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Dear neighbors,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying this Christmas and holiday season. It has been a difficult year for many families and small businesses in our city and country. As we continue to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on public health, our state and local economies, as well as issues of social justice, my team and I have worked diligently with City of Boston officials, fellow neighbors, and local nonprofit partners to continue to deliver basic city services, access to nutritious food for our seniors and families in need, personal protective equipment (PPE) to our caregivers and residents, as well as support for our veterans and youth sports groups.

I am writing to provide you with an update on our work this year and some of the key areas that we focused on: public health & testing, pedestrian & public safety, housing & development, standing with our working families, civil rights, and quality of life issues.

We organized over 200 volunteers to make phone calls and check in on the health and wellbeing of thousands of our seniors throughout District 2. I have also continued to advocate for families throughout our city to the best of my ability at City Hall and the Council, as well as other actions listed below.

Especially during these difficult times - with the COVID-19 pandemic raging to record cases and hospitalizations across our country, an economic crisis that continues to leave millions out of work and small businesses struggling, and many dealing with the strains and demands of everyday life while working from home - what's critically important is that each of us do not lose sight of the big picture, put ourselves in each other's shoes, and continue to treat all of our

neighbors with respect and empathy.

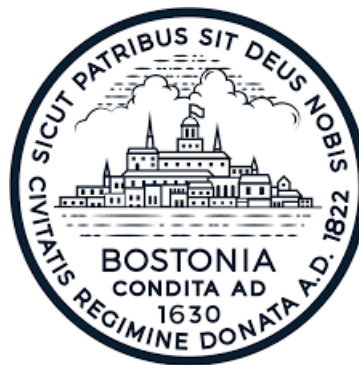
There is light at the end of the tunnel. It is nothing short of a miracle and an enormous achievement for science and innovation that vaccines were distributed this week across the country and locally to our brave healthcare and frontline workers. It will take time for all of us to get vaccinated and reach the threshold necessary to get life as we know it back to normal next year.

In the meantime, let's be smart and look out for one another by wearing a mask, maintaining physical distance, and avoiding indoor house parties so that we all can make it through this crisis together. We owe it to those same brave healthcare workers, who have pushed themselves to the brink for all of us, to do so. And it's not too late to do your part and get your flu shot to help avoid overwhelming our medical system.

Thank you very much for your support and your compassion for your neighbors. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy holiday season.

Ed

Council Hearings, Resolutions & Other Actions



Below are highlights of our work this year:

Public Health

- Called for a hearing to discuss the creation of a Frontline Workers COVID-19 Health Registry;
- Called for a hearing to discuss ways for the City to be more proactive in providing services, educating the public, and raising awareness for those infected with HIV/AIDS;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss large house parties and gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting our nurses and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution urging insurance carriers to provide continuous coverage to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quality of Life

- Called and held a hearing on issues related to stray voltage;

- Called and held a hearing to discuss pest control and illegal dumping;
- Called and held a hearing on water and sewer infrastructure.

Traffic and Public Safety

- Called and held a hearing to discuss safety of construction sites;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss speeding cars as a public health emergency and address infrastructure improvements;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss pedestrian safety, traffic enforcement, and Vision Zero.

Civil and Human Rights

- Called for a hearing to discuss ways for the City to prevent and investigate incidents of hate crimes and discrimination;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting our immigrant communities during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting H. RES 908, “Condemning All Forms Of Anti-Asian Sentiment As Related to COVID-19”;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting Congressional Bill S. 2043, “Jabara-Heyer No Hate Act”;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting our Chinese and Asian communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Housing and Development

- Called and held a hearing to discuss ways to support tenants facing eviction and displacement;
- Opposed projects unfavorable to abutters & neighborhood associations;
- Brought Inspectional Services to meet with concerned neighbors.

Social and Economic Justice

- Called and held a hearing to discuss the impact of 3rd party delivery commission fees on restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss the impact of CORI on access to employment and other opportunities;
- Called and held a hearing on internet access and digital equity;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution in support of Marriott Copley Hotel workers, Four Seasons Hotel workers, and Revere Hotel workers, and support of a statewide “Right To Recall” for Boston hotel workers.

Veteran Affairs

- Called and held a hearing to discuss resources available through Boston's Veteran Services during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution commemorating Veterans Day, the Centennial of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), National Purple Heart Day, African American Veterans and Women Veterans.

Other Actions

- Called and held a hearing to discuss Boston's electoral recount process;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss ways to promote a complete and accurate count for the 2020 Census;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing Braille Literary Month and International Week Of The Deaf;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution celebrating the Centennial adoption of the 19th Amendment granting women's right to vote;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution celebrating American Disabilities

- Act's 30th anniversary;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing Native American Heritage Day;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Great Famine (Gaelic: An Gorta Mor).

City and District Updates

Rental Relief Fund

The City of Boston Rental Relief Fund is now open and dedicating \$8 million in federal stimulus funds to help neighbors at risk due to COVID-19. [Please follow the link below for eligibility criteria and the application.](#) Thank you Mayor Walsh, Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston Fair Housing and Equity, Metro Housing Boston, NOAH (Neighborhood of Affordable Housing) and Project Hope.

Community Choice Electricity (CCE)

[The City of Boston is hosting a series of webinars on the new Community Choice Electricity program.](#) This program will provide Bostonians with greater local control over the electricity that powers their homes and businesses. Please join the webinar to learn more about the program:

[Monday, December 21 at 6pm](#)

[Monday, January 4, at 6pm](#)

In the Community





I was proud to stand with our laid off hotel workers. These workers deserve dignity, respect, and justice. We are calling Boston Hotels to be a good neighbor and rehire these workers. It's important to show compassion to workers and their families. I'm proud to stand with these workers and Unite Here Local 26.



I was honored to attend Pine Street Inn's Thanksgiving Day turkey carving with Mayor Walsh, Boston Police Department Commissioner Gross, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz and Lyndia Downie. Additionally, I also joined my South Boston neighbors and volunteers for the annual delivery to our seniors and families in need. Let's continue to work together and support each other, especially those in need of outreach and social services. Boston works best when we work together!

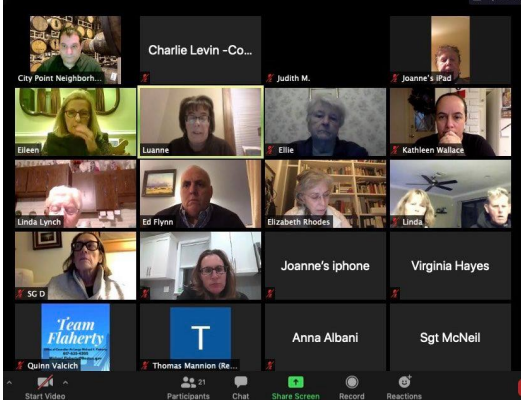


Thank you Friends of the South End Library for sponsoring a book fair for children this month. It was great to see many families enjoying a fun event. I'm proud to represent this diverse and compassionate neighborhood. Let's continue to support each other during these challenging times!



It was great to join Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post 561 members, South Boston neighbors and elected officials, and Boston Vets Commissioner Rob Santiago earlier this month in support of Massachusetts Veterans Chelsea Soldiers Home. Thanks to all those who stopped by and donated supplies for the residents. Let's continue to support our veterans and military families!

This month, I joined South Boston neighbors, elected officials, and Boston Police Capt. Joe Boyle (C-6) for the City Point Neighborhood Association monthly meeting. We discussed public safety and



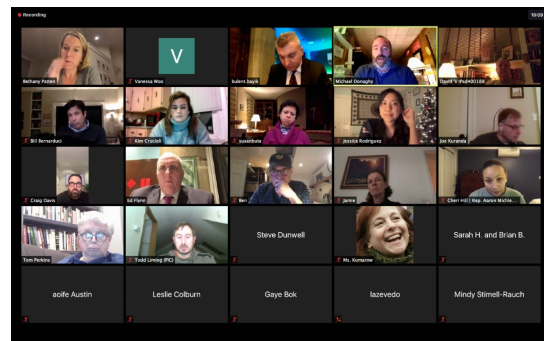
pedestrian safety concerns, quality of life issues, and upcoming neighborhood events.

Thank you Bay Village Neighborhood Association residents, Chief of Streets Chris Osgood, city officials at Boston Transportation Department, Boston Public Works, and Deputy Director for Neighborhood Services Faisa Sharif for working with my office to bring this crossing light and rapid flash beacon at the intersection of Arlington and Isabella to fruition. Let's continue to work together on pedestrian safety.



I met with members of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England at Tai Tung Village with their outreach to Chinatown and South End families in need. During this holiday season, let's support each other, especially families in need, our seniors, immigrant neighbors, and persons with disabilities.

I joined Bay Village Neighborhood Association at their monthly meeting in early December. It was great to listen and talk with residents about pedestrian safety and my opposition to the proposed electronic billboard in Chinatown. I'm proud to represent this vibrant neighborhood and District 2!



If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office

at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov.