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**BEACON HILL**The Boston Courant **9**

# Project Place Workers May Return to Charles

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The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) and Business Association (BHBA) want to rehire Project Place to clean Charles Street for a second year.

After a successful pilot year, the neighborhood groups are looking to renew their contract in October, according to BHCA Executive Director Suzanne Besser.

Project Place, a nonprofit that provides work programs for homeless men and women, has been sending crews to sweep sidewalks, clean tree pits, bag trash, and remove gum and graffiti on Charles Street twice a week.

"We had been concerned for a long time about keeping Charles Street clean. We heard from other neighborhood associations about Project Place ... and everyone was giving us glowing recommendations," Besser said. "We thought it made a big difference on Beacon Hill, and we'd love to do it again this year."

"At the end of winter when the snow melts, Charles Street is so dirty. That didn't happen so much on Charles Street this year," she added.

The civic and business associations



split the \$7,000 program costs last year. Local businesses donated money to pay for the business association's share.

"We had no trouble at all raising the funds last year, so we're confident that it

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## Project Place

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won't be a problem getting the funds in place this year," said BHBA Vice President Lisa Osterfeld. "We've had a lot of positive feedback from businesses on Charles Street."

BHCA's share came from donations made by movie film crews in exchange for neighborhood help locating shoot sites and parking. This year, however, no movies are scheduled to be filmed on the Hill.

Several ideas have been floated to raise the \$3,500. The civic association is considering a sponsor-a-block program or making changes to the beer garden during the annual block party to generate more profit.

Each year Red Sox and Patriots fans leave the party early to catch the games at home. Members of the City Services Committee suggested featuring a large-screen TV in the beer garden to retain more customers throughout the afternoon, as well as placing a tip jar by the free hot dog stand.