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Dear neighbors,

I hope everyone is staying safe and warm as we recover from the historic snow storm. Due to the abundant volume of snow, the City's 311 and Public Works Team has been working around the clock to address constituent calls, clean up our main traffic arteries, crosswalks, key intersections, and pedestrian ramps. Given the frigid temperatures that will last for a few more days, I urge folks to drive with caution and for neighbors to help out seniors and people with disabilities who may need a hand in getting groceries and shoveling.

Early in January, together with my City Council colleagues, I was sworn in for my third term as Boston City Councilor for District 2 and as Boston City Council's new President. I would like to welcome our newly-elected Councilors, Councilors at-large Erin Murphy and Ruthzee Louijeune; District Councilors Brian Worrell, Kendra Lara, and Tania Fernandes Anderson; and welcome back our incumbent Councilors and congratulate all on their win. There are many historic firsts in this election and I look forward to working together with each and every Councilor to make Boston a better City for all.

Although cases of the COVID-19 Omicron variant appear to have passed the peak surge, it is critical that we continue to adhere to public health guidelines and do our utmost to protect our families, our seniors, and the most vulnerable in our communities, and do our part to not overwhelm our first responders and healthcare providers. I continue to work closely with Public Health officials to encourage neighbors to get vaccinated and to get their boosters to combat the virus. Vaccines are still the most effective way of providing protection in spite breakthrough cases with this variant. Data has shown that the vaccines remain extremely effective at preventing serious complications, hospitalizations, and death from COVID-19.

February 1 marks the start of Lunar New Year. I wish those who celebrate Lunar New Year a happy, healthy and prosperous Year of the Tiger. February is also Black History Month. Let us honor our African American neighbors and communities, and celebrate the remarkable achievements and sacrifices they have made for our country.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings

- [BPDA: 87-93 West Broadway Virtual Public Meeting](#)
 - Tuesday, February 8th, 6:00 to 7:30pm
 - [BPDA 244-284 A Street Channelside Virtual Public Meeting](#)
 - Tuesday, February 15th 6:00-8:00pm
 - [BPDA Seaport Circle Public Meeting](#)
 - Thursday, February 17th, 6:00-7:30pm
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Winter Events in District 2

[Winter Warmer at Moakley Park](#)

- Saturday, February 12th, 2:00–4:00pm
- Moakley Park Field House, 350 Old Colony Avenue, Boston, MA 02127

This free event is hosted by Boston Harbor Now in partnership with the Parks Department, Family Engagement Network, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, South Boston en Acción, South Boston Neighborhood House, and Volo. Join for a fun afternoon with warm drinks, snacks, games, crafts, and more.

[Children's Winter Festival at Boston Common](#)

- Thursday, February 24, 11:00am - 2:00pm
- Boston Common Parade Ground (Corner of Beacon & Charles Street), Boston, MA 02111

This free event is hosted by Mayor Wu and the Parks Department in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation. There will be music, giveaways, various winter attractions, treats, crafts, and more.

COVID-19 latest

[Please note effective January 15th, individuals are required to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 to enter certain indoor spaces in Boston.](#) Face masks also 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. COVID-19 boosters are now also available for people ages 16 and above. 16 & 17-year-olds are eligible for the Pfizer booster only.

Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Public Schools are providing FREE vaccine clinics to anyone ages 5+. You can check upcoming vaccine clinics on their calendar here: <http://bostonpublicschools.org/vaccines>

People who are 18 and older can get any vaccine. Eligible people age 18 and older can get any booster (Pfizer, Moderna and J&J). 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#>

COVID-19 Testing

Regardless of whether you are experiencing symptoms, the City encourages everyone to consider getting tested for COVID-19. Here are a list of free COVID-19 testing sites:

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

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/>

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 and you can pre-register here to join:

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>

Community Preservation Act

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 starting in May 2022, 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 visit the CPA's website for updates and events.](#)

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>

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. Applications will be available online at <http://boston.gov/small-business> in early February.

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>

New Home Ownership Lottery in District 2

[The Quinn, 380 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02118](#)

Application Deadline: February 16, 2022

Affordable Housing for Veterans

There are currently affordable rental opportunities for military veterans at Patriot Homes in South Boston. To apply, please email patriothomes@sbndc.org or write to 273 D St, South Boston, MA 02127. The application deadline is February 25th. For more information, call Michelle Zenga at 617-268-9610 ext 101. Thank you South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation for this opportunity.

In the Community



I was honored to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation at the Twelfth Baptist Church with church members, Mayor Wu and Councilor Arroyo in January. Let's continue to work together so that Dr. King's dream of social change through nonviolence will be realized.



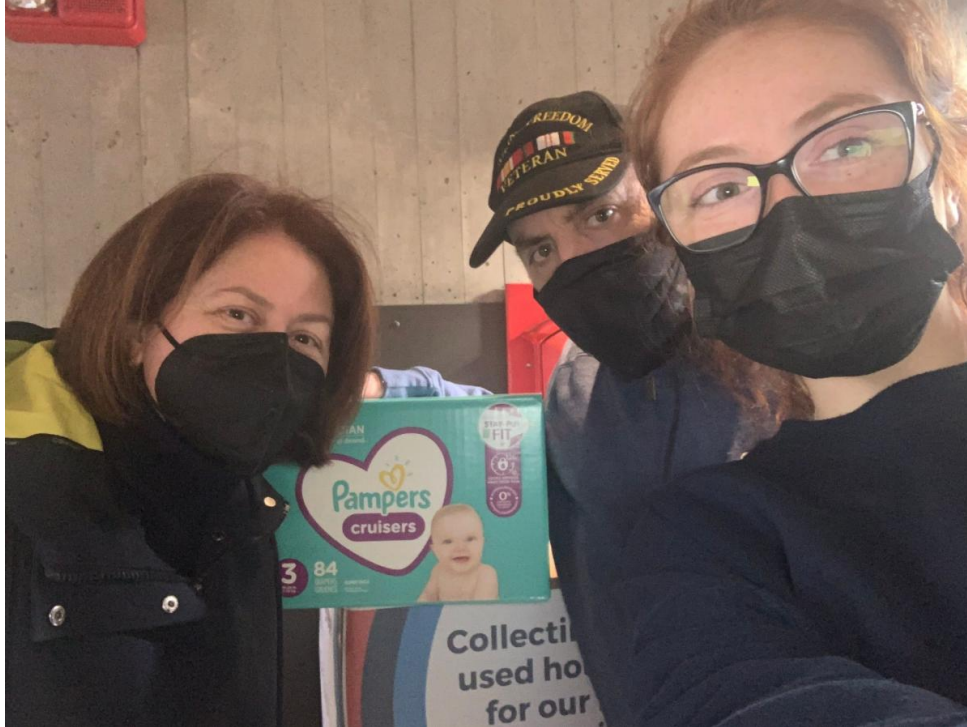
I was honored to join Mayor Wu and State Representative Michlewitz at Tufts Medical Center recently where we visited their front line staff. To everyone working in healthcare during this pandemic, no matter your position, you have our profound gratitude and deepest thanks.
Boston is a better city because of you.



Thank you Chinatown Main Street for sponsoring last week's Chinese New Year Lion Dance. It was great to join Councilor Murphy and Chinatown residents for this event. Let's continue to support small businesses in every neighborhood of Boston.



One of the highlights of my job is to work with our City of Boston employees. It was an honor to visit and thank the dedicated and professional teams at BOS311 and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. These employees respond to residents on neighborhood issues every day. They are doing an outstanding job!



Recently, Kristen, Caroline and I donated diapers and household goods for our new Haitian neighbors. Thank you SPARK Boston and Immigrant Family Services Institute for coordinati (IFSI) for coordinating this outreach project for neighbors in need. Let's continue to work together for our immigrant neighbors.



I was proud to join Councilor Edwards and Councilor Louijeune, Asian Pacific American Labour Alliance National for a rally last week in support of UNITE Here 26 hotel and restaurant workers. They are the backbone of our city. Let's not cut the pay or benefits of these workers while giving billions in profits to corporate executives.

This month, I joined South End residents for a meeting on Tremont Street to discuss pedestrian safety concerns and speeding with the Boston Transportation Department and the Boston Police Department. I will continue to work with my colleagues in government to advocate for more resources and investment to address this critical issue.



It was an honor to welcome Congressman Lynch to the Boston City Council last week. I am thankful for his exceptional support and leadership for the residents of Boston, and I'm proud to work with him and his staff on so many critical issues, including support for veterans and military families.

I was honored to join colleagues in government in congratulating City of Boston Clerk Maureen Feeny on her retirement. Maureen has served the residents of Boston with professionalism and integrity for over 34 years. Thank you Clerk Feeny! Boston is a better city because of you.



It was great to meet with Mothers Out Front, Massachusetts in January. We discussed gas leaks, protecting and increasing our urban tree canopy, my



recent work on Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure and the City fleet, Community Choice Energy, and combating climate change. Let's continue working together to advance environment justice.

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