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Dear neighbors,

On this solemn day, and every day, we honor the memory of those who lost their lives 22 years ago on September 11, 2001. We will never forget the bravery and professionalism of our first responders, who answered the call and put the lives of others before their own. We will always remember.

Over the summer at the City Council, we were pleased to welcome the new District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan to the City Council. Councilor Durkan represents Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway, Mission Hill and the West End, and I look forward to working together with her on many issues.

On legislative matters, I sponsored a Home Rule Petition with regard to ensuring the City's military leave policy is consistent with State statute so that our active duty personnel receive fair pay. I also co-sponsored a resolution to celebrate and recognize Disability Pride Month. Outside of the Council, I participated in the Blue Star Families Symposium in Washington D.C. to mark the 75th anniversary of the integration of the U.S. Armed Forces in late July, attended a variety of summer gatherings in the community, and hosted BCYF summer teens at the Council.

More recently, I held public safety meetings and walkthroughs with neighborhood leaders and law enforcement officers from the South End, South Boston and Newmarket who are affected by the situation in Mass & Cass. Last week, I also met with Downtown leaders and Boston Police to discuss the troubling and violent incidents we saw from our young people in South Bay and

Downtown two weekends ago.

It is important that we work together as a community to navigate through these difficult challenges affecting our city. As a new school year begins, we should also encourage our children and our young people to be involved in sports, music, arts and other fun and stimulating programs to nurture a sense of belonging, respect and community. It is up to us as adults to provide them the needed guidance and positive leadership.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings

- [232 A Street Public Meeting](#)
 - Monday, September 11, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM
- [617 Dorchester Avenue Public Meeting](#)
 - Tuesday, September 12, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
- [Belvidere Street Student Housing Public Meeting](#)
 - Thursday, September 21, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Sumner Tunnel Update

Sumner Tunnel has reopened. There will be periodic weekend closures from Fall 2023 to Summer 2024. During this time, the tunnel will close on Fridays at 11:00 p.m. and re-open to traffic on Mondays at 5:00 a.m. Traffic will be diverted through signed detour routes. For more on which weekends the tunnel will be closed, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sumner-tunnel-restoration-project-details-and-closure-schedule>

Household Hazardous Waste Day

The next and last Household Hazardous Waste Day of the year is on **Saturday, September 23**, at Boston Public Works District 1 Yard, 400 Frontage Road, MA 02118, from 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Residents can safely dispose of hazardous waste, shred unwanted documents, dispose of textiles and clothing and recycle electronics for free. Upon arrival, residents must show proof of residency. Find the full list of accepted items at: <http://boston.gov/hazardous-waste>.

Clothing and Textile Recycling

In compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's policy, beginning November 1, the City of Boston will not accept clothing and textiles in curbside trash. To help residents comply with this state policy, the City of Boston is offering drop boxes conveniently located throughout the City for residents to dispose of their unwanted clothing and

textiles. Find a drop-off location or schedule a pickup at:
<http://boston.gov/textiles>.

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>

Project Oscar Compost Program

Project Oscar is Boston's 24 hour community compost program. The Project has 15 bins across the city which can be used to compost personal food scraps by anyone who lives in Boston. Most bins are unlocked and open to residents for use at any time. To learn more, visit:
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar>.

S.P.A.C.E. Grants

The S.P.A.C.E. Grant program seeks to help small business owners by providing grants of up to \$200,000 to subsidize the costs associated with operating expenses. Although applications are currently closed, they **will reopen on Monday, October 2nd**. Through these grants, the program intends to bring people back to commercial districts and revitalize the Boston economy to its pre-pandemic strength. For more information, please visit:
<https://www.boston.gov/economic-opportunity-and-inclusion/space-grants>.

Boston Community Choice Electricity

BCCE is the largest municipal aggregation program in Massachusetts. It allows the city to secure electricity at a competitive rate and aims to provide affordable and renewable energy to the program's customers. Through offering Boston residents a reliable, not-for-profit electricity option, BCCE strengthens consumer protection, reduces carbon emissions, and prioritizes local energy sources. To opt-in to the program, visit:
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/community-choice-electricity>

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>

As Summer winds down, there are a few remaining public activities in our neighborhood parks:

South End

- Arts Workshop: Watercolor painting workshop
 - September 24, 10:00 am, Ringgold Park

Downtown

- Arts Workshop: Watercolor painting workshop
 - September 16, 10:00 am, Boston Public Garden

Learn more about any of these events here:

https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2023/04/_23_Summer_Guide.pdf.

Upcoming Council Hearings

Hearing to Bring all City of Boston Meetings Back In-Person with Hybrid Accessibility

Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 2 p.m.

This hearing will discuss bringing all City of Boston Meetings and related business back in person, with a hybrid option for accessibility and persons with disabilities. The meetings include Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Licensing Board, Cannabis Board, Boston Planning and Development Agency Board (BPDA), and City Council Hearings.

This hearing order comes in response to reports of high office vacancies and a slower economic recovery of the Financial District and Downtown Crossing. Foot traffic in the two zip codes that make up the Financial District is still at 47.8% of pre-pandemic 2019 levels, and office vacancies overall are at 20.4%. Conversations with commercial real estate executives, restaurants, coffee shops, and other small businesses owners in Downtown have highlighted serious concerns about the future of the neighborhood.

Resuming City-related Meetings in person, with a hybrid option for public accessibility and persons with disabilities, would allow for all members of various city boards, attorneys representing clients, proponents of a particular project, interested members of the public, and City Hall staff to return on site and provide the potential to support our local economy by visiting restaurants and other businesses.

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Petition for a Special Law re: an act regarding military leave policy in the City of Boston pursuant to Chapter 33, Section 59 of the General Laws

I filed this petition to ensure the City's military leave policy is consistent with State statute. Currently, the City's revised military leave policy provides 40

days of paid leave only to those who are participating in military drills and parades, and not to members who are activated or deployed. This petition will make sure our active duty personnel receive fair pay.

Resolution recognizing July as Disability Pride Month in the City of Boston

I co-sponsored this resolution with Councilor Mejia to establish July as Disability Pride Month in Boston. There is an overall lack of public awareness concerning the challenges disabled people face in their day-to-day lives. Through the passage of this resolution, we hope to bring greater public attention to these issues, promote inclusivity in our community and foster a culture of understanding and respect.

In the Community



It was wonderful to welcome back our BPS students, teachers, staff, crossing officers, bus monitors and cafeteria support on their first day of school. It was great to see so many smiling faces at Josiah Quincy Upper School, Blackstone Elementary & Oliver Perry School.



Over the Summer, I was honored to attend the Boston Police Department's ceremonial pledge to the 30 x 30 initiative. Thank you Mayor Michelle Wu and Commissioner Cox for your leadership in striving to increase the number of women in BPD. A special thank you to the Massachusetts Association of Women in Law Enforcement for your exceptional support of women working in law enforcement!



I was proud to join South Boston neighbors and fellow members at the Fitzwilliam Post 561 recently in wishing a Happy Birthday to Yolanda Cerullo. Thank you for your service to our nation as a part of the US Coast Guard during World War II! We are proud to call you our neighbor.



Recently, I joined my colleagues in government, Boston Police C-6, Andrew Square residents and business leaders for a meeting about significant public safety concerns and quality of life issues in this neighborhood. It is critical we work together to address these challenges.



Thank you to Downtown BID, Downtown Boston Residents Association, Chief Segun Idowu, Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Boston Police A-1 team, and our community partners for a productive meeting last week to discuss public safety challenges in the Downtown Crossing neighborhood.



This week, I was honored to join colleagues in government for the annual Greater Boston Labor Council Labor Day Breakfast. It's critical we stand in solidarity with workers and their families as they seek social, economic and racial justice.



It was great to join my parents, Josh Kraft from the New England Patriots, Coach Al McClain, BPD Superintendent Nora Baston and many Boston residents for the Medina Dixon Basketball Tournament in Mattapan this summer. It was great to watch outstanding women basketball teams throughout New England!



I was honored to join Boston Veterans' Services Commissioner Robert Santiago at the recent "Freedom to Serve: Integrating the Armed Services and Untold Stories of the Civil Rights Movement" symposium in Washington D.C.. Panelists at the conference discussed the desegregation of the military. Thank you to Blue Star Families and Howard University for bringing us together to learn about this historic milestone and celebrate our diversity.



Thank you to Chinatown Crime Watch for inviting me to your Labor Day cookout. This organization works closely with Boston Police, Chinatown residents, business owners and community partners in support of community policing initiatives and addressing neighborhood concerns.



Thank you Representative Chris Worrell and Councilor Brian Worrell for inviting us to the 51st Annual Hewins Street Block Party in Dorchester in August. It was great to meet your family, friends and neighbors and to celebrate in this diverse neighborhood!



Over the Summer, we gathered with the Puerto Rican community and South End residents for the raising of the Puerto Rican flag. We celebrated the culture, history, contributions, and sacrifices of the Puerto Rican community to our city and nation.

We had a wonderful time at Boston Housing Authority's Unity Day at West Broadway Development in

South Boston. People coming together as a community is one of the many wonderful things about life in Boston.



I had the opportunity and privilege to congratulate Fiona Yu on her 19 years of dedicated service at the Chinese Progressive Association recently. Fiona worked tirelessly for our immigrant neighbors and working men and women throughout Boston. She's a true champion for social and economic justice!



Thank you to the Highland Street Foundation for sponsoring TADpole 10, a summer reading program for Boston's youth. I was invited by the foundation in July to read to children at the TADpole Playground on Boston Common. Reading brings us together and enriches our lives!



Kristen and I enjoyed attending the

Annual Summer Picnic at Hayes Park in the South End. Thank you to the Friends of Hayes Park for bringing us together on this beautiful night. Our parks and open spaces are one of the great treasures of life in Boston!



In August, I was honored to attend the Suffrage100MA organization's "Women's Equality Day 2023." The inspiring speakers discussed women's health care, the maternal health crisis impacting women of color, menstrual equity, reducing violence against women as well as human rights issues.

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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