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Dear Neighbors,

I hope you and your families are doing well this winter. My team and I continue to represent your interests at City Hall with a focus on public safety, pedestrian safety, quality of life and other neighborhood issues.

At the first City Council meeting of the year, my Resolution in support of the replacement of concurrent pedestrian phasing traffic signals in the City of Boston was passed unanimously by my colleagues. Following a tragic crash in the city in Fort Point in 2019, I previously called for and held a Council hearing on concurrent phasing pedestrian traffic signals. I continue to believe it is a recipe for disaster with cars and pedestrians both having a “Right Turn Green Arrow” and a “Pedestrian Walk Sign” at very the same time. With pedestrian safety in mind, I continue to advocate for the administration to make immediate changes to these intersections across the city.



On January 22nd, the City Council held a 9-hour Committee hearing on White Stadium. Over the last year, I also heard increasing concerns from City of Boston residents, civic organizations, parks and environmental organizations and nonprofits on the current White Stadium project. I raised these concerns at every level of

city approval and opposed this project due to a lack of a genuine community process, using public land for a private organization, cutting down 145 trees, transportation and parking. There is a significant risk involved at nearly \$100 million for the city thus far. We should not be subsidizing a professional team's stadium on public land. We should be focused on a project solely for our student athletes and residents, while working with the professional soccer team to find another suitable location.

Recently, I participated in the Working Group on Addiction, Recovery, Homelessness. We discussed major public safety concerns relating to the Mass and Cass crisis. Residents no longer feel safe in these neighborhoods. We must have zero tolerance for violence and open drug activity!

This Black History Month, let's continue to celebrate the exceptional contributions and sacrifices of Black Americans in history for our city and country, and also reflect on the many community leaders who left lasting legacies in pursuit of equality, social and economic justice for all.

We also celebrated Lunar New Year at City Hall and in the community recently. Let's wish our Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) friends and neighbors a happy, healthy, and prosperous new Year of the Snake!

Lastly, please note that flu cases are on the rise in Boston and Massachusetts, and have seen a sharp spike since February. Those of you who haven't received your flu shot yet may click [here](#). The Boston Public Health Commission also provides additional resources on viral respiratory illness protection [here](#).

I have included many information on upcoming meetings, deadlines, employment and income-restricted housing opportunities below. Please follow the links for more information.

Please continue to contact my team and I with any constituent service and quality of life issues.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings:

[PLAN: Downtown Office Hours](#)

- 12:00-1:30 - Thursday, February 20, | Thursday, February 27 | Friday, February 28, | Tuesday, March 4
 - 2:30-4:00 - Wednesday, February 19 | Wednesday, March 5
 - 5:00-6:30 - Wednesday, February 26 | Monday, March 3
-

Abutters Meetings:

[South Boston: 260 W Broadway](#)

March 3, 2025 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[BERDO Review Board Public Meeting](#)

Monday, February 24 | 4:30pm

The BERDO Review Board has scheduled a public meeting for Monday, February 24 at 4:30pm. Written comments or questions can be submitted via email to BerdoReviewBoard@boston.gov. Written comments should be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, February 24, 2025. Translation and sign language interpreters are available upon prior request. Questions and comments should be directed to BerdoReviewBoard@boston.gov or 617-635-1732.

[Tufts Medical Center Community Health Needs Survey](#)

The purpose of this survey is to gain insight on the health needs and priorities for those that live/work in South Boston. Please click on the heading above to access the survey.

[Become a Boston By Foot Tour Guide](#)

Boston By Foot is currently seeking people interested in sites and stories around Boston to become a Boston By Foot Volunteer Tour Guide. New tour guide volunteers will join over 200 lifelong learners who share a passion for the city and its neighborhoods. Training begins in March.

FY26 Community Preservation Eligibility Determination now open

CPA Boston's Eligibility Determination Form for FY 2025 is now open. To apply for the FY26 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 29th at 5pm.**

[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>

[Affordable Homeownership Opportunity in Dorchester](#)

270 Talbot Ave, Dorchester

This affordable homeownership opportunity features 18 condominiums available from \$180,599 to \$379,555. **Deadline for lottery application is February 26, 2025.** See more details below.

- Three (3) studios are available: one at \$180,599 (80%), one at \$210,223 (90%) and one at \$239,784.
 - Nine (9) one-bedroom units are available: three at \$220,111 (80%), three at \$254,616 (90%), and three at \$289,121.
 - Three (3) two-bedroom units are available: one at \$259,560 (80%), one at \$299,112 (90%), and one at \$335,780 (100%).
 - Three (3) 3-bedroom units are available: one at \$299,009 (80%), one at \$340,106 (90%) and one at \$379,555 (100%).
 - Two condominiums are ADA accessible.
 - Monthly condo fees apply.
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[ABCD Home Energy Assistance Program](#)

The ABCD Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as Fuel Assistance, is now accepting applications for assistance with heating bills. Households may apply online, over the telephone, or in person by appointment at their local ABCD intake site.

[10th Anniversary of Love Your Block](#)

Join us for Boston's citywide beautification event sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing. Engage in community service by leading or volunteering for cleanups in your neighborhood. Enhance streets, parks and open spaces. Sign up to host a site or volunteer! This year, the Love Your Block 2025 registration runs until **March 3, 2025.**

[Boston Tax Help Coalition](#)

Do you earn \$70,000 or less a year? Get your taxes prepared for free remotely or in-person with Boston Tax Help and the Worker Empowerment Cabinet.

[City of Boston Rental Registration](#)

Please note: All residential rental properties must register by **June 30, 2025.**

Boston Public Schools Resources

BPS Helpline

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

The Department of Transportation can assist you with transportation related questions or other support

- Enter a ticket via the Transportation Support Portal
 - Call (617) 635-9520 | Email schoolbus@bostonpublicschools.org
-

Events in the City

[Boston Family Days](#)

Every Sunday

The BPS Sundays program was initially launched in February 2024 for students attending Boston Public Schools. While the program created valuable recreational and educational opportunities outside of the classroom, Councilor Murphy and I filed a resolution to establish a ‘Sundays For All’ program to include all City of Boston children. The newly launched Boston Family Days Program now includes an additional 23,000 students from charter schools, METCO, and private schools - the majority of them coming from low-income households. To participate in the program, families must register on the City of Boston website in order to receive a voucher.

[Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series](#)

January 5, 2025 - April 5, 2025

The Boston Parks Fitness Series offers free fitness programming in Boston parks. Join us for both in-person and virtual classes led by certified fitness instructors. Please consult the complete class list using the hyperlink above.

[Age Strong Application Assistance Clinics](#)

March 3, 11am-3:30pm, BPL South Boston 646 E Broadway, S. Boston

Age Strong will be hosting clinics to help older adults who wish to apply for assistance regarding property tax exemptions or deferrals, home repairs, SNAP/food resources, fuel assistance etc. There are many great ways available to save if you are older and in a hard place.

[Ice Skating Party at Steriti Memorial Park](#)

February 21, 2025

Choose from sessions lasting 45 minutes each starting at 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Rental skates will be provided for free. Skate and dance along with music by DJ WhySham. Enjoy Regina Pizzeria, Munchkin Donut Holes, and drinks when not on the rink.

Pre-registration is encouraged for groups of 10+ or if you have a time constraint, but there will be capacity for walk-ups during all skating sessions.

[Women Veterans Roundtable](#)

March 20, 2025 | 6:00pm

BCYF will be hosting The Women Veterans Roundtable at Roxbury Community College. If you have any questions regarding this event, please feel free to contact their office at 617-635-3026.

[Free Hip Hop Dance Workshop Series for ages 8-12](#)

Beginning Thursday's 02/27/2025 | 5:00pm - 6:00pm

BCYF Blackstone

Join this FREE Hip Hop class where students learn basic concepts for arm gestures and poses, foot work, and floor work. Improvisation, creation, and teamwork the primary themes.

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Order for a hearing to discuss Property Tax Relief for long-term residents and essential municipal workers.

I called for this hearing to discuss property tax relief for long-term residents and essential municipal employees. Property taxes are a heavy financial burden for many families, especially those who have bought their homes decades ago before housing prices and property values skyrocketed in the city. After holding several hearings at the Boston City Council in the past, and speaking with many neighbors in District 2 over the past several months, I advocated for the City to consider financial assistance programs for those who are struggling to pay their property taxes - including tax relief or exemptions aimed at long-term residents who have owned a home in Boston for at least 20 years and are age 55 years and older - as well as essential municipal employees. Our longtime residents that have called Boston home for decades, as well as our dedicated city employees - they've been severely impacted by soaring property taxes for years. These are neighbors who bought their homes decades ago for a fraction of what they're worth. They're on fixed incomes, and they're not wealthy - but they are just as much a part of the soul of the city as anyone else.

Resolution in support of the replacement of concurrent phasing pedestrian traffic signals in the City of Boston.

I filed this resolution, as I believe pedestrian safety is one of the biggest issues we face in the City of Boston and a critical component of public safety and overall quality of life. In 2019, two pedestrians were struck by a van at the intersection of Melcher and Summer Streets in Fort Point at the site of a concurrent pedestrian phasing traffic signal, and one of them passed away due to her injuries. After this tragic accident, I called for and held a Council hearing on concurrent phasing pedestrian traffic signals as I continue to believe it is a recipe for disaster to have cars and pedestrians have a "Right Turn Green Arrow" and a "Pedestrian Walk Sign" at the same time. It is critical that we review the practice of concurrent pedestrian phasing traffic signals at intersections throughout the city and make the necessary changes to focus on improving pedestrian safety in Boston. This resolution was passed unanimously. Now is the time for city officials to make this critical change!

Order for a hearing to discuss requiring all micromobility devices to be licensed, registered and insured.

Residents across Boston have witnessed speeding along our streets and sidewalks, frequent running of stop signs and red lights, going the wrong way on one-way streets, and navigating between vehicles either in traffic or at traffic lights by mopeds, scooters, electric bikes, bikes, and other micro-mobility devices. Everyone using city roads needs to abide by the rules of the road, especially if a device's speed limit can go beyond 20 mph like a motor vehicle. There should be a license, registration, and liability insurance in the event of a serious accident and injury, as well as increased enforcement and stricter regulations on mopeds, scooters, electric bikes, bikes, and other micro-mobility transportation devices. Our residents, pedestrians, and all road users deserve to operate on safe streets with a predictable environment and minimal dangers to road safety.

Order for a hearing to address growing concerns over the White Stadium Project's costs, community input and transparency.

This hearing order was introduced by myself and Councilor Murphy. There has been significant pushback from the community on public process, using public land for a private organization, cutting down approximately 140 trees, transportation, as well as the substantial risk involved at nearly \$100 million for the city thus far. With projected construction costs to the Stadium rising from \$50 million to \$91 million- and \$100 million to \$182 million for the stadium overall when including the team's contribution- it would be wholly appropriate for the Boston City Council to hold a hearing to discuss the cost increases with this inherent risk for the city. On account of these reasons and more, I called for the project to be cancelled months ago in favor of a White Stadium project geared towards student athletes and residents instead, which economists reportedly indicated would cost approximately \$20-30 million.

Order for a hearing to discuss the status of the South Boston Library Study.

I introduced an order for a hearing to discuss the status of the South Boston Public Library Study. In 2022, the City of Boston allocated \$250,000 to conduct a facility assessment and develop a building program that reflects the BPL's Compass Principles and supports the needs of the neighborhood. This study would then inform the construction of a new branch in South Boston to accommodate the growing needs of the neighborhood. The hearing order will allow us to understand the status of this project and receive an update from the City. South Boston residents deserve a new public library!

Order for a hearing to discuss discrepancies in Boston's 2024 detainer requests.

I called for this hearing to discuss the discrepancies in the number of detainer requests received from the City of Boston. When someone commits a crime, regardless of immigration status, we can't stand in the way of justice for a victim or respect the rule of law and society. In January, the Boston Police Department communicated in a letter to the clerk it had rejected 15 detainer requests from the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

in 2024. Media reports later indicated that ICE disputed this claim, and that they made 198 immigration detainer requests, far higher than what the Boston Police Department reported. Reports indicated that the criminal charges on the detainer requests included violent and serious crimes such as armed robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery on a police officer, assault to murder, possession of a firearm, possession of a large capacity weapon, possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, trafficking of heroin, indecent assault and battery on a person 14 or older, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and trafficking over 200 grams of cocaine. Given the large discrepancies in the detainer request numbers, it is important that our body and the public are provided clarification and explanation of these discrepancies to dispel any concerns.

Order for a hearing to discuss accessibility in Boston City Hall.

I called for this hearing to discuss accessibility concerns at City Hall. Over the years, Boston City Hall has made improvements to ensure compliance with the ADA and improve accessibility for people with disabilities. The latest include a new accessible entrance on the second floor and a sloping promenade in the City Hall Plaza renovation in 2022, and the installation of a vertical lift at City Hall's third floor entrance to the mezzanine area. However, there is more work to be done to improve accessibility inside the building. Aging infrastructure continues to limit accessibility in certain areas of the building, such as the broken escalators connecting the second and third floors in City Hall. These escalators have been down for over a year, and it is important to review access within other parts of the building to ensure those with disabilities can fully access all floors, departments, and meeting rooms.

Order for a hearing to discuss the status of the elevators at the BHA Ruth Barkley apartments.

The elevators at many BHA developments, especially the BHA Ruth Barkley apartments, are aging and have been prone to frequent breakdowns. Recent reports have documented several breakdowns that have posed a serious public safety concern. Seniors and persons with disabilities have been particularly impacted, as using the stairs is not a safe option for them, and they have not been able to leave their apartment for weeks at a time, causing them to miss doctors appointments and not be able to pick up groceries.

Resolution celebrating Lunar New Year.

Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays for our Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, and it begins on the second new moon after winter solstice. It is usually celebrated for a week starting from New Year's Eve to the sixth day of the New Year. This year, Lunar New Year began on January 29th, as we rang in the Year of the Snake.

Order for a hearing to discuss the Holocaust and Genocide education in Boston Public Schools.

I called for this hearing as I believe Holocaust and Genocide Education is critical for our middle and high students to learn about the horrors and atrocities of the past, and recognize that national, ethnic, racial, or religious

hatred can manifest in acts of extreme violence and create immense suffering for marginalized people and groups. Since 2021, there has been a dramatic rise in anti-Semitic graffiti in high schools, colleges, universities, and public spaces, including the New England Holocaust Memorial. A United Nations Report found that social media has fed into Holocaust denial and distortion, and that nearly 10 per cent of posts on Facebook, and 15 per cent of posts on Twitter that discussed the Holocaust included denial or distortion content. After the horrific terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7th, 2023, the instances of antisemitism saw an even sharper rise across the world and right here in New England, Massachusetts and Boston. In an age of disinformation on social media, it is all the more critical that we do all that we can to address the increasing levels of hate and hate crimes - including our school districts to properly educate our children on the facts surrounding these atrocities.

Resolution recognizing Human Trafficking Month.

On National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, recognized every January, it is critical that we recognize victims of human trafficking, support the work of anti-trafficking organizations, state and local law enforcement, support advocates, businesses and those who are committed to raising awareness of and ending human trafficking.

Order for a hearing to review the PILOT program in the City of Boston.

Boston is a city with a large number of colleges, universities, hospitals, museums, and other cultural institutions. They are a critical part of our city's economy and character, but they are also tax-exempt, and represent over half of Boston's real estate property. It is important that we continue to work with our nonprofit institutions on providing services and benefits to our residents through the PILOT program, and continue to build a better framework for delivering community benefits for nonprofit institutions.

Refiles

- Order for a hearing to discuss the process of establishing Hero Squares in the City of Boston
- Order for a hearing to discuss new cancer presumptions announced by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.
- Order for a hearing to discuss services for women veterans.
- Order for a hearing to discuss resources for the Boston Police Crime Laboratory.
- Resolution in support of an Ethics Committee at the Boston City Council.
- Resolution in support of a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Committee in the Boston City Council.
- Order for a hearing to discuss expanding the urban tree canopy in District

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- Order for a hearing to discuss elderly scamming.
- Order for a hearing to discuss financial literacy programs in Boston Public Schools.
- Order for a hearing to discuss the proposed zoning amendment to remove the half mile buffer zone between cannabis establishments.
- Order for a hearing to discuss the lung cancer rates among Black Veterans.
- Order for a hearing to discuss the importance of the cruise industry in the City of Boston.
- Order for a hearing to discuss ways to ensure operations of the 911 system and contingency plans in case of a 911 system outage.
- Order for a hearing to discuss the impact of CORI on access to employment and other opportunities.
- Order for a hearing to discuss the notification process for abutters meeting in the City of Boston.
- Order for a hearing to discuss 2024 crime statistics.
- Order for a hearing to discuss pedestrian safety, traffic calming, and expanding the safety surge program in the City of Boston.

In the Community



Kristen and I were honored to attend the 36th Annual Tết in Boston Festival at the Flynn Cruiseport. Thank you to the Vietnamese-American Community of Massachusetts for bringing us together and celebrating the beautiful Vietnamese culture. Boston works best when we work together!



It was so fun to be at Moakley Park for the annual Winter Warmer sponsored

by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Thank you to our community partners for supporting this celebration, including Boston Harbor Now, South Boston En Accion, Boston Public Health Commission, and South Boston Neighborhood House!



It was an honor to attend the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston Black Leadership reception in Roxbury. With a theme of “Trailblazers and Torch,” we celebrated the contributions and sacrifices made by so many African American leaders to our city and nation.



It was an honor to join the Vietnamese community of Boston for the Annual New Year celebration sponsored by VietAID. We also celebrated the significant contributions and sacrifices of the Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American



It was wonderful to be featured as a guest on the "La Hora del Café" hosted by the one and only, Alberto Vasallo. We had an excellent discussion on current events, diversity and community engagement, sports, culture and Boston politics. Let's continue this important work together!



It was an honor to attend a wonderful Lunar New Year celebration sponsored by the City of Boston's Asian and Pacific Islander American Employee

Resource Group. We celebrated the Year of the Snake and also the amazing contributions of the AAPI community to our city and nation!



Thank you to the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association for sponsoring the Lion Dance Parade in Chinatown. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the parade, celebrating the richness of Chinese culture and heritage, and supporting neighborhoods restaurants!



I am proud to have attended the 140th Annual President Luncheon hosted by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. I had the honor to represent the Boston City Council and highlighted the exceptional contributions and sacrifices of veterans and military families since the birth of America.



It was wonderful to attend this year's Lunar New Year Celebration at Josiah

Quincy Elementary School in Chinatown! We celebrated the Year of the Snake and also the amazing contributions of this school community to our city.



Senator Nick Collins, Representative David Biele, and I met at Andrew Square with BT&D and the Massachusetts State Police. I continue to advocate for raised crosswalks, speed humps, pedestrian islands, rapid flash beacons, removing concurrent signals.



It was wonderful to join residents of Chinatown for this year's Lunar New Year

banquet sponsored by the Gee How Oak Tin Association at Empire Garden Restaurant! We also celebrated the significant contributions of the Chinese community to our city and nation.



I was honored to celebrate Lunar New Year with the Josiah Quincy Upper School community and many throughout Boston's Chinese community as well. Boston works best when we work together!



I was honored to join Boston residents (and D2 constituents) for the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's Lunar New Year Banquet in Chinatown. We celebrated the enormous contributions and sacrifices of the Chinese

community to our city and nation!

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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