

15TH SUFFOLK/
NORFOLK DISTRICT

State Representative

Jeffrey Sánchez

FALL/WINTER | 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

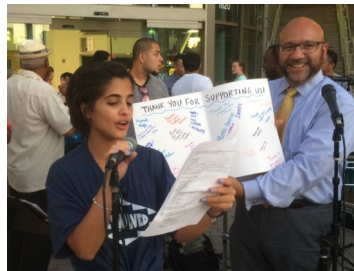
Hispanic Heritage Month	2
Holiday Events	2
Latino Elected Officials	2
Health Care Financing	3
Solar Power & Public Records	3
Development Updates	4
Civic Engage- ment	4

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Happy Holidays! As we enter the New Year and experience our first snow storms of the season, I hope you are staying warm and enjoying time with friends and family. This Fall was busy as I chaired two hearings for the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, visited five hospitals around the state, and helped collect over 700 toys for the youth in the Bromley-Heath housing development.

In this newsletter, you will find highlights of the work my office has been doing, including events I held in the State House to celebrate Latinos in Massachusetts, events in the district to celebrate the holidays, and an overview of the legislative

accomplishments we've made this Fall. We have been busy having conversations around the issues that matter most to the citizens of Massachusetts. Hearing personal stories from constituents continues to guide me. The House has a full agenda in 2016 and I look forward to tackling these issues that will benefit the people of the 15th Suffolk/Norfolk District, as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Yours in Service,



State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

Legislative Updates

As the leaves turned color we in the House of Representatives were busy considering legislation to combat the opioid epidemic and reform public records laws.

Opioid Abuse Legislation

In my post as Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, I have visited over 20 hospitals and community health centers across Massachusetts to listen and learn about the unique issues that affect them. One of the most common issues I heard is the need to address the opioid epidemic. My visit to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Plymouth highlighted the need for collaboration between the hospital and city. It

stressed the changing mentality that we need to treat addiction as a mental and behavioral health illness rather than a criminal offense.

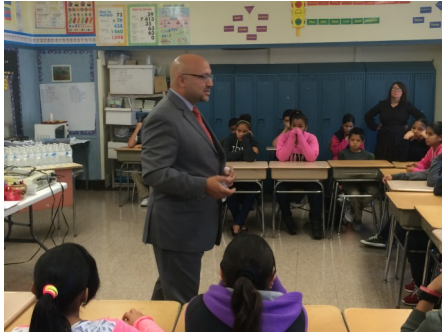
Drug abuse, overdoses, and trafficking are issues that cuts across racial socioeconomic lines. We see it affect our communities in Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roslindale, and Brookline, and I remain dedicated to working in the Legislature to combat this crisis.

We have taken action on the issue in the House, passing a bill into law that makes the trafficking of fentanyl a crime. Further, there is a comprehensive opioid

(Continued on page 3)

District Events

Hispanic Heritage Month



In September and October, I visited the Curley School and Madison Park High School to talk about the meaning of Hispanic Heritage Month and how students of color can get involved and make a difference in their community. I also visited La Alianza Hispana in Mission Hill to explain how the bond of culture ties together people of all ages.

We capped off the celebration with a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration in the State House, where I read a resolution to the House of Representatives honoring Hispanic Heritage Month in Massachusetts.

Arborway Improvements



After almost 10 years of pressuring the state to fix the parkways that run along the Emerald Necklace, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) held three public meetings in October to present improvements to Perkins St. at Parkman Drive, Centre St., and the Arborway. Thank you to the 200+ community members who joined to voice their opinions to DCR. It is encouraging to see this level of civic engagement and I applaud DCR for moving forward on these much-needed safety improvements.

Thanksgiving



With the help of my staff and MANY community members I helped host Thanksgiving dinners in the Mission Main and Bromley-Heath housing developments. It was a wonderful celebration as community members broke bread and had Thanksgiving dinner with friends old and new. Both dinners are important and show the strength of our community. Thank you to everyone who helped make these events possible.

Bromley-Heath Christmas Celebration

I joined the Bromley-Heath Tenant Board to host a Christmas celebration in the Bromley-Heath public housing project. It was a fun night filled with music, raffles, and over 500 toys donated by the Jamaica Plain community. It was a great event that brought together people from across the neighborhood. As a result, over 150 children walked out of the celebration with a toy, when they might not have otherwise received a Christmas present this year.



Latino Elected Official Luncheon

I invited nearly fifty elected Latino officials to the State House to celebrate recent electoral gains in Massachusetts and to build a support network for future success. Twenty years ago, there were just seven Latino elected officials in the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. After the November elections, there are now almost 50. It was a great opportunity to meet and network with the various officials and to share experiences so we can continue to advocate not just for Latinos, but for *all* of our communities.

Health Care Financing Committee Highlights

Update on Sponsored Bills

I filed several bills in the Legislature this session, including a bill to protect children from the harmful effects of lead, a bill that seeks to reduce health care disparities in the Commonwealth, and a bill that would allow certified medical assistants to administer immunizations to patients

under the direct supervision of a licensed primary care provider. I am happy to report all of those bills were voted favorably and moved forward in the legislative process.



"I visited over 20 hospitals and community health centers in 2015"

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

I have been actively following MassHealth's plans to integrate mental health and substance abuse care with physical health services. In November, I participated on a panel hosted by the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum. I discussed drug-related incarceration, which disproportionately affects minority populations, and increasing substance abuse treatment for drug offenders.

MCO Working Group

In the summer newsletter, I shared that the Speaker of the House, Representative

DeLeo, named me the Chairman of a working group to study MassHealth Managed Care Organizations. The Working Group examined the cost drivers and potential savings of managed care including a closer look at pharmaceutical costs and case management. The report was released in October and made several recommendations including continued transparency, data sharing and reporting and the need for strategies to address high drug costs. This work was merely the start of more in-depth dialogue about MassHealth reform. I look forward to being a part of those conversations.



Legislative Updates

(Continued from page 1)

abuse bill in my committee that will be a priority in January 2016.

Solar Power

It is important that we encourage a resilient and sustainable energy sector in Massachusetts. This is why I voted for a bill that continued to incentivize solar power ("Net Metering"), allowing net metering projects currently in the development pipeline to progress. It is important that we continue to support solar power in Massachusetts.

I would like to thank the many constituents who contacted me about this issue. The House expects a comprehensive energy

bill to be considered in 2016. I am hopeful that this package will continue to incentivize investment in sustainable energy like solar power. *Please continue to share your thoughts and stories* as energy remains at the forefront of the Commonwealth's agenda.

Public Records Reform

I am proud to have voted for a bill updating the public records law to increase transparency and improve access to public documents. This legislation requires municipalities and agencies to create a predictable timeline for responses, for records to be provided electronically, and that agencies post commonly

requested public records online.

Affordable Housing

I testified in favor of two bills that seek to increase affordable housing in Massachusetts: H1111, An Act relative to housing production, and H2815, An Act providing for disposition of surplus state real property based on smart growth land principles. They would lower the cost of land for affordable housing developments, which has been identified as a main driver of the costly housing market.

Development Updates

Emmanuel College: Plans to replace Julie Hall dorm to build approximately 691 beds, a net increase of 471 beds, helping bring students back on campus to open up housing for families on Mission Hill.

Goddard House: Community members have indicated a desire for more affordable units to be included in the project. Currently, 13% of the 167 rental apartments are affordable. Similar developments along South Huntington have higher proportions of affordable units.

105A S. Huntington: Many have asked why I supported approval of off-site affordable units for this project. The reason is because a higher net total of affordable units will be created, up from 32 to 42. Funding for affordable housing is the hardest it's ever been, so these linkage funds from 105A will be crucial in supporting affordable developments. At the end of the day, I support creating more affordable housing in order to keep working families in Jamaica Plain and Mission Hill.

Jackson Commons Ribbon Cutting: 37 affordable rental apartments came to the Jackson Square area in September. 8 units are dedicated for homeless households, who will benefit from an on-site resource coordinator. This is the latest installment of the Jackson Square Redevelopment team, which has been instrumental in revitalizing the neighborhood after the land has been vacant and underutilized for decades.

María Sánchez House Naming Ceremony

In December I had the pleasure and honor of joining my mother the Roxbury Crossing Senior Building was named after her. I continue to be inspired by my mom's work as a community organizer, which influences me in every aspect of my public service.



Civic Engagement 2015: Year in Review

In case you haven't noticed, my team has overhauled my website and social media. We've started live-tweeting events and responding to constituent issues. I encourage you to check them out and provide feedback with what you want to see! How can I improve the website? What do you want to hear from me on Facebook and Twitter? Looking forward to hearing from you!

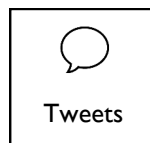


Most common words on Twitter

Office of State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

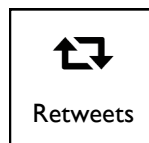
Massachusetts State House Room 236

Boston, MA 02133



Tweets

425



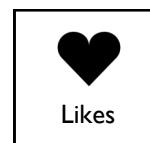
Retweets

361



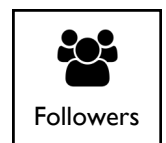
Impressions

196,378



Likes

525



Followers

2,720



@Jeffrey_Sanchez



/RepJeffreySanchez



Jeffrey.Sanchez@mahouse.gov



617-722-2430



www.jeffreysanchez.org

