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Dear neighbors,

I hope you and your families all had a good thanksgiving holiday. Since my last newsletter, Mayor Michelle Wu has been sworn in as Mayor of the City of Boston. I would like to once again congratulate Mayor Wu on this historic win. Mayor Wu will be a great partner in our work to support working families, immigrant neighbors, our seniors, persons with disabilities and expanding language access. I look forward to continuing our work together in making Boston an inclusive city for all.

In the City Council, we continue to focus on issues relating to public safety, accessibility to services, and other areas that impact our residents' everyday lives. As described later in this newsletter, I've held several hearings at the Boston City Council recently on these issues, and will hold a number of others in the coming weeks as we aim to finish this year strong and 2021 draws to a close.

With winter and the holiday season upon us, I respectfully encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to get your boosters. Children ages 5 and above are now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, and I strongly recommend families to vaccinate children ahead of holiday gatherings. With the uncertainty of the new COVID-

19 Omicron variant, it is critical that we do what we can to protect our families, neighbors, community and our most vulnerable.

As we are now in December, I wish everyone a joyful, safe, and happy holiday season with your families and friends.

Thank you,  
Ed

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## City and District Updates

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### BPDA Meeting

- [BPDA: Mary Ellen McCormack Redevelopment](#)
  - **Thursday, December 9th, 6:00 to 8:00 pm**
- [BPDA: 345 E Street Public Meeting](#)
  - **Tuesday, December 14th, 6:00 to 7:30pm**
- [BPDA: 11-21 Bromfield Street Public Meeting](#)
  - **Wednesday, December 15th, 6:00 to 8:00pm**

### Abutters Meeting

- 1 Seaport Square, South Boston Waterfront
    - Monday, December 6th, 5:30pm
  - 211 Congress St, Downtown
    - Monday, December 6th, 6:00pm
  - 748-750 East Broadway, South Boston
    - Monday, December 6th, 7:30pm
  - 313 West Fourth St, South Boston
    - Tuesday, December 7th, 6:30pm
  - 449 West Broadway, South Boston
    - Wednesday, December 8th, 6:00pm
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### COVID-19 latest

[Please note face masks continue to be required in all indoor public settings in the City of Boston.](#) This requires everyone over the age of two to wear a mask or face covering at indoor public places such as businesses, clubs, restaurants and bars, retail outlets, performance venues, gyms, event spaces and municipal buildings.

### Vaccine & Booster Update

Please note children ages 5 to 17 are now eligible to get the Pfizer vaccine. Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Public Schools are providing FREE vaccine clinics to anyone ages 5 and above. You can check upcoming vaccine clinics on their calendar here: <http://bostonpublicschools.org/vaccines>

People ages 18 and older who are unvaccinated can get any vaccine. Boosters are also available for anyone ages 18 and above who have received the 2-dose

Pfizer or Moderna for at least 6 months, or the single-dose J&J for at least 2 months. 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>

[Here is a list of locations which provides COVID-19 vaccines in the City of Boston.](#) Please note not all locations will carry vaccines for children ages 5 to 11. You should contact vaccine sites for more information.

For updates on the vaccines, please check:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-vaccine-boston#>

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## **Rental Relief Fund**

The City of Boston is dedicating federal funds to the Boston Rental Relief Fund in an effort aimed at housing stability for neighbors impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will help residents who are in need pay their rent and assist in preventing evictions. [Please visit this page to apply or check if you are eligible for the Rental Relief Fund.](#)

Please note that if you apply to Boston's rental relief fund, you cannot be evicted for non-payment. Only an order from a judge can evict you. If you are at risk of eviction, [please contact the Office of Housing Stability at 617-635-4200 or visit this page for assistance.](#)

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

The Office of Economic Development hosts 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.

You can pre-register here to join:

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

They also offer various Business Relief Funds such as:

- [Certified Business Fund](#)
- [Commercial Rental Relief Fund](#)
- [High Road Kitchens Restaurant Relief Fund](#)
- [Reopen Boston Fund](#)

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

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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 our seniors, 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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## Hearings Recently Held

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### **Hearing to discuss services for women veterans**

We held an informative meeting to discuss how veteran organizations and Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals can offer more gender-specific services for our women veterans. Women comprise nearly 20% of serving military personnel and 10% of the veteran population, making up an important part of our military. However, despite their contributions, women veterans often don't receive enough support. This was reflected in the testimony and statements from panelists in the hearing, who spoke about their experiences in the military or with women veterans, and how discrimination and prejudice still follows women veterans and women veterans of color whether they are in or out of the military. Panelists also spoke about the high incidence of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) especially among women veterans, and the need for services to address this.

Currently, women veterans can be connected to services specifically for them by calling or texting 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636) or through an online chat at <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>, and they will be connected to the service providers closest to them. There is also a resource guide available for women veterans at Boston Veterans Services:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/veterans-services/resources-women-veterans>.

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### **Hearing regarding the increase of communications access for people with disabilities to public-facing televisions**

I held this hearing in partnership with the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Commissioner Kristen McCosh to discuss ways for the City of Boston to ensure that persons with disabilities have full access to information and resources shared to the public, and that public facing

televisions have closed captions enabled. I will be working with the Disability Commission and advocates to develop policies that will encourage businesses to turn on captions for their televisions, so that our residents with hearing loss and other disabilities can access information also.

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### **Hearing to discuss water rescue infrastructure in the City of Boston**

Boston is a city surrounded by water, and over the years with the increase of visitors and tourists to our city, we unfortunately see incidents of people falling into the water. As a result, residents have advocated for life saving rings to be installed at Fort Point and near public docks in case of accidents and other incidents of people falling into the water. This hearing brought together city and state agencies to discuss existing infrastructure in place for rescuing those that fall into the water, as well as talk about ways that we can further improve water safety. Thank you to the YMCA for working with the City of Boston in providing swimming lessons for our youth.

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## **Upcoming Hearings**

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### **Hearing to discuss internet access and digital equity in the City of Boston**

On Monday, December 6th at 11am, I will hold a hearing on Digital Equity with Councilor Julia Mejia and Councilor Kenzie Bok. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the Digital Divide for many of our neighbors, communities of color, immigrants, and our seniors. We will discuss the lack of affordable internet and access, competition, municipal broadband and infrastructure at the hearing.

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### **Hearing regarding the installation of solar panels on municipal parking lots and buildings, investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and electrifying the City of Boston's vehicle fleet**

On Friday, December 10th at 11am, Councilor Matt O'Malley and I will hold a hearing regarding Electrical Vehicle (EV) infrastructure and electrifying the City's vehicle fleet. With bipartisan federal legislation now signed which includes funds for EV charging, proposed legislation that includes increased tax credits, and car companies shifting to EVs in the coming decade, it is critical to discuss infrastructure at new construction developments, municipal locations, street parking and commercial areas.

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### **Hearing regarding maximizing workforce development opportunities in biotechnology for Boston residents**

We will be having this hearing with Councilors Baker, Breadon, Bok, and Mejia on how we can ensure that Boston residents will have access the jobs in the biotechnology sector, especially as this is a growing industry in our city. This hearing will take place on Monday, December 13th at 10am via Zoom.

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# In the Community

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It was wonderful to celebrate Thanksgiving with my family, colleagues in government and South Boston neighbors and volunteers in delivering meals to seniors and families. Thank you to St. Monica Church for hosting the Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell & Frank Kelley Thanksgiving lunch. A special thank you to the volunteers who organized the event, cooked and prepared the meals, cleaned the hall and delivered the meals. We are very grateful to you!

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I was proud to attend the Veterans Day celebrations this month with colleagues and military families at the Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post 561 in South Boston, the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument in South End, and the Veterans Day Parade. We celebrated the exceptional service and sacrifice of our Veterans and their families. Let's continue working together to support military families.

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It was great to join the Richard family and Boston residents last weekend for the new Holiday Tradition of the Ship Lighting at Martin's Park. Thank you Boston Parks Department and Friends of Martin's Park for bringing us

together for hot chocolate, an a cappella performance and a visit from Santa!

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Happy Hanukkah to all in our Greater Boston Jewish community! I was honored to join Governor Baker, Mayor Wu, Councilor Bok and Councilor-elect Ruthzee Louijeune for the 38th Annual Menorah Lighting at Boston Common this week. May the hope of Hanukkah bring light to all of us during this season!

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On the 79th Anniversary of the Coconut Grove Fire, we joined Boston Fire Department to remember and honor the 492 victims and survivors. As a result of the fire, changes in building codes and burn treatment were implemented throughout the U.S. The first responders and firefighters were true heroes!



Thank you to the dedicated team at Josiah Quincy Elementary School for a tour



of the school with administrators, teachers, parents, teachers and facilities staff. Josiah Quincy School is a shining example of an urban school - safe, inclusive, inspiring and welcoming.

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I was honored to volunteer at the Thanksgiving meal for homeless veterans and residents of the New England Center and Home for Veterans. This lunch was sponsored by St. Anthony Shine and their Veterans Ministry. I was proud to join Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Thomas G. Kelley, U.S. Navy (Retired), members of the Boston Police Department, my father, and fellow veterans. During this holiday season, let us be thankful for our veterans and military families for their sacrifice and service to our nation.

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I enjoyed watching a basketball game recently at the Kroc Center of Boston on Dudley Street with my parents, Superintendent Baston and many Boston hoop fans. Thanks to Al McClain, Kroc Center, the players, coaches, referees, Boston Police Department, clergy and community partners for their outstanding leadership in our city!

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I had such a great day celebrating the life of Mary Soo Hoo on the 10th anniversary of the park's dedication in her memory recently. Mary Soo Hoo and her family dedicated their lives to help build an inclusive and wonderful neighborhood. It was great to celebrate this special day. Thank you to Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy as well.

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The best part of my job is visiting with constituents throughout the district. I was honored to visit with residents of Villa Victoria in the South End in November. District 2 is diverse and engaged and I am proud to represent you.

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It is always fun to talk to students about city government and civic engagement! I met with Suffolk University students recently and was inspired by their thoughtful questions and comments.

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I was honored to join Mayor Wu, Boston Housing Authority, Age Strong and volunteers in delivering Thanksgiving meals to residents of the Torre Unidad Apartments in the South End. Thank you to Roy Webb and the volunteers for coordinating this wonderful outreach meal to seniors and persons with disabilities.

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It was great to stop by the Michael J. Perkins School in South Boston last week. This school is the “Home of Outstanding World Learners.” What a wonderful school community!



I was proud to join residents of the Bay Village for the recent Love Your Block cleanup. Thank you to the residents of this wonderful and engaged neighborhood and our dedicated and frontline city employees at Boston Public Works for a great partnership. Boston works best when we all work together!



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I was proud to join Senator Nick Collins and other colleagues in government in honoring Jim Hunt, an exceptional leader of Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers who dedicated his life to ensure equitable and quality healthcare for all. We are fortunate to have compassionate and effective leaders like Jim Hunt in Massachusetts.



It was great to attend the official launch reception of the MARA - Massachusetts Asian Restaurant Association at Kowloon Restaurant recently. I was delighted to join Bob Luz of the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, State Representative Tackey Chan , Representative Donald H. Wong and AAPI restaurant owners. Let's continue to support AAPI and immigrant-owned businesses.

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I was honored to visit Women's Lunch Place this week to thank their staff for their outstanding support of women experiencing poverty and homelessness. This program provides healthy meals, health and wellness outreach in a dignified and respectful environment. Thank you Women's Lunch Place for this

important work.



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).