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Dear neighbors,

I would like to start this newsletter by remembering Uncle Frank Chin, a well-respected and long-time community leader in Chinatown who passed away recently. A tireless advocate, Uncle Frank brought about enormous positive changes for the Chinatown and Asian community steadily for more than five decades. We are grateful for his vision, humility and leadership. From lobbying for funds for English as a Second Language for new immigrants, affordable housing, cleaner and safer streets, social services and youth services, he left an indelible impact in the neighborhood. We will miss him dearly.

At the City Council earlier this month, I was proud to vote in favor of passing \$3 million in grant funding for the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC). BRIC, overseen by the Boston Police Department, provides invaluable intelligence gathering and data to keep our city safe and to prevent crime. It is critical that we continue to support the work of our Police Department so that they have the tools to provide exceptional public safety support to Boston and by extension Greater Boston's residents and visitors. Separately, I also held a hearing with regard to the City of Boston Code relating to the study and report on the trafficking of illegal firearms.

Beyond the Council, I have been working with the Boston Housing Authority and residents at Ruth Barkley Apartments in the South End on the issue of elevator maintenance and protocols during break downs. I also held two

Veterans Town Hall in the last month to discuss services and programs for veterans. More recently, I was invited to speak at a Downtown Transportation Panel to discuss pedestrian safety and transportation issues. I spoke about the importance of pedestrian safety, reducing speed limits, and the need for traffic calming infrastructure in the City.

During the Fall season, and as we head into Winter, it is particularly important for our seniors, children, and vulnerable groups to keep up to date with the latest flu shots and Covid vaccines. I have included more information on flu clinics and Covid vaccines below. I have also included a few grants that are available through the City's SPACE Grant Funds and Digital Equity Funds below. Please share these funding opportunities with your families, friends, neighbors, businesses, civic and other organizations that may benefit.

Thank you,
Ed

City and District Updates

BPDA Meetings

- [Public Meeting on Proposed Zoning Amendment for Cannabis Establishments](#)
 - Thursday, October 26, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
- [Squares + Streets Citywide Draft Zoning Amendment Public Meeting](#)
 - Monday, November 13, 6:00-8:00 PM

Red Line Ashmont/Mattapan Line Service Disruptions

October 14 to October 29

The Red Line's Ashmont Branch and Mattapan Line will be temporarily suspended from October 14th to 29th for track upgrade work. There will be shuttle service connecting JFK/UMass to Ashmont and Mattapan during this period. You can also ride for free on the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line during this time. For other options, please visit:

<http://MBTA.com/RLWork>



3rd Annual Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival

Boston Common Parade Ground, Beacon & Charles Street
Friday, October 20, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

There will be free, family-friendly Halloween activities and families at the 3rd

annual Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival. Families are encouraged to wear costumes. For more, visit: [boston.gov/falloween](https://www.boston.gov/falloween)

Electronic Waste Drop-off

Brighton Marine, 77 Warren Street, Brighton, MA 02135
Saturday, October 21, from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Boston residents will be able to drop off electronic waste at this pop-up event. Paper shredding will also be offered at this drop-off. To view a list of what they will accept, please visit: <https://www.boston.gov/calendar/electronic-waste-drop>

S.P.A.C.E. Grants is now open

Please note S.P.A.C.E. Grant program is now open for applications. The grant provides up to \$200,000 in funding for up to 20 individual small businesses to open and fill vacant storefronts in Downtown and other neighborhoods.

Through these grants, the program intends to bring people back to commercial districts and revitalize Boston's economy.

Apply by **Friday, November 10, 5 pm**. For more, please visit:

<https://www.boston.gov/economic-opportunity-and-inclusion/space-grants>

2023 Digital Equity Fund is now open

The 2023 Digital Equity Fund (DEF) is now open for applications with an expanded funding of \$1.5 million. The DEF funds three focus areas: Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment, improving telehealth programming, and device refurbishment programming. Apply by **Monday, November 6**. For more, please visit: <http://bit.ly/digitalequity23>.

2023 Annual Medicare Open Enrollment Events

South Boston Neighborhood House,
136 H St., South Boston
Wednesday, December 6, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

The 2023 Annual Medicare Open Enrollment begins October 15 through December 7, where residents can join or renew their enrollment in Medicare. The Age Strong Commission will be hosting eight workshops citywide to assist with open enrollment. To schedule an appointment to make a counseling appointment for another time, please call us at 617-635-4366.



2023 ANNUAL MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT EVENTS
OCTOBER 15 - DECEMBER 7

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE
JOHN L. SMITH
YEG4-TES-MKT2
HOSPITAL (PART A) 03-01-2016
MEDICAL (PART B) 03-01-2016

- Meet with trained SHINE* counselors to find the best coverage for the least cost
- Review your overall medical and prescription drug coverage

Call 617-635-4366 to schedule your appointment for these events or to make a counseling appointment for another time.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 10am - 3:30pm East Boston Senior Center 7 Bayswater St., East Boston	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 10:30am - 3:30pm West Roxbury Branch Library 1961 Centre St., West Roxbury
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 10am - 3:30pm Kroc Center 650 Dudley St., Dorchester	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 10am - 3:30pm Veronica B. Smith Senior Center 20 Chestnut Hill Ave., Brighton
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2 10am - 3:30pm Central Boston Elder Services 2315 Washington St., Roxbury	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 10am - 3:30pm Grove Hall Branch Library 41 Geneva Ave., Dorchester
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 10am - 3:30pm Mattapan Branch Library 1350 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 10am - 3:30pm South Boston Neighborhood House 136 H St., South Boston

WHAT TO BRING: LIST OF PRESCRIPTIONS, MEDICARE/OTHER INSURANCE CARDS, YOUR MEDICARE.GOV USERNAME/PASSWORD IF ALREADY SET UP

*Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone

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](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html), 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.

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>

Council Hearings and Resolutions

Ordinance amending the City of Boston code relating to the study and report on the trafficking of illegal firearms

I held a hearing with co-sponsor Councilor Brian Worrell to discuss amending the City of Boston Code relating to the Study and Report on trafficking of illegal firearms. This hearing follows the unanimous adoption of a City Council Resolution declaring gun violence as a public health emergency last October.

At the hearing, Boston Police shared data regarding trafficking and the illegal flow of firearms, recovering more than 900 firearms in 2022. Since 2015, there have been over 1,700 shootings recorded in the City of Boston, with more than 170 shootings in 2022. According to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, only 10 percent of the firearms recovered at crime scenes that were traced were purchased in Massachusetts, while the rest were brought into Massachusetts from 18 other states.

Resolution designating a Hero Square at the intersection of Beach Street and Hudson Street in Chinatown in recognition of Wing O. Hom

At the City Council this week, I will file a resolution to honor the heroic service and tremendous sacrifice endured by the U.S. Army Private Wing O. Hom. Private Hom was born in 1924 and raised in Boston and served in the Army during World War II. He went missing in February 1944 when his unit was engaged in defensive fighting against German Forces near the town of Cisterna di Latina, Italy. When his body was not recovered and he was not reported as a prisoner of war, he was declared dead. In 1946, a set of remains were found three miles west of Cisterna, and unable to positively identify the remains, they were interred at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery. A U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency historian believed that the set of remains could be Private Hom's, and in April this year, the remains at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery were formally identified to be Private Hom's. After 79 years of war, death and unmarked burial on foreign soil, the remains of Private Wing O. Hom were laid to rest in Brooklyn earlier this week. Private Wing O. Hom was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. We will remember and honor Private Hom's bravery and supreme sacrifice by designating a Hero Square at the intersection of Beach Street and Hudson Street, in Chinatown.

In the Community



Earlier this month, Kristen and I enjoyed seeing so many South Boston neighbors and small businesses out for South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation's Street Festival. After many rain delays, it was wonderful that this great community event was able to take place. Shop local and support small businesses today!



I am proud to join my Boston City Council colleagues in hosting a Hispanic Heritage Month awards ceremony last week. We celebrated the diverse Hispanic community of Boston and their enormous contributions with music, performances, and food. Thank you for all you do for our city and nation!



I was honored to visit Museum of Science, Boston for their announcement of an exceptional partnership with Big Sister Association of Greater Boston. The museum will now provide free admission to girls and their Big Sister and provide a welcoming space for mentoring and the study of STEM, science, and learning.



I had the honor of welcoming and hosting a brunch reception for the Irish Delegation from Counties Cork and Kerry to Boston City Hall on their visit to Boston in September to celebrate 300 years of Irish contributions to Massachusetts. During the reception, we also recognized a distinguished Irish-American guest, Kelly Sullivan, whose great-grandparents hailed from Cork County and whose family sponsored the U.S. Navy destroyer, USS The Sullivans.



Thank you Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association for sponsoring the recent “Downtown Traffic, Pedestrian Safety and Transportation Forum”. I had the opportunity to participate as a panelist and discuss my years of advocacy on traffic calming infrastructure and pedestrian safety, as well as listening to constituents’ concerns on enforcement and other infrastructure feedback.



Kristen and I enjoyed attending the Men of Boston Cook for Women's Health Gala last week. This is such an enjoyable event where we come together and support Codman Square Health Center and their women's health initiatives. Neighborhood health centers make Boston a healthier city!



I partnered with Councilor Erin Murphy and Boston Police VFW Post 1018 in hosting a Veterans Town Hall in Dorchester where we discussed issues impacting veterans and military families. It's critical we work together to support veterans services. These are benefits veterans earned!



It was great to join colleagues in government and candidates for the Boston Parks Advocates Meet and Greet at Blackstone Square. Our parks and green spaces help to make Boston the beautiful city it is!



Last week, I was honored to attend Korea Day at the Massachusetts State House. We celebrated the enormous contributions made by the Korean community to our city and nation. We also discussed anti-Asian racism and hate crimes. It's critical we work together, celebrate our diversity and stand with the AAPI community.



As part of National Coffee With A Cop Day, I was proud to join the men and women at Boston Police Department and South End residents for informal conversations about community policing and public safety challenges. Boston works best when we work together!



It was wonderful to welcome incoming Tufts University president Dr. Sunil Kumar with my colleagues in government and the Chinatown community. This university plays a critical role in Chinatown and throughout Boston. These partnerships help make Boston a thriving and welcoming city.



Recently, I joined South Boston neighbors for the Colin's Joy Project 5K road race! Thank you to the Palamara/McGrath family for inviting all of us to come together and bring joy to our neighborhood in the same way that Colin did.



I attended the Celebration of the installation of Castle Island Signs with my South Boston neighbors recently. Through Community Preservation Act Funding and support from Friends of the Boston Harborwalk, MassDCR, and community partners, these interpretive signs tell the remarkable history of the waterfront and the neighborhood.

Last week, I had the opportunity to join Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper for a visit with the principal, staff, and students at the Michael J. Perkins School. It was an outstanding visit and I am encouraged by the exceptional learning and teaching at this school.



I joined South End and Bay Village



ONS Kim Cruciola for a recent on-site meeting with Bay Village neighbors. We discussed pedestrian safety challenges, parking, traffic, and other quality of life issues. Let's continue this important work together!

I was honored to attend the annual walk to support the Greater Boston Sickle Cell Disease Association. This organization supports individuals with sickle cell disease, empowering them to live happy and fulfilled lives, surrounded by a community supportive of their needs.



Recently, I enjoyed attending the Mass Ave Coalition Festival with my colleagues in government, South End/Roxbury neighbors, and community partners. It is great to listen and talk to residents about their love for the Chester Square neighborhood and ways to improve the quality of life for all.

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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