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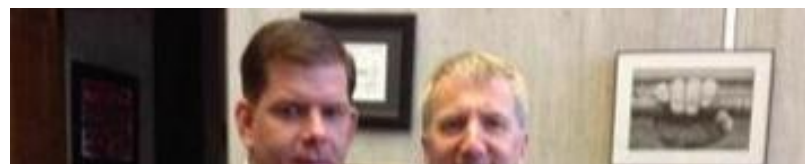
Boston, Belfast to Become 'Sister Cities'

By Matt Rocheleau

Boston.com Staff

MAY 1, 2014 3:12 PM

Boston and Belfast will soon become sister cities,



according to a report by the [Belfast Telegraph](#).

The leader of the city in Northern Ireland, Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh plan to officially sign a memorandum next month to establish the pact.



The arrangement will “explore academic, business and cultural links between the two cities,” the Telegraph reported.

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The two mayors agreed verbally to become sister cities in March when Muilleoir visited Boston.

Muilleoir, who wrote about the deal briefly on his [official blog](#), told the Telegraph: “Boston is the university capital of the world, the Silicon Valley of Life Sciences and the hub of Irish America. This is a coup for Belfast as the fastest-growing knowledge economy in Europe, and as a city at the forefront of the world at peace building, we have much to offer Boston also.”

Walsh’s spokeswoman Kate Norton said in a statement that: “Since taking office, Mayor Walsh has worked to foster Boston’s international

relationships to strengthen our growing economy, and this agreement is another step forward in supporting Boston's role as an international hub for businesses, students, and tourists."

Walsh also told the Telegraph: "This is the first official act in this area of my administration and fittingly demonstrates the results of relationships built up over many years of exchanges and visits between Belfast and Boston."

Boston currently has eight sister cities, according to the city's [website](#).

They are: Kyoto, Japan; Strasbourg, France; Barcelona, Spain; Hangzhou, China; Padua, Italy; Melbourne, Australia; Taipei, Taiwan; and Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana.

The sister cities program began as a national concept in 1956 under President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a way for the US to develop closer international relations.

Boston's established its first sister city agreement in 1959 with Kyoto.

Such agreements are designed "to create international understanding and goodwill," the city of Boston's website says. The program "promotes world

peace in an individual level and encourages citizens to better understand community, by contrasting their way of life with another culture.”

“The two cities exchange people, ideas, culture, education, and technology,” the website adds. “Citizens from both communities learn about each other’s culture and become directly involved in developing unique solutions to common problems.”

This story was updated on Friday, May 2, to include comment from Mayor Walsh’s spokeswoman.

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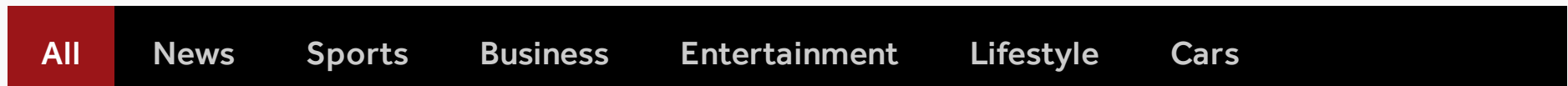
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Attorney General Eric Holder says subtle, institutionalized racism has a more “pernicious” effect than the occasional bigoted outburst.

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Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

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Three people were shot at KC's Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.

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There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.

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Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.



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Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

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Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing



A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

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Hike with Caution at White Mountains



Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?



Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

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Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach

The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

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Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-



sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

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10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

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Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

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Broke Beats: F.Stokes – ‘Liquor Sto’ Diaries’



Broke Beats is BDCwire’s open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven’t quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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Oprah’s Network Postpones Sam Documentary



The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

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Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero

A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday

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Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future

Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences





of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

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Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident



Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.

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Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500

The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

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