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Dear Neighbors:

Thank you for the honor to serve as your District 2 City Councilor. I was proud to be joined by family, friends, supporters and colleagues at the Inauguration in historic Faneuil Hall earlier this month. As we are now in a new year and new term, I continue to focus on improving the quality of life for my constituents and calling attention to issues that impact the everyday lives of our residents. I've filed several hearing orders already that reflect these priorities, and I'll continue to work hard to deliver city services and advocate on behalf of District 2. Below is what my office & I have filed so far:


Hearing to discuss ways to support tenants facing eviction and displacement

Many seniors and long-time residents are being displaced following property transfers. I re-filed this hearing order to have a conversation on providing longer eviction notice periods for tenants. It is my position that those who have lived in properties for five years or more should be provided one year's notice to vacate; while seniors, the disabled, and low-income residents should be afforded two years notice. We'll also discuss providing information regarding resources available to assist with searching for new housing.

Hearing to discuss establishing a traffic master plan for South Boston

I filed this in partnership with Councilor Michael Flaherty to address the need for more comprehensive transportation planning in South Boston. South Boston is at the center of Boston's development boom, with large scale proposals along on all major corridors. This added density will greatly impact traffic and transportation in South Boston. Having a traffic master plan for the neighborhood would allow the city to better assess the neighborhood's short-term and long-term transportation needs, and let residents know about the potential impact of developments on traffic. You can read [more about this at Caught in Southie](#), and read the hearing order below:

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN AND COUNCILOR MICHAEL FLAHERTY



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHING
A TRAFFIC MASTER PLAN FOR SOUTH BOSTON**

WHEREAS: There is an unprecedented building boom in Boston with an enormous amount of large scale projects in the pipeline across our city, adding tens of thousands of housing units, as well as office spaces, and commercial spaces in the city; *and*

WHEREAS: The peninsula of South Boston has been at the center of this development boom, absorbing a substantial portion of the city's housing goals to-date, and will continue to absorb additional growth in the years to come, with large scale developments either already approved or proposed along every major corridor that connects the neighborhood to the rest of the city; *and*

WHEREAS: Notable large scale proposals include 776 Summer Street (the Edison Project), the Mary Ellen McCormack housing development, the Bayside Expo Center, Washington Village, the Fort Point 100 Acre plan, and multiple proposals along the South Boston Dorchester Avenue Corridor; *and*

WHEREAS: These proposals will dramatically increase the overall density of and daily trips to the area, bringing tens of thousands of residents, commuters and visitors to the area for a mix of new commercial, residential and other land uses, exacerbating congestion in an area that already has a high volume of traffic; *and*

WHEREAS: The ongoing South Boston Waterfront Strategic Transportation Plan does account for the impact of growth within the study area and the respective impacts on various modes of transportation in and out of the South Boston Waterfront. It does not account for the impact of other large scale developments on other major transportation corridors of the neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS: The Mayor's Office recently announced the creation of an East Boston Transportation Action Committee to reduce congestion and improve street safety in that neighborhood that builds on community planning and input; *and*

WHEREAS: With South Boston rapidly developing, transportation and congestion will remain a critical issue that will continue to affect both long-time and new South Boston residents, visitors, and commuter for years and decades to come, there should be a transportation Master Plan for South Boston to assess the neighborhood's short, mid and long term transportation needs and capacity, so that the city and residents can understand the potential impact of upcoming developments and better plan for the neighborhood; *and*

Hearing to discuss security at high-rise garages in the City of Boston

Over the period of seven months, there were three incidents involving five deaths that occurred at one high rise garage in Boston, while another person tried to jump from a six-story garage. These tragic incidents call attention to the security measures at high rise garages, as well as the lack of measures at garages that prevent people in distress from jumping and helping them find resources. In partnership with Councilor Kim Janey, the hearing aims to discuss how we can better secure high rise garages, as well as putting suicide prevention measures at these garages to help those in distress. [You can read more in the Boston Herald here.](#)

Hearing on issues related to stray voltage

In my first term, I conducted several working sessions with city officials,

members of Boston's Street Lighting Division & the Dept. of Public Works, Eversource & the MSPCA to discuss efforts to address the potential dangers of stray voltage to residents and pets. Boston has old electrical cabinets and, during the winter months, the salt can corrode the wiring and grounding lugs, providing conditions where stray voltage can electrocute dogs and pets. I'd like to discuss the city's progress last year regarding infrastructure improvements, coordination with stakeholders, and educational information.

Hearing to discuss safety of construction sites

Last year, there was an incident where a woman was seriously injured by falling debris from a construction site in the North End. Most recently, a construction worker was struck and killed by equipment while setting up "First Night" celebrations in Boston in December. The hearing aims to be a conversation on existing safety procedures and precautions at construction sites, and measures that the city can utilize to protect our construction workers and residents.



Hearing to discuss after hours construction and development issues

We have heard from residents who are frustrated by construction work that happens beyond permitted hours, which brings excessive noise and other issues that negatively impact their quality of life. The hearing will be a discussion on the process for off hours construction and other relevant development issues, such as rodent control, as well as enforcement and accountability for violations.

Hearing to discuss ways to promote a complete and accurate count of the 2020 Census in the City of Boston

The 2020 Census is officially kicking off on April 1st and it will be critical to get a complete & accurate count of our residents. This data will determine how federal funds are distributed in our community, including benefits for SNAP, Medicare, Section 8, Head Start, and many other federal programs. I filed this hearing order, with Councilor Michelle Wu as the co-sponsor, to discuss ways and resources needed to ensure a complete and accurate count of the 2020

Census in Boston; especially for traditionally hard to count populations like immigrants, non-English speakers, renters, and students.

Resolution recognizing National Braille Literacy Month in the City of Boston

I filed this resolution to affirm the City Council's support for the blind and visually impaired community. Braille literacy is an important way for those with visual disabilities to attain independence and employment. Yet, in recent years, Braille literacy has fallen among the blind and those with visual disabilities as a result of increased reliance on audio and text-to-speech technology. January is designated as National Braille Literacy Month, and I hope that this resolution can promote and raise awareness of the importance of the Braille code to the blind and visually impaired community.

Community Events



Thank you to the dedicated and compassionate volunteers from St. Monica Church, the Boston Police C-6 station, and the Boston Housing Authority for your support of individuals and families struggling with hunger. Honored to attend their recent pasta dinner and to talk with many of my neighbors.



We had a great start to the Lunar New Year with residents of Chinatown and colleagues in the city and state government. Thank you to Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England for your advocacy and support of the Chinatown neighborhood. Let's continue to work together on the upcoming 2020 Census. Everyone counts!



Proud to join Councilor Flaherty in recognizing Jack and Susan Woods and the Woods/Hart family with a City Council proclamation for their longtime support and dedication to the people of South Boston, especially families in need. Thank you to Jack and Susan for making South Boston the welcoming community it is.

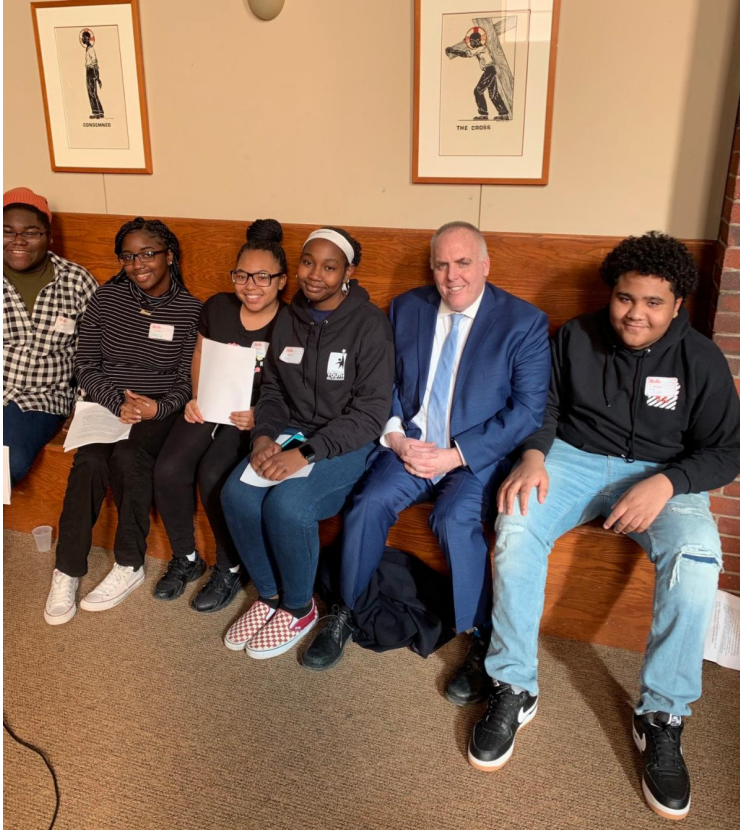
Honored to visit, tour and volunteer at the Women's Lunch Place in the Back Bay on New Year's Day. This is an exceptional program with professional staff and compassionate volunteers. The Women's Lunch Place provides dignity for women

experiencing poverty and homelessness.



Proud to join my Boston City Council colleagues for lunch this month with staff from the Museum of African American History. This Beacon Hill museum is a gem in Boston. We talked about the African American community in 19th century Boston and the early struggles of the civil rights movement.

Thank you to St. Stephen Episcopal Church and St. Stephen's Youth Programs for your MLK Day of Action. The volunteers completed over 25 projects at the Blackstone Elementary School. I had the opportunity to talk with the volunteers about language access and also respect for our immigrant neighbors and persons with disabilities.



It was an honor to attend the MLK Breakfast and to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in working for social and economic justice for all. Great to talk with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley about the 2020 Census. Everyone Counts and deserves to be treated with dignity.



Proud to join Councilor Flaherty in recognizing our friends, Kevin and Nancy Conroy, for their longtime support of the Scleroderma Foundation on New Year's Day.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov.