



**SOUTH END FORUM**  
Common Voice of South End Neighborhood and Business Associations

## ***Recover Boston***

Executive Summary

### ***Ending the open-air drug market, increasing treatment options, and reducing homelessness in Boston.***

Newmarket and the surrounding neighborhoods have become increasingly unsafe due to crime, violence, and human trafficking. People with addiction and mental health issues find themselves on the street with inadequate housing or treatment options available.

It's time for a comprehensive and temporary program that can be quickly implemented to reduce homelessness, and put those with substance abuse issues on a realistic path to recovery until long-term proposals can be realized.

#### **Recover Boston**

Establish a temporary **Recovery Campus at Widett Circle**. A portion of this currently unutilized 24-acre publicly owned site in Boston should be home to mental health and drug detox services, workforce development training, and housing options that are safe, stable, and affordable.

It is critical to pair the transition of services to Widett Circle with the enforcement of public safety measures in the surrounding community.

#### **Pathways to Recovery**

House 200+ people in temporary pallet-style housing units which can be quickly constructed before winter. Establish 5 zones with 30-50 pallet houses each. Each zone will have clear ground rules and support individuals in varying stages of recovery. The campus will include medical, mental health, and addiction recovery facilities as well as life skills training and pathways to housing and jobs.

#### **Working Together**

To establish and implement a successful Recovery Campus, leadership, support and coordination will be needed from: Mayor Wu and the City of Boston, Governor Healey and the Commonwealth, Boston City Council, MBTA, federal, state, and city financial resources, private funders, businesses and local residents.

A non-profit organization should be established with a strong leader and board of directors to manage the campus. The Board should include members from the City, State, Community, public health and enforcement experts.

**Bringing all these resources together, we can quickly create temporary housing by winter for people on the street and begin to fully address the crisis at Mass and Cass.**