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Dear neighbors,

I hope everyone had a great summer with your families and friends. As we get ready for the start of a new school year, I would like to provide an update of the work that I have been doing over the summer, and bring your attention to some important deadlines and meetings.

At the City Council, I called for a hearing order to discuss resources for Early Childhood Education and ways to expand Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) access for Boston families, and called for the reinstatement of the Community Syringe Redemption Program in the City of Boston. In August, I called for a hearing to discuss ways to provide critical public safety support and address quality of life issues relating to the crisis at Mass and Cass, and for a hearing to discuss Boston Police Department staffing levels. Together with Councilor Fitzgerald, we also passed a resolution calling for the Boston Public Health Commission to declare a public health emergency in an effort to save the Carney Hospital.

In July, the City Council held a hearing regarding the possibility of congestion pricing in Boston. I have been on the record in opposition to congestion pricing. Boston is already an expensive City and it would be unfair to make commuting even more expensive, especially for our lower and middle income families - many of whom are from communities of color, our immigrant neighbors, and our seniors on a fixed income. We also have a large number of

commuters - teachers, health care workers, hotel and restaurant staff, office and construction workers, etc - who drive into the City daily. They play an important role in keeping our economic engine going, and at a time when our Downtown economy is facing many challenges, we should not be disincentivizing people from coming into Boston.

With school starting in the next few days, I have included some Boston Public Schools (BPS) resources should you require any assistance. Please also note that the Community Preservation (CPA) Grant Eligibility Form deadline is this Friday, August 30th, and the deadline to submit comments for potential new Blue Bike stations in Downtown, Chinatown and the South End is at the end of August. For those of you who are interested in pest control, there is a Rodent Control Webinar on Thursday, August 29, 2024 from 6 to 7:30pm.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

Abutters Meetings:

[Abutters 165 D St / Neighborhood Convenience, South Boston](#)

Wednesday, August 28 at 6pm

[Abutters 645 E Second St: Bottega Del Sud, South Boston](#)

Thursday, August 29 at 6pm

[Abutters 200 Seaport Blvd: Daily Provisions / Ci Siamo](#)

Monday, September 16 at 6pm

Zoom meeting will be provided by South Boston ONS Liaison

Upcoming BPDA Meetings:

[660 Harrison Avenue Public Meeting, South End](#)

Monday, September 9 at 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

[Suffolk University 101 Tremont Street Joint Task Force and Public Meeting](#)

Tuesday, September 17 at 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Boston Public Schools Resources

As school begins next week, here are some BPS resources that are available throughout the year:

BPS Helpline

- Call 617-635-8873 | Email: helpline@bostonpublicschools.org

BPS Transportation

Enter a ticket via the [Transportation Support Portal](#)

Call (617) 635-9520 | Email: schoolbus@bostonpublicschools.org

BPS Welcome Services

The [Welcome Services](#) is available to assist you with the following:

- register your student for school
- change of address

- request a transfer
- request an evaluation for special education

Call (617) 635-9010 | Email: welcomeservices@bostonpublicschools.org

FY25 Capital Budget for District 2:

The total amount of the Capital Budget allocated to District 2 is for current and scheduled projects is \$461,725,137. To view the list of District 2 Capital Budget projects that are new, in construction, in design or to be scheduled, [please click this pdf](#).

Rodent Control Webinar

Thursday, August 29, 2024 | 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

On Thursday August 29, we will be advocating for pest control and the significance of public health and quality of life that is an issue in our city. Learn about the importance of eliminating food sources, improving sanitation practices, and taking preventative measures. [Register here.](#)

RODENT CONTROL STARTS WITH YOU!

JOIN OUR RODENT CONTROL WEBINAR

August 29, 2024 | 6-7:30 p.m.

Learn about the important role residents, property owners, and commercial establishments can take to minimize rodent activity. This session will also include an overview of the Boston Rodent Action Plan.

ELIMINATE FOOD SOURCES IMPROVE SANITATION PRACTICES TAKE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

To register, scan the QR Code or visit: bit.ly/RodentControl24
Email questions to: ISDenvironmental@boston.gov

Trash management and sanitation is the most effective way to reduce rodent activity.

FY25 Community Preservation Eligibility Determination now open

CPA Boston's Eligibility Determination Form for FY 2025 is now open. To apply for the FY25 funding round, you can review CPA's Eligibility Determination and all related information here: <https://boston.gov/community-preservation>

Submit your eligibility form by **Friday, August 30th at 5 p.m.**

CPA Community Preservation Act CITY of BOSTON

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT 2025 GRANT FUNDING ROUND - NOW OPEN!

Deadline: Friday, August 30th, 2024 @ 5:00 P.M.

To apply for our FY25 Funding Round visit our **How to Apply Page** and complete a **Rolling Eligibility Determination Form** at boston.gov/cpa.

The CPA Office will determine if a project meets the eligibility criteria of the CPA statute. If your project is eligible, applicants are invited to submit an application for consideration to our nine-member Community Preservation Committee.

CPA grants range from \$3,000 to \$1 million.

Questions about the CPA Grant Fund? Contact us at boston.gov/cpa.

Survey: Blue Bikes Expansion

The Blue Bikes team is collecting feedback on a list of potential Blue Bike stations in the South End, Downtown and Chinatown. **The surveys will close at the end of August**; I encourage you to provide your comments.

- [Survey for South End](#)
- [Survey for Downtown, Chinatown, and Beacon Hill](#)

For more, visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-bikes/bike->

Grants available for community-based sports organizations

There is a \$300,000 Community Sports Grant for volunteer-led youth sports organizations across the city. The grant seeks to expand the range of youth sports programs and provide an exciting, positive outlet for kids when they're not in school. [Apply for the grant here](#). The application deadline is on **Friday, September 13, 2024 at 5 p.m.**

Re-FRESH Workshops

In 2023, the City of Boston allocated \$1 million to the Re-FRESH program from a federal pandemic relief package to revitalize Boston's food industry. The Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion recently opened its second round of applications for the Re-FRESH Program, which awards grants between \$2000-\$15,000 to brick and mortar food businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more on eligibility and to apply, visit: <http://boston.gov/refresh>. **Apply by Friday, September 13.**

Free Bike Repair

September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11, 2024

There is a free bike repair at BCYF Blackstone on the dates above. There will be basic bike maintenance including: patch flat tires, align brakes, adjust gears, and shifters. We will be offering a free, hands-on workshop for all your needs to fix your bike.

Curbside 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#/mattress>

Events in the City

Downtown Movie Night: Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire

Thursday, August 29 | 7:30 - 10:00 PM | Boston Common Parade Ground

Seaport Summer Market

88 Seaport Boulevard | Saturdays and Sundays
Family fun for all! Food, drinks, and 80+ vendors.

The Seaport x Black Owned Boston Market

September 22, October 20 | 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. | Seaport Common

This will feature Black-owned businesses from throughout the Greater Boston area. The open-air market will feature Black-owned businesses from throughout the Greater Boston area. Each month will feature a different theme. [Register here.](#)

Moakley Park Clean Up

There are upcoming volunteer opportunities to help clean-up Moakley Park on September 21 at 9:00 am. [Register here to volunteer.](#)

24th South Boston Street Fest

Saturday, September 21 | 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Between I and L streets on East Broadway

There will be amazing shopping, delicious food, live entertainment, children's activities, and many more fun activities.

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Hearing Order to discuss ways to provide critical public safety support and address quality of life issues relating to the crisis at Mass and Cass.

Since the closure of Boston's Long Island recovery campus in 2014 and the Atkinson Street campsite in 2023, the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard has become a central point for those affected by the opioid crisis and homelessness. Despite efforts by the Boston Police and Coordinated Response Team, the area remains plagued by open drug use, violence, and other illegal activities. The situation has become a humanitarian crisis, with severe public safety, health and quality of life concerns. I've filed a hearing to reassess and improve the city's response to these issues together with Councilor Fernandes Anderson and Councilor Santana.

Hearing Order to discuss Boston Police Department staffing levels

The Boston Police Department faces a public safety and health crisis due to chronic understaffing, forced overtime, and increasing retirements and resignations. This issue has led to officer burnout and diminished service capacity. Although city law mandates a minimum of 2,500 patrol officers, recent trends have increased resource strain with retirements and resignations rising since 2018. The situation undermines community trust and the well-being of officers and their families. To address this, I have called for a hearing to explore solutions, including improved recruitment practices, and ensuring staffing levels exceed 2,500 officers.

Hearing Order to discuss resources for Early Childhood Education and ways to ensure access for Boston families.

Early Childhood education is crucial to a child's development. Research shows that early quality education and intervention can increase the likelihood of a

child being more successful in upcoming grades, graduating high school, and becoming higher income earners in the workforce. In the City of Boston, children at the age of 3 or 4 by September 1 are eligible for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program. This is a discussion on how we can increase the number of UPK seats available, and to ensure that children from our Black and Brown communities receive equal access to the program. We also need to ensure that there are enough quality educators as well as culturally sensitive providers that can cater to our diverse communities. This hearing was referred to the Committee on Education.

Resolution calling for the Boston Public Health Commission to declare a public health emergency relative to the closing of Carney Hospital

Steward Health Care System plans to close Carney Hospital in Dorchester by August 31, citing a lack of qualified bids. This closure - three months earlier than the state required 120 day notice - will have devastating effects on Boston's diverse patient population. There are many communities of color and economically disadvantaged residents who rely on Carney Hospital. The closure also threatens 753 jobs and would increase overcrowding in other hospitals. The Boston City Council urges the city and Boston Public Health Commission to declare a public health emergency to prevent the closure, ensure compliance with state laws, and consider occupying the property by eminent domain to maintain operations until a permanent operator is found.

Resolution calling for the reinstatement of the Community Syringe Redemption Program in the City of Boston.

The Community Syringe Redemption Program was recently eliminated by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) in the City's FY25 budget due to funding cuts. It was a vital needle exchange initiative that collected many used syringes and offered small cash payments to participants. The program played a critical role in maintaining public health and safety by removing discarded needles from public spaces. With its closure, there is a growing concern about increased needle litter in neighborhoods. While the BPHC is developing a new collection program, it may face challenges in filling the gap left by the previous program. I filed this resolution to calling for the BPHC to reinstate the Community Syringe Redemption Program to continue safeguarding our public health.

In the Community



We had a wonderful time at the South Boston Special Kids & Young Adults summer cookout. Thank you to the volunteers of this exceptional organization for helping so many in our community!



I was honored to visit the South Boston Community Health Center for their staff appreciation lunch. We had the opportunity to thank the health center staff for their exceptional care to our community, especially caring for the most vulnerable.



I had wonderful time with our youth from the Boston Housing Authority Mary Ellen McCormack development for the “MEM Bumpin Burger & Basketball Sizzler” at Moakley Park. Thank you to the organizers and volunteers for providing a safe and fun afternoon for South Boston kids. Boston works best when we work together!



Kristen and I were honored to join the McGrath/Palamara Family for the Colin's Joy Project Rock Painting Party at Colin's Courtyard. Thank you to the residents at Boston Housing Authority Monsignor Powers Apartments for celebrating with us and sharing this beautiful space with South Boston families!



It is always great to visit the Kwong Kow Chinese School. This school is committed to preserving and promoting Chinese language and culture, while preparing immigrant and first-generation children through resources and opportunities accessible to all.



Kristen and I celebrated the August Moon Festival with friends and constituents in Chinatown. There was calligraphy, visual arts, music and dance - a wonderful celebration of AAPI culture! Boston's diversity is one of our greatest gifts to each other.



I especially enjoy summer weekends when I have the opportunity to visit with residents at backyard cookouts, neighborhood block parties, youth sports events, religious services, and coffee with veterans. It's important to listen to residents and help to improve life for everyone in Boston!



I had a wonderful visit to Shirley's Pantry in Mattapan. They provide families in need with food access. I was also honored to speak with Work Inc.

participants there. Their program provides skills and support services to help people with disabilities achieve their career goals.



On National Night Out Week, I stopped by South Boston, Chinatown, and the South End to meet with residents and thank our Police Officers. Residents acknowledged the exceptional work of the men and women of the Boston Police Department. However, they are also concerned about limited officers in our neighborhoods, quality of life issues, and other public safety concerns.



Following a rally at Carney Hospital, I joined Boston City Councilor John FitzGerald in filing a Boston City Council hearing order calling on the City of Boston Boston Public Health Commission to declare a public health emergency and take steps to continue the operation of the hospital. Let's fight to keep the Carney Open!

I enjoyed meeting and listening to Boston Public Schools high school students outside City Hall. They shared their thoughts about issues impacting youth throughout Boston and what changes they wish to see.



I had a great time meeting with families at the Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) Blackstone Community Fun Fest 2024. Thank you to the BCYF Blackstone team for organizing a great night for families! I'm very proud to represent this diverse and compassionate neighborhood.

Kristen and I enjoyed attending the Annual Community Event sponsored by the Garrison-Trotter Neighborhood Association in Roxbury. It was wonderful to listen and talk with residents of this engaged neighborhood about quality of life issues.



It was a pleasure to join South Boston neighbors from the Mary Ellen McCormack development, Boston Police Department, and my colleagues in government for a flashlight walk in the neighborhood. Community policing works and police officers are part of the solution.

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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