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Dear neighbors,

Happy May! This is a particularly busy time of year in the City Council as we proceed with ongoing hearings regarding the [FY2023 Budget](#). As we hear from City Officials regarding their budgetary plans, [please note that there are still opportunities to provide feedback through testifying at the Council's budget hearings.](#)

In light of the recent string of violent incidents in the Downtown and Chinatown neighborhoods, I met with Boston Police A-1 Captain Ciccolo, Downtown, Chinatown and Leather District residents to address the immediate concerns and needs of the areas. The Boston Police are increasing police and bike Patrols in both neighborhoods, and I am working with the City to explore installing additional surveillance cameras in certain blocks. It is important to note that despite these unsettling incidents, overall, violent crime in the area is down 21% from 2021 and down 29% from the 5 year average. I will continue to work closely with Mayor Wu to ensure that our streets are safe and that Downtown and Chinatown - which are still recovering from the pandemic - get both the full support and attention that they deserve.

In recent weeks, COVID-19 cases in the City have started to trend upward. Community positivity has climbed to 10.7% after being as low as 2.2% in early March. I continue to encourage everyone to get tested, as well as to get vaccinated and boosted. Vaccines are still the most effective way to combat COVID-19 and prevent serious health complications, hospitalizations and

death. I have included more information on testing and vaccines below.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. As we continue to fight against anti-Asian racism and hate in our City, let's recommit ourselves and stand in solidarity with our AAPI neighbors through supporting their work, businesses and their communities as our diversity is our strength.

Thank you,  
Ed

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## City and District Updates

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### BPDA Meetings

- [475–511 Dorchester Avenue, On the Dot](#)
  - Tuesday, May 17th, 6:00-7:30 pm
- [BPDA: Parcel X, 310 Northern Ave Virtual Public Meeting](#)
  - Thursday, May 19th, 6:00-8:00pm

### Cannabis Meeting

- [Herbal Power Cannabis Community Meeting: 329 Columbus Ave](#)
    - Monday, May 16th at 6:00 pm
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### COVID-19 Vaccine & Booster Update

[According to the Boston Public Health Commission, there has been a 21.2% increase in COVID-19 cases in the past two weeks and community positivity has climbed to 10.7%.](#) If you are feeling unwell, please wear a mask and get tested. The BPHC provides free testing in the City, you can visit [boston.gov/covid19-testing](https://www.boston.gov/covid19-testing) for available testing sites. I encourage those of you who are not vaccinated or boosted to receive your shots. Vaccines will reduce your risk of COVID-19 infection, while helping to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Free COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinics are also available in the City. Visit [boston.gov/covid19-vaccine](https://www.boston.gov/covid19-vaccine) to find a vaccine clinic. Do note that not all locations will carry vaccines for children ages 5 to 11. You should contact the vaccine sites for more information.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a booster or which booster to get, the State website provides more information here:

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on boosters can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions>

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### At-home test kits

Residents can sign up to receive free COVID-19 at-home test kits. 4 kits are included per household and ships in 7 to 12 days. Sign up here:

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

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## **COVID-19 Resources for Businesses**

The Office of Economic Development host weekly calls for small business owners and provides information and resources on reopening guidance and support services. Their weekly calls are on Tuesdays at 3pm and you can pre-register here to join:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_B12DiEy2QZKoe3LjC71yQQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B12DiEy2QZKoe3LjC71yQQ)

For more information, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/news/covid-19-resources-businesses>

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## **BPS Exam School Entrance Test Opportunities**

Please note all non-BPS students in Grades 5, 7 and 8 who wish to be considered for an Exam School for the 2023-24 school year must register for the MAP Growth assessment by Friday, May 13th. You can register here:

<https://bit.ly/3w34pZr>. For more information, please email [exam@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:exam@bostonpublicschools.org) and visit: <https://bit.ly/39aSqzJ>.

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## **Community Preservation Funds for FY2023**

Please note Community Preservation funding for the financial year 2023 is now open. To apply for this funding round, visit CPA's [How to Apply Page](#) and complete a [Rolling Eligibility Form](#).

There will be Community Engagement Meetings and Workshops upcoming in May, which includes going through the Community Preservation Act (CPA) process, the law, how to preserve your neighborhood, application requirements, and the decision-making process. Please see the list of engagement events below.

### **Community Preservation Virtual Meet and Greet**

- Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 pm-1:30 pm [RSVP](#)
- Wednesday, June 22nd at 6:00 pm-7:30 pm [RSVP](#)

### **Community Preservation Act Virtual Workshops**

- Open Space and Recreation Workshop:
  - Wednesday, June 8th at 12:00 pm-2:00 pm [RSVP](#)

For more, please visit the CPA's website: [boston.gov/community-preservation](https://boston.gov/community-preservation)

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## **2022 Love Your Block Mini-Grants**

Applications for the City's Love Your Block Mini-grants are now open. If you have an idea for a project to improve your neighborhood, such as to create open and green space, planting trees, repairing facilities, etc, you can submit a proposal for a community project for the potential to receive \$3,500 in grant funding and supplemental City services. The mini-grant application deadline is Friday, June 10th, 2022, at 5:00 pm. For more information, please visit:

[boston.gov/civic-engagement/love-your-block/love-your-block-mini-grants#](https://boston.gov/civic-engagement/love-your-block/love-your-block-mini-grants#)

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## **2022 SuccessLink Youth and Young adult jobs**

Applications for 2022 Boston SuccessLink Summer Youth Jobs are now open. Every Summer, the City partners with 200 community-based organizations to

employ Boston's youth. This year, there are 6,000 summer job opportunities for Boston youth ages 14-18 to develop their skills and network. For more information and to apply, please visit: [boston.gov/departments/youth-engagement-and-employment/successlink-jobs](https://www.boston.gov/departments/youth-engagement-and-employment/successlink-jobs) or contact [successlink@boston.gov](mailto:successlink@boston.gov).

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### **BCYF Lifeguard Applications**

Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) is hiring lifeguards. There are over 25 positions available. Apply at [Boston.gov/Lifeguard-Jobs](https://www.boston.gov/Lifeguard-Jobs) and keep swimmers safe this summer!

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### **2022 Summer Eats Program**

The Boston Summer Eats program provides nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost to youth ages 18 and under. The Office of Food Justice is currently recruiting for organizations interested in becoming a meal site to distribute free meals. If your organization is interested, please submit a form here: <https://bit.ly/3OLj7LI>. For more information, contact [Kibeh@ymcaboston.org](mailto:Kibeh@ymcaboston.org).

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### **2022 Greenway Food Truck Program**

Since April 1st, [food trucks are now back on the Greenway](#). Thank you to the Greenway for this program to support our small businesses. As the weather warms up, I encourage residents, families, and children to visit the Greenway and support our food trucks. There will be a Greenway Food Truck Festival on Saturday, May 7th from 11:00 to 3:00 pm.

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### **Rental Relief Fund**

The Rental Relief Fund is still available for eligible residents who have difficulty paying their rent, utilities, and moving costs. The fund can provide up to \$17,000 in assistance for eligible households for up to 18 months. To learn more, please go to: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/housing/office-housing-stability/rental-relief-fund>

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### **Small Business Relief Fund**

The City is offering another round of Small Business Relief Fund with \$5 million to help additional local, small businesses as Boston continues its recovery. For more information on how to apply, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/economic-development/small-business-relief-fund#application>.

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### **Metrolist**

Affordable housing is one of the biggest issues we face in the City of Boston, and a top concern for many of our working families, low income neighbors, communities of color, and immigrants. The City of Boston provides a resource called Metrolist that helps you find housing based on your income and provides the most recent affordable housing listings. Please take a look and consider filling out an application for an opportunity to access affordable home ownership. For more information, please go to:

## **Council Hearings and Resolutions**

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### **Order for a hearing to discuss pest control in the City of Boston**

There has been a noted rise in rodent and pest activities in our neighborhoods in the past few years, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that the city continues to have adequate measures in place to deal with the increase in rodent activities, such as more inspections, public awareness campaigns and public outreach. This hearing is co-sponsored by Councilor Liz Breadon and Councilor Erin Murphy.

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### **Order for a hearing to discuss Increasing Access to Swimming Lessons and Awareness of Water Safety**

It is vital for our young people to have basic water safety awareness and to learn how to swim. Last year, a 19-year-old drowned while swimming in Hyde Park Pond while another 19-year-old drowned swimming near Castle Island in South Boston. Drownings are particularly likely to affect Black and low-income families. It is reported that Black children are almost six times more likely to die from drowning than white children, and 79 percent of children in families that bring in less than \$50,000 in annual income have little or no swimming ability. As a City surrounded by water, it is imperative that ensure all residents - regardless of race and income - have the basic skills to be safe around water. I look forward to this hearing with Councilor Kendra Lara to discuss and explore measures to provide free and low-cost swimming resources to Boston residents.

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### **Resolution Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Paralyzed Veterans Of America**

I was honored to join my Boston City Council colleagues in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). PVA is a leading advocate for quality health care, spinal cord research and education, veterans benefits and civil rights for veterans and all people with disabilities.

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### **Resolution recognizing the Bicentenary of the incorporation of the City of Boston.**

I am proud to join Councilor Kenzie Bok in recognizing the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Boston. Over the last two centuries, many public servants have worked tirelessly for the City, so that the City can better serve its residents and communities to develop and thrive. I look forward to celebrating Boston's Bicentennial in May as the City continues its work serving the public interest and communities who call this City home.

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### **Resolution in support of Greater Boston Starbucks Workers United**

I was proud to join Councilor Liz Breadon to co-sponsor a resolution in support of Starbucks Workers unionizing and renouncing anti-union tactics. Facing

labor cuts, understaffed shifts and unsafe working conditions, it is important that these workers are able to come together, unionize and negotiate with Starbucks without retaliation and union-busting approaches.

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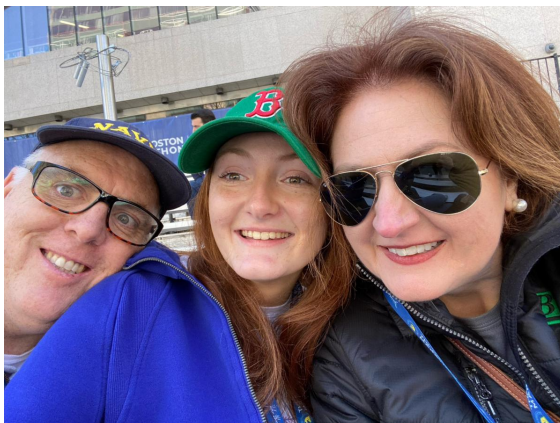
## In the Community

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Last week, I was honored to join fellow members of Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post 561, Boston Police, Boston Fire Department, South Boston neighbors and elected officials in wishing a Happy Birthday to Ottavio Cerullo, a World War II US Army Veteran and his sister Yolanda, a US Coast Guard Veteran. Thank you both for your service and sacrifice!

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Kristen, Caroline and I enjoyed attending the 2022 Boston Marathon. The marathon is a special day in our city and it was exciting to cheer on all the participants. Congratulations to all the runners who ran their hearts out!

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I joined Councilor Kenzie Bok, Friends of the Public Garden, Downtown BID, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Boston Police Captain Ciccolo and District Attorney Hayden for a public safety meeting recently at the Boston Common, where we discussed the ongoing safety concerns in the park. Let's continue to work together to ensure Boston Common is a welcoming and safe place for all.

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It was great to join Mayor Michelle Wu, city officials, and Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy for Earth Day celebration in Chinatown this year. Earth Day is a reminder that we must enact policies to protect our city from climate change, sea level rise and pollution.

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Kristen and I were honored to join volunteers for a clean up of Moakley Park and Carson Beach. Thank you to the wonderful partnership between Boston Harbor Now, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the National Park Service. Let's make our parks and beaches clean and welcoming to all!

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Thank you Saint Botolph Neighborhood Association for sponsoring a food drive to benefit the South End Community Fridge. Food access is a critical issue facing many seniors and families. Let's continue working together with community partners and the Office of Food Justice on this issue!





Recently, I had a beautiful Sunday afternoon with members of the City Point Neighborhood Association for coffee and conversation at Medal of Honor Park. It was fun talking with South Boston neighbors, community leaders and elected officials. Our neighborhood associations bring us together as communities and make our lives better.

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We were proud to join volunteers for a cleanup of the I Street Harborwalk Park and East 1st Street recently. Thank you to the outstanding support from

Friends of North of Broadway, Eversource, Friends of Boston Harborwalk, Canada Goose and Bentley University students. It was great to see so much community spirit.



Thank you to the Boston Public Works and Boston Parks and Recreation Department for providing drop off boxes across our city to recycle textiles. Kristen and I were able to drop off a bag of clothes at Moakley Park over the weekend. Let's continue to work together to make Boston the best city it can be!

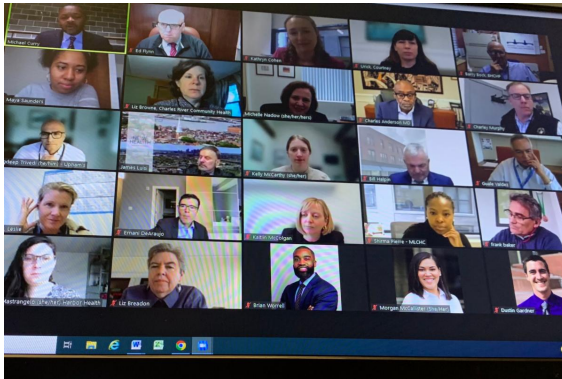
Recently, I joined Chinatown residents, civic leaders, city officials and Boston Police to discuss public safety challenges and anti-Asian racism. It's critical we work together to advocate for an increase in police presence, language access and support for immigrant neighbors.



I was honored to attend the Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Board of Directors meeting recently with Boston City Council colleagues and community leaders. ABCD is a nonprofit human services organization which provides critical support and programs to more than 100,000 families in need throughout Boston. Let's continue to support the important work of ABCD!

Kristen and I enjoyed a wonderful mass at Our Lady of Good Voyage last weekend in celebration of their 5th Anniversary. This is a wonderful community, and through St. Monica Kitchen, these parishioners provide

compassionate assistance to many families and seniors in need.



Thank you to the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers for inviting my Boston City Council colleagues for a discussion about the critical role health centers play in our city. Neighborhoods in Boston are healthier thanks to our community health care centers!

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

