

# ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN

Dear Friends,

As we are now in the middle of Memorial Day Weekend, I wanted to send you an update to keep you informed on what my office has been up to as of late.

City Budget hearings are in full swing. Recently, I spoke to Public Works about expanding the successful hokie program to help keep our streets clean, improving the city's presence on Oxford St. in Chinatown, as well as maintenance and issues with trash collection. I also highlighted the need for additional trash barrels in South Boston, as well as cleaning up our parks in the South End from vandalism. I advocated for hiring more workers for snow removal in the City of Boston due to their professionalism, knowledge and passion for the city, as opposed to contractors.

Chief of Streets Osgood and I discussed the need to maintain the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (BID) and the Washington St, Winter St., Summer St. intersection as the area will be visited by millions of tourists in the coming months. We also touched upon the Stray Voltage issue that affected several dogs in the City of Boston over the winter and that we may need to look at outreach, investment and a comprehensive study of our infrastructure. We discussed the need to improve recruitment efforts and outreach in the Asian community so that the department reflects the diversity of our entire city. Upgrading our handicap ramps to ADA compliance to improve safety for the elderly and disabled was another topic of conversation. I conveyed that pedestrian safety is a top issue for the City of Boston.

See the full testimony below:



Councilors McCarthy, Flaherty, and I recently held a hearing in support of concurrent police jurisdiction for State Police and the Boston Police Department on MassPort properties, including the South Boston Waterfront. The hearing was a productive first step to address this issue.



This proposal would not take away the authority of the State Police – rather, it seeks to provide the Boston Police with concurrent jurisdiction as they share on the MBTA, DCR, and state roads.

It is long overdue for residents of the South Boston Waterfront to have equal the same access to public safety services as any resident of the City of Boston. You can read my remarks on the subject in the [Boston Herald here](#).



### **AirBnB Update**

The Boston City Council's Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty, recently held another Working Session on short-term rentals like AirBnb and Mayor Walsh's latest proposal.

Since my walking tour of short-term rentals in Chinatown with my friend Mr. Yee last Summer, I have frequently talked about the displacement of long-term Boston residents due to Investor Units & Corporations buying up our housing stock and setting up unregulated hotels.

In the midst of an affordable housing crisis, it is my position that we must remove Investor Units to ensure that Chinatown continues to remain a landing spot for working-class Chinese immigrants. You can read more about the impact the impact short-term rental Investor Units are having in Chinatown [in](#)

[the Huffington Post here.](#)

I have called for strong regulation of this industry since last Fall. I also came to realize this is an issue that is also affecting South Boston, the South End, and other neighborhoods throughout the city. Short-term rental Investor Units have also driven up the rental market and impacted the quality of life of our residents due to issues like public safety, trash removal, parking and noise complaints. As a result, I will support reasonable regulations to remove Investor Units while allowing for Owner-Occupants to continue to participate in short-term rental activity. You can read more about the proposal [here](#) and the hearing, in which I stated that [Investor Units are removing the heart and soul from Chinatown here.](#)



It was an honor to join Gold Star Families for the 8th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Heroes Memorial Dinner at the Westin Hotel in Boston, and to remember and honor all the Massachusetts Military Members that made the supreme sacrifice for our nation.

Congrats to Patrick Foley and Linda Dorcena Forry for your well-deserved awards for work done with Gold Star Families and Veterans.



Thank you to everyone who participated in Love Your Block Boston throughout South Boston in recent weeks, including Boston Public Works and all of the volunteers for taking great pride in helping our community. Thank you to the Andrew Square Civic Association, St. Vincent Lower End Neighborhood Association, the West Broadway Neighborhood Association, and the Fort Point Boston Neighborhood Association. Boston works best when we all work together!





Thank you once again to Eversource Energy, the City of Boston Public Works Dept., Inspectional Services, the Animal Control Commission, and MSPCA-Angell for attending our Working Session last week as our Committee continues to examine the issues related to stray voltage incidents affecting dogs in Boston. We made progress in identifying potential infrastructure upgrades, tracking incidents and communication among our partners, as well as the education piece. [You can read more about the City, Neighborhood Services, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee's work on this issue in Sampan here.](#)



I had a great time celebrating Haitian Heritage Month at the Boston City Council for the annual flag raising ceremony. I was also honored to take part in a discussion recognizing the many important contributions of the Haitian people to our city & country, as well as the need to Save TPS.

It was an honor to be with residents of the Castle Square Tenants Organization recently in recognition of their 30th Anniversary. It was a great event to celebrate their mission of providing safe, quality and affordable housing & services to low and moderate income individuals & families. Thank you for

inviting me.



Kristen and I had a great evening at the United South End Settlements Gala. Through the United South End Settlements, we will continue to make change and disrupt the cycle of poverty. Thank you for 126 years of “neighbors helping neighbors.” We are also proud of the generous people of the South End and Roxbury for always supporting this outstanding organization.

It was great to be with Boston Bruins CEO Charlie Jacobs, Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston Public Schools Superintendent Tommy Chang, Boston Police Commissioner Evans and students at the Condon School in Southie this week to promote physical fitness & nutrition at a BFit School Assembly.



It was great to be with Chinatown residents recently at a banquet honoring the National Representative of the On Leung Merchant



Association, Roman Chan. We also enjoyed attending the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center's Annual Banquet. Thank you to all the award recipients, including Ruth Moy, George Moy, Peter Chan and Michael Festa for your tireless work in helping our senior citizens & our immigrant community. We always enjoy

celebrating the richness and diversity of the Chinese culture.



Thank you and if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 635-3203 or at [Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov](mailto:Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov).

