

ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN



Dear neighbors,

Happy Spring! This is always a busy time of year with celebrations for Women's History Month, and the St. Patrick's and Evacuation Day events. Last weekend, I attended the annual St. Patrick's Day and Evacuation Day Breakfast and parade. It was an honor to be joined once again by Mrs. Christine Devlin, a Gold Star mother, at the breakfast. We recognized her son, Lance Corporal Michael Devlin, who made the supreme sacrifice for our country while serving overseas. Thank you to our veterans and military families for their important contributions, service, and sacrifice.

In the City, the Boston Transportation Department is collecting feedback with regard to the Summer Street Pilot Program. The South Boston Elected officials and I have consistently voiced our opposition to this proposal due to how it may negatively impact operations at the Conley Terminal, and by extension, our city, state, and regional economy. The proposal would also limit foot traffic to businesses in the South Boston Waterfront and create additional vehicular traffic and pollution. I encourage all neighbors to provide your feedback to the survey link in the section below.

At the Council, I introduced two hearing orders on the Community Process for Transportation Planning in the City of Boston, as well as on Resources for the Boston Police Crime Lab. It is critical that neighbors have a say in what takes place in any transportation planning-related changes in the neighborhood, including the ability to provide feedback in-person at a community meeting. I

was also alarmed to hear that the Boston Police Crime Lab is lagging behind in its testing of sexual assault kits. We must ensure that there are appropriate resources available so that kits from survivors of sexual assault are processed in a timely manner, and address the underlying causes of this delay.

I also filed a resolution in support of establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission to address the issue of Downtown Office vacancies. With three quarters of the City of Boston's annual budget generated from property taxes, it is imperative that we get business leaders, city and state officials, labor leaders and relevant experts together to strategize and make recommendations to fill these vacancies. We must ensure the long-term vitality of our city, state, and regional economy.

March is Women's history Month - let's remember to celebrate and recognize the exceptional women in our lives - our mothers, grandmothers, wives, sisters and daughters each and every day.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings:

[South Boston Transportation Action Plan Public Meeting](#)

- Thursday, April 04, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

[232 A Street Public Meeting](#)

- Monday, April 08, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

[South Boston Transportation Action Plan Open House](#) (In person)

- Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- James F. Condon School, 200 D Street, Boston, MA 02127

[South Boston Transportation Action Plan Public Meeting - Spanish/Español only](#) (In person)

- Wednesday, Apr 17, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 115 Orton Marotta Way, South Boston, MA 02127

Summer Street Pilot Program Survey

Please note the Boston Transportation Department is collecting feedback with regard to the Summer Street Pilot Program. As you know, the South Boston Elected officials and I have consistently expressed our opposition to this proposal for years specifically on its potential to negatively impact operations at Conley Terminal, and our city, state, and regional economy. Moreover, there was a lack of genuine engagement and community process, and no meaningful and updated data that factors in millions of square feet of growth and development. I encourage residents who use Summer Street to complete this survey and to share it with your families and neighbors:

<https://shorturl.at/hyzZ9>

Love Your Block

Love Your Block will be returning this Spring on the following dates. To host a clean up and to submit a request to borrow tools, apply by **Friday, March 22, 2024** here: <https://shorturl.at/iqES4>

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Back Bay | South Boston

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Bay Village | Chinatown | Downtown | Leather District | South End

2024 City of Boston Summer Safety Plan

The Mayor's Community Safety Team is engaging with communities across Boston to prepare, preview and publish the 2024 Summer Safety Plan:

South Boston

Tuesday, March 26, 6-7 pm at the BCYF Condon

Wednesday, May 1, 6-7 pm at the BCYF Condon

Swim Safe Program Access Grants Available

Swim Safe Boston seeks to improve water safety in Boston, address the public health threat posed by drowning, and increase access to swimming for Boston families. The City recently opened up \$150,000 in a new round of funding to support learn-to-swim programs for historically underserved communities. The grants will be awarded to local Boston nonprofits that provide free beginner swim lessons to Boston residents. Most grant awards will be in the range of \$5,000- \$10,000. The funding awarded must be completed before June 30, 2024, the end of the City's Fiscal Year. Apply by **Friday, March 29, 2024 at 4 pm**: <https://shorturl.at/ehUYo>

Street Sweeping Resumes

Please note Street Sweeping resumes for all neighborhoods starting on **Monday, April 1**. Street Sweeping has already resumed for the neighborhoods of North End, South End and Beacon Hill.

2024 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament

This year's Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament will begin on Monday, April 15 for Boston Public Schools vacation week. The tournament will take place at Joseph Moakley Roller Hockey Rink in Moakley Park, South Boston. Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division. To register, visit boston.gov/sports or contact Damien Margardo at damien.margardo@boston.gov.

2024 Outdoor Dining Program now taking applications

The city's 2024 Outdoor Dining Program is now open for applications! Approved business owners will be able to begin outdoor dining on May 1st. To view the 2024 application guide, visit: <https://shorturl.at/lFKQ4>
For more information, visit: <https://shorturl.at/afJUZ>

Free Tax Prep Services for low to moderate income residents

Boston Tax Help Coalition provides free tax prep services for low to moderate income residents. Those earning \$70k or less can file with BTHC and maximize refunds and credit at over 30 neighborhood tax sites. BTHC also provides Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit help. For more, visit: <http://boston.gov/tax-help>.

2024 Small Community Grants Trust Program Open for applications

The City's Small Community Grants Trust program is now taking applications for Spring. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$2000 and must go towards 501(c)(3) non profits for programs, projects, or events that serve the residents of Boston. The grants are restricted to charitable and humane purposes; special or new recreation; recreational areas for children; field trips for children, and to adorn and embellish Boston's streets and public spaces.

For more, visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/treasury/small-grants-trust-program>

The application closes on **Friday, May 3, 2024, at 5 pm.**

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 5pm.**

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>

Income-restricted homeownership & rental opportunities

Homeownership

45-55 West Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127

One Bedroom - \$438,522 - Income Restricted at 80% AMI

Apply by April 25, 2024: <https://shorturl.at/cvUY1>

Rental

33 - 39 Ward Street, South Boston, MA 02127

2 Two-bedrooms at 70% AMI

Apply by March 26, 2024: <https://bit.ly/IDPHousingLottery>

Please call 781-853-1841 or email southiegrace@gmail.com for more information.

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>

Hearings Recently Held

Hearing to discuss the impact of For-Profit Urgent Care Centers on Nonprofit Community Health Centers in the City of Boston

Recently, I held a hearing, in partnership with Councilor Murphy, to discuss the impact of For-Profit Urgent Care Centers on Nonprofit Community Health Centers. The panelists included Dr. Bisola Ojikutu from the Boston Public Health Commission, Dr. Michael Curry, CEO of the Mass League of Community Health Centers, and Bill Halpin, CEO of the South Boston Community Health Center. We discussed the importance of Community Health Centers in our local neighborhoods and that any disruptions to the services of non-profit healthcare by for-profit networks will have a huge impact on the overall delicate balance of the healthcare system. It is critical to ensure financial stability and the viability of our health centers as they are long-term partners in our neighborhoods.

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Order for a Hearing to Discuss the Community Process for Transportation Planning in the City of Boston

There have been major transportation planning and street redesign projects taking place across the city over the past few years, including State Street in the Financial/Wharf District, Berkeley Street and Dartmouth Street in the Back Bay, Tremont Street in the South End, and the Summer Street Bus Pilot in the South Boston Waterfront, among others. I have heard from many constituents, businesses and neighborhood associations who expressed concerns about a lack of community process, engagement and communication for these street redesigns. Many residents have also shared concerns about the rise of mopeds, electric scooters, and other devices on our streets - many of which do not require licenses and whose operators do not adhere to the rules of the road. It is critical that we continue to value the community process and feedback we receive when it comes to pedestrian safety and transportation planning.

Order for a Hearing to Discuss Resources for the Boston Police Crime Lab

At last week's Council Meeting, I called for a hearing to discuss resources for the Boston Police Crime Laboratory. The Crime Lab has lagged behind on testing sexual assault kits for victims for three years in a row now. The state

mandates that sexual assault kits have to be tested within 30 days, and over 50% of the kits were not tested within the 30 day limit this year. We must ensure kits are processed in a timely manner and examine the causes behind this delay, such as staff shortages, residency requirements, benefits, etc.

Resolution in support of establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission to study strategies in filling Downtown Office Vacancies

Earlier this month, I filed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Blue Ribbon Commission - made up of business leaders, city and state officials, real estate executives, and neighborhood advocates - to study the impact and make recommendations regarding the issue of office vacancies in Downtown. Downtown Boston is an important economic driver of our city, state, and regional economy; with three quarters of the City of Boston's annual budget generated from property taxes, research by the Boston Policy Institute and Tufts University's Center for State Policy Analysis has indicated that the decreasing value of office spaces could lead to a potential shortfall of \$1.2 to \$1.5 billion in city revenue over the next 5 years. Given the alarming reports of potentially significant budget shortfalls on the horizon, we need a team to strategize ways to fill these vacancies and bring people back Downtown to restore confidence and also improve public safety in the neighborhood.

Resolution in support of H.1250/S.799 “An Act to Advance Health Equity”

At the Boston City Council meeting last week, I was proud to pass a resolution in partnership with my colleagues Councilor Brian Worrell and Councilor John FitzGerald in support of H.1250/S.799 “An Act To Advance Health Equity”. This State House bill will help prioritize healthcare equity and ensure that all residents regardless of race and socioeconomic status live healthy lives.

Resolution recognizing Day of Remembrance for Japanese Americans and their families who were incarcerated during WWII

After the Pearl Harbor attack in December 1941, President Roosevelt issued an Executive Order in February 1942 that resulted in the incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans at internment camps across the United States during World War II. During this time, anti-Japanese sentiments spread and many Japanese Americans were forcibly put and confined in internment camps. In 1988, President Reagan issued a formal apology towards Japanese Americans for their incarceration and signed into law the Civil Liberties Act, which gave surviving Japanese Americans reparations. I filed this resolution to recognize a Day of Remembrance for Japanese Americans. As we reckon with our flawed history, we must learn from our past and remain committed in standing up against anti-Asian racism and hate.

In the Community



It was great to be a part of the Annual St Patrick's Day Breakfast and to join the Evacuation Day parade in South Boston to recognize our veterans and military families.



Thank you to the South Boston Citizens' Association for sponsoring this year's Evacuation Day kickball tournament at the Condon Community Center. It was wonderful to attend this tournament with colleagues in government and youth from South Boston. Let's work together to provide fun and safe experiences for everyone in Boston!



Thank you to the Condon Community Center Council for sponsoring this year's St. Patrick's Day Senior Luncheon at St. Peter's Parish Hall. It was great to join my colleagues in government, Boston Police Department, Captain Boyle and the C-6 team, and South Boston neighbors for a wonderful lunch and celebration.



I recently had the opportunity to tour the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Milk Lab facilities at Tufts Medical Center with Councilor Erin Murphy. We discussed how they implemented a program to provide donated, nutrient-enriched breast milk to NICU infants and how they continue to provide quality

and exceptional care to women and children.



Earlier this month, I was honored to join my colleagues in government and fellow veterans at the New England Center and Home for Veterans for the Healey-Driscoll Administration's announcement to end Veteran Homelessness. The \$20 million campaign aims to ensure housing for all Massachusetts veterans. This is an exceptional city, state and federal partnership to end Veteran Homelessness and make sure our veterans are treated with dignity and respect.



Last month, I joined Councilor Enrique Pepen in attending a dinner hosted by

MA Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers M.A.M.L.E.O to celebrate Black History Month. The event highlighted the incredible contributions of Soul Patrol, an all African-American Boston Police unit during the 1970s.



We celebrated the start of the Lunar New Year with the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England, colleagues in government, and friends from Chinatown.



Last month, I had an informative meeting with my colleagues in government and staff from the Carney Hospital. As a former Carney employee, I know first hand how invaluable this hospital is to Boston, and how compassionate, dedicated and professional the staff is.



In late February, I joined fellow veterans for the Black Veterans Appreciation Brunch sponsored by the Office of Veteran Services. We celebrated the bravery and service of our African American Veterans and also discussed the racism and discrimination faced by these same veterans in America.



It was my honor to present a proclamation to the Animal Rescue League of Boston at the Boston City Council Meeting for their 125th anniversary last week. Since its founding, they have served over 6 millions animals in need. We commend their compassion and important work and advocacy in animal welfare.



We thanked and congratulated Jack and Susan Woods for nearly thirty years of ownership of the L Street Tavern. Jack and Susan, your commitment to your family, friends, neighborhood and country are unmatched and won't soon be forgotten. The Woods and Hart family will forever remain in our collective hearts. Thank you, for everything.

Recently, I was honored to join my colleagues in government for the 1st Annual Dominican Independence Day Breakfast at International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 103. Thank you to Councilor Julia Mejia, Councilor Enrique Pepén, and Councilor Henry Santana for sponsoring this wonderful celebration of New England's Dominican community!

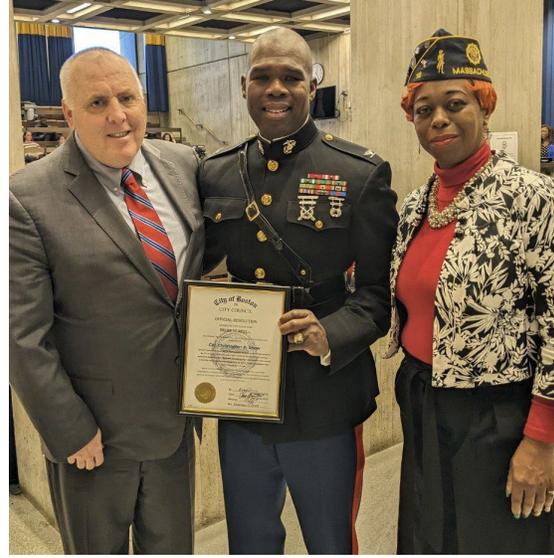


The Lunar New Year Lion Dance Celebration sponsored by the Wang YMCA was a fantastic event. The performing arts have a wonderful way of bringing us together as a community to celebrate our shared values!



Last month, we welcomed U.S. Marine Corps Col. Chris Shaw to the

Boston City Council. Col. Shaw, a graduate of Boston Latin School, the U.S. Naval Academy and Boston College Law exemplified leadership and dedication throughout his exceptional military career. We are proud of this outstanding son of Boston!



I attended another wonderful Lunar New Year banquet with my colleagues sponsored by the Wong Family Association, and celebrated the contributions and sacrifices of the Chinese community to our city and country.

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)