



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIKNIK

Storeowner Michael Hunter

## Hill Gets First Pop-up Store

by Ashlee Fairey  
Courant News Writer

A temporary store has opened on Charles Street, an extension of a city-wide trend rarely seen on Beacon Hill.

PikNik, a clothing boutique and art gallery headquartered on Martha's Vineyard, opened at 70 Charles Street on November 1 and will stay through the end of December.

Storeowner Michael Hunter typically opens his Vineyard shop only on the weekends during the winter season, he said. By opening in Boston during the peak holiday season, he saw an opportunity to boost winter sales.

Hunter began searching for a suitable Boston location in October. When he learned that Beacon Hill Kids was leaving its location by the end of the year, he jumped at the chance to have a Beacon Hill storefront.

"For the Christmas season, it's so Dickensian with the gas lanterns and brick streets and the Holiday Stroll," Hunter said. "It's the perfect Christmas shopping environment."

Hunter arranged to sublet the space from Beacon Hill Kids, enabling the store to opt out of its lease early while

guaranteeing the landlord an occupied storefront.

"It was so serendipitously perfect," said Hunter, who repainted and stocked the store in a matter of weeks.

Paul Elias, trustee of the Charles Street Meeting House building that houses Hunter's shop, is pleased with the temporary arrangement.

"It creates novelty and interest on the retail level, and brings in people, which benefits other retail stores," Elias said.

It could also aid him in securing a future tenant, Elias said.

Similar to staging a condominium for sale, "I'm hoping that this is an opportunity for people to see the space all set up," he said.

In June of 2010, *The Boston Courant* reported a growing trend of pop-up stores along Newbury Street and throughout the South End, Fenway and Downtown Crossing.

But a pop-up store on Beacon Hill is "certainly new to me," said Jim Fay, president of Street & Company.

"I think it's going to be a little rare around here, given that ... there aren't empty storefronts like there are in other parts of the city," Fay said.

## More Police Coming To Charles Street

by Alex Walsh

At least two Beacon Hill business owners will employ their own security personnel for this year's Holiday Stroll, citing concerns about a decreased police presence on the Hill.

Store owners expressed those concerns at a recent Beacon Hill Business Association meeting. Attendees said they have seen less of beat cop Stephen Pasciuto since the Boston Police Department (BPD) first assigned him to the neighborhood in the summer of 2010.

Sgt. Thomas Lema acknowledged that police presence on the Hill has lessened over the past few months, but said BPD will be prepared for the Holiday Stroll, with additional police and motorcycle units lined up for the event.

"We always have extra coverage," Lema said.

Members of the Beacon Hill business community are making their own security preparations regardless. Moxie store owner Karen Fabbri said she will have a "friendly presence" monitoring foot traffic in and out of her boutique on Charles Street for the Thursday, December 8 event.

Shoppers at Cibeline will see a similar

setup.

"I plan to have a bouncer at my door," said owner Cibeline Sariano, explaining that shoplifting is "a huge issue" during the Holiday Stroll.

Both business owners said Pasciuto's presence is a relief when he is available, but earlier sunsets demand more attention from store owners.

"Now that it's getting darker sooner, there are a little more sketchy folks around, and more shoplifting occurs," said Fabbri.

To explain the recent reduction in police presence, Lema cited seasonal staffing changes for the summer, along with budget concerns. Additionally, persistent issues with homeless individuals in the West End have drawn police attention away from Charles Street, Lema said.

However, Beacon Hill residents can expect to see police presence grow once again. BPD recently added a new class of recruits to its staff, and Lema said several recruits will patrol the Hill on bicycle.

In addition to Pasciuto's beat, which runs from 7 am to 4 pm, officers Ray D'Oyley and Bobby Muller will spend the evening shift patrolling Beacon Hill in the near future.

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