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Dear neighbors,

As February draws to a close, I would like to highlight some information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, issues that my team and I worked on this month, upcoming meetings, and recent events in District 2.

Regarding the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, I have been working closely with the Mayor's Office, Boston Public Health Commission, and the Boston Housing Authority to provide the latest information to constituents. Currently, people in Phase 1, individuals age 65 and older, individuals with 2 or more certain medical conditions, and residents and staff of low income and affordable senior housing are all eligible for vaccination. The VA Boston Healthcare System is also vaccinating Veterans ages 55 or older who are already receiving care from the VA.

Vaccines are being offered to eligible people at several different types of locations, including Mass Vaccination Sites such as Fenway Park, general vaccination sites such as pharmacies and health care locations.

It may take several weeks to schedule appointments due to high demand and very limited vaccine supply. Mass vaccination locations have the most appointments and update their schedules every Thursday. Smaller locations

offer fewer appointments but update their schedules daily. You can find the location closest to you here: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>

For more information, please visit the State website at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations>

Please note South Boston Community Health Center is also administering the COVID-19 vaccine for patients AND non patients. [Please fill out their online form here.](#) You may also call 617-269-7500.

I urge all my neighbors to listen to our experts, avoid disinformation, and please take the vaccine when it is available to you, as they have undergone rigorous standards and testing to ensure their safety. Vaccines are one of the most critical tools in our fight against the virus, with protection not only for yourself, but also for your family, friends, and neighbors. I urge everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Together, we can end this pandemic.

In the meantime, it is critical to continue to adhere to public health guidelines, especially in light of the new COVID-19 variants that could potentially be more contagious and lethal. So let's be smart and look out for one another by wearing a mask, or even double-masking for extra protection, maintaining physical distance, and avoiding indoor house parties so that we all can make it through this crisis together.

Let us also not forget that February has been Black History Month. Let's continue to celebrate our African American neighbors and honor the exceptional contributions they have made to our city and our country. We must recommit ourselves to dignity, justice, and equality for all.

Thank you and stay safe,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Virtual Public Meetings

- [658-660 East Broadway Public Meeting](#)
- Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 pm
- [88 Black Falcon Ave Public Meeting](#)
- Thursday, March 4, 6:30 pm

Abutters Meeting

- 140 Northern Avenue, South Boston Waterfront
 - Monday, March 8 at 5:30 pm
- 11 Pacific Street, South Boston
 - Monday, March 8 at 6:30 pm
- 1778 Columbia Road, South Boston

- Monday, March 8 at 7:30 pm

Chinatown Town Hall

- Friday, February 26 at 6 pm

I will be hosting a Chinatown Town Hall with the Boston Public Health Commission tonight, February 26th, at 6 pm. Please tune in to hear the latest updates on public health and the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out. [Register here for the event.](#)

Latinx Town Hall

- Thursday, March 4 at 6 pm

Councilor Julia Mejia and I will be hosting a Latinx Town Hall with the Boston Public Health Commission on Thursday, March 4th at 6 pm. We will discuss issues relating to public health, the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, and language access. [Register here for the event.](#)

2021 Outdoor Dining Application

The 2021 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program has begun taking applications and the Licensing Board is reviewing applications on an ongoing basis. [Please check their website for more information regarding key dates, requirements and guidelines.](#)

Different City departments will need to review applications for an outdoor dining extension, whether onto private property, public sidewalks or public streets. Upon reviewing the application requirements and guidelines, [you can start your application here.](#)

Council Hearings and Resolutions



Order for a hearing to discuss the impact of CORI on access to employment and other opportunities

I was proud to call for a hearing on the impact of CORI with my colleague, Councilor Michael Flaherty. Having a CORI can impede access to employment, housing, etc for past offenders and it is found that CORI disproportionately

impacts communities of color. At the hearing, we will discuss increasing re-entry opportunities.

Order for a hearing to discuss services for women veterans

I was honored to join Councilor Lydia Edwards to call for a hearing on services for our brave women veterans, who are an indispensable part of our national security. It is critical to provide women veterans with primary care at all VA Boston Healthcare System sites, maternity care, childcare, and counseling for those who experienced Military Sexual Trauma.

Order for a hearing to discuss zoning and the community outreach process for life sciences laboratories in the City of Boston

I was proud to call for a hearing with Councilor Michael Flaherty on the zoning and community process for life sciences. Many neighbors have voiced their concerns such as labs being zoned as of right, public safety, off-hours construction, and quality of life issues. It is critical for residents to have a say in what takes place in their neighborhood, especially a biolab.

Order for a hearing to discuss the process for tree removals in the City of Boston

I called for a hearing with Councilor Liz Breadon this week to discuss the process of tree removals in the City of Boston. Our urban tree canopy is not only critical to combat climate change, reduce heat island effect and pollution; our trees also greatly improve our mental health and quality of life.

Resolution in support Of H.D. 1167, “An Act Concerning Genocide Education” and S.D. 1592, “An Act Advancing And Promoting Genocide Education”

I was proud to introduce this resolution at the Boston City Council this week in support of House Docket (H.D.) 1167, “An Act Concerning Genocide Education”, sponsored by Representative Jeffrey Roy, and Senate Docket (S.D.) 1592, “An Act Advancing and Promoting Genocide Education”, sponsored by Senator Michael Rodrigues, to promote education on the Holocaust and genocide in school curriculum. It is critical to educate young people of the horrors of genocide, to deter indifference to crimes against humanity, and to stand against hatred.

Hearings Recently Held

Hearing regarding property tax and assistance for seniors and long-term residents during COVID-19.

I had a very informative hearing on the recent increase in property taxes, held

at the Boston City Council earlier this month. Property taxes are a heavy financial burden for many families, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, who may have brought their homes years ago before housing prices and property values skyrocketed in the city. With the COVID-19 pandemic, many are facing additional financial difficulties, and I'm very concerned about this being an inflection point for many of our seniors, longtime neighbors, and their ability to remain in Boston, as well as the potential ripple effects to our local economy, small businesses and restaurants.

Please note that following the Council Hearing on February 5th, a Working Session has now been scheduled for Monday, March 8th from 3 to 5pm. Although there will be no public testimony during the Working Session, I would still appreciate receiving any feedback, comments and suggestions you have regarding the recent property tax increase. Please email them to ed.flynn@boston.gov. You may also tune in to the Boston City Council TV by following this link: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/city-council/watch-boston-city-council-tv>

Hearing to discuss the proliferation of electronic billboards

This week, I was proud to partner with Councilor Kenzie Bok on a hearing regarding the increase of electronic billboards in the city. Over the years, studies have linked electronic billboards to distracted driving and increased crash rates, and found a negative correlation between property values and electronic billboards. Electronic billboards' energy consumption is contrary to the City's energy reduction goals, and oftentimes do not fit in with the historic character of our neighborhoods. We discussed how the city can strengthen existing restrictions on the usage of electronic billboards.

In the Community



I was honored to join the Flaherty family, Mayor Marty Walsh, South Boston neighbors, and elected officials for the official opening of Flaherty Park this

month. Major improvements were made to the park through the Capital Improvement Plan, and it was great to see many young families enjoying the park!



It was great to speak with Chinatown residents, restaurant workers, and civic leaders in Chinatown last week. I was particularly proud to welcome Tony Moy, WWII Veteran and Congressional Gold Medal recipient, to the neighborhood.



I wish to thank Comcast for including Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) Quincy Community Center as part of their Lift Zones initiative. I had a great on-site visit earlier this month. This will provide free wifi in the community center for kids to fully participate in educational opportunities and the digital economy.



Thank you Chinatown Main Street, Mayor's Office of Food Access, and St. James The Greater Catholic Church for sponsoring February's food drive for families in need. I was proud to attend and thank the sponsors and volunteers, including students from Boston Public Schools.

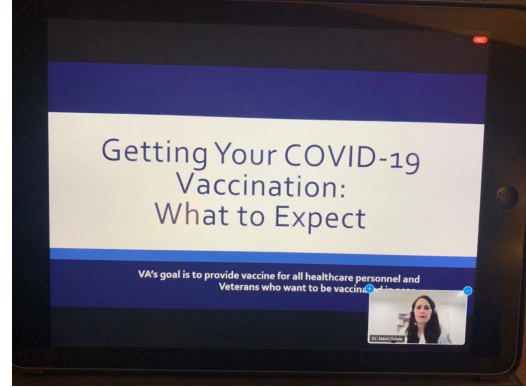
Last week, my staff and I celebrated Lunar New Year with Chinatown constituents and civic leaders. We had an informative discussion about neighborhood challenges. Let's continue to work together to support our immigrant families, workers, AAPI community, small businesses, and the Josiah Quincy School community.



Thank you Pao Arts Center for sponsoring this month's Lunar New Year Dance Workshop. It was great to join Councilor Michael Flaherty and Councilor Michelle Wu and to see many children and families enjoying lion dancing, story-telling, and music. It's encouraging to watch many AAPI artists represented and sharing their gifts online.

Thank you Boston Veterans
Commissioner Robert Santiago,
Boston Public Health Commission

and VA Boston for an informative webinar earlier this month on COVID-19, vaccination, and veterans. I was proud to join this outstanding partnership. Let's continue to work together in support of veterans and military families!



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