



BNBN NEWSLETTER

WEBSITE: BLACKNBROWNNEWS.COM | EMAIL: INFO@BLACKNBROWNNEWS.COM

MAY 2023

EDITION #8

ARPA WATCH EXPOSÉ

PLOT TO INTENTIONALLY MARGINALIZE BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES CONTINUES!

THE HISTORY:

The statistics on the Black and Brown community have been abysmal for decades. The Black population has not grown past about 3% in the past 30 years (<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/brookline-ma-population>) while other communities, such as the Asian community, have grown to upwards of 17% (current Town estimates are closer to 20%).

The median income for Black Brookline residents is about \$35K a year which is more than 3x lower than the average median income of about \$122K per year (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/brooklinecdpmassachusetts>). Black residents are more than double represented in poverty rates per BNBC ACC data (slides 2 and 3 via <https://acc4brookline.com/our-research>). Statistics for the Brown community closely follow the same pattern. This has been the history of the Black and Brown community in the Town of Brookline, and the present day statistics are no different.

Often, before meetings, we see an elected official do a land acknowledgement. In other words, stating (in more palatable terms), that Indigenous Americans were slaughtered and their land stolen. During MLK day, and more recently Juneteenth, we have seen the elected officials acknowledge the Town's history of slavery and racism. Yet, with all these acknowledgements, all of the values this Town puts on banners, slogans, and brochures, where are the results? How could such statistics persist, decade after decade, if this Town was doing all they claim to do, in order to uplift the Black and Brown communities? How is this possible, with every official running on a platform of a more equitable Brookline?

Black and Brown communities have always known the answer to this question. BNBN has investigated and compiled the evidence, to show all those that are blissfully unaware, what is happening right under their noses. You as a resident of this town, as a member of the Brookline Community, have a right to know what your elected officials, and those before them, have been scheming for all these years. You deserve a transparent government. You deserve to be able to tear down institutions that go against the core values we all stand for: equality, justice, and freedom for all.



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ARPA WATCH EXPOSÉ CONT:

OPPRESSORS OF TODAY:

The Select Board, in particular, Miriam Aschkenasy (ARPA Review Committee Chair), Mike Sandman (ARPA Review Committee Co-Chair), and the ARPA Review Committee, have incidentally exposed the dark underbelly of Brookline Town governance. What was shocking to us at BNBN wasn't that back door deals, secret communications, and overt racism were at play; rather, that they were so blatantly careless in how they did it. Oppressors of the past used whips and chains. Today, they cripple families by forcing them into generations of poverty. Oppressors used to steal our children from across the globe, and at least one elected official still does. Today, they confine their minds as to what they can achieve, and limit their potential to ensure it doesn't challenge the existing power structure. This is accomplished by marginalizing Black and Brown communities. They allow the existing marginalizing factors to persist and worsen, while hiding behind claims of attempting to eradicate these same societal issues. BNBN Directors have conveyed these sentiments time and time again during various public town meetings (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 11, 2023, 58:50, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHV0MyD39UCjjQ&index=4).

Marginalizing issues such as job loss, unaffordable housing, and unaffordable and inaccessible childcare, already impacted low income Black and Brown communities the most. These issues worsened due to the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a federal program created to, specifically, address the economic impacts of the pandemic with major focus on the county's most marginalized (Page 6, two final bullet points: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>). Those most marginalized are low income Black and Brown people. The three primary marginalizing issues above are specifically referenced in the very same treasury document. The Town of Brookline was awarded 43 million (slide 4, bullet point 1: https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28795/BCF_Select-Board_Presentation_02082022_FINAL?bidId=) in ARPA funds by the federal government. One would assume that the allocation of these funds would be a clear cut process that prioritizes addressing these issues.



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COMMUNITY LEADERS BAND TOGETHER TO ADDRESS LONGSTANDING ISSUES:

Job loss impacted many low income Black and Brown families in Brookline that were already far below the median income of the town. Many households lost at least one income. Yet of all the entities that applied to ARPA round 1 and 2, Black N Brown Club (BNBC) was the only entity with proposals for job skills programs for low income Black and Brown residents (Round 1 awarded proposals:

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31145/ARPA---First-Round-Awards>, Round 2 submissions: <https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/39367/ARPA-Round-Two-Project-Summary-List>). These proposals #23-50 the Google Training Program, and #23-12 the Aviation Training Program, would have provided hundreds of opportunities to bridge the gap in job skills, and make competitive applicants for jobs in increasingly expanding industries. These proposals would have had the potential to raise the median income of hundreds of low income families. Both of these proposals had teams of experts in their respective fields that would have been able to ensure the highest quality of instruction and retention support for these programs. You can view the individual proposals here: <https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/3798>.

Additionally, Black and Brown Community leaders came together to create Warrant Article 19 to create the Black and Brown Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to “Act as a centralizing force in the Town of Brookline and the community, which will deal with all Black and Brown issues, providing information, referral, guidance, and coordination to educate and to offer and provide technical assistance to other public agencies and private persons, organizations and institutions engaged in activities and programs intended to eliminate systemic, racism, prejudice, and discrimination, against a person because of the color of their skin and racial status as Black and Brown.”.

The petitioners of WA19 and the Black and Brown community asked BNBN to convey: “Our grateful thanks to Janice Khan, Moderator Poverman, Town Counsels Moreschi and Callahan, and others for helping ensure that the language of the Warrant Article 19 was within the scope and legally sound. We also thank Town Meeting Members: Neil Gordon, Ben Birnbaum, Patty Correa, Carolyn Thall, Christine Westphal, Michael A. Burstein, and so many others that spoke in support of this WA19 for the creation of the Black and Brown Commission. And finally, thank you to all that reached out to support WA19 and the Black and Brown community.” BNBN hopes to see you at the Brookline Annual Town Meeting and encourages you to ask your precinct's Town Meeting Member to vote YES on WA19.



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COONS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT:

\$0 of the \$43 million was allocated for either of these proposals. This was not due to a lack of merit in the proposals, but instead a concerted effort to prevent Black and Brown people from improving their socioeconomic condition. Through our research and communications with local leaders and organizations, we have uncovered shocking evidence to support that the ARPA Review Committee and Select Board Member, Miriam Aschkenasy, and Town Meeting Member, Carlos Tamayo, conspired to railroad the Aviation Training Program. Per the email that Carlos sent to the Black and Brown Aviation Training Department, he was sent by Miriam, his mentor.

Subject: Re: BNB ATP (Black N Brown Aviation Training Program)

Hello,
Thank you so much for this information. My friend and mentor who is also a Select Board member, Miriam Aschkenazy, forwarded this opportunity to me. We met in Town Meeting (I'm one of a few brown people in Brookline TM). She knows I dream of being an airline pilot, but that finances are a struggle for my family (I'm the son of a single mom in Brookline Housing). I do have a quick question -- how long can the essay be?
Thank you,
Carlos Mario Tamayo

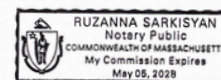
Carlos, having flown more than 100 hours, over 2x the 40 hour requirement to get his private pilot license, was still unable to obtain said license. The Black and Brown Aviation Program formally accepted him into the program to assist him in obtaining his private pilot license.

MASSACHUSETTS NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE (JURAT)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Norfolk

On this 10th (day) of November [month], 2022, before me, the undersigned notary public, Carlos A Tamayo [name of document signer] personally appeared, proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which were MAD ~ [type of identification], to be the person who signed the preceding or attached document in my presence, and who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of the document are truthful and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

[Seal]



[Signature]
[Notary Public Signature]



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When reviewing the Black and Brown Aviation Training Program (BNB ATP) Proposal, Miriam and Mike both stated that they were not in favor, deeming the proposal too complicated, and that they did not see the merit in the proposal. Miriam specifically stated that she did not think it “met the public benefit” (American Rescue Plan Submission Review Committee Meeting - March 3, 2023, 13:12, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpYeAh4qovo&t=4217s>) of the proposal that would have given 300 low-income Brookline residents the opportunity to earn their FAA 107 license (federal drone pilot license) and 10 low-income Brookline residents (such as Carlos Tamayo) the opportunity to earn their FAA commercial pilot license (American Rescue Plan Submission Review Committee Meeting - March 3, 2023, 1:16:15, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpYeAh4qovo&t=4217s>). The aviation industry is a top 3 expanding industry in the US today. BNBC directors had already begun outreach to bring drone delivery to Brookline and solidify Brookline as the hub for the NE US region regarding the drone delivery industry. BNBC directors stated multiple times on public record that they had attempted to meet with the members of the ARPA Review Committee and were ignored. (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 4, 2023, 16:09 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7fyuQeLLjk&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHVoMyD39UCjjQ&index=4, and Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 11, 2023, 57:00, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHVoMyD39UCjjQ&index=4)

They patiently explained to Mike Sandman that the very language used in his questioning of the capability of the BNB ATP (Black N Brown Aviation Training Program) program directors showed Mike's ignorance of the aviation industry (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 4, 2023, 16:03, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7fyuQeLLjk&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHVoMyD39UCjjQ&index=4). Again, BNBC leaders explained several times that the Aviation Training Department of BNB ATP is composed of experts in the field. BNB ATP's chief flight instructor, was a former FAA examiner, with over 55 years of experience. The training department flight instructors have a combined century of experience in the aviation industry. This is a team unlike any seen before, offering a program for low-income Black and Brown residents. A program that would give them resumes more competitive than any other aviation program in the country, and job security, as the aviation industry currently has an extreme shortage of pilots (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 4, 2023, 18:46-20:00 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7fyuQeLLjk&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHVoMyD39UCjjQ&index=4 and Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 11, 2023, 57:26, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHVoMyD39UCjjQ&index=4).



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Miriam said that she gave this proposal her lowest score as an ARPA Review Committee Member (American Rescue Plan Submission Review Committee Meeting - March 3, 2023, 13:21, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpYeAh4qovo&t=4217s>). When Black N Brown Club (BNBC) leadership questioned how Miriam could give this program such a low score when she herself had recommended her own mentee to the program, she denied having any knowledge of this as you can see in the email exchange provided to BNBN from the BNBC Directors.

MA Miriam Aschkenasy <maschkenasy@brooklinema.gov> ☺ ⏪ ⏩ ⋮
 To: ○ Sana Hafeez; ○ Mike Sandman <msandman@brooklinema.gov>
 Cc: ○ Rebecca Ijanusi; ○ BNBC INC; ○ Select Board <SelectBoard@brooklinema.gov>; ○ awciiii@yahoo.com **+2 others** Tue 4/4/2023 5:01 PM

That may be his recall of the events but he did not hear of it from me and I never suggested it to him.

Miriam
 ...

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] [CAUTION] This email originated from a sender outside of the Town of Brookline mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Okay, thanks. Ok, thanks for letting me know. Oh, ok.

⏪ Reply ⏪ Reply all ⏩ Forward

SH Sana Hafeez ☺ ⏪ ⏩ ⋮
 To: ○ Miriam Aschkenasy <maschkenasy@brooklinema.gov>; ○ Mike Sandman <msandman@brooklinema.gov>
 Cc: ○ Rebecca Ijanusi; ○ BNBC INC; ○ Select Board <SelectBoard@brooklinema.gov>; ○ awciiii@yahoo.com **+2 others** Tue 4/4/2023 4:43 PM

Miriam,

During our BNB ATP intake interview, we asked Carlos Tamayo how he heard of our program. He said in an email document that he heard of BNB ATP from his "friend and mentor who is also a select board member, Miriam Aschkenasy" who knows of his "dream of being an airline pilot" but that his family is struggling with finances.

Also, we have a documented record of this statement.

Respectfully,

Sana Hafeez



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COONS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT:

Carlos, a member of the low-income community himself, a minority, a first generation college student, whose family benefited from BNBN's Cash Assistance Program, was a double agent. Unsurprisingly, details began to emerge that numerous other elements of Carlos's life were suspicious. The same boy that sits as a Town Meeting Member on a platform of inclusion and equity for low-income BIPOC Communities, not only attempted to infiltrate the Black N Brown Aviation Training Program, but also voted that the CDICR take no action on Warrant Article 19 (against the creation of a Black and Brown commission). How is it that someone who supposedly advocates for those in section 8 housing, is not even known by his neighbors? How can you advocate for folks that you don't even speak to? All that can be said here has already been said by Zora Neale Hurston: "All my skinfolk ain't kinfolk". There will always be weak links, there will always be those that sell out for their own personal gain. The oppressor has a pathological desire for a lapdog. But, they will never outnumber those that know the power in community solidarity.

Unfortunately, Carlos is just the one in this town's cohort of sell outs. Arthur Conquest is a seasoned member of Brookline Coonery Committee. Arthur Conquest, member of the ARPA Review Committee, was in charge of overseeing the pocket of funding allocated to vulnerable populations (i.e. low-income Black and Brown people). He was the only minority on the ARPA Review Committee. Arthur attended two in person site visits for the Black N Brown Aviation Training Program. This link to a video from the Black N Brown Aviation Training Program Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDZM6Hi6inA&t=46s>, shows Arthur at the site speaking about how historic and monumentally impressive this program is. He said that in his 78 years of life he had never seen so many Black and Brown youth take their first flight (as pilot in command).



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However, when it came time to advocate for proposals that would positively impact the vulnerable community (i.e. the low income Black and Brown community), he was silent when it came to the Aviation Training Program. The same program that he lauded for its historic achievements with his “mouth gaping open” (0:44 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDZM6Hi6inA&t=46s>). BNBC Directors drew attention to Arthur’s silence and showed the Select Board this same video at the Brookline Select Board Meeting on March 28, 2023 (1:21:00, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQNmHmQIHFs&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHVoMyD39UCjjQ&index=7). Arthur is not a representative of the Black community, nor an ally to it. He is one of a few token minorities chosen to fulfill appearances of diversity for Town Governance, and to pacify the masses by saying he is hard at work fighting for us. In reality, Arthur is simply the doorman to the gate that the gatekeepers have put in place.





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MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS:

And yet, there is still more. Arthur Conquest, while suddenly refusing to advocate for the same proposals that left him in awe, had time to participate in back door deals and illegal communications with other ARPA funding applicants. In an email provided to BNBN, Arthur messages Deborah Brown of (Brookline Improvement Coalition, aka BIC) and referenced their multiple phone calls in which they arranged for Arthur to “sweeten the deal” so that BIC, whom was initially not being considered to receive ARPA funding, would receive \$750,000 of ARPA funds. “Legal or not, that specifically is the deal I signed up for.” is the exact phrasing Arthur used.

“I'm not sure about you, but I was born in a household that instilled specific values in me, while raised on the streets in the 'Hood that demanded certain mores were followed that kept us underdogs safe and alive. Let me cut to the chase:

On the day eight months ago that the ARPA Committee was making the final cut(s) for funding, things became a bit confusing and your organization, BIC, was left off the list. You called Chez Conquest and said to me something like "Don't forget BIC." I responded to you not realizing that I hadn't turned my mute bottom off and everyone present could hear the short exchange between us.

Five minutes following that meeting you and I spoke again, by phone, and I made it cement clear that "\$250,000.00" of the "\$750,000.00" being awarded to BIC would go towards Black N Brown contractors. Legal or not, that specifically was the deal I signed up for. Again, that was 8 months ago.

Ade was on that Zoom and overheard, like everyone else, the phone call you made to me during that ARPA meeting. During the conversation I had with him after that meeting I told him about the "\$250,000" I sweetened your BIC ARPA grant with. Since then he and I have had numerous discussions about the Black N Brown contractors and opening the door for them to bid and work on (construction) projects that would open up as a result of the extra "\$250,000" ARPA award BIC had received. Specifically, you mentioned to me about the "roofing contract".

Up until yesterday the discussions circulated just between you, Ade and I, and it only covered bits and pieces, and hit and misses. But then, yesterday, it spilled over to other players -- the four Black contractors who attended the Disadvantaged Business Conference you organized. MY HONOR IS AT STAKE, NOW. I don't play Uncle Ben, Uncle Sam, Uncle Tom for no one. That is not my way under any circumstance. Death before dishonor is my motto, which roots go back to The 'Hood -- as in, the legacy of my Home Boys, which I dearly honor and respect!

STRAIGHTEN THIS NONSENSE OUT AND DO IT REAL DAMN, *ε^%\$#@! QUICK.

Finally, why would you phone Chez Conquest at "9:01" yesterday morning looking for me? "8:58" I was in the front lobby at Brookline Town Hall. I walked in Room 111 first, didn't see a Black face, exited and proceeded to the receptionist sitting at the front desk in the main lobby. I asked her, Can you tell me where the Disadvantage Business Conference is being held? She responded, "I don't know. Try the room on the other side." I followed her instructions and proceeded to the other conference room. The Black man, the assistant receptions, said, "Look at the note posted on the front door." Bernard Greene was two steps behind me and we both walked over to the Train Building, he three steps behind me. Maybe I walked into the (Disadvantage) meeting at "9:05". HOW DARE YOU PHONE ME. It was drilled in me at the earliest age to be responsible.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEING IRRESPONSIBLE.

Truth/Justice,
AWCIII"



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MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS:

BNBN reached out to Miriam, Chair of the ARPA Review Committee on two occasions, bringing this to her attention and asking if this exchange was legal. Miriam Aschkenasy, Chair of the ARPA Review Committee, did not respond to either email and has refused to answer any questions.

To: maschkenasy@brooklinema.gov

Fri 4/28/2023 4:56 PM

Hello Miriam,

According to our research, you are the chair of the ARPA Review Committee, correct? It has come to our attention that this communication was sent by a member of the ARPA Review Committee, Arthur Conquest:

I'm not sure about you, but I was born in a household that instilled specific values in me, while raised on the streets in the 'Hood that demanded certain mores were followed that kept us underdogs safe and alive. Let me cut to the chase:

On the day eight months ago that the ARPA Committee was making the final cut(s) for funding, things became a bit confusing and your organization, BIC, was left off the list. You called Chez Conquest and said to me something like "Don't forget BIC." I responded to you not realizing that I hadn't turned my mute bottom off and everyone present could hear the short exchange between us.

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YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEING IRRESPONSIBLE.

Truth/Justice,
AWCIII

Is this communication exchange lawful? Per your comments during public meeting, this does not align with the guidelines you stated. Please read, and respond. We are seeking context and clarification before our upcoming newsletter. We like to reach out to involved parties and do our due diligence as reporters.

If there is no response, the article will simply reflect that you declined to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
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MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS:

Perhaps, because Miriam was engaged in her own series of illegal communications. On February 17, 2023, Miriam stated that all communications should go to the ARPA Review Committee email: ARPAreview@brooklinema.gov (ARPA Meeting - February 17, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vne3x97PvVo&t=4473s>, Minute 5:03), so that all of the members can review the contents. She specifically asked grantees and members of the public to not lobby individual members of the ARPA Review Committee. Per her own statements, Arthur Conquest violated those terms and more. Miriam herself attempted to lobby on behalf of BRJE to receive \$475,000 during the Brookline Select Board Meeting on April 11, 2023 at 3:53:54 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&t=11901s>). BRJE, prior to 2023, was a 501c4 (political) organization that was extremely involved in political organizing and was not a charitable/nonprofit (501c3) organization. Coincidentally a few months after it became clear that \$43 million became available through ARPA funds, BRJE decided to completely pivot to become a 501c3 organization, which is strictly forbidden from being political in any way. BRJE had been incorporated for 3-4 months during the time of this discussion in the April 11, 2023, Select Board Meeting.

As John VanScoyoc stated in the same Select Board Meeting discussion, BNBC was a similarly new nonprofit organization with no history of political action that could be a conflict of interest, unlike BRJE. He stated BNBC was only awarded \$50K as seed money for administrative expansion (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 11, 2023 at 3:57:03 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&t=11901s>). Miriam repeatedly advocated for BRJE to not only be held to a different standard than BNBC. She doubled down on this when John brought up and another Black lead nonprofit organization, Her Wings First, which also received about only \$53K. Miriam again lobbied that BRJE be awarded nearly 10x the amount of money other organizations in similar status received, despite the concerns that John and Bernard Green addressed at length during the discussion (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 11, 2023 at 3:45:20 and 4:13:14, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&t=11901s>).

While Miriam stated she has no affiliation to BRJE, she also named several board members that she has personal relationships with. It seems that Miriam and Arthur have been having private conversations with members of entities seeking ARPA funds. Both have advocated (on public record) for organizations that have members that they have personal connections with, to receive more funding than other organizations. This is clear cut favoritism, unlawful communications, and a misappropriation of funds.



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MONTHS LONG DELAY IN RELEASING OF ARPA FUNDS:

Additionally, in that same Brookline Select Board Meeting (April 11, 2023, at 3:38:19 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&t=11901s>), John details how Brookline Community Foundation (BCF) has often been the recipient of funds that are then distributed through BCF's various grant programs. BNBC was a recipient of the Safety Net Grant and went through BCF's robust application process to receive 55K in funding. This funding was used to create the BNBC CAP Program which helped over 100 families receive \$500 gift cards to offset negative economic impacts of the pandemic. In contrast, it is now May and ARPA Round 2 has finished. Yet, BNBC has still not received funding from ARPA Round 1. This is due to delays and disorganization on the Town's Part. BNBC has clarified several times that all documentation and paperwork requested from them has been submitted and that they have followed up asking if there is anything else needed on their end to release funds (American Rescue Plan Submission Review Committee Meeting - March 3, 2023, 1:15:48, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpYeAh4qovo&t=4217s>).

INCOMPETENCE OR INTENTIONAL CONFUSION:

The BNBC was the only entity with proposals in round 1 and 2 to create job and affordable childcare, two of the main issues of inequity in Brookline. The affordable child care proposal was shortchanged and only given a fraction of what was asked. Every resident of this town is aware of the rising inflation and costs of childcare. Yet, when childcare explicitly for those that are low income (ie. voucher based) is proposed, the program is expected to have lower quality care. The Affordable Child Care Proposal was given less than half of what is needed for a comparable standard of care to daycares across Brookline. Miriam demanded that the BNBC Affordable Childcare Committee (ACC) remake a new budget totaling less than \$500K, while claiming to be sympathetic to childcare as someone with a professional background in it (American Rescue Plan Submission Review Committee Meeting - March 3, 2023, 13:39, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpYeAh4qovo&t=4217s>). The ACC repeatedly clarified that this was impossible for a multitude of reasons, especially with rising inflation and rising rental costs in Brookline. Low income children, Black and Brown children, deserve the same quality of care as every other child in Brookline.



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Furthermore, we can see other municipalities in Massachusetts supporting similar initiatives. Somerville allocated \$7M to affordable childcare in 2021 (<https://www.somervillema.gov/news/somerville-commits-9m-arpa-funds-childcare-rental-assistance-and-universal-basic-income-pilot>). Somerville has a population of about 80K compared to Brookline's roughly 60K. Why did Brookline Governance decide that our kids only deserved less than a 5th of the money and effort that other municipalities are putting toward affordable childcare?

BNBC also submitted an affordable housing proposal which was initially approved and supported by the ARPA Review Committee. Mike Sandman even stated that BNBC should use the pre-award letter given by the town (for \$1.3M) to get further funding for the project (1:42:25 and 1:44:24, American Rescue Plan Review Committee Meeting - March 24, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhkDpPVsMqg>). Then, the week of the final vote, the ARPA Review Panel decided to not award any money to this proposal because "it was a capital expenditure for greater than 1 million" which was supposedly not allowed by Treasury guidelines (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 11, 2023, 57:45, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFgHVomYD39UCjjQ&index=4). However, upon glancing at the 44 page Treasury Document (<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>), one can easily see that on page 30 it states that a capital expenditure of 1 million is eligible with "Written Justification required but recipients are not required to submit as part of regular reporting to Treasury". Furthermore, the capital expenditure in the Affordable Housing Proposal budget was \$800K, less than the \$1M. There was no justifiable reason to not fund this proposal.

Email screenshot: Thursday 4/6/23 1:41 PM, from: Miriam Aschkenasy and Mike Sandman, ARAP Committee Co-Chairs, to Sana Hafeez and Ade Ijanusi.

23-25, Bosman Construction Grant: This is a capital project over \$1M that triggers special ARPA reporting requirements about cost-effectiveness, as required by US Treasury regulations governing ARPA. We have been advised by Town Counsel that the Town does not believe we can meet those requirements. As such, we cannot move this project forward for funding.

This is a courtesy notification, and the determinations are final regarding grants 23-50 and 23-25. Will also notify the Brookline Community and Adult Education point of contact.

Thank you,

Miriam Aschkenasy and Mike Sandman, ARAP Committee Co-Chairs



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Affordable housing and affordable childcare are mentioned more than 8 times in the treasury document as suggested uses for ARPA funds, including as capital expenditures. The BNBC proposals are targeted toward impacting the most marginalized (i.e. disproportionately impacted) communities from the pandemic. They address the key issues that hinder's this community's socioeconomic mobility (per various disparity reports, including the BCF Disparity Report). Affordable housing? BNBC Submitted a proposal. Direct assistance to households? BNBC started the CAP program that other entities copied but, with less funds given and to fewer residents. Job skills? BNBC proposed a Google Training and an Aviation Training Program proposal. The language in these proposals and use of funds comes directly from the Treasury document, i.e. the federal government. Yet, all with the exception of the affordable childcare proposal, were not funded. Meanwhile, the affordable childcare proposal was shortchanged and given additional contingencies to receive funding.

At the Brookline Select Board Meeting on April 11, 2023 (3:32:43 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg3HhB-YZWk&t=11901s>), Mike listed some of these contingencies. He stated that he suggested that BNBC meet with SCORE. However, this is false. Mike mandated that BNBC must meet with SCORE, an organization that Mike is also member of. This can be seen in multiple emails that were sent to the ACC that they shared with BNBN. Another contingency was for BNBC to provide documentation of their tax exempt status. BNBC directors had stated multiple times that this had been submitted several months ago (Brookline Select Board Meeting - April 25, 2023, 53:30, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IICovS_KW60&list=PL_kXbXA0-Qd40zPshoFqHVoMyD39UCjjQ). This is level of disorganization is unsurprising, as Town Governance has shown itself to be extremely lacking when keeping track of matters that pertain to Black and Brown communities.



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A perfect example of this, and a prevalent topic of discussion lately, is the Harvard Street Project. Local officials have been using this future affordable housing development as proof that Brookline is committed to equity. The reality is that Brookline has routinely failed to meet Stat and Federal equity requirements until threatened with the penalty of a fine. The Harvard Street Project is a last-stitch effort for the town to avoid the fines after years of being noncompliant with the MBTA-CA mandate (<https://www.brooklinema.gov/2044/Multifamily-MBTA>). BNBC directors stated at the Brookline Select Board Meeting on May 9, 2023 (1:33:22 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bcCx_fQdqU), that they expect the newest Select Board Member, Paul Warren, to keep his word and support this project. Sana Hafeez stated that BNBC has met with Maria Morelli, and that they mutually agree that this project should prioritize current low-income residents, and include an affordable rent-to-own option.

Another example is the Town handing out marijuana licenses left and right. But, as soon as implementing an equitable application process to meet the state's promise (that communities disproportionately harmed by the criminalization of cannabis would have the first opportunity to benefit economically) was on the horizon, the Town capped marijuana licenses at 4. Therefore, road-blocking equitable applicants (low income Black and Brown residents) and instead choosing to "be punished by a fine of not more than 50 per cent of the violator's grant or loan value" per section 14A, subsection E. (violation <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/mass-general-laws-c94g-ss-14a>). The Town and current marijuana license holders would rather lose 50% of their profits, in fines, than allow a marginalized Black or Brown person to have a license. When the state creates mandates to address issues of equity, Brookline Town Governance finds loopholes to avoid compliance or outright refuses, even with financial penalties. This is evidence of just how desperate the Town is to stifle and limit the economic growth of Black and Brown communities.



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HISTORIC BROOKLINE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION:

Local Black Leaders, Ty Payen and Ade Ijanusi, and Donelle O'Neal made history by founding the first Juneteenth celebration in Brookline 2 years ago. This Juneteenth Celebration was the first in the State to include a Freedom March and banner. This year the banner will be honoring the original slaves in Brookline's names. They engaged local Black community leaders and created a celebration unlike any other in the state's history. From afro-dance performances, to catered food, and community activities, their Juneteenth celebration permanently shifted the culture of the Town of Brookline for the better. Later, Juneteenth would be adopted as a federal holiday and the Town would create the Juneteenth Planning Committee headed by the same group of Black and Brown community leaders to create the annual, Official Town of Brookline Juneteenth Celebration. The planning committee appointed Yolande Sealey as lead organizer. Next month will be the 3rd year that this event, one of the biggest celebrations in Brookline, will commence with even more to offer than years prior, according to the Juneteenth Planning Committee Administrative Assistant. She closed by stating this year's celebration will be "Bigger and better than ever! And as always, BY the people FOR the people.". Next month will be the 3rd year that this event, one of the biggest celebrations in Brookline, will commence with even more to offer than years prior, according to the Juneteenth Planning Committee Administrative Assistant. She closed by stating this year's celebration will be "Bigger and better than ever! And as always, BY the people FOR the people.".

Yet, for reasons unintelligible to the Official Town of Brookline Juneteenth Planning Committee and the Black and Brown community, a separate, unofficial event is being promoted in competition. This event will take place at the Florida Ruffin Ridley School. The school, formerly known as the Devotion School, was founded by Edward Devotion. Edward Devotion was a slave owner. And in his last will and testament, willed a black man to the Town of Brookline along with cattle and the grounds for the school. He asked that the grounds become a school and be named after himself, Edward Devotion. BNBN made several attempts to ask one of the organizers of the unofficial Juneteenth Celebration, Zahriannah (Zaria) Karakashian-Jones, why she would pick this location to celebrate freedom day. BNBN received no clear answer. The official Town of Brookline Juneteenth Celebration is supported by the overwhelming majority of Black and Brown residents in Brookline. Why was another competing event created, and why on the very ground that honors a slave owner?



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These questions lead BNBN to launch yet another investigation. In the course of our research we discovered that Deborah Brown, along with: Kimberly Richardson, and Zahriyannah (Zaria) Karakashian-Jones have sold out to the white supremacist power structure of Brookline and are actively working to backroad the original Juneteenth organizers to steal it from them. But, in the words of Ade Ijanusi "You cannot steal water from the ocean.". And something is fishy in Brookline.

In December of 2022, these individuals started their discussions regarding "plans" to "get ahead of the chaos early" regarding stealing Juneteenth. Zaria stated "I've got a plan. Do you have time to talk today?". In later email communications from Zaria, she alluded to selecting individuals to replace the legitimate, original organizers by stating they (the names underlined above), must "officially put together a "group" of cohorts interested in planning the celebration".

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 11:57 AM Kimberley Richardson <kimstwins2002@msn.com> wrote:

Please let me know how the plan goes. I think it's important to get started ASAP in order to have a meaningful celebration. We also need to get ahead of the chaos early.

Kimberley

From: DEBORAH BROWN <deborah.brown1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Zahriyannah Karakashian-Jones <zahriyannah@gmail.com>
Cc: Kimberley Richardson <kimstwins2002@msn.com>
Subject: Re: Juneteenth

617-877-6101

On 12/16/2022 10:14 AM Zahriyannah Karakashian-Jones <zahriyannah@gmail.com> wrote:
17-877-6101

Send me your ## I don't think I have it

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 11:08 AM DEBORAH BROWN <deborah.brown1@comcast.net> wrote:

Let's talk now.

On 12/16/2022 9:53 AM Zahriyannah Karakashian-Jones <zahriyannah@gmail.com> wrote:

I've got a plan. Do you have time to talk today?

On Fri, Dec 16, 2022 at 10:44 AM Deborah Brown <deborah.brown1@comcast.net> wrote:

We need discuss a plan.

Sent from my iPhone



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HISTORIC BROOKLINE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION:

On Monday, December 19, 2022 at 12:33:16 PM EST, Zahriannah Karakashian-Jones <zahriannah@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello All,

I apologize for this late email but I had to deal with a family emergency over the weekend. As I discussed with Deborah on the phone this past Friday, Adena and I have already begun to plan out the next steps for the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration. We can't allow for people to drag their feet, mishandle funds or continue to allow the celebration to be presented in a less-than-stellar manner. For these reasons, we have created a proposal which we have attached to this email for our vision of the event. The permits for this event are already in place and we will be meeting with vendors including Public Works over the next few weeks to discuss the equipment needed. I would like to hold a meeting the week of January 9th or January 16th to officially put together a "group" of cohorts interested in planning the celebration and dividing up areas of interest. **If you have anyone that you think would be interested PLEASE SEND ME THEIR EMAIL ASAP so that I can send them the meeting poll.** Once we have a good number of people I will send over a poll regarding days/times for the January meeting.

Happy Holidays!

Zahriannah

Again, Zaria doubles down on this in the same thread, stating “-there is no official Juneteenth committee. It is a group of individuals, who have self-appointed themselves to a committee that is not officially recognized.”, despite the fact that the Town of Brookline Official Juneteenth Planning Committee was already recognized officially by Lloyd, Chief Diversity Officer of the ODCIR.

The ODCIR is the governmental body responsible for the Town of Brookline Juneteenth Celebration Budget. Additionally, Zaria suggests that this same body, Lloyd and the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations, misappropriated funds stating “As I discussed with Deborah on the phone this past Friday, Adena and I have already begun to plan out the next steps for the 2023 Juneteenth Celebration. We can't allow for people to drag their feet, mishandle funds or...”.



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HISTORIC BROOKLINE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION:

On Mon, Dec 19, 2022 at 1:53 PM Arthur Conquest <awciii@yahoo.com> wrote:

I have very serious concerns about the proposal you are circulating. There is an official Town of Brookline Juneteenth Celebration Committee, made up of between 12-15 people, including personnel from Town Government -- e.g. Public Works, Highway Department, Public Safety, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Office of the Select Board, and seven individuals from Village Way and High Street.

The aforementioned group met in July, maybe, and left that meeting with plans to reconvene in December. Who would be the chair or designated individual to call the (planning) meeting is in question, but someone, who shall remain anonymous did, and it has opened an ugly can of worms (about power and control). Following a number of emails and phone calls the proposed meeting was cancelled. But for some odd reason the cancelled meeting was rescheduled. Now certain individuals have resigned from the official committee and things are a mess. And how they'll get straightened out is a "\$64,000" question.

So I recommend that you just hold your horses and stay tuned; it's only December and you still have time to plan if and when things officially will come together. (They have to following the success of last year's event.) Let the confusion and power struggle iron themselves out before you try and enter the ring -- e.g. the O-F-F-I-C-I-A-L Town of Brookline Juneteenth Celebration Committee. There doesn't need to be anymore confusion (and dissention) than there already is.

Truth/Justice,
AWCIII

From: Zahriyannah Karakashian-Jones <zahriyannah@gmail.com>

To: Arthur Conquest <awciii@yahoo.com>

Cc: Adena Walker <adenagwalker@gmail.com>; Deborah Brown <deborah.brown1@comcast.net>; Kimberley Richardson <kimstwins2002@msn.com>

Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 at 02:16:06 PM EST

Subject: Re: Juneteenth

Arthur,

According to numerous representatives from the town government, there is no official Juneteenth committee. It is a group of individuals, who have self-appointed themselves to a committee that is not officially recognized.

We are prepared to carry out our proposal as noted in previous email correspondence between Deborah and other individuals. It is perfectly fine if there's more than one event during next year celebrations. I think we have learned over the past two years that Juneteenth gonna be much more than what it has been portrayed as in the town of Brookline.



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Deborah Brown was the individual that spearheaded the effort to change the name of the Edward Devotion School to The Florida Riddley School. Deborah ensured that the institution, made per the last will and testament of the slave owner Edward Devotion, got a facelift that erased its violent and murderous history. She then collected an assortment of low level coons to begin her effort to cover the true history with a lie. A lie that these are grounds of joyous celebration. I'm sure that the family of Devotion thoroughly enjoys the potential to have black people unknowingly celebrate their freedom on the lands of a man that enslaved them. I'm sure Devotion smiles in his grave at the notion that his final act, the willing of land and a black man to the Town, would be safe from being erased from history. This group's actions would solidify that the land of Edward Devotion would be the grounds for the Town's official Juneteenth celebration. This insidious, sick, and twisted plot is just one of many that have transpired and continue to lurk under the surface.

Furthermore, Zaria is also the Manager of Program and Partnerships for Brookline Community Foundation (BCF) whom founders of Juneteenth originally sought donations to sponsor the first Brookline Juneteenth celebration 2021. Furthermore, Zaria publicly lambasted these same leaders on social media for assertively standing up for the rights of low-income Black and Brown residents to local governance. Is it not a conflict of interest for the same person that is actively trying to steal the work of local low-income Black and Brown leaders to review their grant applications?

Deborah Brown, Kimberly Richardson, and Zaria Karakashian-Jones are just one gaggle of coons in Brookline. They have been given the assignment to steal Juneteenth from the low-income Black and Brown residents that put in the work to start it. This day has always been a celebration of black people's freedom and the independence of the black community. Anything that compromises these values is fraudulent. This **unofficial** Juneteenth celebration, on the lands of a slave owner, is nothing more than a weak attempt to steal a spark from the raging fire that fuel's the resilience and self reliance of the Black and Brown community.



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ENEMIES WITHIN

COONS OF BROOKLINE ROUNDUP:

While this attempt may be feeble, it will not be forgotten. We must know who is secretly working against us to know who is working with us. Those that fight for equality and justice can be found in any community. The same way that those fighting against Black and Brown people can also be found in our own communities. BNBN asks the residents of Brookline to keep a vigilant eye and do their own research on the individuals listed below. Associations with those working against the will of the people will be remembered by the people. Those aligning justice and those aligning with injustice will both be remembered by history. What is important is not being remembered, but what you are remembered for.

1. Carlos Tamayo
2. Deborah Brown
3. Zahriyannah (Zaria) Karakashian-Jones
4. Kimberley Richardson
5. Arthur Conquest

