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Dear neighbors,

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

As 2023 and my term as Council President draws to a close, I would like to provide a summary of my work this year.

In District 2, my work and advocacy continues in many key areas: pedestrian safety & public safety, quality of life issues, immigrant and civil rights, housing & development, and community preservation.

In the South Boston Waterfront, I was able to secure \$4 million for the programming and design of a new firehouse, which will complement the \$11 million we received last year for the design and construction of the new EMS Seaport station. The construction and completion of both over the next several years will be critical to serving the area's growing population. In South Boston, I secured \$2.5 million for the McDevitt Senior Homes, an important affordable housing opportunity for seniors. On transportation, the South Boston Elected

officials and I continue to highlight our concerns and strong opposition to the Boston Transportation Department on their Summer Street Pilot due to traffic, congestion, and the potential to negatively impact our local, state, and regional economy. I also advocated for a 7 nights a week Residential Parking Policy Plan in South Boston, which I believe will protect neighbors, residents, and families from the unsustainable parking crisis and quality of life issues that occur every weekend.

In Downtown, I continue to work in collaboration with our public safety officers, residents, business community and non-profits. I submitted letters of support for the establishment of a Holocaust Museum in Downtown and the soon-to-open WNDR Museum. In Chinatown, with the Mayor's support, we received a \$2.4 million grant from the Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities project for the initial study and design of a new park between Shawmut Ave and Washington Street above the I-90 highway. Through community preservation funding and my support, Chinatown also secured a total of \$4.2 million for Parcel R-1 for the building of affordable housing for homeownership and rental. In the South End, I secured \$1.1 million for the maintenance and repair of the Shawmut Ave Bridge.

At the Council, during this year's budget process, my colleagues and I advocated against the removal of \$30 million to the Boston Police Department and nearly \$1 million to Veterans Services. In addition, Councilor Worrell and I co-sponsored, and the Council unanimously passed, an illegal gun trafficking ordinance requiring the Boston Police Department to have an annual report with data on illegal firearms trafficking, which would help law enforcement and policymakers develop strategies on gun violence prevention. Through multiple working sessions with my colleagues, we also passed an anti-bullying policy at the City Council. On pest control, I had the opportunity to speak with Kathleen Corradi, New York City's first new Rat Czar, to get her insights and operations. While we were not able to hold a hearing in time before the year end to discuss the creation of an Office of Rodent Mitigation in the City of Boston, I will be re-filing this in the new year. The list of what we have worked on is long, and I have included more details below.

As we gather with families and friends for the holidays, I encourage everyone to stay updated with their flu shots and boosters to keep each other safe. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, festive holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

Thank you,
Ed

Below are highlights of our work this year:

Quality of Life & City Services

- Filed a hearing to discuss setting up an Office of Rodent Mitigation in the City of Boston.
- Held a hearing to discuss bringing back City of Boston Board Meetings, Abutters Meetings, City Council Meetings, and Related Businesses Back in Person with a hybrid option for public accessibility and persons with disabilities.

Public and Pedestrian Safety & Transportation

- Advocated successfully against \$30 million budget cuts to the Boston Police Department

- Sponsored and passed an ordinance requiring the Boston Police Department to have an annual report with data on firearms trafficking, which would help law enforcement and policymakers better understand the impact of illegal gun trafficking, and help us develop strategies on gun violence prevention.
- Secured \$4 million for the programming and design of a new firehouse in Seaport.
- Secured \$1.1 million for the maintenance and repair of the Shawmut Avenue Bridge.

Affordable Housing

- Supported the securing of \$2.5 million for the McDevitt Senior Affordable Homes (formerly Paraclete Center) on E Street, South Boston.
- Supported the securing of \$4.2 million for Parcel R-1 Affordable Housing (rental & ownership) in Chinatown.
- Sponsored and passed resolution calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the act
- providing a local option incentivizing landlords to rent unsubsidized properties at below rent market.
- Voted to increase the affordable housing requirements for the Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) from 13% to 17%, and advocated for family sized affordable units.

Parks, Open Spaces & Environment

- Supported \$2.4 million for a feasibility study and initial design for a new Chinatown park built on a deck over the I-90 highway and MBTA tracks between Shawmut Avenue and Washington Street as part of the federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program.
- Supported \$50 million in funding for Moakley Park for the implementation of master plan, including the redesign of the park with climate resilience features to mitigate flood risk.

Historic Preservation

- Secured \$750,000 for the Tremont Temple in Downtown Boston
- Secured \$395,500 for the Congress Street Fire Station and Boston Fire Museum in South Boston
- Secured \$500,000 for The Union Church in Boston's South End

Arts & Culture

- Supported the development of the Holocaust Museum
- Provided a letter of support of the opening of WNDR Museum in Downtown
- Supported PLAN Downtown and creation of a Chinatown Cultural Plan

Human Rights Commission & Civil Rights

- Wrote a letter in support of organizers for the Boston Pride for the People Parade.
- Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing June as Pride Month.
- Consistently reported neo-Nazi & extremist behavior targeting our Jewish, LGBTQ+ neighbors, immigrants, and communities of color to the Human Rights Commission; condemned these hateful behaviors.
- Stood by and supported LGBTQ+ community and the important work of our health care workers and medical professionals at Boston Children's Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital during targeted harassment of communities of color from far right and anti-LGBTQ

groups.

Labor

- Sponsored and passed resolution in support of our Seaport Hotel Banquet Workers as they vote in their union election
- Sponsored and passed a resolution in support of Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) workers as they seek to unionize
- Sponsored and passed resolution honoring the Health Care & Home Care Worker Members Of 1199SEIU
- Sponsored and passed resolution in support of Boston Firefighters Local 718 and urging the Massachusetts Civil Service Human Resources Division to work in good faith on the issue of civil service promotional exams

Immigrant Advancement

- Sponsored and passed resolution celebrating Lunar New Year and the contributions Of our AAPI community
- Sponsored and passed resolution in support of designating Lunar New Year as an official holiday in the City of Boston
- Sponsored and passed resolution recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month

Veterans

- Advocated successfully against decreasing the budget for Office of Veterans Services
- Filed a home rule petition to ensure that City employees who are military reservists and members of the National Guard on active duty receive fair pay, and that the City's military leave policy is consistent with state statute
- Filed hearing order to discuss the impact of a government shutdown on boston's veterans, military members, and military families
- Filed and passed a resolution designating a hero square at the intersection of Beach Street and Hudson Street in Chinatown in recognition of Wing O. Hom
- Sponsored and filed resolution resolution commemorating Veterans Day and honoring all those who served our country

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings:

- [Squares + Streets Zoning Community Office Hours](#)
 - Wednesday, December 27, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- [804 E 7th Street Public Meeting](#)
 - Wednesday, January 3, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- [Squares + Streets Zoning Community Office Hours](#)
 - Thursday, January 4, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
- [Squares + Streets Citywide Draft Zoning Amendment Update Public Meeting](#)
 - Wednesday, January 10, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- [Squares + Streets Zoning Community Office Hours](#)

- Thursday, January 11, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
 - [Squares + Streets Zoning Community Office Hours](#)
 - Thursday, January 18, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
-

Abutters Meetings:

548 E Third Street Abutter's Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 2024, 6 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 859 3383 2573

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,85933832573# US

+13092053325,,85933832573# US

363 E Street Abutter's Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024, 5:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85084038535>

Meeting ID: 850 8403 8535

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,85084038535# US

+13017158592,,85084038535# US (Washington DC)

KCL Boston, LLC, d/b/a F1 Club Abutter's Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86263116777>

Meeting ID: 862 6311 6777

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86263116777# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,86263116777# US (New York)

141-143 P Street Abutter's Meeting 02

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 7 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86153182828>

Meeting ID: 861 5318 2828

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,86153182828# US

+13126266799,,86153182828# US (Chicago)

Christmas Week Trash and Recycling pick up

Please note most Boston neighborhoods will have a delayed trash and recycling pick-up schedule starting Tuesday, December 26 to Saturday, December 30, with the exception of South Boston, which will be on regular schedule.

Fuel Assistance Benefits

Through the advocacy of ABCD and other Community Action Agencies, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding is now available. 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, 2024.
To apply, call 617-357-6012 or visit your local ABCD in person:
<https://bostonabcd.org/locations/>

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 8 to 12 from 11am to 12:30pm
- Evenings: January 8 to 11 from 5pm to 6:30pm

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

Getting the Annual Flu Vaccine

As we enter into the colder months, the Boston Public Health Commission is hosting free, walk-in flu vaccination clinics for people of all ages at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building clinic in Nubian Square and City Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, and no appointments or proof of insurance are needed. You can also visit your local pharmacy, community health center, or contact your primary health care provider to set up an appointment. For more, [visit here](#).

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington St., Roxbury
Open Thursdays - Saturdays from 12 pm - 6 pm

City Hall, Haymarket Room (2nd Floor) 1 City Hall Square, Boston
Open Mondays from 7 am - 1 pm and Wednesdays from 12 pm - 5 pm

Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines

The CDC recommends the 2023–2024 updated COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax, to protect against serious illness from COVID-19. You can find a vaccine location near you at: vaccines.gov, or you can visit a doctors' office, pharmacy, or health clinic in your community. For more on CDC guidance, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

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>
Getting the flu vaccine in September or October helps ensure strong protection from the virus before peak flu activity begins. As it gets colder, the risk for infection and severe illness increases.

In the Community



Thank you to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park for bringing us together for the Trellis Lighting. It was wonderful to join colleagues in government and residents of the North End, Waterfront, Wharf District and Downtown to celebrate the holidays.



Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and staff at St. Anthony Shrine for sponsoring this week's holiday lunch with veterans from the New England Center and Home for Veterans. Let's always work together to support our veterans & military families!



Thank you to Age Strong for sponsoring a fantastic Holiday Connections event at City Hall and to our city departments that attended and provided residents with information on services.



I visited the South Boston Girl Scouts on East Broadway during one of their cookie sales recently. This program teaches Girl Scouts about entrepreneurship as they have fun learning essential skills such as money management, leadership development, public speaking and decision-making.



It was great to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony of IBA - Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción's renovated and expanded Early Education Program. We thank their dedicated staff for their commitment to Boston families and their vision to ensure families receive high-quality and equitable early education.



I had a wonderful visit at Fenway High School in Mission Hill earlier this month. I enjoyed touring the school, meeting with the students, teachers, custodians and administrators and learning about their Fusion House program. This is an outstanding school community!



Last weekend, I was invited to the Woo Ching White Crane Kung Fu holiday party. This diverse youth organization does an incredible amount through their community engagement and volunteerism!



I was honored to join the Menorah Lighting and Hanukkah celebrations on Boston Common recently. May there be peace, joy and blessings during this holiday season.



Thank you to South Boston neighbors, volunteers and sponsors who supported the Jingle Bell Road Race to benefit the South Boston Catholic Academy. It was great to join Councilor Murphy and the Boston Police C-6 team for this annual event!

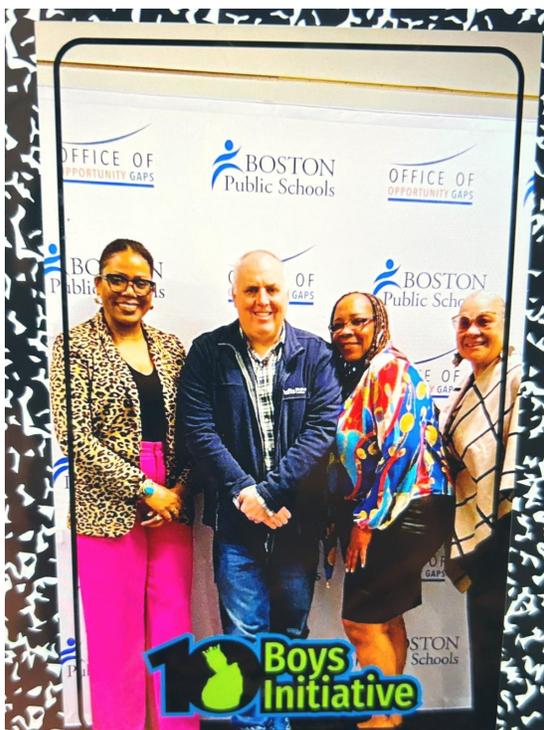


I always enjoy attending the holiday party for Chinatown and South End

children at the Wang YMCA of Chinatown. Thank you to the YMCA staff, Rep. Donald Wong and all those who supported this joyous celebration.



Holiday events are a wonderful opportunity to bring neighbors together and to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. It was good to be with the Villa Victoria community in the South End for their Tree lighting. I'm proud to represent this diverse and wonderful community!



Earlier this month, I attended the relaunch of the Boston Public Schools' 10 Boys Initiative. It will focus on the social and emotional development of boys of color in BPS. This character-based model is aimed at enhancing academic performance and reshaping the life trajectory of its participants.

Thank you to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Public Policy

Leadership Council for inviting me to discuss economic development, transportation, and quality of life issues in the city this month.



Recently, I joined my colleagues to discuss public safety challenges impacting the AAPI community of Boston. Thank you to Mary Chin at AACA for coordinating this forum in Chinatown. It's critical we work together to address anti-Asian racism and hate crimes.

My family was honored to join volunteers at St. Monica Church in South Boston for the Monsignor Thomas J. McDonnell and Frank Kelley Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for families and seniors in need. Thank you to the volunteers for always making this a special holiday for so many in our neighborhood!



It was great to be with residents from the South End and Chinatown for a holiday lunch sponsored by the New England Kung Fu Association. Thank you to your contributions to the Chinatown community.

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



Ed Flynn for Boston City Council | 254 Gold Street | Boston, MA 02127 US

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