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## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT 2384CV02779

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONALIST SOCIAL CLUB (a/k/a NSC-131), CHRISTOPHER HOOD, and LIAM MCNEIL,

Defendants.

## **DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS**

The present complaint centers upon alleged violations of the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act, G.L. Ch. 12 §11H. This statutory section contains its own specific venue requirement that provides in relevant part:

Said civil action shall be brought in the name of the commonwealth and shall be instituted either in the superior court for the county in which the conduct complained of occurred or in the superior court for the county in which the person whose conduct complained of resides or has his principal place of business. (Emphasis supplied).

G.L. Ch. 12 §11H.

The complaint in ¶12 alleges that Defendant Hood resides in Newburyport, located in Essex County. The complaint in ¶13 alleges that Defendant McNeil resides in Waltham, located in Middlesex County.¹ The alleged residences of the Defendants therefore are insufficient for bringing a claim under the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act in Suffolk County in accordance with the statute.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The complaint contains no allegation for the principal place of business for Defendant NSC.

Count One of the complaint claiming violations of the Civil Rights Act alleges in ¶157 an alleged incident in Cambridge, Middlesex County; in ¶158 an alleged incident in Fall River, Bristol County; in ¶159 an alleged incident in Taunton, Bristol County; and in ¶160 an alleged incident in Marlborough, Middlesex County. None of these incidents are properly before the Superior Court of Suffolk County under the plain language of the statute.

The only conduct alleged in Count One that could even possibly satisfy the statute's venue requirements is the incident alleged to have occurred at the Fairfield Street bridge in Suffolk County. That incident has significant pleading problems that will be discussed below. In any event there is nothing in the statute – which expressly requires that actions brought under \$11H of the Civil Rights Act *shall be instituted* in the County in which the conduct complained of occurred – that would allow the Attorney General to aggregate claims from other Counties on the basis of different claims alleged to have occurred in this County.

It is also worth noting that the proper remedy for the Attorney General to comply with the statute, to wit, bringing its Civil Rights statute claims in the County in which the conduct is alleged to have occurred, but leaving behind its other various claims in this matter based upon the same conduct, would constitute impermissible claim splitting. The only proper means of compliance with the statute would be for the Attorney General to either bring the entirety of her claims in the proper respective counties or to forgo the Civil Rights Act claims and to proceed in Suffolk solely on the basis of its claims for public nuisance, trespass, and the like.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It is also worth noting that Count Two alleging violations of the public accommodations law G.L. ch. 272 § 98 exclusively involves allegations of conduct in Fall River, Bristol County; Taunton, Bristol County; Kingston, Plymouth County; and Woburn and Marlborough in Middlesex County, with no allegation of any conduct in Suffolk County. The same is true of Count Four alleging trespass.

## THE COMPLAINT FAILS TO STATE A CLAIM UPON WHICH RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT VIOLATION ALLEGED IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

Section G.L. 12 §11H requires interference by

[T]hreats, intimidation or coercion, or attempt to interfere by threats, intimidation or coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment by any other person or persons of rights secured by the constitution or laws of the United States, or of rights secured by the constitution or laws of the commonwealth by threats, intimidation, or coercion ... with the exercise or enjoyment of persons of rights secured by the Constitution of the United States or of rights of the Constitution of the Massachusetts ... "

The entirety of the pleading regarding the Fairfield Street Bridge incident alleges as follows:

- ¶143 NSC members hung a banner off the Fairfield Street Bridge;
- ¶144 NSC members "haphazardly and insecurely affixed" white sheets with slogans to the railings;
- ¶145 NSC members congregating on the bridge left only enough room for pedestrians to pass by in a single file;
- ¶148 A club member performed a "Nazi salute" at a pedestrian, and the pedestrian in-turn grabbed the club's banner "attempting to pull it loose from the railing."
- ¶149 Three NSC members began shouting at the pedestrian and surrounded her; and,
- ¶150 One of the NSC members struck that pedestrian in the arm.

There is nothing contained within it that can remotely be construed as "interference with the exercise" of anyone's rights under the Constitution or laws of the United States or Massachusetts – unless members of the public are deemed to have the right to seize and / or destroy the property of those whose political message they disagree with AND any attempt by those whose property is being seized or destroyed to terminate such conduct is somehow an interference with the rights of the public.

Apparently, the message and purpose of the Defendant NSC is so objectionable to the political sentiments of the Attorney General that its members' rights to free speech and freedom of assembly under the First Amendment of the US Constitution and Article XIX of the Massachusetts Constitution, that those who would object to such speech and assembly may with impunity seize or destroy the property of those expressing such objectionable content. Any attempt to prevent or terminate such conduct is, under the Attorney General's dispensation, a civil rights violation of those engaged in the censorious, and indeed criminal act of seizing or destroying property.

It is also worth noting that none of the allegations regarding the Fairfield Street Bridge are against the named Defendants Christopher Hood and Liam McNeil. There is, in fact, no mention of them being present at any time. Moreover, none of the other acts recited with regard to the Fairfield Street Bridge can be legally construed as a violation of the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act such as hanging a banner off a bridge, performing a "Nazi salute", or congregating on a public sidewalk of a bridge – especially where the passage of the public is not totally and purposefully obstructed.

It is for the foregoing reasons that the Attorney General's Civil Rights Claim against the Defendants:

- Does not satisfy the venue requirements in accordance with §11H of the Massachusetts
   Civil Rights Act because the action is not brought where the Defendants reside nor where
   the alleged violations of the Act occurred; and
- The Complaint fails to meet the pleading requirements as set forth in <u>Iannacchino v. Ford</u>
   <u>Motor Co.</u>, 451 Mass. 623, 636 (2008).

## **OVERBREADTH**

The application by the Attorney General of the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act in this matter is a classic case of applied overbreadth. A statute is overbroad if, in addition to restricting activities which may be constitutionally prohibited, it also encompasses within its coverage speech or conduct which is protected by the guarantees of free speech or association. Thornhill v. Alabama, 310 U.S. 88 (1940).

The overbreadth doctrine has two primary concerns: 1) the chilling effect of limiting protected speech, See, e.g., Arnett v. Kennedy, 461 U.S. 134 (1974), and 2) selective enforcement by authorities, i.e., enforcement that discriminates against certain points of view.

Overbreadth can be easily determined when the prohibitions in a statute can be readily applied to a substantial number of other situations where the expression would be clearly constitutional. See Sullivan & Gunther, "Cases and Materials on Constitutional Law" at p. 1346 (14th ed. 2001).

The problem of overbreadth in this matter, as applied to the defendants, is readily illustrated by the like or similar examples of public protest assemblies attached to this Motion. These attached examples are just a few of the many examples where protesters in fact totally and purposefully blocked access of the public in support of political causes the Attorney General approves of including "climate change" protests, and "Palestine" protests. These examples represent only a fraction of the many incidents of deliberate and forcible obstruction of traffic including ambulances and fire engines that have occurred in the Boston metropolitan area. None of them have been the subject of a Civil Rights action by the Attorney General and none of them ever will because the purpose and content of these acts, even when criminal, meets with her approval.

## i. PROTEST GROUP AGAINST "CLIMATE CHANGE"

On September 21, 2022 15 "climate change activists" were arrested for blocking the onramp to Leverett Circle to 93 in Boston. According to the article attached as Exhibit 1, this act of
protest was organized by a group called "Extinction Rebellion". The blockade occurred during
rush hour and was intended to "disrupt business as usual in the City of Boston." Of those
arrested, five individuals were charged with felony counts of conspiracy to commit a crime. (See
Exhibit 1 – Boston.com news article "15 climate change protesters arrested around Boston
during demonstration aimed at disrupting commute").

A year later on September 21, 2023, the same organization "Extinction Rebellion" organized another protest in which "more than 35 activists shut down traffic in the Financial district early on Thursday, with groups marching in the street and creating traffic gridlock near South Station". (See Exhibit 2 – Boston.com news article "Climate activists arrested after disrupting rush hour traffic in downtown Boston").

During a separate incident on June 15, 2023, eight members of the same "Extinction Rebellion" group were arrested after disrupting Massachusetts Senate proceedings. According to the article attached as Exhibit 3, the protesters loudly chanted while the Senate was in session. After being admonished by the Senate President Pro Tempore, the protesters "turned around to display 'stop passing gas' written on their naked butts". (See Exhibit 3 – Masslive.com news article "Climate activists in thongs moon lawmakers at Mass. State House during meeting").

The above three described incidents – and there are others not mentioned in this motion – were all organized by the same group "Extinction Rebellion"; all involved unlawful conduct resulting in arrests, including felony charges of conspiracy to commit a crime; and all resulted in

significant disruptions of thousands of motorists (including first responders like ambulance drivers, fire engines, and police), or government operations.

The complained of conduct of the Defendants during the Fairfield Street Bridge incident, which allegedly "obstructed pedestrian access to the bridge" when they were "forced to walk a single file" is incomparable to the above-described incidents organized by Extinction Rebellion.

## ii. PRO-PALESTINE GROUP SHUTS DOWN MASS. AVE. BRIDGE

On November 16, 2023 activists from the group "IfNotNow" blocked traffic "for about two hours" on Massachusetts Ave. in Boston in support of a cease fire in the Israel / Palestine conflict. According to the article attached as Exhibit 4, an altercation occurred between a "Jewish Israeli Boston University student" and the group of protesters. During this confrontation "police pulled him away". No arrests were made — nor was there any action undertaken by the Attorney General — as a result of this traffic disruption and physical confrontation between a Jewish man and the pro-Palestinian protesters. (See Exhibit 4 — CBSnews.com news article "Boston University Bridge blocked by protesters calling for cease-fire in Israel-Hamas war").

The interpretation and application of the statute urged by the Attorney General invites selective enforcement based on the political leanings of the government. When a government tries to regulate protected political speech on account of the speech's contents, strict scrutiny applies and the government bears the burden of showing that its regulation is necessary to serve a compelling state interest and that it is narrowly drawn to achieve that end. Widmar v. Vincent, 454 U.S. 263 (1981). Strict scrutiny of protected speech reflects the view, implicit in the First Amendment (and Article XIX of the MA Constitution) that it is not the government's place to suppress ideas because they are "wrong." Rather, as Justice Holmes said in Abrams v. U.S., 250

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U.S. 616 (1919) there should be a "free trade in ideas" and truth and merit will become accepted through "the competition of the market."

Moreover, consistent with the traditionally open character of public streets and sidewalks, the government's ability to restrict speech in such locations is very limited. McCullen v. Coakley, 573 U.S. 464 (2014). Public ways and sidewalks occupy a special position in terms of First Amendment protection because of their historic role as sites for discussion and debate. Id.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, Defendants request that this Court:

- 1) GRANT the Defendants' Motion to Dismiss; and,
- 2) Order such further relief that is just and fair.

Respectfully Submitted,

1st William E. Gens

Defendants Christopher Hood and NSC, By their Attorney

DATED: February 20, 2024

William E. Gens, BBO# 556595 Gens & Stanton, P.C. 12 Ericsson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02122 BillGens@genslawoffices.com (617) 936-4591

Defendant Liam McNeil, By his Attorney.

DATED: February 20, 2024

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day a true copy of the above document was served upon the Office of the Attorney General by EMAIL on:

DATE: 02/20/2024 WEG

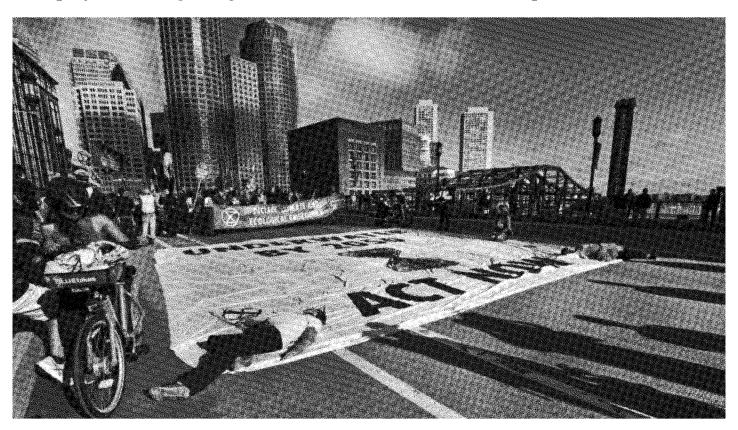
# EXHIBIT

1

LOCAL NEWS

# 15 climate change protesters arrested around Boston during demonstration aimed at disrupting commute

"Locations were selected to clog the Central Artery of Boston to prevent employees from getting into the financial district and Seaport."



Demonstrators laid down on the Evelyn Moakley Bridge. David L. Ryan / The Boston Globe

By Dialynn Dwyer

updated on September 21, 2022











State and Boston police arrested 15 climate change activists Wednesday who participated in a protest against fossil fuels, blocking and disrupting traffic during the morning commute.

State police arrested five protesters on the on-ramp from Leverett Circle to Interstate 93 in Boston. Boston police arrested 10 individuals in connection with the protest at

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"multiple locations" downtown, according to a department spokesperson.

The group behind the protests, Extinction Rebellion Boston, called on demonstrators to "meet rush hour commuters to make some noise and demand 'Stop the Fossil Fuel Industry, Now!'"

In a press release, the group said more than 40 participants planned to engage in "mass civil disobedience to disrupt business as usual in the City of Boston," with demonstrators planning to blockade several of the city's major traffic routes in order to raise awareness about the climate crisis and to put pressure on officials to ban new fossil fuel infrastructure.

## ADVERTISEMENT:

The group said it planned specifically to target four sites across the city between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. in a coordinated manner, including the I-90 off-ramp at the the intersection of Kneeland Street and Atlantic Avenue and the Seaport Boulevard bridge.

"Locations were selected to clog the Central Artery of Boston to prevent employees from getting into the financial district and Seaport," the group said.



The group said protesters were going to lock themselves to large pink, metal barrels and read messages of their demands.

The group also said other demonstrators would meet at Post Office Square at 7 a.m. and then march through Downtown Boston to the Seaport bridge, joining more than 20 protesters already blocking traffic.

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At about 8:30 a.m., police warned that traffic at Seaport Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue was being diverted because of demonstrators blocking one side of the bridge.

"Please seek an alternate route," Boston police said.

By 10 a.m., police said the detour had been cleared.

Traffic Advisory: The traffic detour at Seaport Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue has been cleared

— Boston Police Dept. (@bostonpolice) September 21, 2022

State police said the five individuals arrested by troopers were in the middle of the roadway of the Leverett Circle Connector. The protesters — 55-year-old Joseph Rogers of Lyndeborough, New Hampshire; 64-year-old Grant Rockett of Jamaica Plain; 54-year-old Mark Dugan of Newton; 48-year-old Jennifer Smith of Watertown; and 67-year-old Mary Hansen of Jamaica Plain — were all charged with trespassing on state property, disorderly conduct, and conspiracy to commit a crime.

ADVERTISEMENT:

State police said two vehicles parked by the protesters to block travel lanes were seized. One of the vehicles was carrying four steel drum barrels; three were hooked up with a device known as a "sleeping dragon," police said, which is used by protesters to

secure themselves together, their arms fed through the tubes and linked together inside the barrel.

"Generally, a protester's hands are then locked to the hands of those next to them inside the barrels, to form a roadblock consisting of a connected series of protestors and barrels," police said.

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Police said the seizure of the "sleeping dragons" prevented the protesters at Leverett Circle from being able to chain themselves together in the intersection.

"Within minutes after Troopers cleared the trespassers and prevented them from blocking the road, at least two ambulances drove through the area that would have otherwise been gridlocked, underscoring the importance of not allowing protestors to block roadways," police said.

Details about the protesters arrested by Boston police were not immediately available Wednesday afternoon.

Alex Chambers, a spokesperson for Extinction Rebellion Boston, said in a statement that the group was blocking roads and disrupting traffic Wednesday morning "out of desperation."

## ADVERTISEMENT:

"No other form of protest has had an effect on getting the state to take the climate emergency seriously," Chambers said. "It is insanity that the state is still permitting new fossil fuel infrastructure in the midst of a climate emergency. We have three years to peak global carbon emissions. After that, we need a rapid transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

"We are appealing to the governor and the Massachusetts State Legislature," Chambers continued. "Do the right thing. Commit to a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure."

STOP the fossil fuel industry now! pic.twitter.com/zqwOBjnpR8

— Extinction Rebellion Boston 🐞 📓 💥 (@XRBoston) September 21, 2022

People with the Extinction Rebellion walk down Congress St demanding and end to fossil fuels. @boston25 pic.twitter.com/BkmiERjfTf

— Kelly Sullivan (@ksullivannews) September 21, 2022

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Rebels have placed a 40-foot banner on the Seaport Ave Bridge. #ActNow #ClimateEmergency pic.twitter.com/CS6H0ITIBx

— Extinction Rebellion Boston 🗰 🖫 🎇 (@XRBoston) September 21, 2022

On Facebook, protest organizers wrote about Wednesday's traffic disruptions: "We're sorry. This is an emergency and we need your attention."

"Our demand today is simple: Massachusetts must stop installing new fossil fuel infrastructure," the group said. "New Natural gas plants (e.g. Peabody Peaker), pipelines, and hookups hurt frontline communities. They cost the taxpayer, as the infrastructure is designed to last many decades, well beyond the mandatory carbon zero timeline of 2050."

The group said it was turning toward "nonviolent disruptive action" after trying petitions, letters to Congress, and other venues of raising their concerns.

"We understand that we have interrupted your life today, and we know that your life is important," they wrote. "That is why we are fighting to protect it, and all lives, before we run out of time."

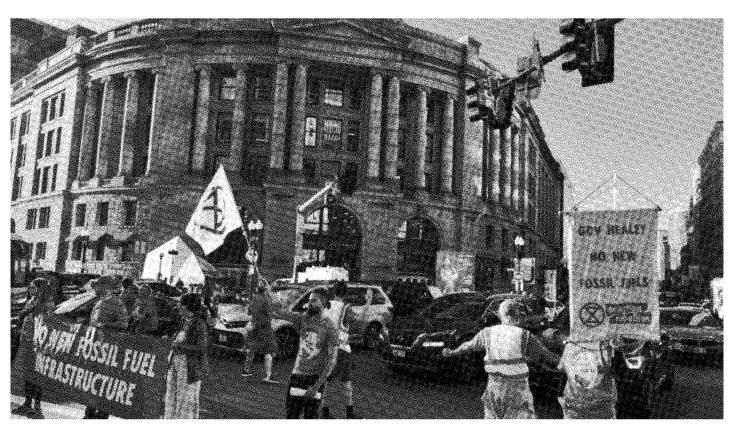
# EXHIBIT

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**LOCAL NEWS** 

## Climate activists arrested after disrupting rush hour traffic in downtown Boston

The Extinction Rebellion members called for a ban on new fossil fuel infrastructure in Massachusetts.



Climate activists block traffic at South Station in downtown Boston on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023. *Kevin Martin/Boston Globe Staff* 

By **Abby Patkin** September 21, 2023



Several **climate change** activists were arrested after disrupting rush hour traffic in downtown Boston Thursday morning as part of a push to ban new fossil fuel infrastructure.

The Boston chapter of **Extinction Rebellion** said more than 35 activists shut down traffic in the Financial District early on Thursday, with groups marching in the street and creating traffic gridlock near South Station.

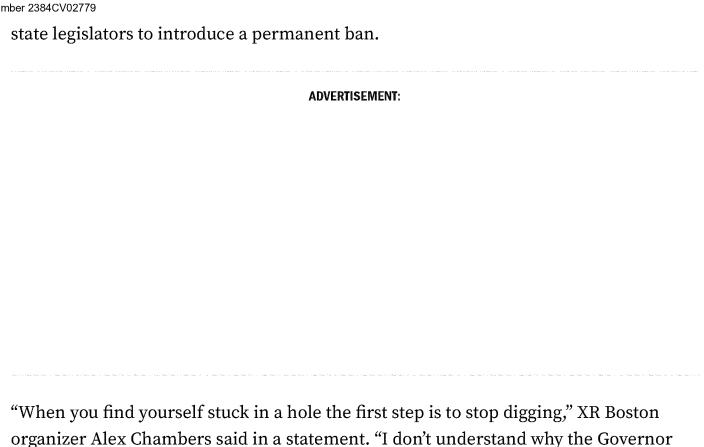
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The same group was behind a planned demonstration that recently prompted the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to **close early** on Sept. 7.

XR Boston explained in a **press release** that it is calling on Gov. Maura Healey to commit to a policy opposing new fossil fuel infrastructure in Massachusetts and to work with

3 of 10 2/20/2024, 9:25 PM



On **social media**, Boston police acknowledged traffic impacts near South Station and asked drivers to seek an alternate route.

emergency. As a young person, my entire future is riding on our government taking

and her Climate Chief are not taking the first step to dealing with the climate

action this decade, and not waiting until 2050."

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A Boston Police Department spokesperson confirmed several people were arrested in connection with the protest, telling Boston.com shortly after 8:30 a.m. that traffic was flowing.

XR Boston wrote an **open letter** to drivers impacted by Thursday's demonstrations, offering an apology and an explanation.

"We gave you a bad morning. We made you late to work, or to a dentist appointment, or to an interview. Whatever you needed to do this morning, whatever you got up early for, we got in your way," XR Boston wrote. "We all had a difficult day today, because we think it will make a better tomorrow."

The organization cited some tangible effects of climate change, including **disastrous flooding** in Vermont and **lethal heat** in Phoenix over the summer. XR Boston said it has also brought its concerns directly to lawmakers, but asserted that disruptive protests are a more effective way of getting their message across.

**ADVERTISEMENT:** 

"We don't enjoy spending our mornings in front of cars, but we're blocking these roads because it's proven to be the best way to actually change how our society approaches this disaster," XR Boston said.

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# EXHIBIT

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Docket Number 2384CV02779



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## **NEWS**

## Climate activists in thongs moon lawmakers at Mass. State House during meeting

Published: Jun. 15, 2023, 4:20 p.m.



The Massachusetts State House on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022. Alison Kuznitz/MassLive



## By Irene Rotondo | IRotondo@masslive.com

Lawmakers at the <u>Massachusetts State House</u> were given a literal new perspective into climate change issues on Thursday afternoon after activists in thongs exposed their bare buttocks from the chamber's public gallery while the State Senate Minority Leader was speaking on the floor, according to multiple reports.

Eight people from the <u>Extinction Rebellion</u> group, a United Kingdom-based environmentalist movement <u>according to the group's site</u>, began shouting from the fourth floor gallery just after 1 p.m. on June 15, as Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr was speaking on a \$590 million tax relief bill, the <u>State House News Service</u> reported.

• Read more: One dead after motorcycle crash in Ludlow, DA says

Claim র্রিডেরা ঐপ্পর্যথেশী 10 পিরিছ Mhoon lawmakers at Mass. State House duri... Superior Court - Suffolk Docket Number 2384CV02779

"We are going to be mooning you... You can look away if you wish," one of the people in the gallery said around 1:05 p.m., the outlet said, as Senate President Pro Tempore William Brownsberger banged the gavel amidst the protestors' chants.

Then, the protestors — four men and four women, police said — in the balcony turned around to display "stop passing gas" written on their naked butts, the outlet said, with chants of "You're a senator, not an ass, why are you still passing gas?" and "Butts out for climate," filling the air.

This ensued for about five minutes, the outlet reported, before Brownsberger declared a recess and the lawmakers went into the lobby around 1:10 p.m. Brownsberger then went up to the fourth floor to talk with the gallery protestors, the outlet said, but wasn't able to convince them to leave the gallery.

• **Read more:** Person trapped in serious crash on Route 2 after trucks collide; Road closed both ways

At around 1:50 p.m., Senate President Karen Spilka brought the session back in order, and told the protesters they could stay in the gallery with police at their side to observe as long as they did so "without disruption," the outlet reported.

The activists continued to chant, the outlet said, prompting Spilka to instruct Senate court officers to "clear and close the gallery," the outlet said.

As the activists were led out of the gallery chanting "no new fossil fuels," the outlet reported they were arrested by State Police. State Police confirmed eight individuals were placed under arrest from the incident.

• **Read more:** <u>Savoy man suspected of stabbing ex-girlfriend found dead, Mass. State Police say</u>

The session had fully resumed with senators in the chamber by 2:25 p.m., the outlet said, with more discussion on the tax relief bill.

The outlet reported Massachusetts currently has "an assortment of laws in place requiring the state to gradually move away from fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions."

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# EXHIBIT

4

**BOSTON** News Weather Sports Video WBZ Features

**LOCAL NEWS** 

Docket Number 2384CV02779

## Boston University Bridge blocked by protesters calling for cease-fire in Israel-Hamas war



By **Anna Meiler** Updated on: November 16, 2023 / 12:31 PM EST / CBS Boston

BOSTON - Dozens of protesters blocked traffic for about two hours Thursday morning on the Boston University Bridge at Commonwealth Avenue.

The group calls itself "IfNotNow" and says they're "a movement of American Jews" demanding that Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren "support an immediate ceasefire" in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Betofileh3/29/2024BiqidgePMocked by protesters calling for cease-fire in ... Superior Court - Suffolk Docket Number 2384CV02779

"We need our elected officials, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, and other electeds to speak out and say that this cannot continue, that we need safety and liberation for Palestinians," IfNotNow member Emma Rose Borzekowski said. "So far she has not heard our call. As my senator, I am begging her to call for a cease-fire, to do everything she can to stop ceaseless killing of thousands of people."

Thursday afternoon, Warren posted on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. She did not use the phrase "cease-fire," but called for a stop to bombings in Gaza.

The crisis in Gaza is growing. Israeli airstrikes are destroying residential buildings and public infrastructure. Restrictions on humanitarian aid make life even harder. Stop the bombing NOW.

– Elizabeth Warren (@SenWarren) November 16, 2023

Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police detoured traffic around the bridge during the protest. Cambridge Police did the same on the Memorial Drive side of the bridge. The protesters moved off the road around 10 a.m.

There was tension at one point. A Jewish Israeli Boston University student was out for a run when he came across the protest. He got into an altercation with the group and as he confronted protesters, police pulled him away.

The student, who only identified himself as Raviv, said "there's no way to simply cease fire."

"Coming up and blocking the bridge and calling for a cease-fire, that just breaks my heart," he told reporters. "The bad guys are not the Palestinians or Gaza, they're Hamas. We should be fighting them together. The entire world should stand behind Israel right now and the Palestinians and the Palestinians in Gaza, they are hurting just as much as we are because of Hamas."

2 of 5

"Calling for a cease-fire means you absolutely have no idea what would happen if Israel would just lay its arms down," Raviv said.

Protestors blocked traffic on Commonwealth Avenue at the Boston University bridge Thursday morning.

CBS BOSTON

According to CBS News, Israel is considering a <u>proposal</u> that would have Hamas release some of the hostages the Palestinian militant group is holding in the Gaza Strip in exchange for a three-to-five-day cease-fire in the war.

About 240 hostages were taken when Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7.

## **More from CBS News**

Group holds weekly rally in Boston, calling for ceasefire in Gaza

Keller: Who is John Deaton, the man running against Elizabeth Warren?



Man hit by MBTA bus in Boston has life-threatening injuries

