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Dear neighbors,

I hope your 2023 is off to a good start. In January, we had a busy and eventful month with Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Lunar New Year. While we celebrated Dr. King with the latest statue, *The Embrace*, on Boston Common, and Lunar New Year festivities with our AAPI communities in Boston, these occasions were unfortunately marred by the devastating back to back shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay in California, along with the brutal death of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee. As we keep the survivors and victims and their families in our thoughts, we must find the political will at all levels of government to work together to end gun violence and to work towards better police training nationally.

There's a lot taking place in February in Boston. Please find information available below on community meetings, job and apprenticeships opportunities, grant applications and various resources. The 2022 Economic Census will also be taking place over the course of the few weeks, and I encourage those in the business community to partake in this exercise as it will help us accurately assess Boston's economic health and how we fare regionally and nationally.

In February, we also celebrate Black History Month while reflecting on the history of our city and country. We honor the outstanding contributions and

legacies of Black Americans and community leaders past and present, including those who have served in the U.S. Military. We continue to recommit ourselves to a more equitable and just society for all.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings

PLAN: Downtown Office Hours

- These are drop-in and informal conversational meetings on Zoom to discuss the Plan's latest draft development for Downtown & Chinatown. They are open to all.
 - [Tuesday, February 14: 11:00 AM–12:00 PM](#)
 - [Monday, February 20: 12:00 PM–1:00 PM](#)

PLAN: Downtown Advisory Group Meeting

- These are open to the public to attend
 - [Monday, February 27th, 6:00 - 7:30pm](#)

Old Colony Phase 6 Public Meeting

- Wednesday, February 15th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
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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 started 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](#).

Boston University City of Boston Weekend

Boston University Government & Community Affairs and the BU Department of Athletics are offering complimentary tickets to Boston Residents to watch BU home games between Wednesday, February 15th to Saturday, February 18th. Boston residents can reserve their free tickets at <http://GoTerriers.com/BostonWeekend>. Each resident can reserve a maximum of 8 tickets per game.

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>.

YouthBuild Boston Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities

YouthBuild Boston's pre-apprenticeship program is now receiving applications for their February 27 cohort. YouthBuild provides young people with resources to enter the construction and design industry. Those interested can visit:

<https://youthbuildboston.org/program>.

Immigration Legal Access Grant

The Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) recently announced the 2023 Expanding Access to Immigration Services Grant to provide support for non-profits on immigration-related legal access initiatives. The grant is now open for applications and the maximum grant award is \$125,000. Apply by Wednesday, February 8th at 5pm. For more information, please visit:

<http://ow.ly/iVkm50MsbGj>.

Beyond Pride Mini Grants

The Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement team are awarding mini-grants ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 to grassroots LGBTQ+ organizations and individuals. The mini-grants will support projects, programs and initiatives for the LGBTQ+ community. Apply by Wednesday, February 15th at 5pm. For more information, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/lgbtq-advancement/beyond-pride-mini-grants>

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>

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. If you require any fuel assistance, ABCD is accepting new applications. To check if you are eligible, [please refer to ABCD's eligibility and benefit guidelines here](#). To apply, call 617-357-6012 or visit bostonabcd.org/heat for more. The program is open from now until April

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 8.2%](#). 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 pest control in the City of Boston

I am refiling this pest control hearing with my colleague Councilor Liz Breadon. Since the pandemic, we have seen an uptick in rodent activity across many neighborhoods in the City. Over the past few years, I have held many hearings per year to discuss the different measures and strategies the City has in place to reduce rodent populations. This hearing will serve as another check-in with our

Public Works team to see how far we are progressing on curbing rodent populations, whether current strategies are effective, and whether other measures are needed. We must continue to work together on this public health and quality of life issue.

Order for a hearing to discuss the safety of light poles, bridges, and other public infrastructure in the City of Boston

Last September, a pedestrian crossing the Evelyn Moakley Bridge in the South Boston Waterfront was injured after being struck by a falling light pole. This unfortunate incident shed light towards the safety of our light poles, bridges, and public infrastructure, especially against the harsh New England weather, sea air, and salt water. Councilor Flaherty and I are refiling this hearing to ensure the city is diligent in its inspection of all light poles, bridges, and public infrastructure and to make any necessary repairs in a timely manner. We will also work with our state and federal partners to ensure that an incident like this will not happen again.

Resolution celebrating Lunar New Year and the contributions of our AAPI community

Lunar New Year is the most important holiday for our AAPI community. In Boston, we have a vibrant Chinese and Vietnamese community. Despite their contributions and sacrifices, AAPIs have historically faced strong institutional discrimination and racism. Since COVID-19, AAPIs have experienced an uptick of racist incidents and hate crimes. AAPIs are an integral part of our society - they are our neighbors, healthcare workers, school teachers, small business owners, policymakers, etc. In the Year of the Rabbit/Cat, we celebrate their contributions and achievements and recommit to condemning anti-AAPI discrimination.

Resolution to support the Economic Census and to promote response rates in the City of Boston

I am proud to partner with the U.S. Census Bureau to promote the 2022 Economic Census in the City of Boston. The Economic Census collects important data on the country's businesses once every five years to provide a comprehensive look at the U.S. economy. The data collected contribute to key economic measures such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Producer Price Index (PPI) - indicators used by all levels of government and businesses to make informed budgetary and economic decisions. We have many leading industries, small and mid-sized companies in Boston that drive our city's and region's economy. This is an important survey to partake in to accurately assess the economic health of our city. I encourage our business communities to fill out the Economic Census.

In the Community



I was honored to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration with my colleagues in government and the Twelfth Baptist Church community in January. Thank you to the inspirational comments by Attorney Michael Curry and Attorney General Andrea Campbell. Thank you Reverend Willie Bodrick II and Reverend Jeffrey Brown for bringing us together.



It was wonderful to join colleagues in government and members of the Boston Police Department for the recent Lunar New Year banquet hosted by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England. We celebrated the contributions and sacrifices made by the Chinese community to our nation and had the opportunity to recognize and thank the men and women of BPD for their outstanding work in all of our neighborhoods.



Kristen and I enjoyed talking with the South Boston Girl Scouts recently. We love that these girls are involved in their community and always willing to help their neighbors! We can neither confirm nor deny that we bought a few boxes of cookies.



I was honored to join Hyatt Centric Hotel Workers recently as they sought a fair union contract with Magna Hospitality Group. These working men and women at United Here Local 26 are advocating for a decent wage, affordable healthcare and dignity in retirement. We stand with you, today and every day!



Last weekend, it was a delight to join my parents and Councilor Michael Flaherty in proclaiming Sunday as Mrs. Margaret “Peggy” Rooney Day in Boston! Happy 90th Birthday, Mrs. Rooney! You are a wonderful neighbor and friend and someone who makes our neighborhood and city a better place.



I joined my colleagues in government for a Candlelight Vigil for the victims of mass shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay in California recently. We came together in community to vow to work together to strengthen legislation for gun reform and against hate crimes. Let this crisis end with us!



I joined fellow veterans at St. Anthony's Shrine for their January Veterans Appreciation Lunch. Thank you to the shrine staff and volunteers for supporting veterans in need. This monthly lunch provides a safe space for veterans and an opportunity to receive access to services. Additionally, it was an honor to join U.S. Navy Capt. (Retired) and Medal of Honor recipient Thomas G. Kelley.



It was a great experience to join city and state officials, including U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox to attend the unveiling of *The Embrace* on Boston Common. As we celebrate this beautiful

monument and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., let us recommit ourselves to racial justice and dignity for all. We thank Embrace Boston for their extraordinary work!



I was on scene with the Boston Fire Department and Councilor Michael Flaherty at a 2 alarm fire in South Boston recently. We saw outstanding work and professionalism by the men and women at Boston Fire Department, including Boston Fire Commissioner Paul Burke and Boston Firefighters Local 718 IAFF to prevent the heavy fire from spreading to the surrounding building. Thank you to our firefighters.



Kristen and I had a wonderful visit at the Women's Lunch Place. For over 40 years, this exceptional program ensures vulnerable women are safe and able to access the resources they need to find a pathway to greater health and stability. Thank you to the dedicated staff and volunteers!



I was proud to attend the 34th Annual Tet in Boston Festival with Mayor Michelle Wu, the Boston Police, my colleagues in government and the Vietnamese community of Boston at the Flynn Cruiseport. We celebrated the culture, contributions and sacrifices made by the Vietnamese community to our city and country.

It was great to join Senator Nick Collins in visiting the Pao Arts Center in Chinatown for their Lunar New Year Celebration this weekend. We congratulated them on their exceptional support of and opportunities for local artists to thrive. Thank you for your commitment to promoting greater cultural equity in Boston!



Thank you to South End ONS Kim Crucoli for hosting the South End meeting on the proposed cannabis site at Cathedral Station. Let's support gathering spaces for the LGBTQ+ community as they provide a safe environment for our neighbors. LGBTQ+ residents and businesses are part of the soul of Boston!

It was great to join the South End Library Working Group meeting to discuss plans for a new branch in the

neighborhood. Thank you BPL and Friends of the South End Library for bringing the neighborhood together in our shared commitment to community and lifelong learning!



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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