in four out of five of the census tracts in this area. In census tracts 821, 902, and 903 the poverty rate increased sharply. Of the families with related children under 18 years, 67.5 percent were under the poverty level in census tract 903 and 58.5 percent in census tract 902. (This compares with 24% in the city of Boston overall).\textsuperscript{65}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{chart.png}
\caption{Comparing percentage of children to total population who live below the poverty level}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{64} As recorded by the annual American Community Surveys during 2006-2010 for people below the poverty level during the last 12 months before the survey dates.

\textsuperscript{65} U.S. Census, 2006-2010 American Community Survey, “Selected Economic Characteristics,” Table DP03.
### PERCENT OF THE POPULATION BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All people</th>
<th>People under 18</th>
<th>All families</th>
<th>All families with related children under 18 yrs.</th>
<th>Single parent female headed families</th>
<th>Single parent female headed families with related children under 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>37.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass.</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>42.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove Hall</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>50.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 820</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>46.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 821</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 901</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 902</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 903</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>76.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data set: U.S. Census, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. Table DP03. “Selected Economic Characteristics.” Note: At the census tract level, the American Community Survey sample size can be relatively small and lead to significant margins of error. See the original online data for detailed information on these margins of error.
**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

In each of the Grove Hall census tracts, there is a higher percentage of households receiving public assistance than in the city overall, in the state, and in the nation. Compared to 2000, the number and percentage of households receiving public assistance has increased in four of the five census tracts in Grove Hall. Census tracts 821 and 903 had the largest increases, while census tract 820 had a small decline.

The Grove Hall census tract with the highest percentage of households receiving public assistance is census tract 903 with 21.7%, which is more than four times the overall city percentage and over seven times the state percentage. New subsidized housing units may account for some of the increase, since several census tracts had an increase in the overall number of households.

The percent of households with Public Assistance income in each of the five Grove Hall census tracts compared with Boston, Mass., and the U.S.

---

**HOUSEHOLDS WITH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (2007-2011 SURVEYS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Households</th>
<th># Households with Public Assistance Income</th>
<th>% Households with Public Assistance Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>114,931,864</td>
<td>3,207,808</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass.</td>
<td>2,528,073</td>
<td>75,200</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>249,533</td>
<td>11,364</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove Hall</td>
<td>6,670</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 820</td>
<td>1,072</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 821</td>
<td>2,017</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 901</td>
<td>1,838</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 902</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tract 903</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2007-2011 Five year estimates, Table B19057*
As the neighborhood initially began to develop, many single-family and two-family homes were built. However, as many lower income immigrants came into the area, a large number of multi-unit apartment buildings were added to the housing stock. Compared to most other outlying Boston neighborhoods, this area has significantly more apartment buildings. Only 23 percent of the residential buildings have less than three housing units (Census Tract 821 has only 12.9 percent; Census Tract 902 has only 13.5 percent).

Grove Hall has 7,356 total housing units according to the 2010 Census, an increase of 531 units from the 2000 census. The 2010 Census counted 6,769 or 92 percent of these housing units as occupied and 587 or 8 percent as vacant. This is a lower vacancy rate than the national rate of 11.4 percent in 2010. The neighborhood vacancy rate has continued to decline since 2000 when it was 9.8 percent. Also, the community in general has far less vacant, abandoned and boarded up housing units than it did 25 years ago.

Grove Hall has 1,274 owner-occupied housing units, accounting for 18.8% of the housing units, while 81.2 percent of the units (5,495) are renter-occupied. With the decreased vacancy rate and increase in overall housing units, there were 613 more occupied housing units in 2010 than in 2000. Most of the additional occupied housing units (543) were rental units rather than owner-occupied units (70). Thus the home ownership rate decreased somewhat over the last ten years. The U.S. average is 65.1 percent of units owner-occupied and 34.9 percent renter-occupied. Boston’s housing is only 33.9 percent owner-occupied overall, but Grove Hall has a much lower rate of home ownership than either the U.S. or the city of Boston.

Percentages of renter-occupied units vs. owner-occupied units in each of the Grove Hall census tracts compared with Boston, Mass., and the U.S.

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66 U. S. Census 2010, Summary File One (SF1). “General Housing Characteristics, Table QT-H1. All the subsequent data in this section are from this source or the U.S. Census 2000.
In part this is due to the large number of apartment buildings in some parts of the neighborhood, but it is also due in part to the high rate of poverty in the area. The Neighborhood Development Corporation of Grove Hall has a home ownership program which includes first-time home buyers classes, home buying education programs, foreclosure prevention programs, and a local contractor referral list for home owners.\(^67\) In 2013, Habitat for Humanity is at work on the final phase of the Blue Hill Place development near Intervale Street. Nu Life Development is also planning 16 new housing units. These and other organizations have developed many housing units in the Grove Hall area.

### HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tract 820</th>
<th>Tract 821</th>
<th>Tract 901</th>
<th>Tract 902</th>
<th>Tract 903</th>
<th>Grove Hall Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total housing units</td>
<td>1,278</td>
<td>2,117</td>
<td>1,863</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>1,268</td>
<td>7,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupied units</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td>2,035</td>
<td>1,681</td>
<td>772</td>
<td>1,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>93.0</td>
<td>88.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacant units</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>owner occupied units</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>renter occupied units</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>1,837</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>90.3</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>84.1</td>
<td>80.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data sets: U. S. Census 2010, Summary File One (SF1). “General Housing Characteristics, Table QT-H1

## Churches

**Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
108 Seaver St., Boston, MA 02121-1503  
617-427-2201  
[www.bereasdadchurch.org](http://www.bereasdadchurch.org)  
[www.tagnet.org/bereasda](http://www.tagnet.org/bereasda)  
Pastor: Rev. Nigel David  
Youth Program Leader: Tamika Tomlinson  
*Youth program: Friday meetings, service projects, retreats, music, tutoring, a day school (elementary and middle school)*

**Bethel Pentecostal Church**  
112 Humboldt Ave., Boston, MA 02121-1213  
617-427-4317  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Marcus Bennett  
*Youth Service: Fridays, 7:30 p.m.*

**Bethel Tabernacle Pentecostal Church**  
100 Esmond St./12 Bicknell St., Boston, MA 02121  
617-282-6000  
[www.betheltab.org](http://www.betheltab.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn G. Weeks  
Young People’s Ministry Leaders: Tena Samantha Tucker and Richard Fenton

**Bethlehem Healing Temple**  
428 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121-4303  
PO Box 214, Dorchester, MA 02121  
617-442-4848  
[www.bethlehemhealingtemple.com](http://www.bethlehemhealingtemple.com)  
Pastor: Bishop Joe Swilley  
Evangelist: Exia Swilley  
Children’s Ministry: Denise Taylor

**Beulah Pilgrim Holiness Church**  
455 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121-4301  
617-445-8535  
Pastors: Rev. Terrence and Marjorie Davis  
*Youth Programs: Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, computer classes*

**Charles St. AME Church**  
551 Warren St., Boston, MA 02121-1806  
617-442-7770 or 617-989-0167  
[charlesstreetame.org](http://charlesstreetame.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Gregory Groover, Sr.  
Youth Pastor: Brian Barnes

**Church of God of Prophecy, Dorchester**  
179 Glenway Street, Boston, MA 02121  
617-282-0142  
Pastor: Rev. Colin Powell, Sr.

**Church of Fire**  
10 Fenelon St., Boston, MA 02121  
Pastor: Rev. George Johnson

**Community Gospel Chapel**  
8 Intervale St., Boston, MA 02121-1818  
617-427-4023  
[www.cgofboston.org](http://www.cgofboston.org)  
communitygospelchapel@gmail.com  
Elder: Claudius Walker  
*Youth program: Youth meetings, Saturdays, 7:00 p.m.*

**Community House of Prayer and Worship (The)**  
14 Crawford St., Boston, MA 02121  
Pastor: Rev. Sterling Saunders

**Deliverance Temple Worship Center**  
232-236a Columbia Rd., Boston, MA 02124  
617-442-4330  
info@dtworshipcenter.org  
[www.dtworshipcenter.org](http://www.dtworshipcenter.org)  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Arlene O. Hall  
Co-Pastor: Raymond G. Hall  
Ministry Leaders: Omega Robert (Grace) and Daniel Bradshaw  
*Youth programs: Boys Club and Girls Club, Fridays, 7-9 p.m.*

**Eglise du Tabernacle de la Foi en Jesus Christ**  
158 Humboldt Ave., Boston, MA 02121  
617-989-1463  
Pastors: Lenes F. Annevil and Emmanuel LaFontant

**Emmanuel Tabernacle Apostolic Faith**  
104 Erie Street, Boston, MA 02121  
Pastor: Rev. Margarite Lee  
617-287-2141
EMMANUEL TEMPLE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
471 Warren St., Boston, MA 02121-1399
617-442-8500
Pastor: Rev. William Weeks

FIRST CHRISTIAN UNION CHURCH
158 Humboldt Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-427-5446
Pastor: Rev. Joannes Leatham

FIRST HAITIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
397 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-427-1028
Pastor: Rev. Verdieu Laroche

Gospel Assembly Church of the Body of Christ/Eglise Assemblee L’Evangile du Corps de Christ
47 Lawrence St., Boston, MA 02121
617-541-2954, 617-549-0088
Bishop John Hilarion Remy
Pastor: Samford Remy

GREATER ANOINTING HARVEST CHURCH
20 Charlotte St., Boston, MA 02121
617-287-2144
www.gahcmministries.com
info@gahcmministries.com
Pastor: Rev. Alton J. Beech
Youth Ministry:
Young Women, Girls of Divine Destiny
Young Men’s Ministry, YMM

HOLY TABERNACLE CHURCH
70 Washington St., Boston, MA 02121-3152
617-427-8022 or 617-427-8510
holy_tabernacle@yahoo.com
www.holytab.org
Pastor: Bishop Arthur F. Jack
Youth Pastor: Elder Hubert White
Associate Youth Pastor: Michael Wheeler
Youth Programs: youth group, retreats, convention, tutoring, computer center, music, sports, service projects, and work with high-risk youth

IGLESIAS DE CRISTO MISIONERA, M.I.
158 Humboldt Ave., Boston, MA 02121
857-417-9185
Pastor: Rev. Joaquin Santiago

IGLESIAS MINISTERIO CRISTO EN LA FAMILIA, INC.
203 Humboldt Ave., Boston, MA 02121
781-581-5723
ministeriocristoenlfamilia@yahoo.com
Pastors: Eligio and Wanda Martinez
Includes ministries to youth and family

IGLESIAS SANTIDAD A JEHova, INC.
340 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-293-6284, 617-959-0041
Pastors: Antonio and Natacha Rivera

MANNING TEMPLE HOLY CHURCH OF LOVE
36 Lawrence Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-442-7573
bm2607@aol.com
Pastor: Rev. Betty Murray
Bishop: Rev. Irvin Whitlow

MOUNT CALVARY HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA
9 Otisfield St., Boston, MA 02121-1819
617-474-9871
Pastor: Bishop Bobby Perry

MOUNT JOY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS
94-98 Erie St., Boston, MA 02121
617-822-2329
Pastor: Rev. Martha Edmonds

NEW BETHEL APOTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
153 Washington St., Boston, MA 02121-3603
617-876-3256
Pastor: Rev. Gloria Morgan

Holy Tabernacle Church
New Faith Missionary Baptist Church
66 Geneva Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-445-8200
Pastor: Rev. Robert A. Washington

New Fellowship Baptist Church
616-618 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121
PO Box 260999, Boston, MA 02121
617-929-0131, 617-929-1980
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Deas

New Rehoboth Bethel Apostolic Church, Inc.
20 Michigan Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-825-7550
Pastor: Rev. Luther Washington, Sr.
Bishop: Rev. R. Murray

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
155 Humboldt Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-427-0905
Pastor: Rev. Miniard Culpepper

Quincy Street Missional Church
266 Quincy St., Boston, MA 02125-1707
617-436-1618
quincystreetchurch@gmail.com
www.quincystreet.org
Pastor: Rev. Ralph Kee
Youth Pastor: Leah Beidler

Rising Star Pentecostal Church
2 Otisfield Street, Boston, MA 02121
617-541-4335
Pastor: Rev. Estelle Davis

Segunda Iglesia Defensores de la Fe
428 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121
617-327-0085
Pastor: Rev. Johnny Maldonado

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church
(formerly St. John and St. Hugh’s)
517 Blue Hill Ave. Boston, MA 02121-3203
617-445-8915
stkatherinedrexel@verizon.net
www.saintkatherinedrexel.org
Administrator: Rev. Gerald Osterman
Vicars: Rev. Anselm Nwagbara, Nigeria and Rev. Jude T. Osunkwo, Nigeria
Youth Ministry: Fridays, 6:00 p.m.
After school program, grades 1-4

St. Mark Congregational Church
200 Townsend St., Boston, MA 02121-1289
617-442-0481
Youth Programs: youth fellowship; afterschool computer classes

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
73 Columbia Rd., Boston, MA 02121-3347
617-436-4319
Assistant Priest: Rev. Eric Hillegas
Youth Director: Elijah Evans
Youth Programs: music (incl. drums); youth meetings (Sundays) and events; video projects, community service, and B-SAFE summer program

Victory Fellowship Ministries
88 Glenway St., Boston, MA 02121
Pastor: Rev. Ramatu Kallon

Zion Assembly Apostolic Church
189 Glenway St., Boston, MA 02124
617-288-0839
Pastor: Evangelist Maggie Martin
Youth Director: Maria Martin-Smith
Youth Program: youth meetings on Fridays 6 p.m.

VARIOUS RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Maṣjid Al-Quran
35 Intervale St., Boston, MA 02121
617-445-8070

Muhammad’s Mosque #11
10 Washington St., Boston, MA 02121
Minister Don Muhammad

United House of Prayer for All People
218 Seaver St., Boston, MA 02121
617-445-3246, 617-442-0105

A Voice in the Wilderness Ministries
455 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121
EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

The Grove Hall neighborhood has 590 residents with graduate or professional degrees and 740 with bachelor’s degrees; however, in general the residents of Grove Hall have a lower level of educational attainment than the population of Boston, or the state, or the nation. In our economy where a college education is very important, the percentage of people in Grove Hall with a bachelor’s degree or higher is only about one third the percentage of the city as a whole or the state. It is only about one-half the national percentage with at least a bachelor’s degree. Although the American Community Surveys often have significant margins of error at the census tract level, it appears that the percent of residents with bachelor’s degrees has declined in most of the census tracts in the area, while the percent of residents with graduate or professional degrees increased in four of the five census tracts. However, the percentages with graduate and professional degrees still were substantially below the city, state, and national percentages.

More than one quarter (26.5 percent) of the residents of Grove Hall have not graduated from high school, whereas statewide, only 11 percent are not high school graduates. In one section, census tract 901, over 32 percent of the population has not graduated from high school. Comparing the 2000 and 2010 censuses, it would seem that the percentages of high school graduates in most of the five census tracts in this area have increased over the last ten years.

The Burke High School is the only non-exam high school in the immediate neighborhood. The Burke High School had only a 43.4 percent four-year graduation rate, one of the lowest graduation rates in the city. This falls far below the current state four-year Cohort Graduation Rate Target of 75 percent. This also falls far below the overall Boston Public School four-year graduation rate of 64.4 percent. The Burke High School also had a very high dropout rate of 33.7 percent compared to 15.1% for Boston (with the four-year cohort graduating in 2011).

Comparing the highest educational attainment of Grove Hall residents with residents of Boston, Mass., and the U.S.
## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR RESIDENTS 25 YEARS AND OVER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Census Tract 820</th>
<th>Census Tract 821</th>
<th>Census Tract 901</th>
<th>Census Tract 902</th>
<th>Census Tract 903</th>
<th>Total Grove Hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population 25 years &amp; over</td>
<td>1,619</td>
<td>2,630</td>
<td>2,783</td>
<td>1,108</td>
<td>1,322</td>
<td>9,462</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>#</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School graduate (including equiv.)</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate's degree</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional Degree</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent High School graduate or higher</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>83.7</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>73.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Universe: Population 25 years and over.
MAP OF SCHOOLS IN THE GROVE HALL AREA

1. Boston Latin Academy
2. Jeremiah E. Burke High School
3. Ellis Elementary School
4. Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School
5. Sarah Greenwood K-8 School
6. Haynes Early Education Center
7. Higginson/Lewis K-8 School
8. John P. Holland Elementary School
9. Martin Luther King, Jr. School
10. Mother Caroline Academy and Adult Education Center
11. William Monroe Trotter Elementary School
Boston Latin Academy

205 Townsend St., Roxbury, MA 02121 • 617-635-9957 • Grades 7-12
www.latinacademy.org • www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/boston-latin-academy

Boston Latin Academy (BLA) is an exam school with admission to grades 7 and 9 based on test scores and GPA. It is a college preparatory school with honors and Advanced Placement courses in all subjects. The school has a peer tutoring program and many afterschool clubs and organizations. BLA won the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math and Science and has a partnership with IBM. In 2010, BLA won a Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education. This award, which selected 254 public and 50 private schools across the country, recognizes schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds. BLA was named one of America’s Best High Schools by U.S. News and World Report with a Gold Medal (ranked #421 in the country) and ranked as one of the top 20 high schools in the state.

Jeremiah E. Burke High School

60 Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-635-9837 • Grades 9-12
www.jebhs.org • www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/burke-high-school

The Jeremiah E. Burke High School underwent a $49.5 million renovation and now features a new school library, cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium, visual and performing arts studios, family center, renovated classrooms, science and computer labs, and offices. The library with 15,000 items is linked to the Boston Public Library System giving students access to interlibrary loans and databases. Burke offers Advanced Placement courses in chemistry, calculus, English literature and composition, and U. S. history and elective courses in dance, fine arts, and theater. Student support services include guidance, health center, counseling, adolescent parenting, and financial aid assistance. The school’s College and Career Center has a full-time career specialist from the Boston Private Industry Council. The Burke maintains an active partnership with UMass Boston, providing Urban Scholars, Admission Guaranteed Program, and staff professional development support. Students have the opportunity for dual enrollment at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, Bunker Hill and Roxbury community colleges.

Ellis Elementary School

302 Walnut Ave., Roxbury, MA 02119 • 617-635-8257 • Grades K-1-5
www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/ellis-elementary-school

The school offers an exploratory science lab with a certified science instructor. Through the Reading Is Fundamental program, all students are offered free books. The school enhances student learning through interactive field trips and a computer lab with a full-time instructor. The school also offers physical education classes and provides students with before and afterschool programs, school-based counseling services, mentoring, and tutoring.

Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School

270 Columbia Rd., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-635-1637 • Grades 6-8
www.lgfnet.org • www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/frederick-pilot-middle-school

This Pilot School offers free laptops for every student and universal free breakfasts. In addition to afterschool tutoring and programs, it has Saturday programs. The curriculum includes art, ceramics, dance, and music as well as physical education and traditional subjects. Sports activities are football, lacrosse, wrestling and soccer. The school has fully equipped science labs. Some of the school partners include Big Sisters, Boston College, Boston Univ., Simmons College, Boston Ballet, Mass College of Art, Youth Enrichment Services and Project RIGHT.
Sarah Greenwood K-8 School
186 Glenway St., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-635-8710
https://sites.google.com/site/sarahgreenwoodk8school

To help all students succeed, the school offers extended learning programs for level 1 and 2 students. It also provides examination school prep classes, an afterschool sports program (basketball, track, and cross country), and a robotics club. In addition to robotics, the school has an emphasis on engineering and science, including an outdoor science classroom. All students learn two languages, Spanish and English. The school gives books to students four times during the year to help them build their home libraries. The staff is deeply committed to participating in Professional Development and to reducing the achievement gap among all students.

Haynes Early Education Center
263 Blue Hill Avenue, Boston, MA 02119 • 617-635-6446 • Grades K-1
www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/haynes-early-education-center

This early learning center has state of the art modern facilities and universal free lunches. It has a strong arts, dance and music program with a partnership with the Suzuki Institute of Boston. The school has a number of other partners, has continuous learning classrooms and small class sizes. It is named after Rev. Dr. Michael Haynes who was pastor of 12th Baptist Church for many years.

Higginson/Lewis K-8 School
131 Walnut Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119 • 617-635-8247
www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/higginsonlewis-k-8-school

The school is a community-based, family-oriented, full-service school with a strong academic focus. The modernized building includes a gymnasium, cafeteria and auditorium, all of which are used to enhance the academic offerings. Higginson/Lewis has many community partners, such as Bird St. Community Center, Boston University School of Dentistry, Social Impact Center of Roxbury, Northeastern University, the Black Ministerial Alliance, City Year, and the Boston Ballet. All of the partners support the school’s academic and social-emotional missions, which are to improve and enhance student achievement through its guiding values: Respect, Ownership, Accountability and Responsibility. The school has a before and afterschool program and intramural sports. It offers music, dance, theater arts, and Spanish language instruction.
John P. Holland Elementary School
85 Olney St., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-635-8832 • Grades K2-5
www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/holland-elementary-school

The school provides music, art, physical education, a school-based therapy program and a full-time social worker. All students receive technology once a week. The Holland School runs an afterschool program, a daily character education program, and a variety of family engagement events. Academic afterschool tutoring and MCAS Support are also offered. The Diamond Educators Mentoring Program for grades 3 to 5 meets monthly on Saturday afternoons. The building is newly renovated with three computer labs and has an Olympic-size swimming pool with a full swimming program. There are also programs for English language learners, including Spanish and Vietnamese instruction.

Martin Luther King, Jr. K-8 School
77 Lawrence Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-635-8212 • Grades K1-8
www.bostonpublicschools.org/school/king-k-8-school

A newly renovated building features an attractive, modern auditorium, gymnasium, computer lab, and science lab. The afterschool program runs from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. Students in Grades 1-5 receive 90 minutes of reading and 70 minutes of math each day, and 40 minutes of reading and math enrichment each week. Students are taught to serve the school and the community for the common good. Some of the school’s partners include Charles St. AME/Wellesley Congregation, Project RIGHT, Read Boston, Mass College of Art, Harvard, YMCA, Playworks, and Generations Inc.

Mother Caroline Academy
515 Blue Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02121 • 617-427-1177 • www.mcaec.org

This private, Roman Catholic middle school serves fifth through eighth grade girls. Most girls are admitted in the fifth grade. The school has a free academic afterschool program for its students and evening study sessions. There is an adult education program for parents and others from the community. One hundred percent of alumnae have gone on to graduate from high school. “The success of Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center attests to the power of its vision, ‘where there is great love there are always miracles.’” Mother Caroline Academy is a member of the national Nativity Miguel Network of Schools (www.nativitymiguelschools.org), which offers one of the most successful models for inner city schools.

William Monroe Trotter Elementary School
135 Humboldt Ave., Boston, MA 02121 • 617-635-7915 • trotter@bostonpublicschools.org

As one of Boston’s Turnaround Schools, the Trotter has increased flexibility and funding, a longer school day, and a newly selected faculty. All students have computer, art and music as the school strives to develop well-rounded students. The Family and Community Outreach Coordinator supports the school in building relationships between home and school. The school has a beautiful outdoor classroom, a new library and computer lab. It includes before and afterschool programs and the Technology Goes Home program. Some of the school’s partners include Boston University (esp. School of Education), City Year, Big Sisters, Playworks, Generations Inc., Friends of the Children, Family Independence Initiative, Home for Little Wanderers, and the YMCA.

68 “History & Background” www.mcaec.org/theacademy.html (accessed 22 June 2009)
ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

MAP OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GROVE HALL AREA
1. ABCD Dorchester Neighborhood Service Center
2. Boston Ten Point Coalition
3. Caribbean Foundation of Boston
4. Catholic Charities Yawkey Center/Haitian Multi-Service Center
5. Center for Church and Prison
6. Elm Hill Family Service Center
7. Freedom House, Inc.
8. Grove Hall Community Center
9. Grove Hall Library (afterschool)
10. Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center
11. Neighborhood Development Corporation of Grove Hall
12. Project RIGHT Inc. (Rebuild & Improve Grove Hall Together)
13. Reflect and Strengthen
14. Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center
15. Roxbury MultiService Center
16. Roxbury Renaissance Center (of Charles St. AME)
17. Roxbury YMCA - Afterschool Program at Franklin Highlands
18. StreetSafe Boston

ABCD Dorchester Neighborhood Service Center

110 Claybourne St., Dorchester, MA 02124 • 617-288-2700
www.bostonabcd.org/centersdorchester/

Part of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), a citywide program promoting self-help for low-income people and neighborhoods, this center includes an afterschool and summer enrichment program with homework assistance, computer labs, arts and crafts, and recreational activities for 6 to 12 year olds. The Farm to Family Program provides subsidized food baskets with fresh produce partly from the center’s community garden, free tax assistance, and applications for the SummerWorks. The center provides help with financial literacy, job readiness, applications for fuel assistance, MassHealth, tax assistance, and food stamps.

Boston Ten Point Coalition

7 Palmer Street, 3rd Floor • Boston, MA 02119 • 617-524-4331 • www.btpc.org

Formed in 1992 in response to a surge of violence among inner-city youth, the Boston TenPoint Coalition (BTPC) is an ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders working to mobilize the Christian community around issues affecting Black and Latino youth. The Coalition also partners with other youth-serving organizations in the community. Its programs include neighborhood walks and church capacity building. (Currently housed with the Black Ministerial Alliance.)

Caribbean Foundation of Boston

317 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-445-1228
www.caribbeanfoundationofboston.org

For over 30 years, CFB has been hiring and training local residents to provide services that prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of the elderly and disabled. They also provide services to keep children in homes where the mother is incapacitated. This is done through Homemaker/Home Health Aides, a Friendly Visitors Program, and training to assist applicants, particularly those who speak English as a second language, to gain their GED and pass the state exam for Home Health Aides.
Catholic Charities Yawkey Center/Haitian Multi-Service Center

185 Columbia Rd., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-506-6600 • www.ccab.org/HMSC

The goal of the HMSC is to prepare and assist immigrants in their quest for social and economic self-sufficiency. The center promotes community development through a “Haitians-serving-Haitians” model. Approximately 4,500 individuals and families are served each year. The Center offers counseling for children, youth, and families related to substance abuse and mental health. One program provides comprehensive care, support, and counseling for expectant and new mothers. The center has a wide range of services for elders. The Adult Education program offers classes in math, computer training, citizenship, Haitian Creole, English (ESOL), citizenship, and a GED program.

Center for Church and Prison, Inc.

516 Warren Street, Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-599-5091 • www.churchandprison.org

The Center for Church and Prison is a resource and research center working towards community revitalization through prison reform. Its goal is strategic solution development and intervention addressing the high rate of incarceration and recidivism, especially affecting men and youth of color. The center seeks to prevent an increase in imprisonment. It also seeks to reduce recidivism and to restore the imprisoned with an emphasis on preventive programs like education, social and skill development, and emotional stability. The Center seeks to collaborate with churches in providing resources for developing preventive structures and reintegration programs that will lead to decline in the recidivism rate especially for black men.

Elm Hill Family Service Center

22 Elm Hill Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-442-5900
www.bostonabcd.org

The Elm Hill Family Service Center is a site of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), a citywide program promoting self-help for low-income people and neighborhoods. The Elm Hill Center offers several programs for seniors including health, exercise, and wellness classes; social activities; and a food and nutrition program. Activities for youth include the CIRCLE Youth Civics Program, a mentorship program, and a drop-in discussion group with opportunities for leadership development. General services include a food pantry, resources (clothing, etc.) for children, SummerWorks, workshops on financial literacy and job readiness, fuel assistance, tax assistance, and assistance with other applications.

Freedom House, Inc.

14 Crawford St., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-445-3700 • www.freedomhouse.com

Freedom House works to promote educational excellence, economic self-sufficiency, and social innovation through targeted educational development, increased civic and political engagement, and community resources for life-long learning. Their programs include computer classes, open computer time, and a network of community, parent, and advocacy organizations working to develop family and community engagement in high school renewal in Boston.

Preparing Urban Students for Success in High School and Higher Education (PUSH) helps students develop their skills, strategies, and support networks necessary to ensure that they graduate from high school and college. The program provides individual counseling, the Summer Intensive Institute, and a school-year program with an academic enrichment and leadership development/civic engagement curriculum.
The Snowden Center for Civic Engagement and Action has a focus on reducing educational disparities within low-income communities of color in Boston. It seeks to do this through advocacy, organizing, research, and by facilitating public dialogue through hosting forums.

The Roxbury Goldenaires of Freedom House involves seniors in social activities, arts, crafts, exercise, and service projects.

Multi-Cultural Dropout Outreach Collaborative (MDOC) steers the reform and creation of new dropout prevention and recovery policies in the Boston Public School district. They have created One Step Closer, a mentorship program for students assessed as proven-risk.

**Grove Hall Community Center**

40 Geneva Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-635-2643

The Grove Hall Community Center is a part of the city's Community Learning Initiative, the city's network of community centers, and is interconnected with the Grove Hall Library and the Burke High School. The network of Boston community centers (BCYF) uses a general program framework: ACES, which includes programming in Arts, Community and Civic engagement, Education, and Sports. As a part of this general framework, the Grove Hall Community Center has activities such as the Building Bars Music Program, G.E.D. classes, Teen Lounge (with workshops, games, and movies), a Young Men's Group, and gym nights.

**Grove Hall Library (afterschool)**

41 Geneva Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-427-3337 • [www.bpl.org/branches/grove.htm](http://www.bpl.org/branches/grove.htm)

The library offers over 45,000 books with a collection of African American history and research materials including a local history collection on Roxbury and Grove Hall. The new facility, interconnected with the Burke High School and the Grove Hall Community Center, has study rooms, a craft and activity room, meeting space, and 30 computers for public use. A variety of programs are offered including afterschool homework help, academic support, and mentoring for students in grades 1-8. Other programs include a jazz performance series, storytelling and films for preschoolers, a family book club, the Grove Hall Memory Project, a teen council, teen movie and crafts times, special speakers, art exhibits, and more.

**Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center**

632 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-825-3400, 617-822-5500 • [www.harvardstreet.org](http://www.harvardstreet.org)

The Center includes a pediatrics clinic, a men’s health clinic, and a women’s center. They also provide an adolescent child care clinic for those aged 12-21 to address the needs of teens and provide help with learning problems, violence prevention, drug and alcohol counseling, and mental health services. Preventative health services include health education, smoking cessation, emergency food program, transitional housing, nutrition and weight control. The women’s center provides reproductive health services, STD and HIV testing, and counseling.
Neighborhood Development Corporation of Grove Hall

7 Cheney St., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-445-2284 • www.grovehallndc.org

The Grove Hall NDC seeks to develop successful partnerships to create quality employment, income, and ownership opportunities for residents, and to build on the neighborhood’s assets, including businesses. The organization offers a variety of support services which aim to develop new or rehabilitate old commercial and residential space. It also offers financial counseling, education, and information to help current and potential business and homeowners. The NDC provides homeownership and foreclosure prevention services, small business resources, and provides computer time for adults to look for jobs, do projects with their children, and receive training in computer-based job skills. A College Assistance Program helps students prepare for SAT tests and fill out college applications. Adult computer training helps seniors learn to confidently use computers.

Project RIGHT Inc. (Rebuild & Improve Grove Hall Together)

320A Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-541-5454 • www.projectright.org

This organization works to promote neighborhood stabilization and economic development, green space improvements, partnerships with and referrals to safe havens for youth, a basketball league working with high-risk youth, and Grove Hall youth council. Project RIGHT trains and supports emerging leadership by providing an inclusive network for resident organizations to engage in community building efforts. It has worked with the Boston Public Health Commission on health issues, violence prevention, and substance abuse. Project RIGHT helps support voter outreach and organizing to increase voter participation and build networks to advocate for justice and equity in city and state government. Participation in the Problem Properties Task Force and the Multi-Unit Housing Initiative has sought to reduce crime and improve public safety.

Reflect and Strengthen

14 Crawford St., Dorchester, MA 02125 • 617-442-2355 • www.reflectandstrengthen.org

Reflect and Strengthen works with young, working-class women, ages 14-30 to create and nurture environments for positive social change through coalition-based campaigns, culturally relevant education and artistic approaches to organizing, self-determination, self-expression and empowerment. Programming focuses on political education, healing from trauma, creative expression, and community building. Their various programs provide licensed counselors who guide discussion circles with young women, and help young women to think critically about society and the world through social justice, political education, and community organizing. A performance troupe uses creative expression to heal, educate, and connect with community. The program also addresses the needs of teenage women involved in the juvenile justice system, provides leadership development opportunities, and is working to change the juvenile justice system with alternatives to detention.

Roxbury MultiService Center

317 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-427-4470 • www.roxmulti.org

This community center provides a wide array of services. They have educational training and career development programs for youth, a technology training center, a homeless shelter, supportive housing, counseling and education, emergency assistance, and mental health services. In addition, they offer a multicultural and multidisciplinary clinical training program in mental health for graduate level interns of color. Violence prevention and intervention programs are available to youth and families.
Roxbury Renaissance Center (of Charles St. AME)

5 Elm Hill Ave., Roxbury, MA 02121 • www.csrrc.org • 617-427-5570

The Center currently carries out three main programs: (1) The Maafa Middle School Project which includes a mentoring program and other services for middle school students; (2) The Hamilton Garrett Music and Arts Academy, and (3) the Roxbury Senior Care Program.

Roxbury YMCA - Afterschool Program at Franklin Highlands

164 Seaver St., Roxbury, MA 02119 • 617-427-5300
roxbury@ymca.boston.org • www.ymcaboston.org/roxbury

In addition to fitness and sports programs and activities for youth, families, adults and seniors, the YMCA offers health education. There are afterschool programs for students in K2 to 6th grades (2:00 – 6:00 p.m.). Pathways is a curriculum-based educational enrichment program that prepares and motivates high school students for college and careers. The Young Achievers Summer Institute is a learning experience that includes career exploration, field trips to area colleges, workshops, and speakers for middle school and high school students. The Summer Leadership Academy serves children aged five to thirteen years old. The YMCA also offers employment training.

StreetSafe Boston

31 Heath Street, 3rd Floor, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • 617-522-2017 • www.streetsafeboston.org

A public/private partnership between the City of Boston and private and community organizations seeking to reduce violent crime among Boston youth by focusing on five neighborhoods, including Grove Hall. StreetSafe Boston aims to contribute to a reduction of violence in Boston by focusing interventions on approximately 20 of the city’s most active gangs in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by gang violence. They train and place street workers in these neighborhoods and offer on-the-job training to build life skills.

Women of Color AIDS Council, Inc: Women Connecting Affecting Change

409 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617-541-1050 • www.wcacinc.org

The only Boston organization that is peer-led, peer-driven, and specifically for women of color, WCAC provides participants with education, workshops, and counseling to prevent them from acquiring HIV. This is accomplished through street outreach, workshops, support groups, case management, individual counseling, and HIV counseling and testing. Additional programs focus on relapse prevention, anger management, and stress management.
PUBLIC SAFETY

The **Grove Hall Safe Neighborhood Initiative** was a Department of Justice funded effort also known as Weed and Seed. It has been a collaborative effort between Project RIGHT, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, the Office of the Mayor of Boston, the Boston Police Department, and neighborhood residents to prevent and reduce violent crime, drug use, and gang activity. They have addressed crime against seniors, jobs for youth, drug education for youth, drug houses, under-age drinking, and crime prevention. The initiative particularly targets issues resulting from large numbers of ex-offenders being released into the community and increasing the quality of life in multi-unit apartment buildings. (The B-2 Area Police Department found that 31% of the crime in the Grove Hall area occurs in these multi-unit apartment buildings.)

Year after year, the Boston site successfully implemented its Weed and Seed strategy using Department of Justice funds. After their funding expired, they applied to become a “graduated” Weed and Seed site entitled them to opportunities to attend and receive DOJ training and technical assistance free of charge. The site had maintained their status as a “graduated” site for many years up until the national Weed and Seed program began being phased out. Despite the loss of federal funding, the Grove Hall community has continued to maintain an active role in preventing, controlling, and reducing violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity through the Grove Hall Safe Neighborhood Initiative (GHSNI). For more information on how to become involved in this initiative, please contact Project RIGHT, Inc. at (617) 541-5451.

**StreetSafe Boston**, which was launched in 2008, has sought to reduce violence in Grove Hall and other neighborhoods by deploying youth streetwalkers in street-level gang intervention and by providing more immediate access to social services for gang-involved youth. This has been a partnership between The Boston Foundation, the Boston Police Department and various other leaders and organizations. The streetwalkers seek “to establish meaningful relationships with gang-involved youth to interrupt violence, mediate and resolve conflicts, and influence individuals to engage in pro-social programs and services.” See [www.streetsafeboston.org](http://www.streetsafeboston.org).

**Citizens for Safety** in cooperation with Project RIGHT has presented a workshop on how to keep illegal guns out of the community. Citizens for Safety is a coalition of faith and civic leaders, elected officials, and law enforcement professionals working to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and youth without abridging the freedoms of law-abiding Americans. The organization supports three main goals: criminal background checks for all gun sales, increased training and accountability for gun dealers, and programs to deter straw purchasing. Its programs include Traffick Jam and Operation Lipstick. See [www.citizensforsafety.org](http://www.citizensforsafety.org).

The **Boston Police** places special emphasis on reducing gun violence in the Grove Hall and Roxbury areas. This neighborhood is in or close to police districts B2, B3 and C11. One police strategy, called Operation Impact, is a bi-weekly meeting with representatives from the district, citywide units, Boston Housing Authority, MBTA Police, District Attorney’s Office, Attorney General’s Office, U.S. Attorney’s Office and Probation officials from Roxbury District Court. The focus of this group is on the identification of strategies to reduce the gun violence and the retaliatory shootings that often occur as a result. For current data see [www.bpdnews.com/crime-stats](http://www.bpdnews.com/crime-stats) (esp. B2).
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Boston Redevelopment Authority. *Roxbury Strategic Master Plan*. Boston: B.R.A., 2004 (January 15). While not specifically on Grove Hall, the Master Plan is important for its overall vision and impact, which will affect Grove Hall. See [www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org](http://www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org).


Hentoff, Nat. *Boston Boy: Growing Up With Jazz and Other Rebellious Passions*. Philadelphia: Paul Dry books, 2001 (originally published 1986). *Hentoff was born in the Grove Hall neighborhood in 1925, and in this memoir gives a vivid account of growing up in the Jewish community of the 1930s and 1940s.*


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