

ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN



Dear neighbors,

I hope you and your families have all been enjoying this warmer weather! This is always a busy time of year with the beginning of Budget Season at City Hall. I would like to provide you with some updates regarding the work that my team and I have focused on, upcoming meetings and information, and recent events in District 2.

Regarding ethics at the City Council, I recently called for a hearing on Creating an Oversight Committee on Accountability and Compliance on the Boston City Council. Due to a series of legal and ethical lapses over the last several years, public trust has been eroded and there is a need for the creation of an outside oversight committee to restore public faith in city government.

On issues related to Veterans and Military Families, Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy and I recently held a hearing with Commissioner of Boston Veterans Services, Robert Santiago and Dr. Renda Wiener from VA Boston Health Care. The topics included services for women veterans, lung cancer rates among African-American veterans, as well as the new cancer presumptions announced by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) this January.

Please note on Friday, May 9th at 10am in the Iannella Chamber, I will be holding an in-person hearing to discuss expanding the urban tree canopy in District 2. My constituents have often called attention to the loss of trees in their community, or advocated for more tree plantings in their neighborhoods - especially in neighborhoods with low coverage such as Chinatown, Downtown, and South Boston. It is critically important that the City of Boston make a concerted effort to expand our urban tree canopy in District 2 neighborhoods that have low coverage- like Chinatown and South Boston- and help us combat hotter summers and heat island effect. From improving our air quality, providing shade, and helping absorb stormwater runoff - neighbors across the city continue to call attention to the substantial benefits trees provide to our communities. Having a healthy urban tree canopy is vital to our environment, our mental health, and quality of life.

Interested neighbors who would like to attend the hearing in-person, or to testify virtually via zoom, are invited to please email City Council Central Staff at Shane.Pac@Boston.gov. If you would like to also provide written testimony, you can email the committee at Ccc.ep@Boston.gov.

On recent hearings I held and legislation I filed at the Council, I have included more in-depth information below, as well as upcoming meetings, deadlines, employment and income-restricted homeownership opportunities below. Please follow the links for more information.

Please continue to contact my office and I with any neighborhood and constituent service issues, or requests during this city budget season, at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov and 617-635-3203.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings:

[16-18 Hawley Street Project Proposal](#)

April 30, 2025 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm

[77-75 Dorchester Street Public Meeting](#)

May 6, 2025 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm

[Gillette Redevelopment: Public Meeting #1](#)

May 14, 2025 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm | In-Person, One Gillette Park

[Gillette Redevelopment: Public Meeting #2](#)

May 29, 2025 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm | Virtual via [Zoom](#)

Abutters Meetings:

[South Boston: 141 P Street](#)

April 28, 2025 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[South Boston Waterfront: 131 Seaport Boulevard](#)

May 5, 2025 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm

[South Boston: 289 Dorchester Street](#)

May 5, 2025 | 7:00pm - 8:00pm

[FUTUREBOS Summer Job Applications Now Available!](#)

The Youth Employment & Opportunity Summer 2025 Job applications are available. Boston youth and young adults ages 14-24 can apply through futureBos to thousands of job opportunities throughout the city. Applicants are encouraged to apply to at least 3 jobs.

[Equitable Emissions Investment Fund](#)

The Equitable Emissions Investment Fund is open to non-profit organizations or organizations partnered with a fiscal sponsor, who have a project proposal relating to reducing building emissions. \$750,000 is available to be made into four awards not exceeding \$250,000 each. **The deadline to apply is Friday, May 30 at 5pm.** Learn more [here](#).

[Zero Waste Days](#)

As part of Boston's commitment to environmental sustainability, the city will be hosting several events to collect hazardous waste. There are three different types of events: Zero Waste Days, Zero Waste Pop-Ups, and Yard Waste Drop-Offs, all collecting different items. View [this webpage](#) to see the accepted items for each event. Items not listed will be turned away. The next Zero Waste Day is May 17, 2025 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at 400 Frontage Road Central DPW Facility, Lower Roxbury, MA 02118. View the website for future dates and events. If you can't make one of the events, here are some alternative locations to drop off waste:

- Staples: electronics, batteries, paper shredding, laptops, monitors
- Home Depot: batteries, lightbulbs
- Ace Hardware: batteries, lightbulbs
- Best Buy: electronics
- Apple: electronics
- Autozone: motor oil, car batteries

Check out Boston's [Zero Waste Directory](#) to find more resources for where you can recycle, donate, resell, repair, and properly dispose of items in your home.

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.**

Community Preservation Act Annual Kickoff Event

May 7 | 6:00-7:30pm | Virtual via Zoom

Residents can have the opportunity to learn how Community Preservation Act (CPA) can support various projects, meet the CPA team, and learn about the application process for Fiscal Year 2026. Language interpretation will be available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Cape Verdean Creole. Register [here](#).

Metrolist

Affordable housing is one of the biggest issues we face in the City of Boston, and a top concern for many of our seniors, 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>

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. **Program ends April 30th.**

City of Boston Rental Registration

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

Flood Survey

The City of Boston is conducting a survey for residents to share their experience about past, current and ongoing flooding across the city. The survey takes less than two minutes and the information you share will help Boston plan and prioritize projects to help reduce flooding. See survey [here](#).

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 Disability Community Forum

May 8 | 2:00-3:00pm | Suffolk University Law School

The Mayor’s Commission for People with Disabilities is hosting a forum for residents to learn about the City’s disability accessibility initiatives and provide input about inclusion priorities. Please use [this link](#) to register either in-person or on Zoom.

Free Youth Tennis Clinics

April 18 - May 23 | Every Friday, 4:30-5:30pm | Titus Sparrow Park

The Friends of Titus Sparrow Park and Hill House are hosting free youth tennis clinics for kids ages 5-12 in honor of Titus Sparrow’s love for tennis. Equipment is provided. Register [here](#).

The Hurley Schools Presents: Club Tropicaliente

May 16 | 7:00pm-11:00pm | 100 West 2nd Street

Join friends of the Hurley School for a night of music and dancing to support the Hurley Dual Language School in the South End. Tickets include an open bar, food, and more. Early bird pricing will be available until May. Purchase your tickets [here](#).

Friends of Michael J. Perkins School Trivia Night

May 1 | 6:00pm-9:00pm | Capo Supper Club, 443 West Broadway

Join Capo Supper Club for a night of competition and fundraising for vital programs, classroom resources, community-building initiatives, playground improvements, and experiences like field trips and programming in the arts. Purchase your tickets and donate [here](#).

Hearings Recently Held

Committee On Veterans, Military Families, And Military Affairs Hearing On Dockets #0166, #0255, And #0320

On Friday, March 21, Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy and I held a hearing on various veteran-related issues with Commissioner of Boston Veterans Services, Robert Santiago and Dr. Renda Wiener from VA Boston Health Care. The topics included services for women veterans, lung cancer rates among African-American veterans, as well as the new cancer presumptions announced by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) this January. In light of the shameful cuts to services and benefits at the federal level and a previous recommendation to cut veterans benefits by the City Council, it is all the more critical to discuss both the challenges our veterans face and the resources that we are able to provide for our veterans and military families at the local level. When we send our veterans in harm's way, we have an obligation to care for them when they return. We must treat them with the respect, dignity, services and benefits that they earned and deserve. I strongly encourage my fellow veterans to visit [Boston.gov/Veterans](https://www.boston.gov/veterans) to find resources, upcoming events, clinics and more.

Committee On City Services And Innovation Technology Hearing On Docket #0418

On Monday, March 24, Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn held a hearing to discuss the status of the South Boston Branch Library Study, which was the first formal step toward redevelopment of the library. The administrative panel at the hearing included David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library (BPL), Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services for BPL, as well as Jonathan Eshel, Director of Operations. At the hearing, President Leonard reported that the earliest possible action on the South Boston Branch Library Study would be after FY26 and could be in the latter stages of the five-year budget plan, with a chance that action may not begin until FY28. The Boston Public Library is actively preparing budget documents for the library, along with other branches across the city. Currently the City of Boston has no set timeline on when a public process would take place, when the library will begin construction, or when it would be completed. With post-pandemic inflation and potential construction cost increases, I'm disappointed that movement on a new South Boston Library will be further delayed until at least FY26. The people of South Boston deserve the same access to basic city services and a state-of-the-art library as any other community. But it was important that leaders of the Boston Public Library heard directly from my South Boston neighbors - including our seniors, persons with disabilities, and young families - on the critical need for an upgraded South Boston Branch Library, and to begin the process as soon as possible.

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Resolution Denouncing Cuts at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In late February, I filed a resolution denouncing cuts to 1,000 employees and services at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I also joined Congressman Stephen Lynch, State Senator Michael Rush (U.S. Navy), fellow veterans and working families at the West Roxbury Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Center to support veterans and federal workers who have been impacted by layoffs throughout the VA system. These reckless layoffs have real impacts on the benefits, and healthcare of veterans and military families. The VA serves more than 9 million people, and there are veterans who struggle with a host of medical issues, including unique service-related challenges as well as mental health challenges who require treatment. Our veterans serve our country with honor, courage and bravery. We have a moral duty to care for them, and to treat them with dignity and respect when they come home.

Order for a Hearing on Regulation of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) by the City of Boston and Boston Police Department.

After hearing concerns from residents about scooters and bicycles not following the rules of the road, and cars constantly double parking on busy streets, I called for a hearing to discuss the regulation of Transportation Network Companies by the City of Boston and police. Although TNCs are currently regulated at the state level under the MA Department of Public Utilities, I called for the City of Boston and Boston Police Department to provide oversight at the municipal level, including a personal registration and fee to operate, fingerprinting, and an extensive background check. Discussions on prohibiting out-of-state operators is warranted, as well as TNCs being placed under the purview of Boston Police - similar to taxis with the Boston Police Hackney Carriage Unit. It is worthwhile to discuss prohibiting out-of-state operators from ridesharing in the City of Boston due to their negative impact on our existing traffic crisis, consistently rated among the worst in the country, and posing additional pedestrian safety challenges. The lack of designated TNC pick up and drop off areas, or adherence to them, often results in vehicles pulling over in the middle of the street, heightening the safety risks for all on our roads due to blocked travel lanes. TNC drivers are often unfamiliar with the neighborhoods of Boston, and residents often report speeding on our streets.

Order for a Hearing to Discuss Transportation Planning within the Article 80 Development Review Process.

I filed this hearing with Councilors Erin Murphy and John Fitzgerald to discuss transportation planning within the Article 80 process. Residents have called attention to developer requirements of contributions towards Bluebikes on-site as opposed to public realm and infrastructure improvements, the City holding developers to internal parking guidelines instead of current zoning regulations, and instances of “bike-lanes to nowhere” that lack connection to an existing network. Moreover, residents continue to express concerns on whether the City maintains the ability to preclude future residents of a rental development from obtaining a Resident Parking Permit (RPP), as agreed upon in a public process. Despite the City of Boston having announced in August of 2024 the addition of 100 new Bluebikes Stations, a 40% expansion throughout the city, the Planning Department and BTM continue to require developers to contribute tens of thousands of dollars in mitigation funding for Bluebikes in the Article 80

process. Neighbors continue to express that this one-time funding could also be used on nearby and long-time public realm and pedestrian safety needs - such as repaved sidewalks or raised crosswalks.

Order for a Hearing to Discuss Water and Sewer Infrastructure in Chinatown and the Leather District.

Following a sizable water main break in Chinatown recently, I filed an order for a hearing to discuss the water and sewer infrastructure in Chinatown and the Leather District. The water main break that occurred last weekend caused extensive flooding and left residents with no choice but to evacuate. Three properties were impacted and six units were displaced. The burst pipe was a six-inch fire sprinkler water pipe and it was unclear what caused the break. There is a need for comprehensive planning and collaboration to address aging infrastructure, along with ensuring minimal impacts to traffic and small businesses due to construction. I look forward to this discussion, and working with neighbors, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, and other stakeholders on this issue.

Order for a Hearing to Discuss the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Report on Boston Housing Authority.

In February, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Inspector General released a report on the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) and found that BHA “did not consistently maintain its program units and buildings public housing program units in decent, safe, and sanitary condition and in good repair,” and “did not consistently perform its annual self inspections and correct identified deficiencies in a timely manner.” Following these alarming reports, I called for a hearing at the City Council to discuss these findings. The HUD audit reported that both public housing units and buildings had deficiencies, and that these deficiencies - categorized into life-threatening and non-life threatening - were not addressed in a timely manner. The report found that 31 out of 36 housing units that were inspected had deficiencies, and over a third had life threatening deficiencies that needed to be corrected within 24 hours. Of the 29 buildings that were inspected, over 80% had 105 deficiencies. The types of life threatening deficiencies include missing or inoperable smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, security hazards, blocked egress, electrical hazards, and inoperable fire exits were found in units and buildings. Over half of the deficiencies had existed at the time of the authority’s last inspections. We must ensure that all units meet HUD’s and BHA’s own requirements and that our public housing residents live in a safe, decent and sanitary environment with their units and buildings in a state of good repair.

Order for a Hearing to Discuss Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths in the Older Black Population in the City of Boston.

I called for this hearing with Councilor Brian Worrell. Drug overdose deaths, in particular from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, have seen a sharp increase. According to the Center of Disease Control (CDC), from 2019 to 2022, there were nearly 108,000 drug overdose deaths across the country, of which 74,000 were opioid-related deaths. From 2017-23, data from the Massachusetts State Department of Public Health showed that the overdose death rate among Black men over 55 years old increased by 242%. Black men ages 54 to 73 died four

times more than the rate of men of other races, and fentanyl was found in 93 percent of 2022 overdose deaths. It is critical that the City explores preventative measures to tackle this public health crisis that continues to harm older Black men with discussions on equity-based programs, as well as mental and behavioral health treatment.

Resolution in Support of CPR Training in High Schools.

I filed a resolution in CPR training in high schools, as it is critical to equip our youth with the CPR training they may need to support their friends, family, neighbors, and bystanders that may be in need. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), immediate CPR can double or triple a person's chances of survival after cardiac arrest, yet only about 40% of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receive the immediate help that they need before professional help arrives. CPR classes can be taught in just 30 to 45 minutes, making them a quick and accessible way to equip students with lifesaving skills. 41 states have recognized the importance of CPR training by mandating it for high school students, making Massachusetts one of only nine states that does not require it for high school graduation.

Resolution in Support of S.1042 An Act relative to Life Saving Treatment.

I filed a resolution in support of Massachusetts Senate Bill S. 1042, An Act in support of life saving treatment. The legislation, sponsored by State Senator Nick Collins, requires that patients under court order and committed to a medical facility for an overdose be allowed to participate in the subsequent court hearing and court-ordered evaluation remotely. The bill also requires patients who have suffered an overdose to receive an evaluation by a licensed social worker, a meeting with a recovery coach and navigator, and receive approval from the judge who issued the court order for civil commitment before discharge. However, a City Council colleague objected to supporting the resolution and it was sent to a committee for an eventual hearing on this subject.

Order for a Hearing to Discuss Creating an Oversight Committee on Accountability and Compliance on the Boston City Council.

Boston City Councilors and staff are currently required to complete mandatory Conflict of Interest training annually by the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. However, due to a series of legal and ethical lapses by members at the Boston City Council over the last several years, which has undermined public trust in the work of the City Council, there is a need for the creation of an oversight committee that will foster compliance and accountability on the Council body to restore public faith in city government. This oversight board can include a number of functions, including ensuring that the Council body is compliant to all relevant rules and regulations, reviewing conflict of interest matters, identifying and investigating any alleged violations, impropriety, fraud, abuse of power, and proposing reforms to prevent future offenses. The formation of the Board may potentially be composed of members including the Boston City Council President, a retired Massachusetts or federal judge, a representative from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, and Boston residents that would ensure the Boston City Council is compliant on all rules

and ethics matters. The people of Boston deserve accountability, transparency, and ethics reform to restore credibility in the body and their municipal government. With the public having lost faith in the Boston City Council, action is required immediately.

In the Community



It was great to join residents of Andrew Square in South Boston for Boston's Love Your Block cleanup. Thank you to the volunteers, the Andrew Square Civic Association, and the City of Boston Public Works Department.



Kristen and I joined the Bay Village Neighborhoods Association and residents for the annual Love Your Block neighborhood cleanup!



It was wonderful to join colleagues in government, friends and supporters of the Blackstone Elementary School in the South End, for their “Read Across Blackstone Event.” Reading provides us with commonality and increases our empathy for neighbors so that we can better connect with one another.



It was an honor to attend the Local 103 IBEW Asian Trade Union banquet in Chinatown. We celebrated the exceptional contributions the Asian-American union electricians make to our city and country.



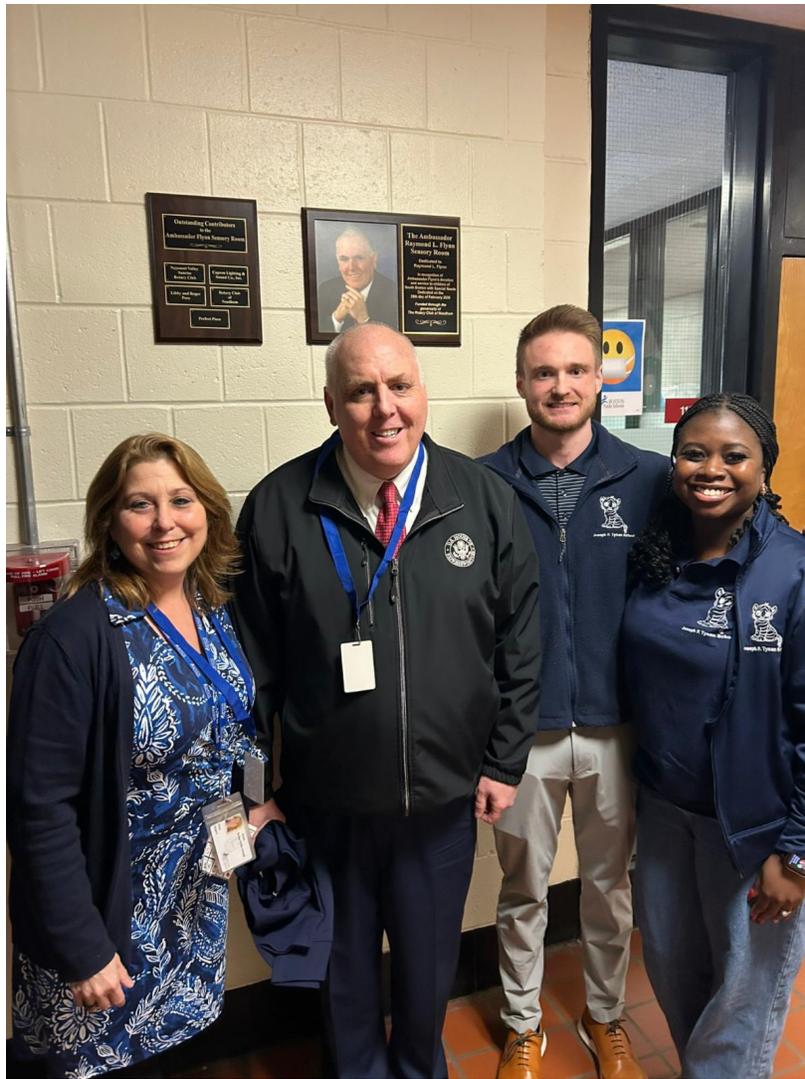
It was great to join residents of Chinatown and the Leather District for Boston's Love Your Block cleanup.



Great to join fellow Fitzgerald VFW Post 561 veterans, Office of Veterans Services, Commissioner Rob Santiago, and U.S. Navy Sailors aboard the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG-116) for an opportunity to visit veterans throughout South Boston. In South Boston, we respect our veterans and military families!



Kristen and I were honored to welcome USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) to Boston and the Raymond L. Flynn Cruiseport. It was a beautiful night aboard the ship where the crew held a reception to thank Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for hosting.



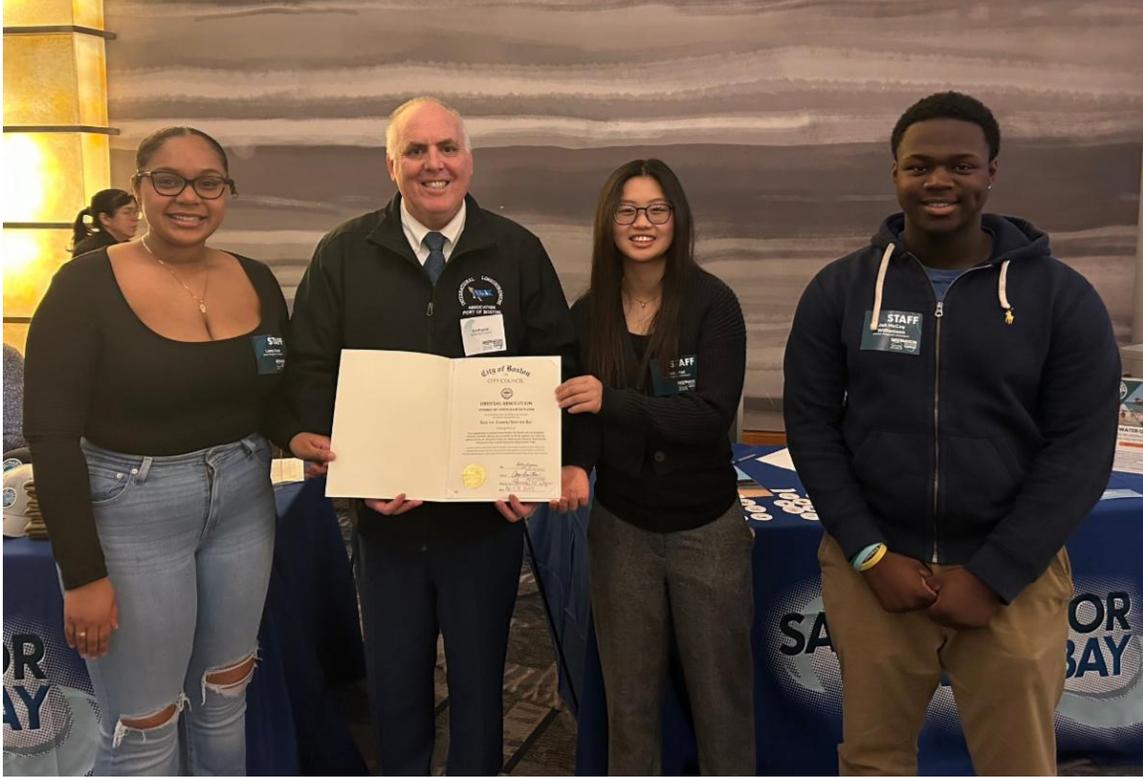
It was an informative visit recently to the Joseph Tynan Elementary School in South Boston. I had the wonderful opportunity to join the school's principal and Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper for a tour of the school and to talk directly with their exceptional teachers, staff and students.



Congratulations to State Senator Nick Collins for hosting another outstanding St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. It was a wonderful opportunity for elected officials to break bread and enjoy each others company. Laughter, music and dance can often bring people together and it certainly did!



My wife, Kristen, my team and I were proud to join South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation, the South Boston Community Health Center, and South Boston neighbors for this year's Post Parade Cleanup. Thank you to the volunteers and neighbors for your dedication to our community!



I was honored to attend this year's Destination Boston Harbor Gala sponsored by Save the Harbor, Save the Bay. It is critical we continue to restore and protect Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay, and the marine environment and share them with our community. Thank you for all you do!



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!



It was an honor to attend the Trailblazers in Blue forum and lunch sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers. We celebrated the exceptional contributions and sacrifices of women of color police officers in Boston!



It was wonderful to join residents of Boston for a Lunar New Year banquet sponsored by the Taishan Community Association! We also celebrated the significant 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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