

15TH SUFFOLK/NORFOLK
DISTRICT
SUMMER | 2015

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State Representative

Jeffrey Sánchez

SUMMER | 2015

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Friends and Neighbors of the 15th Suffolk District,

I hope this letter finds you well. The summer flew by here on Beacon Hill. June and July were a whirlwind of activity in the State House as we finalized the FY16 budget to fund the commonwealth and important programs in the district.

While August was quiet in the building, things were heating up with our annual Back to School Jam in the district.

Now that September is here, things are ramping up again, including public hearings for the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Public safety, housing, health care, and education remain my top priorities on Beacon Hill, while the concerns of my constituents remain number one

overall. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and continue to contact me if I can ever be of any assistance.



Yours in Service,



Rep. Jeffrey Sánchez

Development Updates

Avenue of the Arts Design Guidelines Study: The BRA wrapped up its 4-meeting project to create design guidelines along Huntington Ave. The plan is to be submitted to the BRA board in October.

Goddard House: The Goddard House Impact Advisory Group met to discuss the project at 201 -205 S. Huntington Ave. The project will include 167 apartments in total, 110 of which are in Goddard and 57 in a new building. 22 are affordable (13%). Plans include: 86 studios, 59 1-beds, 20 2-beds, & 2 3-beds.

105A S. Huntington: BRA approved substituting 42 off-site affordable rental housing for the previously approved 32 on-site affordable units.

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Fiscal Year 16 Budget Highlights

The legislature passed a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016) which increased funding for local aid, education, human services, and affordable housing. As part of the budget process, I sponsored several amendments which addressed issues of housing, educa-

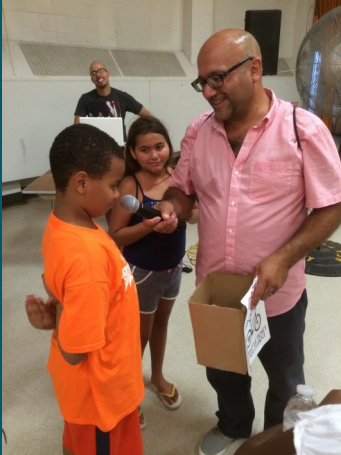
tion, healthcare, and workforce development:

While Governor Baker vetoed \$162 million from the \$38.1 billion spending plan, we voted with our colleagues in the Senate on 87 overrides to add \$97 million back into the budget.

I penned a letter to Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo urging that override the Governor's veto to Kindergarten Expansion Grants. We reinstated the full \$17.6 million to expand educational programs for our public school children.

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District Events



We have been active in the District during the summer months. You found us playing softball in Mission Main, grilling in Bromley-Heath, and visiting the various markets, parks, and local shops that make this diverse district great. It's been a busy summer!

Family Nights at Bromley-Heath

Every Tuesday starting in July we convened the Bromley-Heath Partners for a Family Night cookout. It consistently brought out over 200 residents each night and provided a platform to build a sense of community among residents. In addition to the traditional barbecue, the cookouts also featured representation from local social service providers to share information on the various resources available to residents at Bromley-Heath.

Sánchez/Zakim Softball

In conjunction with City Councilor Josh Zakim, we hosted a biweekly BBQ and softball game in Mission Main. Some kids had never run the bases before, so it was fun to teach

the next generation about fitness, community, and fun. Thanks to generous donations from Mission Main, New England Baptist Hospital, Wentworth Institute of Technology, The Mission Bar and Grill, and Tremont House of Pizza, we took part in batting practice that rivaled that of the Sox!

Back to School Jam

On August 18th, 19th, and 20th, my office organized the annual Back to School events at Bromley-Heath in Jamaica Plain, High Street Housing Development in Brookline, and Mission Main in Mission Hill, in conjunction with Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS). These events brought together hundreds of parents and children alike, to celebrate the start of a new school year.

We handed out school bags and supplies while feasting on burritos compliments of MCPHS, and raffled off backpacks and custom-fit

bikes for the kids. Health providers, spoke with neighbors about health issues like asthma and diabetes, and provided free health screenings. The kids had fun dancing, playing musical chairs, and showing off their new school supplies.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to everyone who made these great events possible. Our children are in good hands and prepared to succeed in the upcoming year. If you are interested in seeing photos from the event, check out the link at tinyurl.com/JSB2SJam or on Twitter with the hashtag #B2SJam.

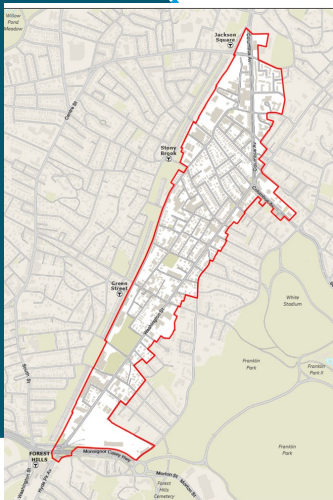


Back to School Jam

by the numbers:

- 102 blood pressures taken
- 750 bananas
- 250+ backpacks
- 3 bikes raffled
- Over 400 students

JP/Rox Study Area



Jamaica Plain/Roxbury

JEFFREY SÁNCHEZ

Development Updates

(continued from page 1)

General Heath Sq. Apartments: JP NDC and Back of the Hill CDC filed for 47 new affordable housing units 0.1 miles from Jackson Sq. T stop.

JP/Rox Washington St. Corridor Study: The BRA has commenced a study to create a new vision and plan

for the length of Washington Street between Forest Hills and Egleston Square. This will be a community-centric planning study, and I encourage everyone to participate. Visit <http://bit.ly/PlanJPRox> to submit comments and get involved.

Boston Children's Hospital Footbridge: The hospital plans to file papers with the

Boston Redevelopment Authority seeking permission to build a pedestrian bridge from the visitor parking garage across Longwood right into the hospital.

Northeastern Housing: Northeastern announced that it has selected a developer to build 600 undergraduate beds by 2018.

Legislative Accomplishments

MBTA Reforms

After the MBTA shut down and crippled the city this past winter, we in the House acted swiftly to address these problems and prepare for the future. If you've had to take a shuttle, it's because the MBTA was installing new third rails and switch heaters to allow for better reliability during the winter. While these are steps in the right direction, I will continue to fight to improve the MBTA.

Sales Tax Holiday

We voted to approve the sales tax holiday again this year for August 15-16. It was a perfect opportunity to visit Centre Street or Brigham Circle and support the local economy. Empowering local businesses is a priority I will continue to support.

Earned Income Tax Credit

I am proud to have supported an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit from \$951 to \$1,459, meaning as much as \$500 extra for eligible families. This

incentive will help over 400,000 low income individuals and working families.

Committee Highlights

Things are off to a great start in my new post as Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. The Committee had four hearings covering topics such as long term care, mental health, substance abuse, and MassHealth. The Committee has three hearings in the fall, which will cover topics such as insurance access and cost, and a single payer system in the Commonwealth. If you have any questions about the work of the Committee or a specific bill, please call 617-722-2430.

MCO Working Group

The Speaker of the House, Robert DeLeo, named me the Chair of a working group to study MassHealth Managed Care Organizations. Managed care organizations, similar to HMO plans, provide healthcare services for a predetermined monthly fee. The number of MassHealth members enrolled in a man-

aged care organization has increased over the past few years. The goal of the working group is to examine the cost drivers and potential savings of managed care and make policy recommendations to the House.

Sponsored Bills

I filed several bills 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 regulate the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors as well as prohibit smoking electronic cigarettes in public places. I also filed legislation that would dramatically improve education for English Language Learners in public schools. This bill, as well the lead bill, have been covered favorably by the *Boston Globe* editorial board.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts, questions, and opinions on bills and other important issues.

Fiscal Year 16 Budget Highlights

(continued from page 1)

Overrides included:

- \$5.25 million to help UMass stay affordable
- \$2.37 million in funding to the Massachusetts Cultural Council to increase investments in grant programs and to launch new arts initiatives
- Reinstated funding to create the position of a State Climatologist, which will help state and local communities to create informed policies, investments, and programs to address one of the most pressing issues of our time

Other budgetary items of note:

- Funding for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) increased dramatically. This program provides critical rental assistance for low-income families and elderly persons. Due to the dramatic increase in rents in our district, these funds are more important now than they were a year ago
- Grants for after-school and out-of-school programs increased by 34.7%, or \$595,000. This vital support will enable more families to benefit from the proven advantages of after-school and

out-of-school programs. These programs will take place in both public and non-public schools and non-profit community based organizations

- The emergency housing assistance program's budget increase will provide more families in poverty with emergency housing. The 10.5%, or \$14,759,230 increase will for example enable families to escape domestic violence with safe housing

Thank you to all who reached out to me to share your opinions. I look forward to continuing to serve your interests.

"Due to the dramatic increase in rents in our district, Rental Vouchers are more important now than they were a year ago"



The Office of Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

Join the Conversation!

Visit my website: www.jeffreysanchez.org

Follow me on Twitter: [@Jeffrey_Sanchez](https://twitter.com/Jeffrey_Sanchez)

In the News

Check out these articles in the *Globe* highlighting my legislation on limiting lead exposure to children:

tinyurl.com/JSLeadBill

And on improving language learning opportunities:

tinyurl.com/p28pywc

Hope you didn't miss my participation in JP Porchfest:

tinyurl.com/JSporchFest

Thank you again to all those who helped organize Porchfest to help make it possible.

I published an article in the *Harvard Public Health Review* describing the importance of community health:

tinyurl.com/JSPubHealthReview

I also published a blog post on the *Health Affairs* blog about

MassHealth and health reform: tinyurl.com/obckc2o

Changes in Staff

Please welcome the two newest members of my office, Collin Fedor and Joshua McFadden!

Joshua McFadden was born in Baltimore, Maryland and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and his Master's Degree from Seattle University in Washington State. McFadden has served as an AmeriCorps Member, and most recently The Union of Minority Neighborhoods as a Community Organizer specifically serving the people of the Bromley Heath Housing Development located in neighborhood of Jamaica Plain.

Collin Fedor joins the Office after graduating from Boston College in May with a Bachelor's in Political Science and Environmental Studies. He will draw upon experience from the Environmental Protection Agency, State House, and numerous campaigns in his service to the 15th District. Fedor will be the point person for all things Mission Hill and Brookline, including development, planning, and expansion issues.



Joshua McFadden (Left) and Collin Fedor (Right)