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Dear Friends,

I wanted to send you an update to keep you informed on what my office has been up to lately.

In recent weeks you may have heard the reports of stray voltage affecting dogs around the city. Due to the public safety issues involved and because pets are members of our families too, I will be hosting a working session regarding stray voltage at City Hall at 1 PM on May 18th. **Please see my remarks below.**



Recently, I partnered with Councilor Michelle Wu to file an order for a public hearing on private sewer lines in the South End. The South End has some commercial and resident properties on private alleyways. The infrastructure in these alleys are designated as private and the responsibility for repairs falls on residents and businesses that reside there. These private alleys can sometimes have sewer infrastructure dating back to the 1800's and when maintenance is required, those living in private alleys must pool their money together to fund repairs. The high cost of repairs can delay owners from doing so and create unsafe conditions.

Currently, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission has a Betterment Program where residents in private alleys can petition their sewer lines to be accepted into the public system through a cost-sharing arrangement. However, often times the eligibility requirements for the Betterment Program do not correspond with the situation of many sewer lines under historically designated private ways, creating hardships for residents seeking to arrange for public management of their sewer lines. Councilor Wu and I will be hosting a working group session to find solutions for this problem. We have also met with South End residents as well as Boston Water and Sewer on this issue. I hope to keep you updated as we work with Boston Water and Sewer to ensure our infrastructure is kept up to date and all have access

to clean water.

I was also proud to partner with Councilor Tim McCarthy to call for a hearing on the potential 13 hospital merger of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Lahey Health System. Councilor McCarthy and I heard from experts and the public on how this merger may or may not impact local community health centers and access to care for middle and low-income residents as well as our communities of color, our seniors and the disabled. **You can see my comments here:**



I recently worked with Councilors McCarthy and Flaherty to advocate for a hearing in support of concurrent police authority for State Police and the Boston Police Department on MassPort properties, including the South Boston Waterfront. Please note we will be holding a hearing on this matter tomorrow, May 18th at 9 AM.

This hearing will seek to provide equal access to services from the Boston Police Department for all of our residents. This concurrent jurisdiction for law enforcement is designed to be similar to current regulations for state roads, the MBTA and DCR property. Previously, I had filed a resolution in support of Senator Nick Collins' State Budget Amendment to provide concurrent police authority to Boston Police at MassPort properties.



It is currently budget season at Boston City Hall. My team and I will be focused on providing vital infrastructure needs and ensuring our city's departments are properly funded.

Some of my office's priorities are: additional funds for the South End Library; increased language access for students at Boston Public Schools, especially those in need of special services; increased study of traffic patterns throughout the district; year round hokies to clean streets and gutters; funding for various parks and recreational facilities throughout the district; and much more.

If you have any questions about the city of Boston's budget you can find out more here: <https://budget.boston.gov/>. You may also contact me at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.



I was happy to meet with concerned residents in South Boston to discuss Airbnb and other short-term rental platforms. Neighbors told me their concerns specifically regarding investor units. We spoke about how these are affecting housing stock and the rental market in addition to quality of life issues like trash removal, noise, and parking.

Last Summer, I took a walking tour of Chinatown with my friend, Mr. Yee and became aware of just how much investor units were driving displacement in the neighborhood. This is an issue affecting all across District 2: South Boston, the South End, the Downtown neighborhood, Bay Village, Beacon Hill, and the Waterfront.

Since last Fall, I have stated my desire to see strong regulations when it comes to short-term rental platforms and investor units. The Mayor recently put forward his proposal to regulate AirBnB in the City. This bill would ban investor-owned apartments from being rented by the night hotel-style while still allowing owner-occupants that occasionally rent out a spare room to continue. The Mayor worked with City Council to come up with these guidelines and I am proud to support them. I am in favor of strong regulations to preserve our City's limited housing stock and will continue to work with the Mayor and my fellow Councilors to ensure AirBnB's are regulated. You can read more about the proposal [here](#).



Over the past weeks, I have been proud to stand with concerned residents and neighbors at local development meetings. Proposed development must include ongoing discussions with the community and how they will impact the neighborhood along with long-time residents. My staff and I will continue to attend development meetings across the district and weigh in on local projects. If you have questions or an opinion on a local project, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you to the Andrew Square Civic Association for hosting their "Creating a Safe & Healthy Andrew Square" program at the [Tierney Center](#). It is critical to work together on quality of life issues, public safety concerns. We must all strive to make our neighborhood safer. I look forward to continuing to advocate for public safety and quality of life throughout the district.



On April 23rd I hosted a meeting with the Chairs and Presidents of South End and Bay Village neighborhood associations to discuss neighborhood issues and the City Budget. We had an extremely productive conversation on priorities in the area including: the need for increased traffic enforcement; pedestrian safety and crosswalk repair; increased patrols; building code enforcement for new developments; parking; and parks & green spaces. I will be hosting monthly meetings with South End Neighborhood Associations as well as with South End Elected Officials to ensure the needs of the neighborhood are accurately addressed.

I was also able to host a South Boston Neighborhood Associations meeting at the beginning of May. This meeting sought to address issues of transportation, substance abuse, and parks. I will continue to host meetings like this across the district and provide updates. These meetings will also continue monthly as well as regular meetings with South Boston Elected Officials.



I was happy to host office hours across the district including: the Bay Village, South End, and

in South Boston at the South Boston Collaborative Center & the West Broadway Task Force. I was glad to discuss parks, playgrounds and pedestrian safety in the South End and Bay Village. In South Boston I met with local Latino leaders from South Boston En Accion and discussed solutions for positive change as well as common community problems. At the West Broadway Task Force, we spoke about safe streets and parks, as well as quality of life issues.



Recently, the City held Love Your Block events across the District. I was fortunate to attend events in the Bay Village, Chinatown, Downtown Crossing, and in the South End with my family. We had fun cleaning up parks, sweeping streets, and spending time with neighbors. It was a beautiful day to give back to the city. Thank you to all the residents and dedicated professionals from Boston Public Works that helped. Boston works best when we work together!



I had a great time volunteering at Comcast Cares Day with Mayor [Marty Walsh](#) in [#Chinatown](#). I'd like to thank Comcast New England for their generous donations to [City Year](#) & the [Asian Community Development Corporation](#). I also can't express enough gratitude to the staff at [Josiah Quincy Elementary School](#), and to all the volunteers that came out to help! It was great bringing people across the city together for local Chinatown projects.



My family and I were happy to attend the Army vs Navy baseball game at Fenway Park. I was honored to join Mayor Walsh in throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. We enjoyed talking with the Midshipmen of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Corps of Cadets of the U.S. Military Academy. These future officers will serve on active duty to defend our country. We are proud of them and all those currently serving on active duty or in the reserves.

It was also an honor to be with many from the Home Base Program at Mass General Hospital. This organization, with great support from the Boston Red Sox Foundation, helps returning veterans and military families with clinical issues following a deployment. When a veteran serves, so does their family. I am committed as a Boston City Councilor and a fellow veteran to work hard for all veterans and military families in our city. If any veteran or military family has any issues or needs help, please contact me and I will do my best to assist them.



I was humbled to join South Boston families and friends for the fourth annual Timothy "Doc" Cook Scholarship Award. This special event features a mass at Gate of Heaven Church followed by scholarship award presentations in memory of US Navy Petty Officer Tim "Doc" Cook.

Tim served our country with honor and volunteered for difficult military assignments as a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman in Iraq. His life was defined by those he helped and cared for. I was proud to join his father, Joe, to honor Tim's legacy of service and compassion.



Recently, I joined fellow Veterans for the 2nd Annual African American Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at the William E. Carter Post in Mattapan. I'd like to offer my sincerest thanks to Boston Veterans Services Commissioner Sterling, Mayor Walsh, Chief William G. Gross and other officials for always supporting our Veterans & military families. I was also proud to join Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston Police, and my son Stephen in this year's Operation Thank a Vet. It was great to spend Boston One Day with so many fellow Veterans and their families.



I was proud to attend this year's Walk for Hunger along with [Council President Andrea Campbell](#) and [Councilor Amissa Essaibi-George](#). This was Project Bread's 50th annual walk and a truly special time, bringing thousands from across the Commonwealth to raise funds to feed the less fortunate. I am truly inspired by Project Bread's mission and hope to work with them and my fellow Councilors to make hunger history. You can read more about Project Bread's inspiring mission and story [here](#).



It was an honor to attend the 22nd annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. This event brings families together from across the Commonwealth and advocates for dignity, respect, and compassion for those affected by violence. It was a great opportunity to support these families and raise awareness of these issues. I was glad to join [Attorney General Maura Healey](#) and members of the [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute](#) to recognize these families.



Thank you to [Mayor Marty Walsh](#) and Councilor [Annisssa Essaibi George](#) for bringing together the Polish and Polish-American communities of Boston for the annual flag raising ceremony at City Hall Plaza. We are proud of the enormous contributions made by the Polish community to our city and country!

I was happy to celebrate the Lunar New Year with my friends throughout the district. I was honored to attend events throughout the District to commemorate this special time, including celebrations at [Josiah Quincy Elementary School](#) with [Mayor Marty Walsh](#); the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's banquet along with [Treasurer Deb Goldberg](#), Secretary Bill Galvin, [Senator Joe Boncore](#) and [Representative Aaron Michlewitz](#); [Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu's Lunar New Year Banquet](#) along with [Mayor Marty Walsh](#), [Councilor Michael Flaherty](#) and [Councilor Annisssa Essaibi George](#); the New England Fung Lok Association; the Laung Family Association; the Chee Kong Tong Association,



Chinatown Resident Association, [Chinese Progressive Association](#), the Castle Square Tenants Organization, the Sun Chuen Association, and many more!

I was also happy to celebrate Tet with the Vietnamese community at the New England Intercollegiate Student Association's festival at [BC High School](#) and at the [Rainbow Adult Day Health Care Center](#) along with Representative Nick Collins, Representative Dan Hunt, Councilor Wu, and Councilor Baker.



Finally, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to my friend [Nick Collins](#) on his recent special election victory for the First Suffolk Senate District. I have known Nick for many years and am proud to call him a close friend. He will be a great advocate for the residents of Boston and I am excited to continue working together to promote affordable housing, access to public services, and public safety.



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.



