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Dear Friends,

Now that summer is officially underway, I wanted to send you an update as to what me and my office has been working on lately.

**I recently 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 would also allow 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.

In my speech, I highlighted the impact Investor Units have had on housing stock and rental prices, as well as quality of life issues that have arisen on account of absentee landlords such as trash removal, parking and noise complaints. You can watch the video here:



**My Committee on City, Neighborhood Services, Veterans and Military Affairs recently held a 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.

**This week, I was honored to join colleagues in voting for a resolution to condemn the practice of separating children from parents at our border.** I called attention to a plaque dedicated outside City Hall in 1991 by Mayor Flynn titled "An Immigrant's Gateway" and how the city must do all it can to ensure Boston remains a landing spot for working-class immigrants. Let us never forget that we are nation of immigrants, our past and the role that immigrants continue to play in making our city vibrant. We must continue to show compassion and empathy for all. You can view my remarks here:



**This week, I was also proud to call for hearing today on resources for Veterans with Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards.** Thank you Mayor Marty Walsh & Commissioner Sterling from Veterans Services for your support of our Veterans. I look forward to continuing the conversation regarding services & benefits earned by Veterans & Military Families.





Over the weekend, I met with residents in South Boston regarding pedestrian safety at the corner of Farragut Road & East Broadway to discuss their concerns. We were all thankful to see Katie Donovan with her family there and on the road to recovery following the crash that injured her and her son at that intersection recently.

Similar to the Airbnb debate, residents had contacted my office and I sought to be accessible to their concerns about public safety. I relayed that pedestrian safety and making our roads safe for all is a top priority for me as your City Councilor. In particular, I conveyed my concern for the elderly, the disabled and children. I think about my parents walking around South Boston with my nephew and how difficult it can be for them to cross the street. I also mentioned that, like a lot of families, we go down there to Evans Field to see our son play baseball or to play street hockey in the Donny Higgins Tournament.

I informed neighbors of my ongoing talks with the Boston Police and Commissioner Evans, the Dept. of Public Works and Commissioner Fiandaca at the Transportation Department regarding short-term and long-term steps we can take to improve safety in the neighborhood. I also mentioned that Transportation will be doing a study this week there to monitor the number of cars and speed. We also discussed Vision Zero policies like more Speed Boards in the community to provide motorist feedback.

Residents highlighted a number of topics including cut-through traffic from Day Blvd, ways to slow down traffic on Day Blvd, narrowing Farragut Road to slow down traffic, bumping out the sidewalk to improve the visibility of stop signs there, increased Pedestrian Crossing signs or blinking signs, STOP/PED XING written in the pavement on the road, the need for a comprehensive study, reducing the speed limit even further in certain areas in the community, greater enforcement for violations by cars and trucks, installing traffic cameras,

speed bumps or rumble strips, more discussion on the city's Vision Zero initiative, etc.

This is just a first step in what I hope will lead to improved safety for our residents and their families and I will continue to work with relevant City of Boston departments on this endeavor.

Please note applications for the Neighborhood Slow Streets program will be accepted through Friday, August 24th & can be submitted by neighborhood associations, community groups, faith-based organizations or other organized groups of neighbors. [You can find more information here.](#)



It was my honor to recently present a proclamation along with my City Council Colleagues recognizing Pine Street Inn's professional training graduates. Thank you to Pine Street Inn's Chair, Laura Sen and President Lyndia Downie for all the important work that you do to give men and women important skills to pursue new careers via the iCater Job Training Program and Housekeeping Transitional Program!



I was proud to stand with 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and

Whittier Street Health Center workers attempting to organize their workplace. As a union member myself, I will always stand with workers and their families!



Last weekend, I joined friends from Chinatown and Chinese Progressive Political Action for their 14th Annual Chinatown Bike - a - thon, starting in Boston Common and riding along the Charles River. It was great to see so many students and residents enjoying the day.



I had a great time recently joining Mass Network FosterCare Alumni for their 2nd annual Foster Care Alumni Walk. This organization provides exceptional services to many children & families in need. It was also an honor to talk with Lauren Baker about the important work many volunteers provide throughout our state.



Thank you to the staff and friends of the United South End Settlements for inviting us to your recent cookout/BBQ. This organization has done so much to help the local community since the 1800s, and I am proud to support them as they enter their 125th year of service. I am committed to working with them to end the cycle of poverty that so many children and families in our city experience.



Recently, I attended another informative Healthy Andrew Square meeting at the Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center. We discussed quality of life issues including public safety, community policing, access to job training programs and youth development. Thanks to Boston Police, Boston Housing Authority, MBTA Transit Police for attending.



Last week, I was proud to join Mayor Marty Walsh and Councilor At-Large Essaibi George at the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee Hour for Chinatown and Bay Village at Elliot Norton Park. It was great to talk with residents and enjoy a performance by the students from Josiah Quincy Elementary School. Thank you for inviting me!



It was an honor to join Rep. Mel King and his family, friends and supporters of the The Mel King Institute for Community Building today at their 9th Annual Breakfast last week. The institute continues to build & strengthen communities throughout Boston. We are proud of their commitment to social and economic justice!



This past week, it was my honor to congratulate the Principal of the Michael J. Perkins School, Craig Martin, as the Massachusetts Principal of the Year and to recognize the outstanding work and commitment of our Boston Public Schools students, teachers and staff that work hard to make this school a success.

I enjoyed meeting friends over the weekend from the Asian American Civic Association - AACA and Chinatown for their harbor cruise from the South Boston Waterfront. We are proud of the AACA and their outstanding work on so many issues, including access to job training and social services, language classes and assistance for immigrants.







Thank you to the Higgins family of South Boston for your outstanding service to our community for so many years. In memory of Donny Higgins, a new generation of hockey players have been inspired due to their opportunity to participate in this annual street hockey tournament. Thank you to the Higgins family, the committee and all the volunteers that helped out to make it an awesome weekend in Southie.



I enjoyed the opportunity to welcome my family to the Boston City Council last week. Thank you to my colleagues for acknowledging them and their commitment to public service and the people of Boston.



Last week, I was proud to join the Chinese Progressive Association and Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards in standing against wage theft and to raise awareness about the significant impact this issue has on the people of MA.



I was happy to meet with friends in Chinatown recently to discuss the application process for the Community Preservation Act, as well as its focus on affordable housing, parks and open space, and historical preservation.



I was honored to join the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (BID) at its recent members meeting for its renewal of another five years. I enjoyed speaking with BID President & CEO Rosemarie Sansone as well as Board Members William Cowin, Jim Robertson, Brian Awe, Christine Dunn, Jack Spurr, Stacy Cawley & Joe Larkin. Thank you for inviting me!



We had a great time recently at the Spring Fling to support the Joseph Nee South Boston Collaborative Center. I enjoyed spending time with Brian Nee, the Nee family, Andrea Flaherty, Mayor Walsh. It was a great opportunity to thank & recognize Tommy Noto for his outstanding volunteer work in our community.



It has been an honor to work closely with Donna Kelly-Williams and the dedicated & professional staff from the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) regarding Safe Patient Limits. Thank you MNA for always advocating for respect for all patients & nurses.



I will continue to work with Captain Kenneth Fong from the Boston Police Department and the Downtown BID to public safety in the Downtown Crossing area and Winter St. this summer. Thank you all for your efforts to improve neighborhood safety.

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

