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Dear Neighbors,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and well during this Christmas and holiday season.

As 2021 draws to a close, I am writing to provide you with a summary of the key areas of our work at the City Council this year: public health & vaccinations, pedestrian & public safety, housing & development, environment & resiliency, civil rights, and quality of life issues.

With a new surge of COVID-19 cases and the Omicron variant quickly becoming the dominant strain in the country, my team and I are working closely with Mayor Wu, Public Health officials, local nonprofits and community partners to continue our efforts to encourage people to get vaccinated and to get their boosters to combat the virus. With holiday gatherings taking place soon, it is critical that everyone gets vaccinated, boosted, and rapid tested if possible before seeing family and loved ones. We know that vaccines are currently the most effective way of providing protection against COVID-19 and preventing serious complications, hospitalizations, and death. We must continue to adhere to the latest public health guidelines from the medical community, and do our utmost to protect our families, our seniors, and our most vulnerable. We have to work together as a City to do our part so that we do not overwhelm our first responders and healthcare providers during this wave.

At the City Council this month, I held a hearing on digital equity with Councilors Mejia and Bok; a hearing regarding electrical vehicle (EV) infrastructure and electrifying the City's vehicle fleet with Councilor O'Malley;

and co-sponsored a hearing regarding workforce development opportunities in biotechnology and life sciences with Councilors Baker, Bok, and Breadon. I will continue to work on bridging the digital divide for our low income neighbors, communities of color, immigrants and our seniors; work with the City on expanding new EV infrastructure; and ensure that we connect our schools and young people to job opportunities, internships, and educational resources in the biotechnology and life sciences industry to equip them for jobs of both today and tomorrow.

We have seen Boston's leadership transition a few times this year as we continue to battle COVID-19 and recover from its impact on our economy and livelihoods. We would like to thank Secretary Marty Walsh, Mayor Kim Janey, and their teams for leading our City through unprecedented and challenging circumstances. We congratulate Mayor Wu on her historic victory and will continue to work closely with her administration on our efforts to tackle COVID-19 and address quality of life issues in our neighborhoods.

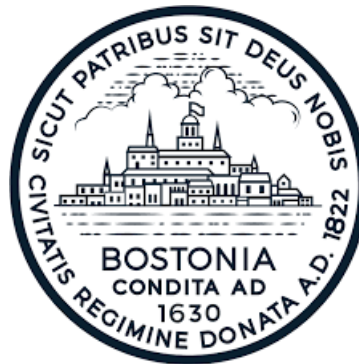
Thank you very much for your support. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy holiday season.

Ed

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## Hearing Orders, Council Hearings, Resolutions & Other Actions

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Below are highlights of our work this year:

### **Public Health**

- Refiled hearing to discuss the creation of a Frontline Workers COVID-19 Health Registry;
- Refiled hearing to discuss ways for the City to be more proactive in providing services, educating the public, and raising awareness for those infected with HIV/AIDS;
- Refiled and held a hearing to discuss large house parties and gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting our nurses and healthcare workers at the Boston VNA;

### **Quality of Life**

- Refiled and held a hearing and working session to discuss pest control and illegal dumping;

- Refiled hearing to discuss updates on the status and enforcement of the Short Term Rentals Ordinance;
- Called and held hearing to discuss the proliferation of electronic billboards in the City of Boston;
- Called and held hearing to discuss increasing fines for large house parties disturbing neighbors' quality of life;

### **Environment and Resiliency**

- Called for hearing on the process for tree removals in the City of Boston;
- Called and held hearing to discuss investments in electric vehicle charging infrastructure & electrifying the City of Boston's vehicle fleet;

### **Traffic and Public Safety**

- Refiled and held a hearing to discuss safety of construction sites;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss water rescue infrastructure in the City of Boston;
- Refiled hearing to discuss establishing a traffic master plan for South Boston;
- Called for using a portion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funding for the city to be dedicated to address pedestrian safety infrastructure needs;

### **Civil and Human Rights**

- Refiled and held a hearing on internet access and digital equity;
- Called for a hearing to discuss ways for the City to prevent and investigate incidents of hate crimes and discrimination;
- Co-sponsored hearing to hearing on domestic violence and sexual assault in the City of Boston;
- Called and held hearing to discuss ways for the City to increase communication access for people with disabilities to public-facing televisions;
- Sponsored and passed resolution in support of H. 3115 "An Act Ensuring Equitable Representation in the Commonwealth";
- Sponsored and passed resolution in support Of S.D.972 And H.D.1653 "An Act To Reform The Hate Crimes Statutes";

### **Housing and Development**

- Called and held hearing to discuss zoning and the community outreach process for life sciences laboratories in the City of Boston;
- Opposed projects unfavorable to abutters & neighborhood associations;
- Brought Inspectional Services to meet with concerned neighbors;

### **Social and Economic Justice**

- Called for hearing to discuss renewal fees for restaurants and food establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss the impact of CORI on access to employment and other opportunities;
- Called and held hearing and working session to discuss property taxes and assistance programs for seniors & long-term residents facing difficulties during COVID-19;
- Co-sponsored and held a hearing regarding maximizing workforce development opportunities in biotechnology for Boston residents;
- Called for hearing to discuss renewal fees for restaurants and food establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic;

### **Veteran Affairs**

- Called and held a hearing to hearing to discuss services for women veterans;
- Sponsored and passed a Resolution celebrating Always Ask, Proud to Tell Day;
- Sponsored and passed resolution commemorating Memorial Day and honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice for our country;
- Sponsored and passed resolution recognizing April As Month of The Military Child;

### **Other Actions**

- Sponsored and passed a resolution in support of H.D.4120 “an Act Relative To The Educational Needs Of Students Whose Education Was Negatively Impacted By The COVID-19 Emergency”;
- Sponsored and passed resolution in Support Of S.D.1313, “An Act Relative To The Structure Of The Fiscal Management And Control Board”;
- Sponsored and passed resolution In Support Of H.D. 1167, “an Act Concerning Genocide Education” And S.D. 1592, “An Act Advancing And Promoting Genocide Education”.

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## **City and District Updates**

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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:

## **B Together**

In an effort to address rising COVID-19 cases and encourage vaccination, Mayor Wu announced that starting on January 15th, 2022, individuals will be required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 in order to enter certain indoor spaces in Boston. This includes indoor dining, including bars and nightclubs; indoor entertainment, recreational and event venues, including movie theaters, music or concert venues; indoor gyms and fitness centers, including commercial gyms and fitness centers and studios. Please note employees working in these spaces will also be required to be vaccinated. To see the full detailed list, please check out:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/mayors-office/introducing-b-together#list-of-locations-and-businesses>

Please find below the timeline to show proof of vaccination:

- **January 15:** People age 12+ must show proof of one dose of vaccine
- **February 15:** People age 12+ must show proof of full vaccination
- **March 1:** Children age 5-11 must show proof of one dose of vaccine
- **May 1:** People age 5+ must show proof of full vaccination

For more on B Together, go to:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/mayors-office/introducing-b-together>

## **COVID-19 Home Testing Kits**

With COVID-19 cases on the rise again, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is offering free rapid at-home test kits to Boston residents at designated community sites across the city. Residents can drop by a pickup site and take up to one kit (which includes two tests) for each member of their household per visit. Supplies are first-come, first-served, and due to high demand, BPHC is currently working to send additional kits to sites. We have been informed that supplies will be delivered to the sites every day up until Thursday, December 23rd, and will resume the Monday after Christmas while supplies last. Residents are encouraged to call before stopping by a location.

For more information on the test kits and a list of the pick up sites, please go to: <https://www.bphc.org/whatwedo/infectious-diseases/Infectious-Diseases-A-to-Z/covid-19/Pages/Test-at-Home.aspx>

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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](#)

[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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## In the Community

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It was great to join Mayor Wu, colleagues in government, South Boston families, the MOMS Club of South Boston and ONS liaison Haley Dillon at this month's Enchanted Trolley Tour stop at Medal of Honor Park! The holidays are a wonderful opportunity to bring us together as a city and country.

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Thank you to the Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) Condon Community Center Council, staff and volunteers for sponsoring last week's Seniors Christmas Celebration. It was an awesome lunch, there was great entertainment and it is always fun to be with seniors from our neighborhood. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers!

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It is truly an honor to represent the residents of Villa Victoria in the South End. I'm proud of the dedicated and professional Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) team and their exceptional programming and support for the residents of Villa Victoria.

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Kristen and I had a festive afternoon with the Friends of Hayes Park for their “Sing in the Season” celebration recently. We are grateful to the Hayes family and the the Friends of Hayes Park for always welcoming us so warmly to your neighborhood. I am proud to represent you in city government.

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Kristen and I enjoyed supporting the South Boston Girl Scouts at Deja Brew on East Broadway recently. Buying a box of cookies (or two!) helps this outstanding group of young girls find their voices through leadership development and educational opportunities.

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Thank you to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England, Winn Companies, and the Tai Tung Tenants Association for sponsoring last week's Holiday celebration with residents of Tai Tung Village. I'm proud to represent Chinatown residents and the diverse neighborhoods of District 2!

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Thank you Mayor Wu, Boston Chinatown Residents' Association, elected officials and Chinatown residents for your leadership in yesterday's unveiling

of bilingual street signs in Chinese. Having these signs honors the history of the neighborhood and the proud immigrant heritage that built Chinatown.

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I was honored to attend the Massachusetts Gold Star Tree Dedication at the State House with my colleagues in government, military families, veterans and especially our Gold Star Families last week. Gold Star Families will always be remembered and honored for their sacrifice, pain, and love of our country.

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We had an awesome time at the 12th Annual South Boston Catholic Academy Jingle Bell Road Race on Saturday! It was great to see so many South Boston families and neighbors enjoying the day. I am honored to represent the people of South Boston.

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Thank you to the Provenzano family for advocating for a visually impaired pedestrian crossing device at I St and East Broadway in South Boston. Thank you to Boston Transportation, and Disabilities Commissioner McCosh for working so quickly with the neighbors and my team. Let's continue working on accessibility issues.

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It was an honor to thank the American Legion Boston Chinatown Post 328 for their outstanding support of the youth of the community through this annual holiday toy drive. We are proud of these veterans for their service to our country and city!

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I joined Bay Village and Chinatown residents, Josiah Quincy Elementary School administrators, and JQS parents for a meeting to discuss traffic, speeding, pedestrian safety and related concerns with Boston Transportation Department. It is

important for us to work together to improve pedestrian safety in Boston.



Earlier this month, I joined Downtown BID, Boston Police, MBTA Transit Police, Boston Transportation, Department of Neighborhood Development, Downtown Boston Residents' Association, Emerson College, Suffolk University and Friends of the Public Garden for a meeting to discuss pedestrian and public safety challenges and recommendations at Downtown Crossing.

I had the opportunity to talk with Vincent, an outstanding Public Works employee. Vincent, along with the thousands of City of Boston employees, provide exceptional services to the residents of our city. Thank you for helping to keep moving Boston 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](mailto:ed.flynn@boston.gov).