

Community Update *from* State Representative **Jeffrey Sánchez**



15th Suffolk/Norfolk District • Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roslindale, Roxbury, Brookline

THE ROAD AHEAD

In many respects, the last two years have presented us with challenges not seen since the Great Depression on both social issues as well as our local and national economy. I have learned so much about our district and where we stand on so many fronts. Our community is truly unique. From the parasitic scourge of the Woolly Adelgid along the Jamaicaway and the Arboretum to the overarching impact crime has from one sector of our community to the next, the issues we confront are extremely diverse and divergent. While some positive gains have been made, there is still much work to be done. As we enter the next phase of budget deliberations, I will continue to prioritize those issues that matter the most to our communities.

The last few years have been difficult, but community partnerships and hard work in the State House have put us on the right path. Over the next two years, we will continue working to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents by vigorously addressing the needs and concerns that are important to us all. Despite these challenging fiscal times, our communities have remained as strong and active as ever.

Public safety, access to health care, early childhood and after-school programs, and workforce development are fundamental to driving our economy and improving the quality of life for all. We must continue to commit ourselves to such initiatives that encompass high standards with progressive outcomes that engage all sectors of our community. The confidence that comes with being able to purchase a new home and/or hold a good job is immeasurable.

As development continues throughout the district, it is important that we maintain the character, integrity, and culture of our unique community. I will continue to work toward a goal of community-involvement in which developers, both public and private, engage the residents of our neighborhoods and welcome their input.

In our district, we have a number of positive success stories that serve as models for the future. This past summer, a partnership with the MBTA, the Hyde Square Task Force and local community members led to dramatic improvements of the Jackson Square Station. In Mission Hill, what are now vacant lots on Cherokee, Alleghany and Pontiac streets will soon be filled with new homes, which will continue to revitalize the neighborhood and provide home ownership opportunities. And in Roslindale, together with residents and Senator Marian Walsh, we are working to address continued traffic concerns along Centre Street.

Businesses continue to thrive and expand, creating more jobs and further boosting the economic prosperity of our community while at the same time building on the unique character of our business districts. Despite the challenges behind us, and those we now face, we have come far, accomplished much, and made a real difference in our neighborhoods. I am proud to have joined you in these efforts, and I will continue to do so as your State Representative, your neighbor, and your friend.



Please join me in welcoming our new Speaker of the House, Salvatore DiMasi (right), as we work to address the concerns of all Massachusetts residents.

LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

During the upcoming legislative session, I will continue to fight for those issues close to my heart: affordable housing, health care, child and elder services, and education. To that end, I have introduced and co-sponsored legislation that will help to address these basic necessities, and I will work hard and fight every day to see that they are made available to those in need.

Massachusetts, our district in particular, has some of the highest Asthma rates in the nation, especially among children and low-income communities. To address this important issue, I have introduced legislation designed to ensure that children and adults with asthma get the necessary education and disease management tools they need. I have also filed a bill to lift certain MassHealth enrollment caps which currently block otherwise eligible recipients from a variety of key health services.

Housing has always been among my top priorities, and to that end, I have introduced along with Mayor Thomas M. Menino a number of bills to address this important issue. I have filed legislation to support and promote the expansion of affordable housing opportunities by encouraging development in our neighborhoods. By creating economic incentives for housing development, freeing up surplus land, and creating community partnerships, I strongly believe we can make a resounding positive impact on the lives of those seeking a home of their own.

Throughout the past few years I increasingly hear concerns expressed by many of our residents regarding the growth and impact our neighboring colleges and universities have on our community. I recognize and am grateful for the overall benefits (both social and economic) of having these great and prestigious institutions in our community and also recognize the positive contributions that students make on a daily basis. My concerns lie in the reality of the dramatic and precipitous increase in the number of students who have moved into our community. We are seeing soaring rental costs above the city's averages, substandard maintenance and overcrowding of units, and serious public safety concerns regarding underage and binge drinking.

While I commend efforts by our public safety officials and government relations representatives at the institutions, I have decided to take further action. I have filed legislation which seeks to address university

and college enrollment policies as well as recover costs associated with municipal response in addressing irresponsible and unruly student behavior. This legislation is a starting point for action-based discussion with our neighbors (residents and institutions) and I am looking forward to finding solutions.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2005-2006

It has been my pleasure to have met and worked with so many of you, and I hope you will always find my door open. For your efforts, dedication, hard work and continued support, you have my sincerest thanks.

The next term promises to be a challenging one. More than five thousand bills were filed for the upcoming session, and while it is impossible to review each and every one, I am always pleased to hear from my constituents regarding a particular piece of legislation. I strongly encourage you to write, e-mail, or call my office to share your thoughts and concerns as we enter the upcoming legislative session. My mind and my door are always open. Consider yourselves invited.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent our community. I sincerely enjoy working for the benefit of our district and look forward to continue working for you.

Best wishes for the upcoming year,

Jeffrey Sánchez

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BOSTON

Police (non-emergency)	(617) 343-4200
City Hall	(617) 635-4000
Mayor's 24-hour Hotline	(617) 635-4500
Boston Public Schools	(617) 635-9000
Public Works Department	(617) 635-4900

BROOKLINE

Police (non-emergency)	(617) 730-2222
Town Hall	(617) 730-2000
Town Administrator	(617) 730-2210
Brookline Schools	(617) 730-2401
Public Works Department	(617) 730-2156

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