

# ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN



Dear neighbors,

With 2022 drawing to a close, I would like to provide a summary of my work in what has been a transitional year in the City of Boston. We welcomed Mayor Wu last November and five new City Councilors in January. I was elected Council President, and my office has adapted and taken on more administrative responsibilities. I am proud to form new partnerships and build on old ones, with both the administration and different organizations throughout the City.

In District 2, my work and advocacy continues in many key areas: pedestrian safety & public safety, immigrant and civil rights, quality of life issues, housing and development, and community preservation. In the South Boston Waterfront, I was able to secure the long-advocated and much-needed \$11 million in the FY 23 budget for the design and construction of a new EMS Seaport station in light of the population boom of the area over the past decade. In South Boston, the South Boston Elected officials and I are advocating with both the BPDA and BTB in regards to traffic-calming and pedestrian safety improvements that should be reviewed as part of the South Boston Transportation Plan. In Chinatown, I secured \$500,000 for much-needed sidewalk improvements and I continue to work with nonprofits and advocacy groups to support more affordable housing for our immigrant neighbors. In the South End, I supported the renaming of the McKinley Schools to Melvin H. King South End Academy, after Representative Melvin H. King, a long-time South End resident and revered community activist and educator. I also secured over \$2.2 million in funding to improve the O'Day Playground and Watson Park.

As a legislative body, both the Council and our city are a step closer to implementing a multi-pronged approach to tackle pest control, such as actively using dry ice and exploring trash containerization. On immigrant and labor issues, we supported working families such as our hotel workers, security officers and others in pursuit of living wages, affordable healthcare, safe working conditions, and a secure retirement. On accessibility issues, we also passed an ordinance to amend the City of Boston Code to provide closed captioning on public-facing televisions for those with hearing disabilities. The list of what we have worked on is long, and I have included more details below.

As we gather with families and friends this holiday season, I encourage everyone to get their flu shots and boosters to stay healthy. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas, along with a safe and happy holiday season, and a Happy New Year.

Thank you,  
Ed

---

## Council & D2 Highlights

---



Below are highlights of our work this year:

### **Quality of Life and City Services**

- Held a hearing to discuss pest control in the City of Boston
- Held a hearing to discuss trash containerization in the City of Boston with Councilor Bok and Councilor Louijeune
- Called for a hearing to discuss safety concerns associated with Double-Decker Sightseeing Buses and requirement of Double Decker Bus Public Safety Measures in the City Of Boston
- Called for a hearing regarding the coordination of the Construction and Utility Permits with Councilor Coletta
- Called for a hearing to discuss the organization of quasi-public and semi-independent entities related to the City of Boston with Councilor Breadon

### **Public Health**

- Called for a hearing to discuss the possibility of allocating ARPA funds for the expansion of South Boston Community Health Center.
- Called for a hearing to discuss increasing access to swimming lessons and awareness of water safety
- Passed a resolution calling for the announcement of a public health crisis

related to traffic safety and injuries and implementation of sound prevention policies

- Passed a resolution Declaring Gun Violence as a Public Health Emergency
- Passed a resolution recognizing the Contribution of Human Services Workers in Boston and Across the Commonwealth During Human Services Awareness Week with Councilor Breadon

### **Transportation, Public and Pedestrian Safety**

- Secured \$11 million EMS Seaport Station for design and construction of a new EMS station
- Secured \$500,000 for Pier 10 Park Ferry Terminal to develop design plans to create a ferry service from Pier 10 to North Station for more reliable transit services in the Marine Park
- Secured \$500,000 for Chinatown Sidewalk Improvements to improve the condition of sidewalks in historic Chinatown
- Called for a Hearing to discuss the Safety of Light Poles, Bridges, and Other Public Infrastructure in the City of Boston

### **Schools and Libraries**

- Secured \$500,000 for Condon School Lighting Improvements
- Secured \$250,000 for the South Boston Branch Library study
- Secured \$175,000 for the McKinley School space programming study to determine requirements for all three McKinley School sites

### **Affordable Housing**

- Secured \$10 million for Mary Ellen McCormack Redevelopment, Phase One, which will comprise 1,365 units of new mixed-income housing (572 of which are affordable replacement units). 69,000 sq. ft. of community and retail space, 2.3 acres of open space
- Supported the securing of \$2 million for 288 Harrison Residences Affordable Housing, which will fund creation of 85 affordable rental housing for low-to-moderate income individuals and families in Chinatown with 30-80% AMI

### **Parks and Open Spaces**

- Secured \$1 million for Moakley Park O&M Building to design a new operations and maintenance building as part of Phase I park improvements
- Secured \$2,230,000 for O'Day Playground, South End to renovate park including play lots, water play, basketball court, and plaza area
- Secured \$45,000 for Watson Park, South End to develop design plans for a set of passive parks
- Supported the securing of \$650,000 CPA Funds for the Major Christopher Lee Playground & N Street Little League Field for rehabilitation, restoration and capital improvements
- Supported the securing of \$34,390 for Barnard Place Park capital improvements
- Supported the securing of \$250,000 for Crite Park to transform long-neglected property into vibrant community park and memorialize the late African American artist Allan Rohan Crite

### **Historic Preservation**

- Secured \$400,000 for Faneuil Hall and Sam Adams Park to repair masonry, address drainage issues, install permanent decorative wrought

- iron gates around the basement windows and restore the bronze fixtures
- Fort Point - Supported the securing of \$327,000 for Congress Street Fire Station/Boston Fire Museum for continued critical structural repairs to masonry facade and parapet walls and reinforcing interior structural timbers
- Chinatown - Supported the securing of \$150,000 for 95 Hudson Street Row House Preservation for masonry restoration and structural repairs

### **Arts and Culture**

- Secured \$1 million for the Chinatown Worker Statues Project to design and install 4 bronze figures on four separate sites in the Chinatown neighborhood
- Secured \$450,000 for the Coconut Grove Memorial for the design, site preparation and installation of public art in Statler Park
- Secured \$500,000 for the Park Plaza Monument/Memorial to select an artist who will design, manage the fabrication and installation of a new artwork to be installed on the site formerly occupied by the Emancipation Group Statue in Park Plaza, \$500,000

### **Civil Rights**

- Held a hearing to discuss ways for the city to increase communications access for People with Disabilities to Public-Facing Televisions
- Passed an Ordinance amending the City of Boston Code Related to Closed Captioning on Public-Facing Televisions

### **Labor**

- Worked with Mayor Janey, Mayor Wu & Boston Public Schools to advocate for our teachers to be included in the new statewide paid family & medical leave (PFML) policy from October 2021. As of September 2022, Boston Teachers Union and the Boston School Committee have signed a MOA with language consistent with the City of Boston's Paid Parental Leave policy.
- Passed a resolution to support Sheraton Hotel Workers
- Passed a resolution to support Greater Boston Starbucks Workers United in their efforts to unionize
- Passed a resolution in support of 32BJ SEIU'S Security Office Campaign
- Passed a resolution in Support of Unite Here Local 26 Hyatt Centric Hotel Workers to Get a First Contract

### **Immigrant Advancement**

- Passed a resolution in support of H. 3115 “An Act Ensuring Equitable Representation in the Commonwealth” to collect and publicize data for major ethnic groups to better identify specific needs and challenges faced by ethnic subgroups and come up with appropriate solutions
- Passed a resolution in recognition of the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders During Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May
- Passed a resolution recognizing Irish-American Heritage Month

### **Veterans**

- Passed a resolution in support of the commissioning of the USS Massachusetts
- Passed a resolution recognizing National Purple Heart Day 2022 with Councilor Murphy
- Passed a resolution in support of an African American Veterans' U.S.

## City and District Updates

---

### BPDA Meetings

- [P12C Presentation at Chinatown Resident Association Meeting](#)
    - Wednesday, January 4th, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
- 

### COVID-19 latest & testing

[According to the Boston Public Health Commission, COVID-19 positivity in the community is at 9.4%](#). If you are feeling unwell, please get tested and wear a mask. The BPHC provides free testing in the City. Please visit [boston.gov/covid19-testing](https://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, prevent severe illness, and hospitalization.

### Vaccine & Boosters

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have now been approved for children as young as 6 months to 17 years of age. For more about vaccine information for children, please check the following websites:

- [Children ages 6 months to 4 years](#)
- [Children and Youth ages 5-17](#)

Free COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinics are available in the City. Please visit [boston.gov/covid19-vaccine](https://boston.gov/covid19-vaccine) to find a vaccine clinic. Do note that not all locations will carry vaccines for children. 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>

---

### Fuel Assistance Benefits

Through the advocacy of ABCD and other Community Action Agencies, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding has been increased to \$2,200 from \$1,600 for FY23. This will help struggling individuals, families and seniors through winter. If you require any fuel assistance, ABCD is accepting new applications and encourages everyone to explore the potential for assistance. To check if you are eligible, [please refer to their eligibility and benefit guidelines here](#). This program is open from now until April 30, 2023.

To apply, call 617-357-6012 or visit [bostonabcd.org/heat](https://bostonabcd.org/heat) for more. ABCD provides in person application assistance by appointment at their ABCD neighborhood centers found here: <https://bostonabcd.org/locations/>.

---

### SPACE Grant Program for Small Businesses

The Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion have recently announced

the SPACE (Supporting Pandemic Affected Community Enterprises) grant program to help small businesses open new locations in Boston and to bring people back to major commercial districts. The SPACE Grant program will provide grants of up to \$200,000 over a three-year period to subsidize rents, upfront capital costs, and necessary infrastructure to help local, small, diverse businesses seeking to fill vacant storefronts. Funded by the American Rescue Plan, up to 50 local entrepreneurs will receive substantial grant funding to help them open new storefront businesses in vacant commercial spaces across major commercial areas such as Copley, Downtown, Fenway, and Seaport to increase the diversity of storefront businesses.

Businesses can apply to the SPACE Grant program online at: [boston.gov/space-grant](https://boston.gov/space-grant). Applications are available in multiple languages. The first cohort **application deadline is February 17, 2023** and the grantees will be chosen in April 2023. To find out more information or to see if you are eligible, [please visit the SPACE grant website](#).

---

### **Apprenticeship Opportunities at Local 3 Bricklayers Union**

The annual application for apprenticeship in the Bricklayers & Allied Craftsmen Local 3 Apprenticeship & Training Program is now available to those who are interested. Applicants must apply in person at the Training Facility at BAC Local 3, 64 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125 at the following dates:

- Daytime: January 9 to 13 from 11am to 12:30pm
- Evenings: January 9 to 12 from 5pm to 6:30pm

For more information about eligibility and requirements, [please visit this link](#).

---

### **Resources for Businesses**

The Office of Economic Development hosts zoom calls for small business owners and provides information and resources. The calls takes place on the last Tuesday of the month at 3pm on Zoom and Facebook Live:

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

---

### **Metrolist**

Affordable housing is one of the biggest issues we face in the City of Boston, and a top concern for many of 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>

---

## **In the Community**

---



Thank you to the Condon Community Center Council for sponsoring last week's Holiday Lunch for seniors in the neighborhood. It was great to join colleagues in government and South Boston neighbors at this festive event. I'm proud to represent this diverse and engaged community!

---



Thank you to the Highland Street Foundation for inviting veterans and military families to last week's Boston Pops Holiday Concert! We had the opportunity to thank this wonderful foundation for their generosity and for their exceptional support of Massachusetts children and families.

---



I had a wonderful Christmas Peace Breakfast at St. Monica Church on Sunday. Thank you to the Boston Housing Authority and Boston Police C-6 teams, the parish community, ONS Anna White and the generous sponsors and volunteers who made this a special gathering for so many families in our community.

---



On the first night of Hanukkah and the Festival of Lights, we were honored to attend the menorah lighting on Boston Common. We stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters and our shared commitment to human rights, justice and dignity for all. Happy Hanukkah!

---





I was honored to join my parents, colleagues in government and immigrant neighbors for last Friday's Immigrants Lead Boston graduation ceremony. We are proud of the contributions and sacrifices our immigrant neighbors have made to our city and country. Thank you to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement for your exceptional leadership!

---



Last week, it was an honor to join Mayor Wu and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts to welcome another special guest to Boston, Tim Houston, the Premier of Nova Scotia. We celebrated the special friendship and bond Boston shares with Halifax, Nova Scotia.

---



Last week, I joined Chinatown residents and families in celebrating the Topping Off Ceremony for the new Josiah Quincy Upper School. Thank you to the school community and officials for always believing in the dream of a new school in this diverse neighborhood!

---



Thank you Boston Vets for hosting the 2nd Annual U.S. Army v U.S. Navy flag football game at Clemente Field this past weekend. It was great to join Veterans Commissioner Santiago, active duty personnel, fellow veterans, JROTC, Boston Public Schools and New England Patriots cheerleaders for a fun game celebrating an awesome rivalry and tradition!

---



I was proud to join Mayor Wu, my colleagues in government, South Boston neighbors and the McGrath/Palamara family for the dedication of Colin's Courtyard at the Boston Housing Authority Msgr Powers Apartments yesterday. Thank you, Colin. Your joy for life continues in all these community spaces and you make South Boston a better place for all of us!

---



Thank you Keolis Commuter Services and the MBTA for hosting the North Pole Express train ride this past Saturday. It was wonderful to join colleagues in government and to see so many children and families as we read "The Polar Express" during this magical Holiday adventure!

---



It was great to be a part of the South Boston Catholic Academy Jingle Bell Road Race this month. It was wonderful to see so many families supporting the school and kicking off the Christmas Season. Thank you to the runners, school community, volunteers, sponsors and BPD for supporting this wonderful event.

---



Last weekend, Kristen and I enjoyed the spirit of the season while visiting and singing songs with our friends at Hayes Park in the South End. The Friends of Hayes Park, Boston does such a wonderful job all year round of maintaining this park and making it an inviting community space for all!

---



Kristen and I had a wonderful time at the Wang YMCA of Chinatown Holiday Party. It was great to join Councilor Murphy, Representative Wong, and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox and so many Chinatown and Leather District families. Thank you YMCA for being a great neighbor and partner.

---



One of my favorite holiday traditions is the opportunity to support Chinatown and South End families through the American Legion Boston Chinatown Post 328 Annual Toy Drive. These veterans served our country with honor and continue that same service to their community!

---

Thank you South Boston Allied War Veterans Council for sponsoring the recent Veterans Benefits Fair at the South Boston Lithuanian Club. It was great to join Boston Vets, VA Boston Healthcare System, Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, veterans organizations and veterans from South Boston for this tremendous outreach initiative!



Thank you to my Boston City Council



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN AND TANIA FERNANDES-ANDERSON

**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RENAMING THE MCKINLEY  
SCHOOLS TO THE MELVIN H. KING SOUTH END ACADEMY**

**WHEREAS:** The McKinley Schools in the South End provides special education to students from kindergarten through grade 12, with a focus on behavioral, learning, and emotional needs; *and*

**WHEREAS:** There have been calls to rename the McKinley Schools after Rep. Melvin H. King, a longtime South End resident, who is a former State Representative, as well as a well known community activist, educator, and the first Black Boston mayoral candidate in 1983; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Working with the Flynn administration, Mel King was instrumental in the creation of Tent City, a housing development that provides affordable housing to hundreds of residents, and he is the founder of the South End Technology Center, where young people can find resources on technology, workforce development, and community building; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Mel King was an advocate for community-based schooling that included the McKinley Schools, where he mentored youths. In fact, there is a large school mural of Mel King at the McKinley School to honor his advocacy and work; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The McKinley Schools Site Council has formally submitted a request to the Boston School Committee to rename the McKinley Schools to the Melvin H. King South End Academy, and the request will be up for a vote in the School Committee in the coming weeks; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Mel King devoted his life to the betterment of Boston residents, and is wholly deserving of having the McKinley Schools renamed after him; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**  
That the Boston City Council sends its support for renaming the McKinley Schools to the Melvin H. King South End Academy, and urges that the Boston School Committee approve this name change request.

Filed on: December 14, 2022

colleagues for passing a resolution to support the Boston School Committee in renaming the McKinley Schools to Melvin H. King South End Academy. Representative Mel King is a long-time South End resident, revered community activist and educator. He is wholly deserving of this recognition!

I was proud to join my Boston City Council colleagues to pass a resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the creation of Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA). Thank you to the MOIA for ensuring that our immigrant neighbors can fully and equitably participate in all aspects of life.



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRANT  
ADVANCEMENT**

**WHEREAS:** Thirty-five years ago, under the leadership of Mayor Raymond Flynn, the City of Boston's established its first Immigrant Rights unit to assist Boston's immigrants; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Launched on October 1st, 1987, the unit provided health care, job training programs, educational resources and legal services at no cost, aiming to help those who need support to navigate their new lives and those who lived in fear due to their immigration status; *and*

**WHEREAS:** At the time, in spite of a tough immigration stance on the federal level and crackdowns on Irish, Italian and Central American immigrants in the Greater Boston area, Mayor Flynn called for a more compassionate and humane approach towards those who have come to Boston in search of a better life, and to provide them with health care, assistance, and resources; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Today, the Immigrant Rights unit has expanded and is now known as the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement. The office continues the important work of assisting and strengthening the ability of immigrants to fully and equitably participate in all aspects of life in Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Launched in the Fall of 2020, Immigrants Lead Boston is a key program provided by this office. It is a training program for immigrants who wish to take more civic ownership and become leaders in the community. Each year, a cohort of members learn how to navigate local government and to advocate for their communities; *and*

**WHEREAS:** As we continue to build on this critical work and support those who are new and in need of services, it is also important to recognize the important leadership of Mayor Michelle Wu and the many immigrant-focused nonprofits and partners in Boston and Massachusetts. This includes the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA Coalition), Ryan Immigrant Center, VozAra, Agencia ALPIA, Irish Pastoral Center, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Brazilian Workers Center, South Boston En Accion, Sociedad Latina, amongst many others. Their work go hand in hand with what we do in the City; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**  
That the Boston City Council congratulates the Office for Immigrant Advancement for their 35th anniversary, recognizes the crucial work that they provide, and celebrates those who have been part of the creation and continued success of this office.

Filed on: December 14, 2022



Last week, I attended an informative Human Rights Commission meeting. I had the opportunity to listen and learn about the future plans of this commission. It is important that we work together to document, investigate and address hate crimes & discrimination.

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).