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Dear neighbors,

I hope you and your family had a great summer, even as we continue to navigate life during this pandemic. I want to applaud our frontline workers and first responders who continue to work tirelessly to keep our communities healthy and economy moving, as well as the neighbors who are not letting their guard down in our fight against COVID-19. I urge residents to continue practicing physical distancing and mask wearing, so that we can prevent a second wave of infections locally in the fall.

As summer is coming to a close, and our students are getting ready to be back in the classroom, I'm closely monitoring the reopening plans for our schools and universities. The safety and health of our students, teachers, staff, and families should be our top priority, and we need to have effective physical distancing plans and access to personal protective equipment in place in order to prevent the spread of the virus. I will continue to work with residents, families, Boston Public Schools, local colleges and universities, and other stakeholders on this issue, and ensuring that our communities stay healthy as we reopen our schools.

In the City Council, I called for a hearing on pest control and illegal dumping,

and a hearing to discuss issues relating to water and sewer infrastructure. I also had an informative hearing chaired by Councilor Arroyo on the 2020 Census. Separately, I was also very proud to join the Disabled American Veterans Charity in support of the Deborah Sampson Act in Congress. This proposed federal legislation will require the Department of Veteran Affairs to offer primary care for female veterans at all medical centers and greatly improve women veteran's health.

I would like to remind folks that the last day to complete the Census is September 30th. As of July 29th, 53.2% (about 178,500) of Boston's households have responded, and in 2010, the final self-response rate was at 64.4%. Now more than ever, it is critical for our city and state to get an accurate census count for federal funding in crucial areas such as education, healthcare, transportation infrastructure, food access and SNAP, and our Senior centers. Please encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to complete the Census.

Thank you and stay safe,
Ed

City and District Updates

ATTENTION South Boston voters, Tuesday, September 1 is Election Day
Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you used to vote at...

Ward 7, Precincts 1 and 2
BCYF Curley Recreation Center
1663 Columbia Rd
South Boston

You're now voting at...

Joseph P. Tynan School
650 E 4th St
South Boston

CITY of BOSTON

City of Boston Election

Elections and Polling Location Changes

Mail-in ballot:

State primary is **September 1st** this year, and the general election is on **November 3rd**. Please note that you can apply for a [mail-in ballot here for the general election in November](#). Once you completed your mail-in ballot, you can mail it right away, or you can drop off your ballot at one of the early voting locations, or at the dedicated dropbox in City Hall. [More information is here](#). If you mailed in your ballot, you can also [track your mail-in ballot here](#).

Polling location change for Ward 7, Precincts 1 and 2:

Due to ongoing renovations, please note that the Boston Election Department polling location for Ward 7, Precincts 1 and 2 at the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) Curley Community Center (L Street Bathhouse) has now been moved to the Tynan Joseph P Elementary School on 650 East 4th Street in South Boston for next week's election on Tuesday, September 1st.

Polls will be open from 7AM to 8PM. For more information, please visit [the City of Boston's Election Department page here](#) or call 617-635-8683.

Parking changes

Please note: There will be parking changes at the Excel High School in South Boston starting on September 8th. There will be no parking from Monday to Friday from 6 am to 6 pm and any school events. Parking rules will be enforced and towing will occur.

Completing the 2020 Census

The last day to complete the census is **September 30th**. By now, you should have received information on how you can complete the 2020 Census online or by phone. If you have not completed the Census yet, you can expect a Census enumerator to come in person to help you complete the census. The Census provides crucial data that determines the level of funding that we receive from the federal government, and it also asks you basic questions about yourself and your household, and all the information is completely confidential. Please fill out the 2020 Census if you have not already. [More information on how to fill it out is here.](#)

Abutters Meeting:

- 546-548 East Fourth Street, South Boston (Tuesday, September 15th, 5:30 – 6:30pm)
 - 219 Bolton Street, South Boston (Tuesday, September 15th, 7:30 – 8:30pm)
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BPDA Virtual Public Meetings

- 15 Necco Street (Wednesday, September 2nd, 2020, 6 to 7:30pm)
 - 244-284 A Street (Wednesday, September 16th, 2020, 6 to 8pm)
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Virtual Public Meeting on Cannabis Establishments:

- 324 A St, South Boston (Monday, September 14th, 2020, 6:30 to 8:30pm)

Meeting number (access code): 173 427 8290

Meeting password: 324ast

- 159 Old Colony Ave (Wednesday, September 16th, 2020, 6:30 to 8:30pm)

Meeting number (access code): 173 262 6570

Meeting password: 159old

Council Hearings



Order for a hearing on pest control and illegal dumping in the City of Boston

I called for a hearing at Boston City Council last week on pest control and illegal dumping. In recent weeks and months during the COVID-19 pandemic, many neighbors have contacted me regarding a rise in pest and rodent activity, along with illegal dumping in residential and commercial districts. I look forward to a discussion on these important quality of life issues.

Order for a hearing to discuss issues relating to water and sewer infrastructure in the City of Boston

I called for a hearing at Boston City Council last week with the Boston Water and Sewer Commission on water and sewer infrastructure in Boston. Residents and businesses in the South End experienced a water main break in April. We will look to discuss the maintenance and integrity of the water and sewer system, private sewers and alleys, as well as groundwater issues.

Hearings recently held

Hearing on the Impact of CORI on Employment and Other Opportunities

I held a hearing with Councilor Flaherty last week on how criminal offender record information (CORI) affects employment, housing, and other opportunities. We discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the employment and housing situation for people with CORIs, as well as discussed some of the common challenges for people with CORIs who are trying to access opportunities, including the lack of awareness about their rights, education, and reluctance from employers to hire. I emphasized the importance of people with records being given a fair chance in getting jobs and other opportunities, and is committed to continuing working on the issue with my colleagues and advocates to expand access to opportunities for people with CORIs.

Hearing on the 2020 Census

I also had a joint hearing of two dockets regarding how to ensure a complete count of the 2020 Census on August 21st. The 2020 Census plays a critical role in the allocation of federal funding for our communities, including resources for housing, transportation, food access, education, healthcare, and much

more. The current self-response rate is approximately 54.8%, and there will be door knocking operations for those who still have not responded. Boston has a large number of historically undercounted communities such as immigrants and non-English speakers, and it is imperative that everyone fills out the Census by September 30th to ensure that our communities get the resources we deserve.

In the Community



I was honored to attend the NAACP Boston's Day of Action earlier this month. Hundreds of volunteers participated in various community service projects throughout Boston. It was great to join Attorney Tanisha Sullivan, Council President Kim Janey, Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia and Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. Let's continue to work together for justice and equality!



Congressman Stephen Lynch and I visited the South Boston Community Health Center COVID-19 walk-thru testing site at the Condon K-8 School

earlier this month. Thank you to the dedicated staff, Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez, Mayor Marty Walsh, City Councilor Michael Flaherty, State Senator Nick Collins and State Representative David Biele.



Thank you East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez, Mayor Marty Walsh, Representative Stephen F. Lynch, Senator Nick Collins, City Councilor Michael Flaherty, and State Representative David Biele for partnering on COVID-19 testing at Moakley Park in South Boston. It was great to join Representative Biele to thank the medical professionals for their support of our neighborhood.



August 7 was National Purple Heart Day. I was honored to join Commissioner of Boston Veterans Robert Santiago and Purple Heart recipients Tony Molina and Kurt J. Power at the Puerto Rican Veterans Memorial in the South End to honor the brave men and women wounded on the battlefield or who paid the supreme sacrifice.



Earlier this month, I joined Boston Police Department Captain Sweeney, Council President Kim Janey, Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia, Councilor Frank Baker, State Representative Jon Santiago, the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, Department of Neighborhood Development, Vanessa Calderon Rosado, and members of the Blackstone and Franklin Square Neighborhood Association and met with residents of Villa Victoria and the South End. We discussed homelessness, recovery services, and public safety concerns.



I recently joined with the US Census Bureau to encourage Chinatown residents to complete their 2020 Census. It is critical to have an accurate count as the census impacts funding for public education and social services. Everyone Counts in the 2020 Census!

What a great time we had visiting and talking with participants in the Superteens program at Boston Centers for Youth & Families' (BCYF) Blackstone Community Center. I was proud to join Councilor At-Large Julia Mejia in thanking the BCYF staff and councilors for organizing this outstanding program for girls in Boston.





I am proud to represent a large Puerto Rican community in District 2. The Puerto Rican community throughout Boston has contributed greatly to our city and country. They have made extraordinary contributions to the arts, music, culture, athletics, academia, business, military and government. Let's continue to support our immigrant neighbors!

Kristen and I were proud to join South End residents at Crite Park on Columbus Avenue. A committee of dedicated South End residents was established to reimagine, redesign and revive this park in honor of Allan Rohan Crite, an acclaimed African American artist and South End resident.



Thank you to Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center for organizing an outstanding cleanup of Chinatown this month. It was great to join my family, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Boston Police Department Captain Robert Ciccolo, Boston Public Works, ONS Lisa Hy, Chinatown Community Land Trust, Joy Lim Nakrin from NBC10 Boston, and Chinatown Main Street. Chinatown works best when we work together!

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov.