

Abraham Burgin

Abraham Burgin was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1917 to Benjamin Burgin and Fannie Liskowsky. He passed away in 1996 at age 79. Burgin served as Chelsea's first Jewish Chief of Police during the 1960s. In 1968, he authorized the creation of the Chelsea Police Department's softball and baseball teams. Burgin was a member of the Henry Price Masonic Lodge of Charlestown and rose to its highest rank, Worshipful Master, in 1966. As Chelsea's Police Chief, Burgin was highly respected, widely admired, and quite popular.



MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, August 7, 1963 Commendation adopted per William C. Maiers, Clerk

Whereas the accused murderer and escape artist, Rocco Balliro, having broken out of a maximum-security cell at Charles Street jail; and

Whereas this notorious desperado, eluding the police for weeks, had been at large, heavily armed, and a menace to the community; and

Whereas the Chelsea Police Department under its sterling leader, Chief Abraham Burgin, adhering to the highest traditions of the force, and employing the ultimate degree of skill and efficiency, did succeed in capturing this most wanted and dangerous criminal; and

Whereas in so doing, the Chelsea Police Department exhibited a degree of bravery and devotion above and beyond the call of duty; therefore be it

Resolved that the House of Representatives hereby commends Chief Abraham Burgin and the valiant members of the Chelsea Police Department for their outstanding police work, devotion to duty, and great contribution to the safety of the public; and be it further

Resolved that engrossed copies of these resolutions be sent forthwith by the Secretary of the Commonwealth to Chief Abraham Burgin and the Chelsea Police Department.

Source: August 1963 Resolutions Commending Chief of Police Abraham Burgin and the Chelsea Police Department on the capture of accused murderer Rocco Balliro.

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Chelsea Policeman William Monzione and his wife, believing the [November 9, 1965 Greater Boston] blackout had been caused by an auto hitting a pole or some such event, went as planned to the [Policemen's] ball.

The cocktail party had begun and about 20 others were there. The conversation was more about the orchestra, the grand march, and police department matters than about the blackout, about which few seemed concerned.

But [Chelsea Police] Chief Abraham Burgin changed that. At 6:45 p.m. he ordered all [Chelsea] officers at the ball back to their posts. They pinned badges on their tuxedos, said goodbye to the other guests, and went into the Chelsea business area to guard against looting.

Auxiliary police later relieved them and they returned to the ball for the dinner, which had been delayed until they got back.

Source: "Remembering the day Boston went dark 50 years ago," *Boston Globe*, Nov. 9, 2015