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Dear Neighbors,

Over the last month, we celebrated Black History Month and a number of other events in Boston. At the City Council, I refiled a hearing order to discuss increasing access to swimming lessons and water safety awareness, and filed a resolution in support of designating Lunar New Year as an official holiday in the City of Boston. I also co-sponsored two hearing orders on increasing the pay for Boston Municipal Officers, and discussing digital equity and municipal broadband in relation to affordable housing in the City.

During the recent City Council hearings on rent stabilization, I called for a property tax exemption of \$6,000 per year for owners providing reduced rents of \$500/month below market rate rent. I firmly believe this would provide much-needed relief to renters and access to more affordable housing units across the city, encourage property owners to help neighbors, and reward those who have been doing so already.

I attended the 2023 Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Mid-Winter Conference in Arlington, Virginia at the end of February. I was proud to join fellow veterans to learn about the latest issues and policies impacting veterans, such as correcting inequities in compensation benefits, implementing the PACT Act for those exposed to toxic substances, and bolstering mental health resources, among others.

March is Women's History Month. I ask that you all recognize and celebrate the important women figures in your life, and thank them for their sacrifices and the joy and happiness they bring to your life.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings

- [Parcel P12C, Bay Village/Chinatown/Downtown Virtual Community Meeting](#)

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

- [11-21 Bromfield Street, Downtown Virtual Public Meeting](#)

Monday, March 13, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

- [1000 Washington Street, South End Virtual Public Meeting](#)

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

- [Life Science Design Guidelines Public Meeting](#)

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Boston Tax Help Coalition

Please note the City's Worker Empowerment Cabinet and Boston Tax Help Coalition are partnering to provide free IRS-certified tax preparation at 30 neighborhood locations for households making less than \$60,000. For more information, please visit <http://BostonTaxHelp.org> or email FreeTaxHelp@boston.gov for questions.

U.S. Census Bureau - 2022 Economic Census

The 2022 Economic Census has just been launched nationally. The Economic Census collects important data on the country's businesses once every five years to provide a comprehensive measure of the U.S. economy. Over 4 million businesses will be surveyed nationally, and more than 80,000 businesses will be invited to respond in Boston. Mailing of the Economic Census began Tuesday, January 31, 2023, with responses due by **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**. I encourage our business communities, both large and small, to partake in this Census. You can find out more by visiting [the 2022 Economic Census](#).

Apply to be on Boston's Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

Boston City Council and the City of Boston's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) are currently seeking four *new* at-large members to join the CPC, a 9-member board that recommends Community Preservation Act (CPA) projects to the Mayor and the City Council for CPA Funds. To date, through the CPA, 237 projects have been awarded for over \$117 million in funding in the categories of affordable housing, open spaces and recreation, and historic

preservation in Boston.

CPC members must be Boston residents and serve for a three year term for a maximum of two terms. The position is unpaid. If you are interested in applying to be a CPC member, [please apply here](#). The application deadline is **Friday, March 17, 2023**.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/news/join-city-bostons-community-preservation-committee-0>

FY24 Community Preservation Act (CPA) Eligibility Determination

The CPA Eligibility Determination Form for FY 2024 is now available. Every year, the CPA team determines if a proposed project meets the eligibility criteria based on the CPA statute. If your project is eligible, applicants are then invited to submit an application for consideration to the CPA's nine-member Community Preservation Committee (CPC). You can review CPA's [Eligibility Determination Packet](#), the [How to Apply Page](#), and complete an [Eligibility Determination Form](#) online. The deadline to submit an Eligibility Determination is **Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 5 pm**.

Building Pathways Union Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities

Building Pathways is now recruiting for qualified people to join their next Pre-Apprenticeship Program cycle. Building Pathways offer a free 200+ hour career exploration program with hands-on exposure to build their skills in the Building Trades. To apply, you must attend a virtual Information Session either in person or virtually. For more information, please visit: <http://BuildingPathwaysMA.org>.

Heat & Frost Insulators Union Local 6, Boston Opportunities

Heat & Frost Insulators Union Local 6 will be accepting apprenticeship applications from March 1st to March 31st. For application instructions and requirements, please visit: <https://insulators6.org/apprenticeships/>

Landlord Incentive Program

Please note the Mayor's Office of Housing is now offering a Landlord Incentive Program to landlords who sign leases with individuals moving out of homelessness. Some of the incentives include lease-signing, unit retention bonuses, broker fees, and repair costs. To learn more about the program, please contact info@newleasehousing.org or call 857-323-6303.

Mattress Recycling

The Public Works Department now provides a free citywide curbside mattress and box spring recycling service for those living in a building with 6 units or less. You can schedule your pick up appointment by dialing 311. To learn more, visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/mattress-recycling>

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

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>

COVID-19 latest & testing

[According to the Boston Public Health Commission, COVID-19 positivity in the community is at 4.2%.](#) 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://www.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, and 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.

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. 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>

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Order for a hearing to discuss increasing access to swimming lessons and awareness of water safety

Drowning is the leading cause of preventable, injury-related deaths in children below the age of 15 in Massachusetts, and unfortunately, Black and lower income communities are more likely to be affected by drownings. As a City surrounded by water, it is vital for our young people to have basic water safety awareness and to know how to swim. I'm proud to partner with Councilor Kendra Lara to refile this hearing order from last year. We must explore ways to partner with local and community organizations to provide swimming classes for our low-income residents and young people of color so that they can have the basic skills to be safe around water.

Order for a hearing to increase the pay for Boston Municipal Officers

Boston is the second most expensive city to reside in the U.S., with 98 percent of all apartments in the city at \$2000 or above in rent. Boston Municipal Protective Services (BMPS), who are charged with protecting City employees and property have a starting salary of \$35,987.70, \$14,000 less than Boston's average per-capita income, and a maximum salary of \$51,200.06, obtained after working four consecutive years for the BMPS. While BMPS plays an integral role in protecting our publicly owned spaces, the low salary has resulted in a high turnover rate. It is important that we have a competitive salary for the BMPS so that we can retain good, dedicated employees. I'm proud to co-sponsor this hearing order with my colleagues Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson and Councilor Michael Flaherty to see how we can financially support the BMPS so that they can afford to live comfortably within the city and achieve a better quality of life.

Order for a hearing to discuss digital equity and municipal broadband in relation to affordable housing in the City

I'm proud to co-sponsor this hearing order with Councilor Kenzie Bok and Councilor Julia Mejia. Reliable high-speed internet has become an essential part of our lives. However, those without it can be locked out of work, school, meetings and access to important information. This hearing will look into the remaining gaps and recommendations provided by the findings of the 2022 Boston Digital Equity Assessment Analysis to see how we can increase resources for digital access and improve high quality fiber connectivity to affordable housing developments and areas that experience non-competitive service.

Resolution in support of designating Lunar New Year as an official holiday in the City of Boston

Boston is home to a large number of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents and one of the oldest Chinatowns in the nation, with a significant number of AAPI residents living in Chinatown and a vibrant Vietnamese community in Dorchester. Every year, these communities organize numerous lion dances, events and banquets to welcome the Lunar New Year, one of the most important holidays in the AAPI community. AAPIs have always been an integral part of our city and our country, yet they have faced strong institutional discrimination and racism throughout history. Designating Lunar New Year as an official holiday would be an appropriate way to recognize their significant contributions and the cultural diversity they bring to the City of Boston. We will follow after California, where it is designated as a state holiday, and New York City, where it is now an official school holiday. This resolution is co-sponsored by Councilors At-Large Erin Murphy and Ruthzee Louijeune.

In the Community



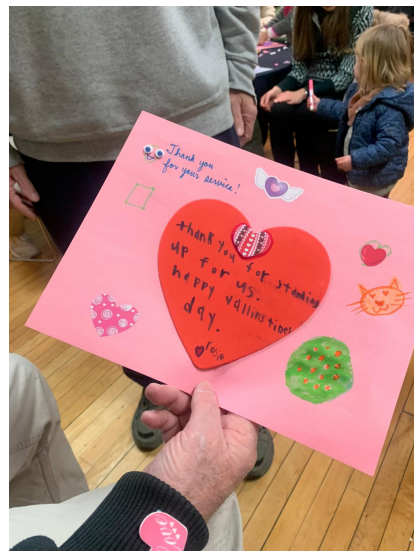
It was great to join South Boston and Dorchester neighbors for their Winter Warmer at Moakley Park recently. Thank you Boston Harbor Now, Sasaki Foundation, Boston Parks and Recreation Department and city departments for sponsoring the event and bringing the community together to ensure an inclusive and accessible harbor for all.



We celebrated Dominican Independence Day at City Hall on February 27th, where we recognized the contributions and sacrifices of the Dominican community to our city and country. I'm especially proud of my staff Laura Toledano and Ana Calderon for speaking at the event on my behalf. We are proud of our immigrant roots in Boston!



I had the pleasure of welcoming Suffolk University students at the Boston City Council recently. We had the opportunity to discuss many critical issues impacting our city, including public education, transportation, development and the economy. Let's continue to work together to move Boston forward!



We had a fun Valentine's event with the Moms Club of South Boston at the Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post 561 where the kids made Valentine's cards for South Boston veterans! We celebrated our community and showed our appreciation for all who have served our country. Thank you to everyone who came!



During the last week of February, I was honored to join Disabled American Veterans DAV for their 2023 Mid-Winter Legislative Conference. At one of the sessions, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough and DAV members discussed priorities to empower veterans to lead high-quality lives. Let's keep our promise to America's Veterans!



I was proud to join Boston residents and elected officials for the recent Lunar New Year celebration in Chinatown. We celebrated 2023 as the Year of the Rabbit. Let's continue to work together to address anti-Asian racism and hate crimes and support our AAPI neighbors!



It was great to join my colleagues in government, community partners and Roxbury residents for the National GET LIT literacy kickoff at the Boston Public Library branch in Nubian Square. It's critical we work together to support youth literacy initiatives and other after-school programs for our kids.



It was great to catch up with Roxbury and South End residents for the 15th Annual Haley House Boston "Souper Bowl" at the Roxbury Innovation Center. Thank you Haley House for your longtime commitment to supporting individuals and families in need. You make Boston a better city!

It was wonderful to join South Boston and Dorchester residents last week for the "Monica's Chili, Hot Dogs & Peace" event. Thank you to the parishioners at St. Monica Church, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Police Department (Official) C-6, and the dedicated volunteers who continue to support our seniors and families in need.



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



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