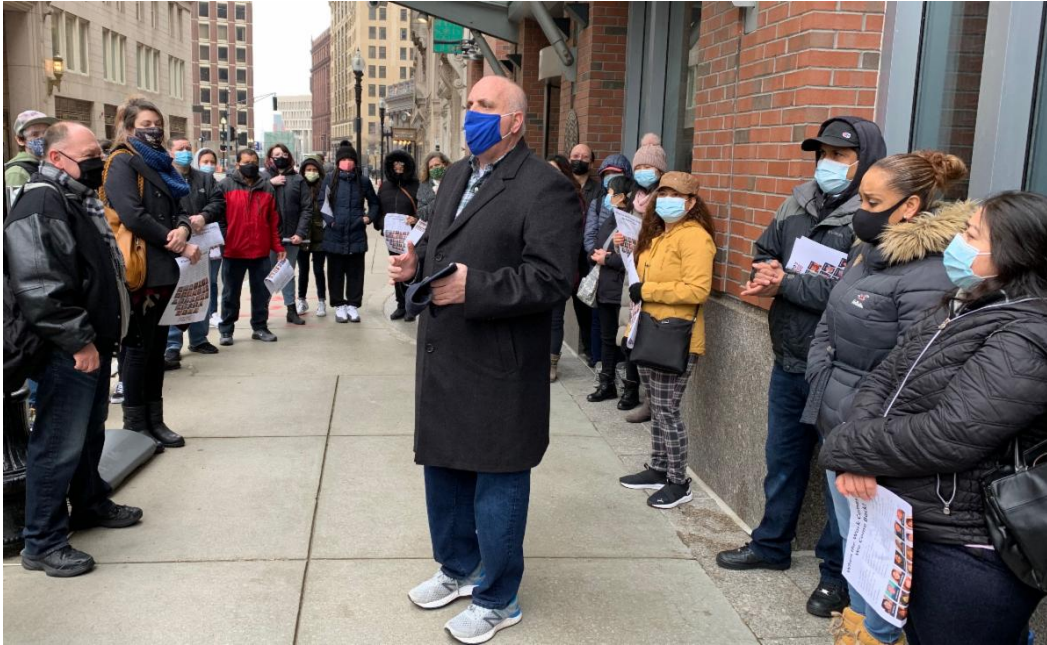


ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN



Dear neighbors,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the arrival of Spring and the warmer weather we've been experiencing. I would like to provide some updates regarding the work that my team and I focused on this month, upcoming meetings and information, 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 connect constituents to vaccination clinics. On vaccine equity and BHA vaccination clinics, we recently joined Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty's office to do outreach calls to neighbors at the both the Monsignor Powers in South Boston and St. Botolph Apartments in Back Bay.

I visited the West Ninth St Apartments in South Boston to thank the medical staff and encourage neighbors to get vaccinated. My team and I also joined BHA administrators and medical staff at the Torre Unidad apartments in the South End to do outreach to the neighbors, help assist with the registration process, and perform interpretation services for cantonese and mandarin speaking neighbors. [You can read more about our efforts at Caught In Southie here.](#)

There is no beating this virus and no recovery for our economy without bringing all of our neighbors along with us. We are all in this together.

With over three million of Americans now being vaccinated every day, we are getting closer to the other side of this pandemic - but we have further to go over the coming months. In the meantime, please note that federal, state, and local public health experts are all emphasizing how critical it is to continue to adhere

to public health guidelines as we are in a race against the new COVID-19 variants, which could potentially be more contagious and lethal. For your family, friends, and neighbors, please wear a mask and maintain physical distance so that we all can make it through together.

Thank you and stay safe,
Ed

City and District Updates

Abutters Meeting

- 136-138 West Eight Street, South Boston
 - Tuesday, April 13th, 5:30 pm
 - 363 Albany Street, South End
 - Wednesday, March 31st, 6 pm
-

COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Vaccines continue to be offered to eligible people at several different types of locations, including Mass Vaccination Sites in Boston such as Fenway Park, Reggie Lewis Center and Hynes Convention Center, and general vaccination sites such as pharmacies and health care locations. You can check your eligibility and find out more information on the State website here: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>. You can find the location closest to you here: <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>.

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

COVID-19 vaccination appointments are also available at Tufts Medical Center this week from Wednesday, March 31st to Tuesday, April 6th. [If you are eligible, you can register and schedule an appointment here](#).

Property Tax Exemption Deadlines on April 1st

Please note I held a follow up property tax working session on March 8th with the Committee on Ways and Means as I'm very concerned about the latest property tax increase 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. I continue to advocate to my colleagues and both the City of Boston Assessing Department and Office of Budget Management my desire to explore increasing the existing exemptions for our seniors and residents, as well as creating a new exemption for long time homeowners. I am currently looking to coordinate with my colleagues and the city on a proposal before further action.

In the short term, I am reaching out with some additional resources and programs that were mentioned by Assessing Commissioner Ariniello ahead of this week's residential and personal exemptions filing deadline on April 1st. Also, Age Strong Commissioner Shea highlighted a program that can help save up to \$1500 for our seniors below. As many neighbors highlighted their desire to see an option to participate in deferral programs or what other avenues are currently available, this information may be helpful.

Senior Tax Deferral 41A Program

Please note that the Tax Deferral 41A program is available for seniors ages 65 and older who meet certain requirements. Residents are welcome to inquire about deferral options with the Taxpayer Referral and Assistance Center (TRAC) at 617-635-4287.

Property Tax Work Off Program

The Age Strong Commission also offers a range of programs for Seniors to work off part of their property taxes for up to \$1500 **and the deadline is July 1st.** Find out more here: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/age-strong-commission/senior-property-tax-work>.

If you know of any neighbors who are not online but are interested in the program, please feel free to reach out to the Age Strong Commission at 617-635-4366 with their names and addresses. Age Strong will be able to send a letter and application out as well as speak over the phone about the program. In addition, they partner with the ABCD fuel assistance program to send applications out to all of the recipients who are over the age of 60.

Rental Relief Fund

[The City of Boston is providing an additional \\$50 million in federal stimulus funding to the Boston Rental Relief Fund in an effort aimed at housing stability for neighbors impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.](#) This new funding will help residents who are in need pay their rent and assist in preventing evictions. Please note that the federal eviction moratorium now expires on June 30. [Please visit this page to apply or check if you are eligible for the Rental Relief Fund.](#)

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping has resumed in the North End, South End, and Beacon Hill. Ticketing and towing in these neighborhoods are in effect. For the rest of the City, street sweeping will resume on April 1. Ticketing will begin at that time, and towing will start on April 20. For more information, visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/street-sweeping-city>

2021 Outdoor Dining Application

The 2021 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program is 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.](#)

FY22 Community Preservation Funds

Please note the Community Preservation rolling eligibility form is now open for the next funding round. If any neighbors or civic organizations are interested in applying for CPA funding for FY22, please complete the eligibility form and talk with CPA staff. [You may please fill out the rolling eligibility form here.](#) [You can also find additional information on the application process here.](#)

2021 Youth Summer Jobs

Applications for Youth Summer Jobs are now open for 2021. [If you are interested, please check the City of Boston's Youth Engagement and Employment website for more information regarding youth summer jobs.](#) The City of Boston has partnered with almost 200 community-based organizations in the past, as well as non-profits and City agencies.

Council Hearings and Resolutions



Order for a hearing regarding Brookfield Asset Management's firing of 52 workers at the Nine Zero Hotel, sponsored by Councilors Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok

Early last week, Nine Zero Hotel and Brookfield Asset Management notified their workers through Unite here Local 26 that it plans on permanently eliminating an estimated 52 employees out of 77 workers. It is unconscionable to use the pandemic as an excuse to lay off these hard-working hotel employees. What makes this even worse is that the termination comes only days after a contract provision running out that guaranteed the right for workers to return with full seniority. The Boston Retirement Fund has \$14 million invested in the Brookfield Asset Management fund that owns the Nine Zero Hotel. With these firings, Councilor Flynn and Councilor Bok called for a hearing to learn more about the potential implications that Brookfield's decisions have for the Boston Retirement Fund beneficiaries.

Order for a hearing on digital infrastructure and electronic city services, sponsored by Councilors Lydia Edwards and Ed Flynn

Councilor Flynn co-sponsored a hearing order with Councilor Edwards to discuss the digital infrastructure of the City of Boston and how it could be improved to make city services and information more accessible and transparent to the City's residents, businesses, and organizations. Residents are now increasingly reliant on the City of Boston's digital infrastructure to access information and services, yet many still frequently have difficulty reliably accessing online city services. It is therefore critical that the City of Boston have a robust digital infrastructure to provide the necessary electronic city services to our residents, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Order for a hearing to discuss the safety of construction sites in the city of Boston, sponsored by Councilors Ed Flynn, Liz Breadon, and Michael Flaherty

This hearing order was filed to discuss the existing safety procedures and precautions at construction sites due to tragedies, accidents and fires in recent years that have impacted workers, neighbors and pedestrians. Earlier this month, there was an accident on High Street in Downtown where two workers were tragically killed on a construction site. This hearing aims to discuss how the city can ensure that construction sites and workers are safe, that the vetting process for construction companies is thorough, and ways that the City can ensure the protection and well-being of our workers, residents, and pedestrians.

Resolution in support of S.D.1313, "An Act Relative to the Structure of the Fiscal Management and Control Board", sponsored by Councilors Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok

Councilor Flynn and Councilor Bok filed this resolution in support of the state bill sponsored by Senator Nick Collins, which proposes to change the structure of the Fiscal Management Control Board (FMCB) by expanding the Board to seven members, including one member to be appointed by the Mayor of the City of Boston. Having a seat appointed by the Mayor of Boston is wholly appropriate, as the MBTA is a critical part of Boston's transportation system and many of our Boston residents rely on the MBTA as a mode of transportation. Boston also has the biggest share of MBTA ridership, and has the largest number of MBTA stations. Boston deserves fair representation and a seat at the table on the FMCB. This resolution was passed unanimously in the City Council.

Resolution supporting Boston VNA Care healthcare professionals, sponsored by Councilors Ed Flynn, Liz Breadon, and Lydia Edwards

The Councilors sponsored and passed this resolution to support the Boston VNA healthcare professionals, as their efforts have been obstructed by management's delay in bargaining an equitable and fair contract. Boston VNA is a certified home health agency that provides nursing care, therapies,

rehabilitations, and other home healthcare services to patients in Boston. These healthcare professionals deliver critical services to homebound patients, and risk their own health to serve patients in this pandemic. However, despite their work, BVNA management is proposing to cut sick leave benefits for new workers, and is refusing to give healthcare professionals the same bereavement leave benefits that are available to their nurse colleagues. This resolution sends support to the Boston VNA healthcare workers as they negotiate their contract, and urges the BVNA management to negotiate in good faith.

Hearings Recently Held

Hearing to discuss the proliferation of electronic billboards

This month, I was proud to partner with Councilor 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 Nine Zero Hotel workers this month. These workers, mostly Black, Brown, and Asian, were fired by the hotel in violation of their contract. It's unconscionable to fire workers during a pandemic. We stand with them and demand that they are treated with dignity and respect. Thank you Unite here Local 26, Councilor Bok and Senator Boncore.



I was proud to stand with Massachusetts Nurses Association on their picket line at St. Vincent Hospital earlier this month. Our nurses were striking for patient safety and they deserve to be treated with respect. I was honored to join Councilor Edwards, Boston Gas Local 12003 USW, Community Labor United UFCW, and New England Jewish Labor Committee.



Earlier this month, I was proud to join my City Council colleagues to raise the Irish flag and celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We also marked the 175th anniversary of the Great Famine. We celebrate our proud Irish immigrant roots and recommit ourselves to the dignity of all immigrants and their families.



Thank you to the Walsh, Butler, and Cahill families, volunteers from South Boston Citizens' Association, South Boston-Seaport Catholic Collaborative, our South Boston neighbors, elected officials, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, and many others who prepared and delivered a delicious lunch to hundreds of seniors in our neighborhoods in honor of St. Patrick's Day.



Thank you Chinatown Main Street and dedicated volunteers, including engineers from General Electric in Lynn, for coordinating food assistance for residents of Chinatown and the South End this month. I was proud to visit and thank the volunteers for providing our seniors and families with healthy food.



It was great to join Councilor Flaherty in visiting the Harbor Health Services vaccination site at Florian Hall this month. Thank you Boston Fire Fighters Local 718 IAFF, Massachusetts National Guard, and Representative Dan Hunt for your exceptional leadership in making this vaccination site a reality.



I was proud to attend last week's flag raising ceremony in recognition of Medal of Honor Day. It was an honor to join Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Navy Captain Thomas G. Kelley, Tom Lyons from the South Boston Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission, Governor Baker, Mayor Janey, Congressman Lynch, Senator Collins, Representative Biele and Councilor Flaherty.



Last weekend, Kristen and I joined the Asian community of Boston for a Candlelight Vigil in remembrance of all lives lost due to Anti-Asian violence. Thank you to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association for organizing this vigil. We are proud to stand with you.

It was great to join South End Seniors earlier this month. We had a great conversation about quality of life issues and neighborhood challenges. I am proud to represent this diverse and welcoming community.



I was honored to attend last week's Massachusetts Town Hall on Anti-Asian Racism. Thank you to Massachusetts APIs CAN for creating this space on how we can address anti-Asian racism and support each other.

March is International Women's Month, and we honor the strong women in our lives. During the pandemic, we have seen women lead in science, healthcare, as frontline workers, first responders, teachers, and nonprofit leaders. Let's work to empower all women through gender equity and wage equality.



One of the best parts of my job on the City Council is the opportunity to meet and talk with our dedicated and professional City of Boston employees. During a visit to the Boston Housing Authority West 9th Street Apartments in South Boston this month, I had that privilege once again.

I also had the opportunity to meet and talk with Matthew, an outstanding Public Works Department employee. I'm proud of our City of Boston employees who help keep our city moving forward.



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