



**Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc.**  
**Burger King Vs Boston Prep Media Sheet/FAQ**

**Brief Summary**

This opposition effort is led by **H.E.R.E. for Justice Coalition Hyde Park**: a neighborhood organization in Hyde Park , MA.

**H.E.R.E. for Justice** is a group of concerned Hyde Park residents, neighborhood groups, local nonprofits and community agencies. The vision and goal statements committed to raise awareness of health and economic disparities, and to act as advocates championing racial justice and promote authentic community engagement with the City of Boston, developers, and businesses in our community.

Their efforts began in **Fall 2019** when it became clear to the members of the broader Hyde Park community and the newly-built **Boston Preparatory Charter School** located at **885 River St, Hyde Park 02136**, that a newer 'Fast Food restaurant' was being built at Riverwood plaza by developer Todd Finard (Finard Properties) directly across the street from the aforementioned school. ([See walkthrough video from Boston Prep to Burger King 2.5 min walk.](#))

**Afrimerican Culture Initiative Inc. (Afrimericanone)** started an independent campaign against **Burger King** opening at **892 River St., Hyde Park** because our Founder has two children that attend the 'at-risk' school. We started an [online petition](#) in February 2020 that culminated into our shocking [School Proximity to Fast Food Analysis](#). We have joined forces with **H.E.R.E. for Justice** & increasing media awareness with [Boston.com interview](#).

Next Injunction court hearing is **July 23rd, 2020**. A list of key dates in our joint opposition, **H.E.R.E. for Justice** & **Afrimericanone** engaged in the following activities:

<b>February 6, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community meeting with The Shops at Riverwood developer, Finard properties, BK owner/operator, and other invested parties.</li><li>Vocal opposition expressed by majority in attendance.</li><li>Agreement to postpone Licensure Board hearing pending a follow up meeting in March with the developer, Finard Properties.</li></ul>
<b>March 19, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Planned community meeting on Burger King postponed due to COVID -19.</li></ul>
<b>May 13, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Testimony at City of Boston Licensure Hearing: Residents provide virtual statements in opposition to granting Burger King a Victualler license and operating hours (6am - 12am);<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Opposition Statements (presented in writing);</li><li>560 petition signatures, 133 residents, Ward 18 Committee endorsed opposition.</li><li>Request for delay in the decision by City Councilor Arroyo supported by Councilors George and Wu;</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>May 14, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Licensing board votes 2-1 to approve license &amp; operating hours (VIDEO)</a>.</li><li>Inadequate 'saturation' of fast food was cited as a determinant.</li></ul>
<b>May, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Injunction filed by Attorney Kerby Roberson: Helen Tonge VS North East foods.</li></ul>
<b>June 15, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Licensing Board Appeal filed with Suffolk Superior Court</li><li><a href="#">Afrimericanone Fast Food Analysis Proximity analysis</a> submitted as evidence.</li></ul>
<b>July 2, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Suffolk Superior Court Appeals Hearing; Hearing continued on July 23, 2020</li></ul>



## FAQ

### Q. What is the H.E.R.E. for Justice & Afrimericanone's goals in regard to proposed Burger King?

The goal for our opposition to the proposed Burger King is to effect a **land-use change order** to force a more '**African diaspora community friendly & culturally rejuvenating commercial land use model**'.

- Rescission of the Burger King License to Operate.
- Partnership & support from the City of Boston and other allies in delivering an alternative to the Burger King.
- Ensure future developments aid local economic viability of local cultural businesses.
- Increase communication with developers via establishment of a Community Advisory Board.
- Maintaining a positive relationship with developers to ensure future developments have community input.
- Gain resources to develop programs to both educate & promote healthy cultural dietary alternatives.

**H.E.R.E for Justice** works with several partners who are committed to amplifying its message and connecting it to various resources. They include:

- Boston City Councilor, Ricardo Arroyo.
- Mattapan Food and Fitness.
- Afrimerican Culture Initiative, Inc.
- HerVision Media and Consulting.
- Amaru.

### Q: What are H.E.R.E. for Justice's & Afrimericanone's core arguments as it concerns the opposition of Burger King?

Following this approval **H.E.R.E. for Justice** have since filed a motion for an Injunction to stop the opening of the restaurant. Our position has been and continues to be:

- Due process to the community in this construction and licensing process was 'irregular' resulting in a denial of community rights.
- Given the declaration of 'Systemic Racism' as a public health crisis June 12, 2020 by **Mayor Marty Walsh**, the **racial history** of Boston, MA. and the substantial **science** that exists proving the negative effects of proximity to fast food, food desserts and communities of color; the city must at least pause operation to reevaluate, if Boston Preparatory charter with the introduction of yet another Burger King within 1 mile of the school property, effectively moving from the school from 'yellow line' status to 'redline' status.
- It is especially critical with a lack of COVID-19 vaccine, racial disparities in COVID-19 infections, hospitalization & deaths, a national racial reckoning and mixed messages from authorities that a clear message to communities of color be sent. A clear message that the citizens of Hyde Park's children, health and lives actually do matter.
- Environmental concerns with traffic storage , crime, loitering, refuse, access to unhealthy food, Boston Preparatory HVAC design capacity & extended operating hours all serve to be an unacceptable consequence for the 'thirst of corporate profits'.

### Q: What are the Calls to Action for the Community?

- Stay informed and sign up to our mailing list. [www.afrimericanone.org](http://www.afrimericanone.org)
- Speak out by signing & sharing the [Petition on Change.org](https://www.petitiononchange.org)
- Take a stand by committing to donate , share & support our [GoFundMe](https://www.gofundme.com).
- Support the hashtag **#allyboston** on your social media posts and raise awareness for **afrimericanone's campaign to fight systemic racism in Boston, MA.**

### Important Related Resources:

- Feb 22, 2018 - HP Bulletin East River Street: a developing story.  
Sept 12, 2019 - HP Bulletin Dollar Tree's value to community lowers in ERNA's eyes.  
Feb 13, 2020 - HP Bulletin Neighbors embroiled in debate over Burger King on River St.  
Feb 27, 2020 - HP Bulletin Finard explains expansion plans and history of Riverwood.  
Mar 12, 2020 - HP Bulletin ERNA urges Burger King Compromise.  
Jun 4, 2020 - HP Bulletin Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Burger King and COVID-19\*  
Jun 11, 2020 - HP Bulletin ERNA reviews Riverwood Plaza, fireworks.