



Dear Friend,

It is now September and autumn will soon fall on the Commonwealth. I hope you had a great summer and are enjoying the good weather while it is still here. The past few months were full and exciting within the Legislature. We passed laws pertaining to Economic Development, the Temporary Worker's Right to know, and the Health Care Cost Containment and Quality reform. You will find a summary of those bills in this issue. These next couple of months are packed full of exciting events for you and your loved ones to participate in throughout our community and I hope to see many of you there.

The last week in August is usually a very busy one for families getting ready for school to begin. For the last 7 years I have been hosting a Back to School Jam, to prepare the children in my district for their next exciting year. Over the course of a week I had three different Back to School Jams in Jamaica Plain, Brookline and Mission Main and they were all a great success. There was food, eye and dental exams, blood pressure checkups, stations for kids to do arts and crafts, information on health and social programs, free books and a back pack raffle. I wish that I could give everyone in my district back packs for school; however I hope that you had a great time and were able to get some food, books and a full pencil case. We were very lucky to have such a good time with great people and weather. These recent Back to School Jams surpassed my expectations and doubled my excitement for the years to come. I hope to see you there next year for our 8th Annual Back to School Jam.



Also within the district this summer The Arborway Coalition hosted a successful Arborway Tree Walk and as always I enjoyed myself at the annual Puerto Rican Fest. I would like to thank those at the Banjelos festival for awarding me “The Key to the City”. It is truly an honor. I would like to congratulate the JP Tree of Life for receiving a \$2,500 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield for their Gladys Seniors in Actions Programs. Along with the JP Tree of Life, Mission Health Movements also received a Blue Cross Blue Shield grant to help with their Healthy Foods Festival on September 22 and for next year’s Farmer’s Market. Congratulations to both of these outstanding groups!

Last week we hosted a Movie Night at Bromley-Heath outside the Anna Mae Cole Community Center, where we featured the film, The Zookeeper. There were snacks and drinks for the kids to enjoy. It was nice to see all the children having a fun, positive Friday night outside their homes. Look for more movie nights to come throughout the fall!

Please have a safe and fun fall and I hope you enjoy reading about this past summer.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Service,



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 187th session of the Massachusetts General Court came to a close on July 31 with a flurry of legislative activity. The House passed a number of important pieces of legislation. These pieces of legislation included a major Economic Development bill that improves the Commonwealth's innovation economy, promotes economic prosperity through infrastructure investments and streamlined permitting, facilitating the expansion of new and existing businesses, and training our workforce for the future. The improvements to the Innovative Infrastructure Investment Program (I-Cubed) are a direct result of the bill I sponsored this session. This update in funding will allow for more developers to create necessary infrastructure and developments within the Commonwealth. Along with the Economic Development bill the House also passed the Temporary Worker's Right to Know, which I was proud to co-sponsor. This new law requires temporary staffing agencies to disclose to their workers basic details about the jobs in which they are placed, including wages, hours, working conditions and coverage for benefits such as workman's compensation should they get hurt.



The House and Senate also passed a fairly comprehensive foreclosure bill, while it did not include my legislation to allow foreclosed upon home owners to remain in their homes for a period of time, it does protect homeowners who have fallen victim to predatory mortgages and unnecessary foreclosures. Under this law, lenders and banks will have to offer loan modifications to borrowers in certain circumstances so that foreclosure can be avoided. Finally the House and Senate passed an animal control law that require training for animal control officers and establish a homeless animals program funded by a

voluntary tax check off. The bill would also prohibit carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide gas from being used to euthanize dogs and cats, the bill includes pets in restraining orders and updates the dangerous dog law in a “breed neutral” manner.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any legislative issues or priorities, please contact me at my office at 617-722-2130.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

July was a busy month for the Committee on Public Health with the passage of a health care cost containment act that is projected to save Massachusetts \$200 billion over the next 15 years. As Chair of the Public Health Committee, I worked to ensure the final act has a broad focus on public health and doesn't only address costs for costs' sake. It contains provisions that will increase access to primary care, monitor the quality of health care outcomes, and provide funding for prevention and wellness programs. More information on this landmark legislation will follow soon. In August, we held a hearing on a bill that will allow the Boston Public Health Commission to get more timely health data from the state so the city can better track and prevent diseases and other public health issues. As always, if you have any questions about an issue in front of the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

RESTAURANT OF THE MONTH:

Gail's Café and Grill - 268 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA



Over the last year, there have been several new places that have opened in my district. Gail's Café and Grill is one of the best restaurants that I've seen so far. From the salads and wraps to the gyros and sandwiches, Gail's Café and Grill brings flavor to even the most ordinary dish. Have a quick breakfast or coffee

while talking with some of the friendliest staff around. No matter what the craving, Gail's has it all. Located adjacent from the Jackson Square T stop, Gail's is a convenient place to satisfy your hunger.

Please stay tuned for another email on the Community Events and Happenings around the 15th Suffolk District!

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Massachusetts State Representative Jeffrey Sanchez
24 Beacon Street, Room 130
Boston, Massachusetts 02133
US

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