

ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN

Dear Friends,

With the Holiday Season upon us, I would like to provide you with an end of the year update regarding some of the priorities my staff and I focused on in our first year at the Boston City Council.

I have worked hard every day on the issues that matter most to the people of District 2 - housing and development, public safety, mental and behavioral health, social and economic justice for our working families, constituent service for our residents, and securing funding in the city budget. Whether it be the Boston Transportation Department, Boston Police Department, Inspectional Services Department, the Department of Public Works, Community Preservation or the Department of Neighborhood Development - I have made it a top priority to bring city services to each of our neighborhoods and address quality of life issues.

Moreover, my office has focused on making sure we are inclusive to all residents of District 2, including through daily translation of our social media posts in Chinese and Spanish. I have also held monthly office hours throughout District 2, and my team and I have regularly attended neighborhood association and abutters meetings as well.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank you for the trust you have placed in me to represent your interests as the District 2 City Councilor. Along with marrying my wife, Kristen, the birth of our children, Caroline and Stephen, and serving in the United States Navy for nearly 25 years - serving as your City Councilor is truly one of the great honors of my life. No matter how you celebrate, I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season; Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year!





Housing & Development

Last month, Councilor Lydia Edwards and I filed a tax repayment ordinance which passed the Boston City Council unanimously. The ordinance focused on housing stability for our low-income seniors, helping those who have fallen behind on property taxes by extending the time-horizon to repay from one year to five years, as well forgiving up to 50% of the interest.

In addition, the legislation aims to improve accessibility by providing details of property tax status to residents in multiple languages. It was great to partner with Councilor Edwards and also work closely with Mayor Martin Walsh and his team to help provide more tools for our seniors to remain in their homes and the city they helped build. You can read more about this ordinance [here at the City of Boston website](#) or [here at Sampan](#). You can find my remarks at the City Council Hearing below:



Earlier this year, I voted in support of Mayor Walsh's ordinance on short-term rentals like Airbnb and to ban Investor Units - entire buildings or units that are not owner-occupied and strictly used for Airbnb and short-term rentals. The ordinance also allows for homeowners and owner-occupants of two and three family houses to participate in short-term rental activity. The Boston City Council voted 11-2 in favor of the ordinance, which Mayor Walsh subsequently signed thereafter.

Since I entered office, I advocated for strong regulations of short-term rental platforms and worked closely with my colleagues on developing a reasonable compromise. During my campaign in the fall of 2017, I called for the regulation of short-term rental platforms because I witnessed the impact these corporations had on displacement in Chinatown following a walking tour with my friend, Mr. Hin Sang Yu. [You can find my comments from the fall of 2017 in the Boston Sun here.](#) I then came to realize the impact that Investor Units had on our housing stock and rental prices all over the city, as well as quality of life issues that occurred throughout our district due to absentee landlords such as trash removal, parking and noise complaints. You can find my remarks prior to the vote at the City Council here:



In the spring, I chaired a City, Neighborhood Services, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee hearing on vacant properties and luxury units throughout the City of Boston. In this clip, you can view our discussions related to foreign investment, shell corporations, and offshore money using US real estate as a way to evade taxes on their wealth, accountability and currency concerns in their home countries. Our conversation also touched upon what other cities across the world are doing, such as London, and how major US cities can work together.



In the new year, Councilor Michael Flaherty and I will look to hold a hearing regarding the IPOD (Interim Planning Overlay District) and neighborhood-wide zoning in South Boston. We seek to ensure responsible development that fits the character of the neighborhood, while also addressing quality of life issues for our community. In calling for the hearing at the City Council, I talked

about some of the impacts that our neighborhoods have dealt with on account of overdevelopment. Please find my remarks from City Council below:



Earlier this fall, I expressed my opposition to the proposed development at 776 Summer Street (the Edison project) due to concerns I've heard from residents about safety impacts to transportation, the potential impact on the MBTA, the size of the project and its density, and environmental

concerns. As a result, I called for Independent Traffic and Impact Access, Environmental, and Utility studies. [You can read more about my concerns here at Caught In Southie.](#)

Throughout the year, my team and I attended abutters meetings regarding development projects throughout District 2. We have been careful to listen to the concerns of neighbors and civic groups. We have sought to obtain their feedback about whether proposals fit the character of our neighborhoods, and that quality of life issues had been taken into account and addressed with our residents. We had success this year in opposing many projects at the Zoning Board of Appeal that were deemed too large and dense by neighbors; however, others were unfortunately approved despite our opposition. We will continue to stand with our neighbors and work closely with civic groups to make sure our position at the Zoning Board of Appeal reflects the wishes of the abutters and community at large. If you have any concerns regarding a project in your neighborhood, I strongly encourage you to please write me at ed.flynn@boston.gov or call 617-635-3203.

I have also worked closely with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) and Commissioner Christopher to address quality of life issues and concerns from neighbors regarding ongoing development projects throughout District 2. If you have concerns about the safety of a job site or whether work is being done outside of weekday hours from 7am-6pm, I also encourage you to please write me at ed.flynn@boston.gov or call 617-635-3203. If it is on the weekend, please also call 311 and ask for a ISD Inspector to examine the site.

I recently attended a hearing about the future of 18 acres of city own land at Frontage Road as I represent the communities impacted by the future of this site - the South End, South Boston, Chinatown, the Leather District, Bay Village, Fort Point and the South Boston Waterfront. I discussed concerns I've heard about the need for land trusts and affordable housing for working class families, jobs for Boston residents, traffic and congestion, along with being mindful of climate change, sea level rise and flood protection. Our communities must come together through a strong community process to take advantage of the opportunities this land presents for the future of our city. You can find my remarks below:



Public Safety

Unfortunately, a number of serious and fatal crashes occurred in Boston this year. I view the safety of all on our roads- pedestrians, motorists and cyclists- to be a top issue for our city and district. We have worked hard to address safety concerns in our neighborhoods this year, but we know there is certainly a long way to go and much work to be done. I am committed to Vision Zero and will continue to work with Mayor Walsh, his administration and my colleagues to realize no serious or fatal crashes in Boston.

During the spring, I met with concerned residents in South Boston regarding pedestrian safety at the corner of Farragut Road & East Broadway following the crash that injured Katie Donovan and her son. I informed neighbors of my ongoing talks with the Boston Police, the Dept. of Public Works and

Commissioner Fiandaca at the Transportation Department regarding short-term and long-term steps to improve road safety for all in the neighborhood.



Following an unspeakable tragedy that took the life of a young boy this summer, I offered a 12 Point South Boston Safe Streets Plan. I will continue to work closely with the Transportation Department and Boston Police to advocate for a combination of infrastructure changes, slower speeds and enforcement to improve safety. [You can read my statement and 12 Point Plan here at Caught In Southie.](#)

Councilor Frank Baker and I held a hearing this fall on the merits of a 20mph speed limit, speed limit zones at elderly or recreational facilities, traffic-calming policies and infrastructure changes to our built environment - like speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, road diets, rapid flash beacons and additional 4 ways stop signs. You can find my remarks at the hearing below:



Since I entered office, I have worked closely with the South End Forum and civic groups to address crosswalks that required repair. We have been informed that BTD will hold off on further repairs during the winter; however, if you have identified areas that could use work next spring, please let us know at ed.flynn@boston.gov or 617-635-3203.

I have met with residents in neighborhoods across District 2 for public safety walk-throughs, including the Leather District Neighborhood Association and multiple groups in Chinatown. I have met with South End Neighborhood Association Heads to discuss transportation and public safety, and also held a number of meetings in South Boston to discuss safety.

In response to pedestrian safety concerns and traffic issues, my team and I have met several times with Walk Boston and the Livable Streets Alliance on safety issues, including a recent "Walk Audit" we held with civic groups to identify "hot spots" needing short-term & long-term improvements to make walking safer for pedestrians.



Time and again this year, Councilor Matt O'Malley, Congresswoman- Elect Ayanna Pressley and I called attention to the National Grid lockout and the need to stand with our union brothers and sisters from United Steelworkers 12003 and 12012 as they seek social and economic justice. I firmly believe that and I always will. But, in the final analysis, the scary events in the Merrimack Valley this September underscored the need for highly-trained workers to handle this potentially dangerous infrastructure. As a result, we called for a hearing to discuss our infrastructure in the City of Boston and our emergency preparedness. In the video below, I brought up the need to subpoena National Grid for refusing to come and answer questions regarding the public safety concerns of the people of Boston:



Following the tragic death of a dog shocked by stray voltage underneath the ground last winter, along with another dog shocked at Castle Island, I called for a hearing to examine the issues related to these events. I met with relevant City of Boston departments like Public Works, Eversource and interested parties to review our infrastructure and short-term and long-term steps to address public safety. This matter will remain open in my committee and I will be looking for an update in the new year.



Throughout the year, I have regularly attended public safety meetings with Boston Police, including Captain Fong, Captain Boyle, Captain Sweeney and Commissioner Gross. I will continue to work closely with law enforcement officials on public safety issues throughout District 2.









Councilor Flaherty and I recently held a hearing on the South Boston Waterfront and Seaport Strategic Transit Plan. In my opening comments, I emphasized that Vision Zero and safety for all on our roads - pedestrians, motorists and cyclists - must be at the forefront of our transportation planning. Thank you to the Fort Point Neighborhood Association for your leadership and advocacy on this issue. You can find my comments below:



Council President Andrea Campbell and I called for a hearing next year to discuss domestic violence and sexual assault in the City of Boston. We look to have this conversation to ensure we are doing all we can to try to increase awareness, support victims, offer reporting opportunities for all our communities, and hopefully find ways to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault in our city. I would like to continue the work of my mother, Kathy Flynn, who sought to support victims of domestic violence during her time as First Lady of Boston.



In the spring, I worked with Councilor Annessa Essaibi George, Councilor Michelle Wu, residents and activists to remove the Landwave Sculpture in Peters Park in the South End. South End residents and neighborhood associations saw the original intent as a tribute to the neighborhood, but agreed the project had become unsustainable and was posing a risk to public safety. Children climbing on the structure risked being injured by broken glass and the project had been vandalized in the past.

In May, the Boston Arts Commission voted to remove the Landwave. Since

that time, they have been working with the Artist and the Parks Department to plan its removal. After speaking with both the Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation this month, I have been informed the agreement with the artist has been signed and the plans for demolition of the sculpture are currently underway. As new developments occur, my office will work to keep residents and civic groups informed.

Mental and Behavioral Health

As a former probation officer, I am fully aware of the impact that the opioid epidemic has had on our communities. I know that access to treatment and healthcare services are critical for us to help those with substance use disorders and confront the issues of mental and behavioral health. In my former role, I visited the Long Island Treatment Facility once a week to work on these issues. On my campaign in the Summer of 2017, I provided a plan to re-open the Long Island Treatment Facility as I see this as an opportunity to provide access to those suffering from addiction and help alleviate quality of life issues that have spilled over into the South End and other neighborhoods due to the opioid epidemic.

That is why earlier this year, I was happy to write this letter in support of Mayor Walsh's plan to rebuild the Long Island Bridge and re-open the Treatment Facility.



ED FLYNN
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR
DISTRICT 2

August 28, 2018

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
ATTN: MEPA Office
Ms. Purvi Patel, EEA#15308
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Long Island Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project

Ms. Patel:

Please note that I am writing to express my support for the Long Island Bridge Superstructure Replacement Project. As the District City Councilor for South Boston, the South End and Chinatown, as well as a former Probation Officer, I have a firm understanding of the challenges our city faces on a daily basis when it comes to the opioid epidemic, substance use disorders and the problems that they present our neighborhoods. The need for bridge access to a public health campus to effectively respond to this national epidemic could not be clearer.

Last Fall, I called for the re-opening of the Long Island Treatment facility to provide necessary, life-saving services to those individuals & families suffering from addiction. As a former probation officer, I visited Long Island on a weekly basis to visit with individuals in treatment. I witnessed firsthand their ability to turn their lives around through the help of these programs. In short, access to a recovery campus on Long Island will help save lives. Moreover, the quality of life for residents of neighborhoods like the South End, South Boston and Chinatown will improve as spillover effects from the opioid epidemic may be mitigated with the help of this recovery campus. In addition, our city resources may receive relief from the stresses they have been placed under in its absence.

I believe that the Long Island Bridge is necessary for this facility to meet its mission; around the clock treatment regardless of weather conditions. Treatment for his epidemic will not wait for the perfect time or weather. This project is the only option to provide access to services in case of emergency.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 617-635-3202.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn

Boston City Councilor, District Two

Boston City Hall, One City Hall Square, Boston, Massachusetts, 02201
617-635-3203 Fax: 617-635-4203 ed.flynn@boston.gov



In addition, my team and I have regularly attended the South End Working Group on Addiction and Healthy Andrew Square Task meetings with the Boston Police Department, activists and experts regarding best practices to combat this crisis in our communities.

Earlier this year, Councilor Kim Janey, Councilor Baker and I called for a hearing on mental and behavioral health and sexual exploitation to address these issues. You may find my remarks below:



Social & Economic Justice

I believe in social and economic justice and that, now more than ever, it is critical for us to stand with working families and support the labor movement. I will always stand with my union brothers and sisters whenever they are seeking fair and living wages, affordable healthcare, fair and safe working conditions, and decent pensions for themselves and their families.

There have been a number of labor issues this year -including Local 26 Hotel Workers, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and United Steelworkers 12003 and 12012 - and I have been proud to stand with working men and women every step of the way. Councilor O'Malley and I passed multiple resolutions in an effort to support the United Steelworkers and end the lockout to protect public safety. Councilor Wu and I passed a resolution unanimously this year at City Council in support of the working men and women of Local 26 during their strike. Local 26 is comprised of folks many different backgrounds and ethnicities. They are emblematic of the rich diversity proud immigrant communities in the City of Boston.













BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil
city.council@boston.gov

One City Hall Square ◊ 5th Floor ◊ Boston, MA 02201 ◊ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ◊ Fax: (617) 635-4203

June 26, 2018

Ms. Marcy Reed, Massachusetts President
National Grid USA
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

Dear Ms. Reed:

We, the undersigned members of the Boston City Council, wish to express our concern regarding the current collective bargaining negotiations between National Grid and workers represented by United Steelworkers Locals 12003 and 12012. We believe National Grid has an obligation, as a public utility, to bargain in good faith. We hope that this matter is resolved swiftly, equitably and does not result in any impact on public safety nor loss of utility service for our constituents.

The contract between a public utility and its frontline employees is a matter of great public interest. It is incumbent on all parties, workers and management alike, to approach such contract negotiations with a spirit of fairness and compromise. We are concerned that any delays in the collective bargaining process could result in work stoppages, lock outs and/or other labor related actions that would diminish service in large segments of the Commonwealth and threaten public safety.

The very nature of live gas-line work including: making repairs, fixing leaks, marking out the location of pipes and connections in our neighborhoods and near our schools, hospitals, etc., makes this work particularly sensitive. We need National Grid to ensure that gas work is done by knowledgeable experts with years of experience. The trained workforce traditionally under contract with National Grid is already the best safeguard against potentially catastrophic accidental harm. Any substitute for this experience and professionalism would be irresponsible.

As such, we ask that National Grid and members of Local USW Locals 12003 and 12012 continue to negotiate in good faith to come to an agreement that is equitable and fair to the workforce as well as the consumers of Massachusetts.

As National Grid negotiates with the gas workers of Locals 12003 and 12012, we hope the corporation will keep in mind critical elements of any fair labor contract:

- Protect healthcare benefits for current employees and retirees
- Stop erosion of pay thresholds for new hires
- Make certain that incoming long-term employees are shielded against wage and benefit cuts

We thank you for your attention in this matter. If you would like to further discuss, please contact Councilor Ed Flynn at (617) 635-3203; Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.



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www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil
city.council@boston.gov

One City Hall Square ◊ 5th Floor ◊ Boston, MA 02201 ◊ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ◊ Fax: (617) 635-4293

Sincerely,

Michael Flaherty
Boston City Councilor At-Large

Annissa Essaibi George
Boston City Councilor At-Large

Ayanna Pressley
Boston City Councilor At-Large

Michelle Wu
Boston City Councilor At-Large

Lydia Edwards
Boston City Council
District 1

Ed Flynn
Boston City Council
District 2

Frank Baker
Boston City Council
District 3

Andrea Campbell
Boston City Council
District 4

Tim McCarthy
Boston City Council
District 5

Matt O'Malley
Boston City Council
District 6

Kim Janey
Boston City Council
District 7

Josh Zakim
Boston City Council
District 8

Mark Ciommo
Boston City Council
District 9

Cc:
Sir Peter Gershon, Chairman
John Pettigrew, CEO
Dean Seavers, President, US Operations



Councilor Flaherty, Councilor Edwards and I called for a hearing to review the great work the Mayor's Office of Persons with Disabilities and Commissioner McCosh is doing. I have been inspired by their work and so many other across our city and state to see if there are any gaps that exist so that we can improve accessibility and equity for all.

Other Council Actions

In October, Councilor Josh Zakim and I held a hearing regarding the "Freedom Rally," also known as Hempfest, as the Friends of the Public Garden and residents from Downtown, Chinatown, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Bay Village expressed concerns about this event. Resident Associations also informed us that the three-day event has led to parked cars on green space, camping in the park, a substantial amount of trash left on the Common and other quality of life issues.

You can view my statement regarding concerns over the shape of the Common following this event, the cost to the city, and quality of life issues that have resulted from the Freedom Rally here:



Councilor Tim McCarthy and I called for a hearing regarding the 13 hospital merger of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Lahey Health System. We sought to hear from experts & the public about how this merger may impact our local community health centers and access to care for middle and low-income residents, communities of color, our seniors & the disabled.

This merger has recently been approved; however, the Attorney General has placed price caps for 7 years that the Health Policy Commission has indicated will save more than \$1 billion in projected cost increases. In addition, Beth Israel and Lahey Health will pay \$71.6 million over the next eight years to improve access in low-income and underserved communities.



I was happy to host the Josiah Quincy Elementary School - Orchestra Program at the City Council earlier this month. We are very proud of these students. This program is an example of great work being done in the Boston Public Schools and how music and the arts bring our communities together. Thank you to Christopher Schroeder and Ann Sousa for your work in the development of our young people.



This summer, I took the opportunity to thank the Boston Fire Department, Boston EMS, and the Boston Police Department for their heroic efforts during a two-alarm fire on June 26, 2018 on Mercer St. in South Boston. Firefighters encountered intense heat and a large volume of fire. They ran inside and rescued a woman trapped on the porch of the third floor. Fire alarm operator Lisa Gregorio stayed on the phone with her and kept her calm the entire time. Five people were injured, including three firefighters. They risked their lives to save others and contain the blaze. In an act of selflessness, the firefighter that saved the woman trapped on the third floor removed his air mask and gave it to her to wear. He subsequently carried her down two flights of stairs and out of the burning building.

With little fanfare, our first responders work hard everyday to keep our residents safe, protect our city and save lives. They showcased bravery, skill and professionalism on what could have been a tragic night for Boston. Thank you to Fire Alarm's Lisa Gregorio, Commissioner Joe Finn, Richie Paris and Firefighters Local 718 for looking out for us and protecting us in our times of need.

Earlier this year, I brought forth a resolution to recognize Steve Ross, a Holocaust Survivor. We thanked Mr. Ross for his work as great humanitarian and helping our residents for decades, mentoring our youth, and as founder of the City of Boston's Holocaust Memorial. It was an honor to be with Mr. Ross, an outstanding ambassador for our city and country.



City Budget

Due to the advocacy of community leaders like Marleen Neinhus, Steve Fox and the Friends of the South End Library, Councilor Janey, Councilor Baker and I were able to work closely with Mayor Walsh and his budget staff this year to help secure \$400,000 for the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library. Thank you for you advocacy to secure funding & investment in the future of this exceptional library and the residents of the South End. [You can read more in the Boston Sun here.](#)



South Boston:

- BCYF Curley Community Center – Renovations
- Union Cemetery – Repairs for historic cemeteries
- South Boston Education Complex – repairs and security upgrades
- Condon School – Replace roofs
- Orton Field – Improve playing fields and other amenities at the park
- Flaherty Park – Renovations including play lot, pathways, and passive areas
- Martin’s Park – Creation of new major park near Children’s Museum
- Northern Avenue Bridge – Refurbish and restore existing bridge

Downtown & Surrounding Areas:

- Christopher Columbus Park - Address drainage & pavement issues
- A-1 Police Station – Repairs, new roof
- Engine 4 – Roof and masonry repairs
- Boston Common – Study on utility needs (drainage and electric)
- Frog Pond pavilion – Study to evaluate mechanical systems
- Public Garden – Repaid and backfill granite around lagoon

Chinatown:

- Neighborhood Slow Streets for Chinatown streets between Kneeland & Marginal Street
- Josiah Quincy Upper School – Security upgrades
- Marginal Road – placed on accelerated repair project

South End:

- Peter’s Park – Improvements to pathways and passive areas
- D-4 Police Station – repairs
- South End Library – upgrades and funding pledges. Interior

reconfiguration project.

- South End Library Park – Renovate park including pathways and landscape

Community Preservation Act

Projects Approved in District:

Historic Preservation:

- Vilna Shul (Jewish Cultural Center on Beacon Hill) - \$500,000
- South End House - \$46,260
- St. Augustine's Chapel & Cemetery - \$307,000
- Old Josiah Quincy School - \$71,733
- Otis House Museum - \$43,552

Recreational Use and Open Space

- Martin's Park - \$500,000
- Spectacle Island - \$48,720
- McDonough Sailing Center - \$78,783



If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.Gov.

