

ED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FLYNN



Dear Neighbors:

As we are now in the month of March, I'd like to provide an update on some of the work that I've been doing at the Council and in the district. Public health is one of my top priorities as City Councilor, and I've continued to work on this front with the community regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). I've also continued to focus on public safety and making our government more accessible for all.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

With reports of the outbreak of the coronavirus in China and other countries, many residents are concerned about its potential spread. The fear of the coronavirus has unfortunately led to reports of discrimination against our Chinese and Asian communities. We've also seen a sharp decline in business for Chinatown restaurants and shops. As the City Councilor representing Chinatown and the largest Asian community in Boston, I stand in support of our Chinese and Asian communities during this time of need.

I have been conducting outreach on the prevention of the coronavirus, and to provide accurate and updated information to residents in English, Chinese, and Spanish. I've set up coffee hours in various Chinatown housing

developments to talk with residents about their concerns, and distribute fact sheets on the coronavirus provided by the Boston Public Health Commission in Chinese ([You can read more about our outreach work in Chinatown in the Boston Globe here](#)). Important precautions for preventing the virus include washing your hands frequently, staying home if you are sick, and cover your cough or sneeze. You can find the fact sheets on the coronavirus available online in [Chinese](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#) and [English](#).



Stray Voltage Working Session

I held a working session on stray voltage issues that have been harmful to pets in recent years. This is a continuation of the efforts to take short term and long term steps to help reduce the likelihood of these incidents. Members of Mayor Walsh's Administration, the Department of Public Works Street Lighting Division, Eversource Energy, Animal Control, and the MSPCA attended the working session, and we continued the discussions on infrastructure improvements for older electrical cabinets, coordination with the city and the utility company, and pertinent educational information for pet owners.

The Dept. of Public Works indicated that there will be funding in the city's upcoming capital budget for a stray voltage assessment, as well as their continued work with Eversource to address the issue. Eversource highlighted that they have two vehicles that scan the streets for any issues, with a usual response within 30 minutes. I will continue working with relevant stakeholders on this issue.



Recount Process

I filed a hearing order on the city's electoral recount, which aims to be a discussion on how we can improve the current recount process, and if there can be an automatic recount if the margin of votes is under a certain threshold. Currently, candidates requesting a recount need to collect 50 signatures in each ward that they would like a recount on, while most cities and towns in Massachusetts only require 10 signatures in each ward for a recount. Every single vote counts, and we should have a recount process in place that is fair to both the municipality and candidate when the margin of victory is close. [You can read more in the Boston Globe here.](#)



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL
ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS
BOSTON'S ELECTORAL RECOUNT PROCESS**

- WHEREAS:** Voting is a fundamental aspect of democracy and every vote counts in our elections; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In hotly contested elections, the margins of victory can be extremely small - the most recent example being the race for our Boston City Councilor At-Large seats this year, with only 1 vote between the fourth and fifth place finish in the most recent count; *and*
- WHEREAS:** With small margins of victory, it is imperative that every vote is counted accurately and that there should be an automatic recount process in place that is fair to both the candidates and the municipalities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The current recount process in Boston requires that candidates requesting a recount collect 50 signatures in each ward that they would like a recount on, and have the signatures certified and filed within 10 days of the petition; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The current recount process in Boston can be challenging to the candidates and does not align with state and district-wide recount practices. Moreover, most cities and towns in Massachusetts only require 10 signatures in each ward for a recount; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Every vote is important and municipalities have the responsibility to provide an accurate count, especially if the margin of victory is narrow. Having a challenging recount process can make it difficult to request an accurate count; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There should be a discussion on how we can improve our electoral recount process, including an automatic recount if the margin is below a certain threshold; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the current recount process for Boston elections and potential ways to improve the system. Representatives from the Election Department, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 12, 2020

Celebrating African American Veterans

During Black History Month in February, and I introduced a resolution with Councilor Lydia Edwards to recognize our African American veterans. African Americans have played a significant role in our military history, despite facing racial discrimination. From the Civil War to World War II to the present, African American veterans served our country with bravery and sacrifice. This resolution affirms the City Council's support for our African American veterans, and recognizes the contributions and sacrifices they have made for the City of Boston.



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN AND LYDIA EDWARDS

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERAN ACHIEVEMENTS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Since the founding of our country, African Americans have played a significant role in our military history, despite racial discrimination and facing limited opportunities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** During the Civil War, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment was the first military unit consisting of free black soldiers fighting for the Union Army who displayed exceptional bravery and honor; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen, an all African-American Army Air Corps aviation unit based in Tuskegee, Alabama, trained black pilots, navigators, bombardiers and personnel, overcoming segregation and discrimination to become one of the most respected fighter groups in the war that later paved the way for desegregation in the U.S. military; *and*
- WHEREAS:** A well-known Tuskegee Airmen from Boston was the former Boston Police Deputy Superintendent Willis Saunders, who received a Congressional Gold Medal for his service. Saunders, a respected role model in the city, always treated people with dignity and respect. His father, an Army veteran, served in World War I; *and*
- WHEREAS:** We are proud of the historic Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury for their outreach and support to the African American veterans throughout the Greater Boston area, especially through their 60+ veterans group. The Church has had many notable pastors over the years, including Reverend George Washington Williams, who was a Civil War veteran; *and*
- WHEREAS:** We are also honored to have the William E. Carter American Legion Post 16, the oldest African-American post in the American Legion, in Mattapan. Established over a century ago, it recognizes the important work of black veterans and their bravery, self-sacrifice, and commitment.
- WHEREAS:** Boston Police Commissioner William Gross, is the City's first African American Commissioner and a long-time advocate for veterans and military families. A 33-year veteran of the Boston Police Department, Commissioner Gross rose through the ranks while maintaining strong ties with the community; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Everyone should be treated with dignity and respect without fear of discrimination, and we should continue our support to the African American Veterans by standing with them and celebrating their remarkable achievements and sacrifices for our country.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**
That the Boston City Council affirms its support for the African American veteran community and recognizes the contributions and sacrifices they have made towards the City of Boston.

Filed on: February 26, 2020

Community Events

It was an honor to join Sen. Nick Collins, Rep. David Biele, Councilors Michael Flaherty & Frank Baker in sponsoring the Census Job Fair at the Tierney Center. Census jobs provide great

pay with training & flexible hours.
Everyone Counts in the 2020
Census!



I was proud to host youth from Boston Asian Youth Essential Service recently at the Boston City Council. We had an informative discussion about challenges & solutions facing the youth of Chinatown. Thanks to Boston YES for your programs that empower Asian youth to live healthy & productive lives.

Honored to work closely with South End residents, Friends of the South End Library, Mayor Walsh, city and state officials in support of renovations to South End Branch of the Boston Public Library. It was great to attend the opening recently & celebrate literacy access for all. Our libraries make our neighborhoods strong.



I enjoyed talking with these wonderful



Girl Scouts from South Boston recently. These girls are actively involved in our community: volunteering & helping make this a great neighborhood for our youth, families & seniors. I'm proud of these girls. South Boston works best when we work together!

We proudly stand with the Chinese community & reject fear of the coronavirus. It's important to treat everyone with respect, dignity & understanding. It was an honor to join Councilors Wu, Essaibi-George, Flaherty, Bok Breadon & Quincy City Council President Nina Liang in supporting Chinese restaurant workers at our community brunch in China Pearl.





It was an honor to be a guest reader recently at the Winship Elementary School in Brighton. Thank you to K-1 teacher Jennifer Hayes and all the outstanding Winship teachers, paraprofessionals and staff who work hard to provide an outstanding education to our students.



It was great to visit youth & staff at the Ellis Memorial Early Education Center recently. I had a lot of fun with the kids. Thank you for your efforts to engage, educate & empower our children through programs, and your commitment to closing the achievement gap for disadvantaged families.

We had a fantastic Lunar New Year celebration sponsored by Tufts Medical Center. Outstanding musical performances by the Quincy Elementary School, and lots of fun activities!



I enjoyed being with volunteers from the Gate of Heaven Catholic Youth Organization Basketball & Pere Marquette for the annual Free Throw Contest. It was great to see so many South Boston youth participating. Thanks to the volunteers, parents & sponsors for making this a fun day for kids in the neighborhood.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office

at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov.