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Dear Friend,

I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday and a happy New Year. A lot has been happening in the State House and in the district as this new year begins. The Committee on Public Health is working to determine which stakeholders to involve with bills in committee and is expecting to have executive sessions in the coming weeks. Please read the "Public Health Update" below for more details.

Thank you to those who contacted my office about an act relative to the achievement gap. I received numerous emails and calls on different aspects of the bill from parents, teachers, and others concerned about our state's education system. Your concerns play a large role in determining what legislation I support and I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of this issue. As you may know, I joined my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass legislation focused on eliminating the achievement gap in schools cross the Commonwealth. I successfully amended the bill to include "Parental Advisory Councils," which would require any underperforming or chronically underperforming school operating a limited English proficient program or programs to create a council of parents or legal guardians to increase parental involvement with school officials. The council would serve to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the programs. I was also able to amend the bill to include specific strategies to maximize the rapid academic achievement of limited English proficient students. See the "Legislative Update" for more on this bill.

In the district, a public meeting to discuss improvements in access to the Jamaica Pond will be held on January 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Arboretum. Design plans for three intersections around Jamaica Pond will be discussed, including the intersection of Eliot Street and the Jamaicaway, the intersection of Kelly Circle and Parkman Drive, and Parkman Drive between Jamaica Pond and the Francis Parkman memorial.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation accepted contract bids on behalf of the city's road repair and resurfacing projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Two streets in the district are included in the construction contracts including Allandale Street and Centre Street. Resurfacing of these streets will stimulate the district's economy by creating construction jobs and improving the business sector. The entire project is expected to take two years to complete.

As mentioned in the previous newsletters, I encourage everyone to participate in the March 2010 Census. The Census is a confidential survey protected by law that reflects the number of people living in the state. Census information helps states receive and allocate funds to locations in need of improvement. Residents of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and non-citizens are included and vital to the count. Thus, it is important that everyone in the district participate. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Service,

Jeffrey Sánchez
State Representative
Chairman, Joint Committee on Public Health

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As you may know, the legislatures passed an education bill this last week. After hours of house floor debate, H.4423, "An Act Relative to the Achievement Gap," was passed and this major education bill is currently before conference committee where it must be reconciled before enactment by the house and senate.

I have consistently advocated for effective policies to improve academic performance of limited English proficient students in the Commonwealth. With success, I amended the bill to require specific strategies to maximize the rapid academic achievement of limited English proficient students. My consolidated amendment also requires professional development and planning time for teachers and administrators to aide in the improvement of these programs.

As previously mentioned, one of the largest victories was the requirement for "Parental Advisory Councils" in an underperforming or chronically underperforming school operating a limited English proficient program. It is shown that parental involvement is a great indicator of student success rates. In addition, English education programs will find the level of accountability we seek through parents who will meet with school officials to provide feedback on program effectiveness.

Programs for this population of students need to be specifically designed to accelerate English language proficiency and academic achievement, and educators must be trained adequately and expertly in order to be able to begin to close the achievement gap. This bill also strengthens the state's application for \$250 million in federal "Race to the Top" funding, allows stronger intervention authority for the state in underperforming districts, lifts the cap on charter schools in the lowest performing school districts and helps to facilitate innovation and excellence in schools throughout the Commonwealth.

FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

The Joint Committee on Public Health is concluding its review of over 350 bills this month. With a reporting deadline of mid-March, the committee anticipates holding executive sessions. As always, we encourage your input relative to the legislation on our docket. The Public Health Committee accepts oral or written testimony at any time prior to an executive session.

As winter continues, let's not forget eating a healthy diet of fruits and vegetables. Also continue washing your hands and covering your mouth using your inner elbow to prevent flu spread. For continued flu reports and to find a clinic to get a free flu shot near you, I encourage you to visit www.bphc.com/org. Stay warm and be safe!

COMMUNITY EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Jamaica Plain:

Jamaica Pond Pedestrian Access Enhancements: The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will hold a second meeting on Jamaica Pond pedestrian access enhancements on Wednesday, January 27 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Arnold Arboretum Visitors Center, 125 Arborway Jamaica Plain.

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council: Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Curtis Hall, 20 South Street. For more information, please call 617-522-1150.

Jamaica Plain Community Centers: Regular meeting are on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. rotating among 4 sites. More information can be obtained by calling the Regional Office at Curtis Hall at 617-635-5195.

Jamaica Hills Association: Second Wednesday of every month, except July and August, 7:30 p.m., Rogerson House, 434 Jamaicaway.

Sumner Hill Association: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m., various locations. Info: secretary@sumnerhillassociation.org.

The True Hip Hop Culture Program: Come chill out with other teens in the community, exploring hip hop culture, the arts/entertainment industry, live performance, life and the world around us. Free, with light refreshments served. Every 3rd Thursday of the month, 5-7 p.m.,

English High Community Center, 144 McBride St. Info: Jazz Wise theprogram@excite.com, or 617-635-5244.

Spontaneous Celebrations: Offers a number of art, music and dance classes, as well as a youth karate class. Info: www.spontaneouscelebrations.org.

Sunday Nights aLive: Non-traditional, music-and-arts worship service, featuring live music, signing and community-building. Relaxed atmosphere. Dinner served, childcare provided. Last Sunday of every month, 6-8 p.m., first Church of JP, Unitarian Universalist, Centre and Eliot St. Info: www.sundaynightalivejp.org.

Connolly Branch Library: The library offers community programs for students and adults. Visit the library for one of its events (listed below) at 433 Centre St. Info: 522-1960.

Homework Assistance: Mondays, 4-6 p.m., Homework Assistance Program, with Boston

Public School teacher: Mondays-Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Homework assistance with high school mentors for grades K-8.

Children's Films: Short, fun films for young children. Groups Welcome! Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Reading Readiness Fall Storytime: Stories & Songs for kids ages 2 – 4 with an adult. Please register beforehand! Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Jamaicaway Books: Visit the local bookstore for one of their upcoming events at 676 Centre Street, or call them for more info at 617-983-3204. You can also visit their website: www.jamaicawaybooks.com.

Queer Tango Boston: Argentine Tango with Gender Flexibility: Dance at the Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge. All skill levels are welcome, from beginners on Monday and advanced dancers on Thursday evenings. For more call Spontaneous Celebrations at 617- 344-5550, email info@queertangoboston.org, or go to www.queertangoboston.com.

Mission Hill:

Domestic Violence Community Advocacy Program: Renewal House is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 10 Putnam Street in Roxbury (First Church in Roxbury ~ UU Urban Ministry... The big white church on the hill near Roxbury Crossing T station or Dudley Station) If you wish to make an appointment, please contact Ada at 617-277-4194.

Parker Hill Library: Homework Help and Creative Drama: Homework Help Monday-Thursday, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday, 12:00-2:00 p.m. Thursday-BPS Teacher, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Community Alliance of Mission Hill: Usually third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., Kresge Hall, Harvard School of Public Health. For more info call 617-733-8321 or email rjohnson@camhonline.org.

Gardner After Hours: Cutting-edge art, music, performances, cocktails and more, third Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 280 The Fenway. Info: www.gardnermuseum.org.

Mission Hill Crime Committee: Last Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Mission Church music room.

Free Parent-Child Playgroups: Offered by Boston Public Schools for toddlers at Tobin Community Center. Registration is ongoing for 1, 2, and 3 year olds and their caregivers. Several dates and times are available. Info: 617-756-9492.

Mission Hill Farmers Market: Every Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. there will be a farmers market in Hanlon Square (735 Huntington Ave). To learn more, stop by the market.

Parker Hill Branch Library: The library offers community programs for students and adults. Visit the library for one of its events (listed below) at 1497 Tremont St. Info: 427-3820.

Toddler Storytime: Stories for kids ages 2 – 3 years with an adult. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Homework Assistance: Mondays-Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Homework assistance with high school students for grades K-8. BPS Teacher help on Thursdays.

Grief Support Services: Samaritans provide services for community members who have lost loved ones to suicide, including the support group SafePlace, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., JCRT radiology conference room, 5th Floor, Shapiro Building at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Info: Kim Kates: 617-536-2460.

Roslindale:

Snow Emergency Parking Guidelines: The Boston Transportation Department would like drivers to be aware of the following parking guidelines that will be put into effect whenever a Snow Emergency is declared in Boston during the winter season. During a Snow Emergency, parking is prohibited on all major arteries in Boston. These streets are posted with "TOW ZONE – NO Parking During Snow Emergency signs.

Roslindale Branch Library:

Drop in Science: Kids in grades 3-7 are invited to build and test experiments from the Museum of Science. The programs take place on Tuesday afternoons, January 12, 19, and 26 and February 2 from 4-5 p.m.

Homework Assistance Programs: High school mentors are available to offer homework assistance Monday to Thursday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., on Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. No homework assistance is available during school vacation week.

ESL Conversation Group: Conversation Groups for new English speakers continues to take place Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Anyone learning English is encouraged to join any or all of the groups to practice English in an informal setting.

The Tuesday Morning Book Discussion Group: January 19, 10:30 a.m., the group will meet to discuss Annie Dillard's "An American Childhood." Copies of the book are available in standard and large print format at the Circulation Desk.

YMCA Sports, Aquatics and More: The Roslindale YMCA offers a variety of sports classes for preschoolers, students, teens, and adults, including tee ball, soccer, karate, and the new Junior Celtics basketball. For a complete listing, visit the branch www.ymcaboston.org/roslindale/programs/sports.

Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association: The association meets bi-monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month, from 7:30 - 9 p.m. in the community room of the Longfellow House, 885 South Street at Walter Street. Contact Tim Skaar, at tim.skaar@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Jazz in the Square Concerts: See upcoming concerts at the Roslindale Congregational Church by visiting www.jazzinthesquare.net.

Roslindale Silent Auction: Ten local artists have donated works of art for the auction during this month of December 2009. This is a great opportunity to pick up a nice piece of original art for a gift or for your own personal use while supporting arts in the community. Proceeds will benefit the Roslindale Arts Alliance. Stop into Bangkok Café, 25 Poplar Street, Tuesdays through Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to place your bid.

Parking Permit Applications now Online: The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has announced that Athletic, Special Event and Street Blocking permit applications are now available for the 2010 season online at City of Boston website, www.cityofboston.gov.

Roslindale open Mic: Roslindale Open Mic is an all-volunteer, free event held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Hosted by local singer/songwriters Mike Delaney and Neal Braverman. The series welcomes acoustic musicians and poets of all ages. For more information, visit www.roslindaleopenmic.org or call 617-308-8489

Brookline:

ESL Conversation Groups: Open at all three Brookline Public Library Branches for anyone looking to improve their English skills. The group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Library on Washington St. and on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at both the Coolidge Corner and Putterham Branches.

Greater Boston:

The Registry of Motor Vehicles: The RMV launched a new electronic notification service for license renewals. It is a free service that will remind you to renew your Massachusetts driver's license or ID by email, phone, or text (SMS) message. For more information on how to subscribe for the notification service, visit <https://secure.mv.state.ma.us/RMVReminder/intro.aspx>.

If you know of a future Community Event or Meeting that you would like us to include in the Update, send us an email at Rep.JeffreySanchez@hou.state.ma.us

The Boston Public Library:

Homework Assistant Programs: Mondays, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

High School Mentors: For grades K-8, Monday-Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Childrens Films: Short, fun films for preschool children. Groups welcome! Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

JumpStart: This program allows seniors aged 50+ to volunteer with children in Jamaica Plain preschools. The goal of the program is to ensure a successful transition to Kindergarten. Training and stipend are provided. The program runs from October to May. Inquiries should be made to Liana, at 857-413-4631.

Massachusetts Biologic Laboratories: The laboratories are seeking college science majors for internship positions. Some applications will be reviewed for full-time positions. Please reply to mblresumes@umassmed.edu.

Hyde Square Task Force: The task force is seeking a Music Clubhouse Coordinator to create and lead lessons for youths aged 10-18 years. Please contact Brenda Rodriguez-Andujar at brenda@hydesquare.org, or 617-524-8303. Another open position is Systems Administrator. This position requires knowledge of computer networking and 2-3 years VPN experience. This is a part-time position. Please contact Enoes Andujar at enoes@hydesquare.org, or 617-524-8303.

Hyde Square Task Force: Seeking part-time Bookkeeper to assist Finance Manager in financial preparations. Candidates should be familiar with financial language, have good computer skills, and be efficient and reliable. To apply, please email (preferred method) your resume and cover letter to enoes@hydesquare.org, or mail to Enoes Andujar, Manager of Finance and Human Resources, Hyde Square Task Force, 375 Centre St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Jobs at the New England Baptist Hospital (NEBH):

Administrative Director of Patient Care Services (5061), Central Sterile Supply Technician (5087), Certified Nursing Assistant (4963), Certified Nursing Assistant (4816), Clinical Leader (5039), Hospitalist/Intensivist (4487), Hospitalist/Intensivist (5066), Nursing Assistant (4012), Nursing Coordinator (4919), Other Patient Care Support - Position Not Listed (3764), Registered Nurse - Endoscopy (4941), Registered Nurse - IV (4379), Registered Nurse - Per-Diem (5042), Registered Nurse-ICU (5021), Registered Nurse-ICU (5065), Registered Nurse-Lahey 5 (4736), Registered Nurse-Lahey 5 (4958), Registered Nurse-OR (5116), Registered Nurse-PACU (4965), Surgical Technologist (5127).

Contact: Alyson Morgan, Nursing Coordinator, (617) 754-5233
amorgan1@caregroup.harvard.edu.

Central Sterile Surgical Materials Coordinator (5047), Central Support Operator

(5059), Cook (5102), Correspondence Clerk (5077), Housekeeping Aide (5075), Housekeeping Aide (5030), Medical Records Coder (5093), Nutrition Assistant (5101), Occupational Therapist (5010), OR Scheduler (5028), Other Support Services - Position Not Listed (4237), Patient Accounts Representative (4999), Physical Therapist-Inpatient (5111), Physical Therapist-Inpatient (4987), Radiologic Technologist (5081), Registered Nurse (4889), Supervisor (4959).

Contact: Susan Motha, (617) 754-5232, smotha@caregroup.harvard.edu.

Other Nursing - Position Not Listed (3254). **Contact: Debra DiMartino, (617)754 5232, ddimarti@caregroup.harvard.edu**

Volunteer for the American Cancer Society: The ACS needs volunteer drivers to take cancer patients to and from treatment. For info call 800-227-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

Volunteer to Visit the Elderly: Call Rachel Burlingame at Ethos, a local non-profit. For more info call 617-522-6700, or email rburlingame@ethocare.org.

Brigham and Women's Hospital RN Care Coordinator, Ambulatory: The Ambulatory RN Care Coordinator is responsible for working with high-risk patients while establishing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating high quality, cost effective care plans. This position requires knowledge of clinical care and systems' management, case management, good nursing judgment, problem solving skills, independent thinking, organizational and interpersonal skills, creativity, flexibility, and the ability to multi-task. This position is well compensated with a competitive salary and excellent benefits. If interested, please call Lisa Wichmann at 617-732-5500 X31934.

Barbara Lee Political Office and the Barbara Lee Family Foundation: The Barbara Lee Political Office and Barbara Lee Family Foundation is searching for a dynamic individual to fill the role of Political Assistant/Foundation Assistant. This is an entry-level position for someone who would support strategic grant making, political fundraising, event planning, and research projects. Candidates should have an interest in women's issues and politics. Experience in research, written communication, and event planning is required, as well as outstanding computer skills. Experience in basic administration and political work is preferred. Interested candidates can get a full job description by emailing Administrative Assistant Monnikue McCall at mcarmody@barbaralee.com. Applicants should write a cover letter and address it to Adrienne Kimmell, Political Director/Foundation Director. Send cover letter, resume, and reference list to Monnikue McCall Administrative Assistant Lee Family Office, 131 Mt. Auburn St., Suite 3 Cambridge, MA 02138.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Grants.gov: Your source to FIND and APPLY for federal government grants. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is proud to be the managing partner for Grants.gov, an initiative that is having an unparalleled impact on the grant community. Learn more about Grants.gov and determine if you are eligible for grant opportunities offered on this site.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Boston Scholarship Guide: Information about hundreds of scholarships available to help you pay for college! www.bostonscholarshipguide.com.

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences: Encourages students to apply for their scholarship programs ASAP. The college is offering the Mayor's Scholarship Program for Boston Latin School and the James T. King Memorial Scholarship. Visit www.mcphs.edu/admission to find out more.

HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Our friends at the Mayor's Office and BPD have provided these helpful telephone numbers:

BPD Main Line.....617-343-5630
Community Service.....617-343-5624

Auto Investigations.....617-343-5634
Detectives Bureau.....617-343-5628
Drug Control Unit.....617-343-4958
Crime Watch Unit.....617-343-4345
Crime Stoppers.....800-494-8477
Mayor's Office.....617-343-4500
Anti-Gang Unit.....617-343-4444
Domestic violence and sexual assault hotline.....877-785-2020
Loud Party Line.....617-343-5500
Anti-Graffiti Line.....617-343-5348
Rep. Sanchez's Office..... 617-722-2130

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