



Auction for charity is no trivial purse-uit

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Olivia Vanni, Inside Track

4.3 million UMV



From L to R: Purses of Maura Healey, Elizabeth Warren, Sonia Chang Diaz, and Annissa Essaibi-George, which the councilwoman made herself.

Get your checkbook ready: Some of our city's most powerful women are surrendering their purses – for charity.

“If you want to really understand a woman, empty out her purse,” said **Diane Hessian**, a local entrepreneur, investor and political researcher who donated

her black, quilted patent-leather **Chanel** bag for the **Power of the Purse** symposium this week.

“It’s amazing what unique things you can find – especially at the bottom of the bag,” she added. “In mine, [there are] receipts, electronics and chargers, my wallet, mascara, 20 pens – I am a pen kleptomaniac – and a piano good-luck charm.”

At the Power of the Purse luncheon, local female powerhouses will have their handbags auctioned off. The proceeds will go to **Brookview House**, a Dorchester organization that provides services to homeless adults and children.

Among the other wonder women who gave up her purse for the cause: Massachusetts U.S. Sen. **Elizabeth Warren**, Attorney General **Maura Healey**, state Sen. **Sonia Chang Diaz**, City Councilor **Annissa Essaibi-George**, actress **Desiree DaCosta-Underwood** and actress and producer **Christy Scott Cashman**.

The event, which will be held tomorrow at the **Exchange Conference Center** on the Waterfront, also will include a panel discussion featuring more boss women. The chat will be led by **Jackie Shoback**, executive vice president at **Boston Private Financial Holdings**, and will include **Valerie Mosley**, chairwoman and CEO of **Valmo Ventures**, and **Beth Monaghan**, co-founder and CEO of InkHouse.

“It was actually really expensive, but I love the cause and I hope someone pays a lot for it,” Hessian said of the Chanel bag up for grabs.

“Life is complicated and full of decisions,” she added. “When I buy a purse I buy one that I can use any day or night for any reason. No decisions. No switching. That bag makes me efficient and strategic!”

Preach, sister.

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