

# ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN



It was great to be back for National Night Out with Mayor Wu, Representative Santiago, Boston Police Department and neighbors in South End and Chinatown. We discussed community policing, building relationships and trust, and safer neighborhoods for all.

Dear neighbors,

I hope your September is off to a great start.

Over the past month, with news of the Orange Line Shutdown, I attended many meetings with the MBTA. With infrastructural improvements now underway and schools starting, I will continue to work with the MBTA and city officials to ensure that families and students have the information they need to plan their journeys ahead and minimize disruptions. I have pushed the MBTA to provide improved communications from signages, flyers to announcements in multiple languages and I will continue to advocate for reliable alternative services, robust communication and outreach in the affected neighborhoods.

At the Council, I sponsored a hearing with Councilor Breadon and Councilor Murphy on pest control in early August. We discussed active measures that ISD is taking as well as longer term strategies that will reduce rat populations in our neighborhoods. I encourage residents to continue reporting pest control issues by calling 311 or through the 311 app so that the City can keep track of requests and problem areas.

Lastly, the CDC has announced a new bivalent booster to combat the more

recent strains of COVID-19. I have included more details below. I encourage everyone to complete their primary vaccination series and to stay up to date with the latest boosters.

Take care,  
Ed

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## City and District Updates

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### BPDA Meetings

- [224 - 284 A Street Public Meeting](#)
  - Monday, September 12, 6:00 - 8:00pm
- [PLAN: Newmarket Advisory Group Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, September 14, 9:00 - 10:00am
- [330 C Street Public Meeting](#)
  - Tuesday, September 20, 6:00 - 7:30pm

### Abutters Meetings

- [140 D street](#)
  - Monday, September 12, 6pm
- [196-198 West Broadway](#)
  - Tuesday, September 13, 5:30pm
- [230 Silver Street](#)
  - Wednesday, September 14, 5:30pm
- [748-750 West Broadway](#)
  - Monday, September 19, 5:30pm
- [8 Peters Way #3](#)
  - Tuesday, September 20, 5:30pm

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### \*New\* COVID-19 Fall Boosters

[Bivalent vaccines, also known as updated boosters, are now available for people who have completed their primary vaccination series \(two main doses\).](#) The bivalent vaccine will include an mRNA component of the original strain to provide immunity against COVID-19 and an mRNA component in common between the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5 to provide better protection against the omicron variant.

### Moderna

Individuals 18 years of age and older are eligible for a single bivalent dose of the Moderna Vaccine if it has been at least two months since their primary vaccination (two doses) or since the first booster with any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.

### Pfizer-BioNTech

Individuals 12 years of age and older are eligible for a single bivalent dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine if it has been at least two months since their primary vaccination (two doses) or since the first booster with any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information, the FDA provides an in-depth explanation of the new bivalent vaccine here: [fda.gov/bivalent-vaccine](https://www.fda.gov/bivalent-vaccine)

Free COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinics are available in the City. Please 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 6 months 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>

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### **Monkeypox**

Monkeypox cases are on the rise in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have reported over 18,000 infections nationally, and there are over 347 cases in Massachusetts. Monkeypox symptoms include fever, headache, rash, muscle aches, exhaustion, backache, and swollen lymph nodes. It is contagious until the rash and sores have healed, and can be spread through close skin-to-skin contact with a monkeypox rash, sores, scabs and bodily fluids. It can also be spread through contact with clothing, bedding and surfaces used by someone with monkeypox. The risk of monkeypox is not limited to people who are sexually active or men who have sex with men. You can learn more about monkeypox on the [BPHC's website](#).

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### **Community Preservation Funding for FY2023**

Please note that the deadline to submit an eligibility form for the FY23 Community Preservation funding round is now closed. The application process will open on October 5th by invitation and close on November 9th.

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

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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 \$10,000 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:  
<https://www.boston.gov/metrolist>

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### **Food Waste Collection Program**

The City just started a new Food Waste Collection program to reduce Boston's reliance on landfills. This program will collect food waste on the same day as trash and recycling pick up and make it easier for Boston residents to sustainably dispose of food scraps that can be used to make compost. Any Boston resident who lives in a residential building with six units or less is eligible to enroll. If you are interested, please enroll at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/curbside-food-waste-collection>.

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### **Summer Events in District 2**

During the summer, the City hosts a series of events for residents. Listed below are planned activities for District 2.

#### **Summer Fitness Series**

Strength Training: A Street Park, South Boston

- Now through October 1, Every Sunday, 9am

Zumba: Blackstone Square, South End

- Now through October 1, Every Tuesday, 6:30pm

Strength and Conditioning: Elliot Norton Park, Chinatown

- Now through October 1, Every Wednesday, 9am

Frog Pond Yoga: Boston Common, Downtown (Near the Carousel)

- Now through October 1, Every Thursday, 6pm
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## **Council Hearings and Resolutions**

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### **Order for a hearing to discuss safety concerns associated with Double-Decker Sightseeing Buses and the requirement of Double Decker Bus Public Safety Measures in the City Of Boston**

Double-Decker buses are known to present a set of safety challenges due to their size which creates instability due to a higher center of gravity and larger blind spots that limit the vision of bus operators to see other vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. Open-top double-decker buses also expose passengers to overhead safety risks from street signs, wires, poles, bridge structures, and falling objects.

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### **Resolution Recognizing National Purple Heart Day 2022**

National Purple Heart Day is observed annually on August 7 to commemorate the creation of the oldest American military decoration for military merit. It is a day to honor the brave men and women who were wounded on the battlefield or paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives. The Purple Heart Foundation was founded in 1957 as a non-profit that raises funds to support our nation's veterans and families to help rehabilitate, provide academic scholarships, counseling services, financial, occupational, and health education to our veterans.

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## Hearings recently held

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### **Hearing to discuss pest control in the City of Boston**

In early August, I sponsored a hearing with Councilors Breadon and Murphy on pest control. Chaired by Councilor Bok, we discussed measures that the city can take to respond to the uptick in rodent activities, and long-term strategies that will reduce their populations in our neighborhoods. The ISD informed our panel that there are currently thirteen inspectors under ISD Environmental Services who are licensed pest control applicators and they are looking to hire a fourteenth member to improve the issue. The City has also purchased carbon monoxide machines to help curb the rat population, and there is a team that performs inspections on breaches in sewer lines. I continue to encourage residents to report pest control issues by calling 311 or using the 311 app so that the City can keep track of requests and problem areas more efficiently.

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## In the Community

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In August, my Boston City Council colleagues and I welcomed the Latina Center MARIA and a group of women in business to the Council. We discussed the critical role women entrepreneurs play and the importance of providing professional development opportunities for women.

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It was great to join South Boston neighbors, business and community leaders, and Councilor Murphy for Coffee With A Cop at Olga's Kafe on West Broadway. Thank you to the outstanding Boston Police Department C-6 team for your dedication and professionalism to Boston residents.

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I had a wonderful time meeting residents and tourists with Councilor Louijeune and Councilor Coletta for the Tea & Tranquility Meet and Greet at the Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway. This is an engaging and beautiful section of the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy with the Labyrinth and Sculpture!

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Kristen and I had a fun evening at the 50th Anniversary celebration of Harbor Towers in August. I am proud to represent Harbor Towers and to join my Council colleagues and Mayor Wu in proclaiming Harbor Towers Day in Boston.

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Thank you to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England for sponsoring the 52nd Annual August Moon Festival. It was great to join my colleagues in government to celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of Boston's Chinese community.

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It was an honor to welcome and host the Boston Centers for Youth & Families Superteens from the Blackstone Community Center. The teens received a tour of the Boston Planning & Development Agency Map Room and the Boston City Council Chamber. We had a great lunch and discussion about education, leadership development and our City.

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I was honored to attend the South Boston Neighborhood House Shark Tank Showdown. As part of their summer internship program and the Science Exploration Camp, South Boston youth discussed their experiences studying current challenges and solutions in Boston, including air pollution and the environment, fishing, and healthy foods.

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Kristen and I were proud to join State Representative Jon Santiago and South End and Back Bay residents for a clean-up of Southwest Corridor Park. The cleanup was organized by the International WeLoveU Foundation United States. What a great community partnership!

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I joined the Starbucks workers on the picket line in their fight for fair labor practices and collective bargaining. Labor unions provide a clear path to the middle class for so many in our city and country!

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I was honored to attend the Ukrainian Independence Day Picnic in Jamaica Plain with James Colimon. We celebrated the enormous contributions and sacrifices of the Ukrainian community to our city and country. We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and their fight for freedom!

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Caroline and I had a great time at Unity Day sponsored by the West Broadway Task Force and Boston Housing Authority. It was great to see so many BHA residents and families having a wonderful afternoon. Thank you to South Boston ONS Anna White, Boston Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, the BHA team and volunteers for joining us!

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Stephen and I had a great time at the Boston Seafood Festival at the historic Fish Pier. Thank you to the festival organizers and the dedicated team at Massachusetts Port Authority for supporting the seafood industry.

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I enjoyed meeting with Boston Asian Youth Essential Service (YES) students and showing them around the Boston City Council. The YES is a great program working with Asian youth to discover and realize their greatest potential. Thank you to Chinatown ONS Chulan Huang for coordinating the visit.

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It was great to visit small businesses in Chinatown in August. Small businesses play a critical role in our neighborhoods. Let's continue to support them, including women and immigrant-owned businesses!

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Councilor Flaherty and I stopped by Ethel and Andy's Sandwich Shop in South Boston. We presented the sandwich shop with an official Boston City Council resolution for their 50th Anniversary. Thank you to this shop for always being a great friend and neighbor to South Boston!



I joined MBTA workers, Office of Neighborhood Services, seniors & students at the Tufts Medical Center bus stop area regarding the Orange Line Shutdown. It is critical that the route and hours of bus service work for Chinatown neighbors. Language access and communication is also critical. These are civil rights issues!

I stopped by Reggie Wong Park in Chinatown and the Leather District for their volleyball tournament this summer. Several hundred young adults, many from Boston's AAPI community, participated in this tournament. Thank you to the organizers for bringing our young adults together through sports!



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).



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