



Dear Friend,

The year is coming to an end but my commitment to advocate for the programs and services most important to my constituents continues. The Committee on Public Health held its final hearing of the year and remains hard at work on important bills. Important legislation has been addressed in the State House and I am actively engaged. See the "Public Health Update" and the "Legislative Update" below for more details.

In the district, community meetings and its members have been actively engaged on a number of important issues. Enhancement projects for the Arborway, Jamaicaaway, and Centre Street are underway and a meeting to discuss final plans will be held in January. Access to wireless internet (Wi-Fi) in Jamaica Plain has been an ongoing project and potential sponsors are being considered. Additionally, I am honored to have participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that celebrated the completion of the Creighton Commons Condominiums and the re-start of construction on Building M, both on the campus of the former Blessed Sacrament Church in Hyde Square Jamaica Plain. Building M will have thirty-six units, retail space on the first floor, and an underground parking garage extending from Creighton Commons. It is scheduled to be completed in October 2010.

As the holiday season begins, community meetings continue and holiday gatherings will be occurring in the district. Check out "Community Events and Happenings" for specific events in the district. I encourage you to attend and look forward to seeing you around the district.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, 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

After years of intense work from advocates and legislators alike, "An Act to Preserve Affordable Housing" was signed into law. We are currently reviewing bills relative to Education and CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information). These bills were engrossed by the Senate and will come before the House in January 2010.

As a long-time advocate for affordable housing, I have been particularly concerned with expiring use. I have vigorously worked for years on a bill to preserve affordable housing and protect vulnerable populations living in publicly assisted housing. The law aims to preserve affordability of 90,000 government-assisted housing units in the Commonwealth, many of which are occupied by senior citizens and individuals with disabilities and are at risk of being converted to market rates. I also filed an amendment to extend the opportunity for the development of affordable housing through low-income housing tax credits that was included in the final version of the bill and specifically helps Mission Hill's Pickle-Ditson project, now named Oliver Lofts. Oliver Lofts, the site of a former pickle factory and the former Oliver Ditson music publishing building, has been vacant since the 1980s and suffers from deferred maintenance, decay, and vandalism. The project will be renovated into "green" apartments.

As many of you know, CORI is how the Commonwealth records all criminal cases an individual has acquired in state courts, regardless of the final charge. CORI reports enable employers, public housing officials, school administrators, and others to screen out potentially dangerous ex-offenders. However, this creates a major barrier for people with criminal records who may not be a threat to society. Proposed CORI Reform would shorten the wait time for sealing criminal records, simplify the sealing process, and mandate aspects of the hiring process. CORI Reform would provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders currently shut out of jobs. I am actively involved with other legislators to create the best bill on CORI Reform to boost employment while also protecting public safety.

We have been actively engaged on bills relative to education, including legislation concerning charter schools and improving the quality of education in the most underperforming schools in the Commonwealth. I understand the issues our schools face and am committed to establishing quality education systems with standards and adequate support services for all students in the Commonwealth. I will continue to work thoroughly on this legislation as it moves through the legislature and am determined to further advocate for the most underserved populations in our schools. This bill is particularly challenging since the administration is seeking federal "Race to the Top" funds. At the crux of the bill is language that expands the charter school cap. There is also language that seeks to address challenges in underperforming schools. While the "Race to the Top" dollars are a great incentive for innovation, I am trying to learn more about what happens to school districts once the dollars have been spent and if there are specific standards to how school districts will improve the quality of education of English Language Learners throughout the Commonwealth. These are just a couple of the questions I will be seeking answers for in this month and January before we vote on a House bill. I have received numerous emails and calls from so many people on different aspects of this bill. I welcome any further insight you may have that will contribute to my decision making. I myself am a product of the Boston Public Schools. I am extremely concerned that the achievement gap persists as well as the extremely high dropout rates. I will continue to work with my colleagues on a bill that seeks to address these challenges for all students.

FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

The Joint Committee on Public Health continues its important work throughout the holiday season. Last month we held three public hearings on 55 pieces of legislation with topics including the health care workforce, prescription drug costs, health insurance requirements and local boards of health. This month we will continue researching and working on the nearly 350 bills before us. Recently, we have had the pleasure of working with numerous HIV/AIDS advocates, including AIDS Action Committee, to improve the access to and quality of HIV testing in the Commonwealth. This work is especially appropriate given that December 1st was World AIDS day. Did you know that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimated that over 20% of people living with HIV aren't aware of their status and that nearly 40% are diagnosed late?

The committee is also actively working with the Massachusetts Public Health Association, the Massachusetts Health Council and Children's Hospital to improve access to healthy food choices in schools. Fruits and vegetables are especially important as we enter into the winter season. The flu spreads very easily, so always remember to wash your hands and cover your mouth with a tissue or your elbow when coughing or sneezing. If you are interested in receiving an H1N1 vaccination, the Boston Public Health Commission will be hosting free clinics at Hyde Park High School on Saturday, December 5th and the William Ohrenberger School in West Roxbury on Sunday, December 6th. Both clinics will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be targeting high-risk Boston residents between the ages of 3 and 64. More information can be found at www.bphc.com/org. Have a happy, healthy and safe holiday and a great new year!

COMMUNITY EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

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 Jamaicaaway.

Summer Hill Association: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m., various locations. Info: secretary@summerhillassociation.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: JazzWise@theprogramatexcite.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, singing 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.sundaynightaliveljp.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.

The Borromeo String Quartet: Come to the Forsyth Chapel to experience their passionate playing. Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended. Call 617-524-3354 for more information.

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 617-644-5550, email info@queertangoboston.org, or go to www.queertangoboston.com.

Botanica: Scenography by Marty Klein: Hunnewell Building, Arnold Arboretum, 125 The Arborway. Exhibit open until December 15.

Boston Connects' "Dream" Art Contest: Enter your art for the chance to win \$2500 at www.bostonez.org. Contest deadline December 20, 2009.

Mission Hill:

2nd Annual Mission Main Concerned Residents Committee Pre-Holiday Health Fair and Dinner: Come get FREE health screenings, learn about community resources, and receive free give-a-ways and raffles at Mission Main on Friday December 18 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the Mission Main Community Room, 43 Smith Street. Contact Gloria for more information at 857-544-9072.

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 Church of Public Health. For more info call 617-733-8321 or email rjohnson@camhonline.org.

Gardner After Hours: Cutting-edge art, music, performance, 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 Groups: 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:

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.

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.rmv.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

Holiday Craft Night – Come make a fun holiday decoration, card or gift!! For all ages.
Monday, December 14, 6:30PM

Winter Wonderland Holiday Party: Enjoy lively Latin music by Jose Alicea & Friends! Special Holiday treats and surprises, too. Feel free to bring a dessert to share! For all ages.
Monday, December 21, 6:30PM

Homework Assistant Programs: Mondays, 4:00 – 6:00PM

High School Mentors for grade k-8: Monday-Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:30PM; Saturdays, 11:00 – 1:00PM

Children's Films: Short, fun films for preschool children. Groups welcome! Wednesdays, 10:30AM

Practice Speaking English: Join this conversation group and improve your English skills. Mondays, December 7, 14 and 21st, 6:30PM

The next Friends of the Connolly Branch Library meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 6:30PM

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.

U.S. Department of State 2010 Summer Clerical Program: To qualify for a Summer Clerical position, you must be: a U.S. citizen, age 16 or older at time of appointment; be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a degree (diploma, certificate, etc.) seeking student; taking at least half-time academic/vocational/or technical course load in an accredited high school, technical or vocational school, 2-year or 4 year college or university, graduate or professional school; and able to complete a background investigation to determine eligibility for a security clearance. Go to <http://careers.state.gov/students/programs.html#SCP> for more information and to start the online application process. Deadline to submit completed applications is January 4, 2010.

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 mlbresumes@massmed.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@hypesquare.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@hypesquare.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@hypesquare.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), Certified Nursing Assistant(4816), Certified Nursing Assistant (4963), Nursing Assistant(4737), Nursing Assistant(4012), Nursing Coordinator(4919), Clinical Leader(5039), Hospitality/Intensivist(5066), Hospitality/Intensivist(4487), Other Nursing Positions(3254), Other Patient Care Support(3764), Registered Nurse(4889), 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(4958), Registered Nurse-Lahey 5(4736), Registered Nurse-PACU(4965), **Contact: Alyson Morgan, Nursing Coordinator, amorgan1@caregroup.harvard.edu.**

Applications Analyst III, Catering Coordinator, Central Sterile Supply Technician(5062), Central Sterile Supply Technician (5046), Central Sterile Surgical Materials Coordinator(5047), Central Support Operator(5059), Certified Nursing Assistant(4816), Correspondence Clerk(5077), Clinical Researcher Coordinator Manager, CT/MRI Technologist(4940), Front Desk Coordinator(5078), Diet Aide, Hematology Supervisor, Housekeeping Aide(5030), Nurse Practitioner(5083), Occupational Therapist(5010), OR Scheduler(5028), Other Service Support(4237), Patient Access Representative, Patient Accounts Representative(4999), Physical Therapist-Inpatient(4987), Patient Service Representative, Pharmacist, Phlebotomist, Pre-Certification Specialist, Physician Assistant(5054), Project Worker(5051), Security Officer, Senior Financial Analyst(4775), Social Worker, Supervisor(4959), Transporter, Unit Secretary(5071), Scheduler, Other Support Services **Contact: Susan Motha, smotha@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 rurlingame@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.

Snow Removal at St. Margaret's Convent: Includes hand shoveling and the use of a snow blower, and requires availability during daylight hours immediately after snowstorms. Further information will be given during interview process. Interested candidates should make arrangements with the administrator, Bob Witmer, for an appointment. Appointments will be arranged only after Tuesday, December 8th. Contact Information: bwitmer@ssmbos.org or call 617-445-8961, ext. 122

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 cmarmody@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.

MBTA Job Lottery: From October 25 through December 19, the MBTA is having a job lottery. Either apply online at www.mbtajoblottery.com by completing the coupon, or you may mail a copy of the coupon to MBTA Job Lottery, P.O. Box 187289, Harlem, CT 06518. All entries must be submitted or postmarked by December 19, 2009. Multiple submissions will not hinder one's chances and coupons mailed to the MBTA offices will not be included.

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

MassArt Saturday Studios: Offers elementary through high school students an affordable opportunity to engage in the arts from October 17 through December 12. Scholarships are available and no prior art experience is required. An application may be found online at <http://www.massart.edu/x1805.xml>, or contact 617-879-7170, or email k12@MassArt.edu for more information.

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