

ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN



Dear neighbors,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during these uncertain times for our city and country. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those that have lost family and friends, and those impacted by COVID-19.

As we now look to reopen our economy, I want to thank the residents of Boston for doing their part to flatten the curve and help limit the spread of the virus. But I also want to remind everyone that this pandemic is not over, unfortunately. I encourage everyone to please continue to practice physical distancing, wear masks while in the public and follow guidelines from our public health officials.

In the City Council, we are in the midst of budget season while also working on various measures related to pandemic response and quality of life issues. I also continue to work with our civic groups and the residents of District 2 on issues such as the census and civic engagement. You may read more information on this work and details on the reopening of the state's economy below.

I hope that everyone had a safe Memorial Day weekend, and that we all had an opportunity to reflect on the veterans, military and Gold Star families who made the supreme sacrifice for our country in order to promote freedom and democracy throughout the world.

Council Hearings & Resolutions

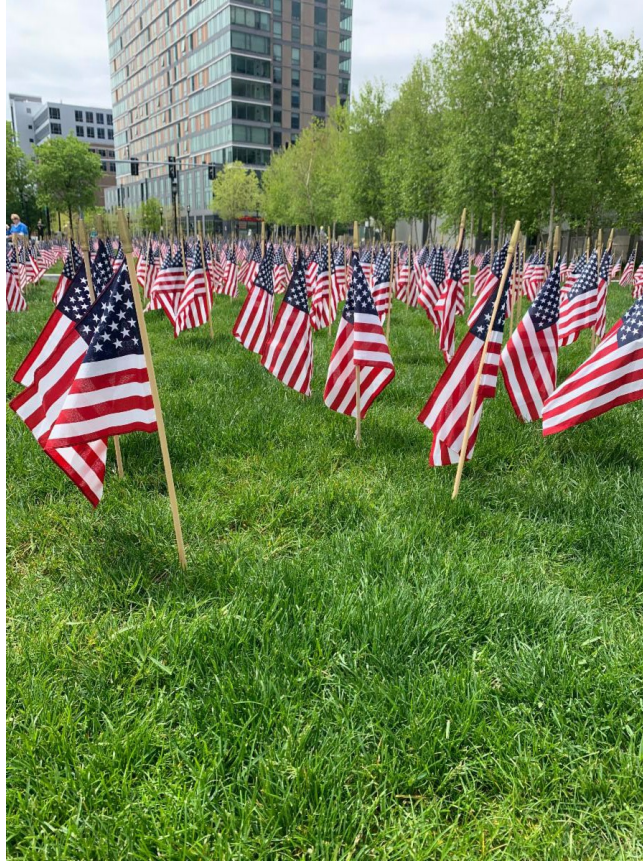
Delivery Commission Fees

Councilors Michael Flaherty, Matt O'Malley & I recently held a hearing regarding the impact of 3rd party delivery commission fees on Boston's restaurant industry during this crisis. As local restaurants have become heavily reliant on delivery, many are concerned about their ability to survive with 30% fees. I discussed my desire to place a cap on these fees like other cities across the country. I look forward to an upcoming working session on this issue. You can read more from [my Council colleagues & I in a press release at Caught in Southie](#), an [interview I did with NBC Boston on this issue](#), or a piece at [Boston.com on last week's hearing](#).



Hearing on Language Access

I was proud to join Councilor Mejia as a co-sponsor on our hearing on language access, cultural competency, and ways to holistically communicate with our diverse communities. This hearing was conducted in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Haitian-Creole, the first hearing to do so in the City Council.



Memorial Day Resolution

I filed this resolution to commemorate and honor our veterans, military Gold Star families of those who made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country. It is important that we recognize that their sacrifice, service, and their bravery shall never be forgotten.

Resolution Supporting Our Chinese and Asian American Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the virus, there are unfortunately many reports of racism and discrimination against Chinese and Asian communities in the United States and around the world. This resolution affirmed the Council's support for the Chinese and Asian communities during this time. Moreover, we recommit the City Council in standing up against any form of racism.

City Budget and Community Preservation Funds

We are in the midst of our budget season in the City Council, where we are conducting budget hearings for every City department to understand their needs, and advocate for budget items in our community. There will be a hearing specifically for public testimony on the city budget on Thursday, May 28th, 6pm. More information about that hearing is here: <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/11565441>

We also voted to pass the latest round projects funded by the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA provides funding for initiatives related to affordable housing, historic preservation, open space, and outdoor recreation facilities. This year, the CPA funding includes the following D2 projects:

- South Boston - Barnard Place Park for open space, \$150,000
- South Boston - Kearsarge Anchor in Marine Park for historic preservation, \$75,000
- Beacon Hill - Rogerson-Faneuil Apartments for historic preservation, \$340,000
- Chinatown - Chinatown Backyard for open space, \$500,000
- Chinatown - Parcel 12C for affordable housing, \$1,000,000
- West End - Greater Boston Legal Services building for historic preservation, \$100,00

Reopening Massachusetts

Last week, Governor Baker announced the plan to reopen the Massachusetts economy in phases, with all businesses required to follow guidance on physical distancing, as well as mandatory standards on workplace safety and sector-specific protocols.

A Safer At Home Advisory is in place asking residents to continue to stay at home if possible, and only leave home for healthcare, worship and permitted work, shopping, and outdoor activities. Face covering is still REQUIRED when residents cannot maintain six feet of physical distance in public. All business activities when they reopen must follow guidance on physical distancing, hygiene protocols to prevent COVID-19, and have plans in place for staffing and operations in case employees get sick. Moreover, the Governor has issued sector-specific protocols and best practices for businesses to reopen safely. More information can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

There will be four phases to the Governor's reopening plan, and the first phase started on May 18th, with certain businesses being allowed to resume with restrictions, some capacity limitations, and staggered starts.

On May 18th, the following businesses were eligible to start:

- Essential businesses can stay open and continue to operate
- Manufacturing
- Construction; however, Boston will reopen its construction sites in phases, and will expand permitted construction incrementally. More information is here: <https://www.boston.gov/news/temporary-guidance-construction-city-boston#allowed-construction-work>
- Worship
- Hospitals and community health centers who attest to specific public health/safety standard can provide high priority preventative care, pediatric care and treatment for high risk patients

On May 25th, the following businesses were eligible to start:

- Laboratory and life sciences facilities
- Offices, excluding those in the City of Boston. Work from home strongly encouraged, and businesses should restrict workforce presence to <25% maximum occupancy
- Hair salons and barbershops by appointment only
- Pet grooming by appointment only (curbside pet drop-off and pick-up)

- Car washes exterior car washing allowed
- Recreation and outdoor with guidelines
- Other health care providers who attest to specific public health/safety standards can provide high priority preventative care, pediatric care and treatment for high risk patients
- Retail remote fulfillment and curbside pickup

On June 1st, the following is eligible to reopen:

- Offices in the City of Boston, following applicable guidelines for the rest of the Commonwealth

I cannot stress enough that even though we are beginning to slowly reopen our economy in phases, this pandemic is still not over. It is critical that we all still continue to practice physical distancing, wear a face covering when we go outside & do our part in preventing the spread of COVID-19. I urge everyone to adhere to the guidelines of our public health officials so that we can prevent a surge to our hospitals and protect our frontline healthcare personnel, our essential service workers, our families, our neighbors & each other from the virus.

In the Community





It was an honor to join fellow elected and city officials, fellow veterans and residents of South Boston, the South End and the Back Bay over the weekend to commemorate Memorial Day and pray for those that made the Supreme Sacrifice for our country, as well as our Gold Star families. Our visit to the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument unfortunately followed a disheartening incident of vandalism there over the weekend. I find it wholly repugnant and disgusting that anyone would desecrate memorials meant honor to those who made the Supreme Sacrifice for our country. Thank you to my fellow veterans, Mayor Walsh and various city agencies, and the people of the South End for coming together and working to ensure that our focus remained in the proper place on a solemn Memorial Day weekend - on the service and sacrifice of our veterans, military and Gold Star families



We had an informative and fun Town Hall for District 2 Kids recently. It was great to listen to youth from South Boston, Chinatown, South End, the Leather District about school, parks, playgrounds, and health. We ended the meeting with 10 minutes of yoga by instructor Julia of South Boston. Thanks to Councilors Flaherty and Essaibi-George for joining us, too!

PLEASE JOIN CITY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN AND
STATE REPRESENTATIVE JON SANTIAGO
FOR A DISCUSSION ON

**THE CHALLENGES OF THE
2020 CENSUS ON
IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES
DURING COVID-19**

Panelists:
Ed Flynn, City Councilor for District 2
Andrea Campbell, City Councilor for District 4
Jon Santiago, MA State Representative
Karen Chen, Chinese Progressive Association
Sebastian Zapata, City of Boston Census Liaison
Anne Williams, Partnership Specialist, US Census Bureau

Friday, May 8th, 12:30 - 1:30pm

Discussion will be live streamed on
<https://www.facebook.com/EdforBoston/>

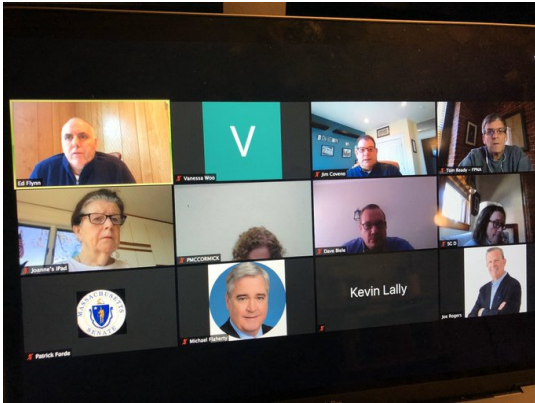
For more info, please contact ed.flynn@boston.gov
or 617-635-3203

I was proud to host a recent discussion on the challenges of 2020 Census for immigrant communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the post COVID-19 world, an accurate census count is critical now more than ever for federal funds in healthcare, education, SNAP & other programs. Thank you to all the panelists for their expertise and insight.

Proud to welcome City Hall to Go to Chinatown recently. This mobile site is now providing food assistance to those in need. Thank you to the Office

of Food Access for working with the neighborhood on food and hunger issues.



It was great to join the South Boston elected officials recently for a meeting with our civic associations. We discussed COVID-19 challenges and support available for residents, small businesses as well as neighborhood & quality of life issues. Let's continue to work together!

It was an honor to join Southie neighbors, State Rep. David Biele, Commissioner Rob Santiago, and veterans in wishing Ottavio, a World War II Veteran, a Happy 99th Birthday!

Thanks to the Boston Police and Fire Department for escorting neighbors safely in a motorcade celebration. Thank you Ottavio for your service and sacrifice!



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