

Frank, O'Malley dedicate mixed-income housing units

By THOMAS GRILLO

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, a homeowner-turned-renter, celebrated the completion of 59 units of mixed-income housing in Brookline yesterday, noting that homeownership is not for everyone.

"One of the great mistakes the federal government made over the years was to push low-income people into homeownership which they could not afford, as opposed to providing decent rental housing for people in need, especially in a mixed housing setting, which maximizes the likelihood of success," he said.

Frank joined Cardinal Sean O'Malley at the ribbon cutting for the St. Aidan residential development. The four-building complex, which includes high-end condos in the former church, faced opposition from the neighborhood and took nearly a decade to complete.

The development at the intersection of Pleasant, Freeman and Crowninshield streets, in-

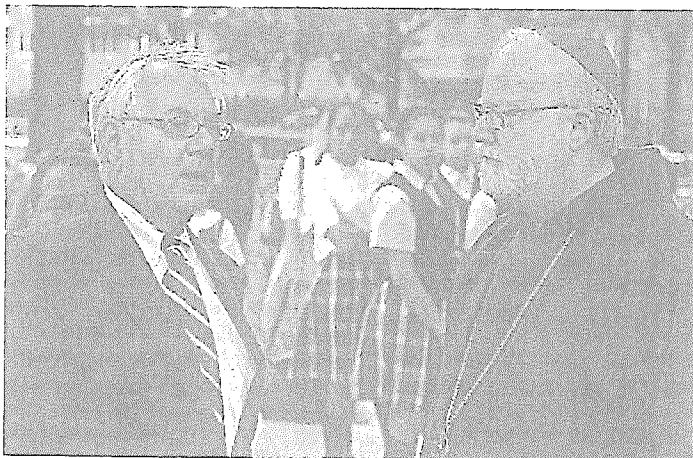
cludes tenant-occupied properties and first-time home buyers.

Frank, the chairman of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee, who rents apartments in Newton and Washington, D.C., told the Herald that he was critical of the Clinton and Bush administrations' emphasis on getting every family into their own home.

"They pushed people into homes that they couldn't sustain," he said. "Owning a home is a complicated business."

During the ceremony, Frank took a shot at the media for what he called the failure to cover good-news stories.

"I understand the media has their job — which is to promote disagreement, clashes and conflict that are apparently more interesting to people," he said. "But it gives an incomplete picture that people despair sometimes, because they think no one ever cooperates with anyone else, and that's not the case. Let's just look at what is represented here."



STAFF PHOTO BY MARK GARFINKEL

MEET: U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, left, and Cardinal Sean O'Malley chat yesterday at the St. Aidan complex dedication in Brookline.