

**What's Happening This Week...**

- [Understanding Resolutions](#)
- [Councilor Yoon Launches Citywide Budget Talks](#)
- ["Nicole's Law" Require Resident Carbon Monoxide Detectors by March 31st](#)
- [NEWS YOU CAN USE: Free Tax Preparation For Bostonians](#)
- [NEWS YOU CAN USE: Housing Information](#)
- [Help Make Our Newsletter Better](#)

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**The City of Boston's Budget:**

Where Our Money Comes From and How It is Spent  
Epiphany School  
154 Centre Street, Dorchester  
March 16, 2006  
6:30PM  
Hosted by Melville Park Neighborhood Association  
Facilitated by Councilor Sam Yoon

**Union of Minority Neighborhoods Presents:**

Making Special Events Profitable  
Family Services of Greater Boston  
31 Heath Street  
Wednesday, March 15  
6:00PM - 7:30PM  
(2 blocks from Jackson Sq. T Stop/Orange Line)  
For info call 617.541.4111 or email: umnunity@att.net

Boston Center for Community and Justice  
Leadership Roundtable

Self Respect 101

**Weekly Update From Sam Yoon**

From the Office of City Councilor At-Large Sam Yoon

Week Ending March 11th, 2006



Dear Reader,

The purpose of this e-mail update is to keep you informed of legislative issues at the City Council, current events, and community news.

This issue features part two of my four-part series "Inside City Council". Hopefully you are learning more about the City Council and how your elected officials can work to assist you. I certainly am!

I am also excited to announce my city-wide, interactive budget talks beginning this month. Interested in where your tax dollars are being spent? These sessions will provide a forum to learn about as well as discuss Boston's 2007 budget. My fellow at-large colleagues and I are hoping this series will be educational, stimulate important dialogue and that you find them to be a useful public service. Hope to see you in your neighborhood. Enjoy!

Sam Yoon

**Understanding Resolutions  
Inside City Council: Part 2 of 4**

This is the second of a four part series reviewing several legislative functions of a City Councilor.

What is a resolution?

Resolutions are statements that are made by the City Council that usually do one of two things:

1. They urge someone (often another governmental body) to take action
2. They offer words of praise or condemnation

As such, resolutions do not become laws. Thus, resolutions are often used by legislative bodies to make statements about matters that they have no authority to act upon directly.

BCCJ Office:  
38 Chauncy Street, Suite 812  
Boston, MA  
March 16, 2006  
5:30PM - 7:00PM  
RSVPL Payal Sharma  
PSharma@BostonCCJ.org  
Phone: 617-451-5010, ext. 20

[More Information Click Here!](#)

#### Grow Your Business Workshop

Vietnamese American Community Center  
42 Charles Street, Fields Corner  
Dorchester, MA  
March 15, 2006  
6:00PM - 8:00PM  
Workshops are Free!  
To register or for more info call  
617.482.1145 (English),  
617.988.0610 (Espanol),  
617.822.3717 ext 13 (Tieng Viet)

#### Environmental Justice in the Hood 2006

USES Harriet Tubman House  
566 Columbus Avenue  
South End, MA  
March 25, 2006  
9:00AM - 4:00PM  
Free Event!  
Childcare, translation and food will be provided

[More Information Click Here!](#)

#### Elected Officials of Color Task Force for Community Safety

Town Meeting-Part Three  
Roxbury Community College  
Student Building 2nd Floor  
Roxbury, MA  
Saturday, March 25, 2006  
3:00PM

How are resolutions written?

Resolutions, like most legislative acts, begin with a series of "whereas" statements that precede the main statement, which begins with the words "Therefore, Be it resolved:"

These "whereas" statements describe the background and the reasoning for the resolution.

For example, recently the City Council unanimously passed a resolution urging reform of current immigration law, which is a federal matter. Here is an excerpt:

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council believes that criminalizing U.S. citizens, those who work with and for immigrants, and immigrants themselves is not a viable long-term solution to concerns over immigration and will continue separating families while preventing civic participation by all community members; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has played a leading role in the protection of immigrant rights and has consistently promoted tolerance and respect for all residents, including immigrants, U.S. Citizens and their families; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council hereby expresses its strong support for comprehensive immigration reform that combines a path to permanent status for immigrants here and wider legal channels for those coming in the future with humane and effective enforcement in our borders.

Filed In City Council: March 8, 2006

NEXT TIME: What is an "ordinance"?

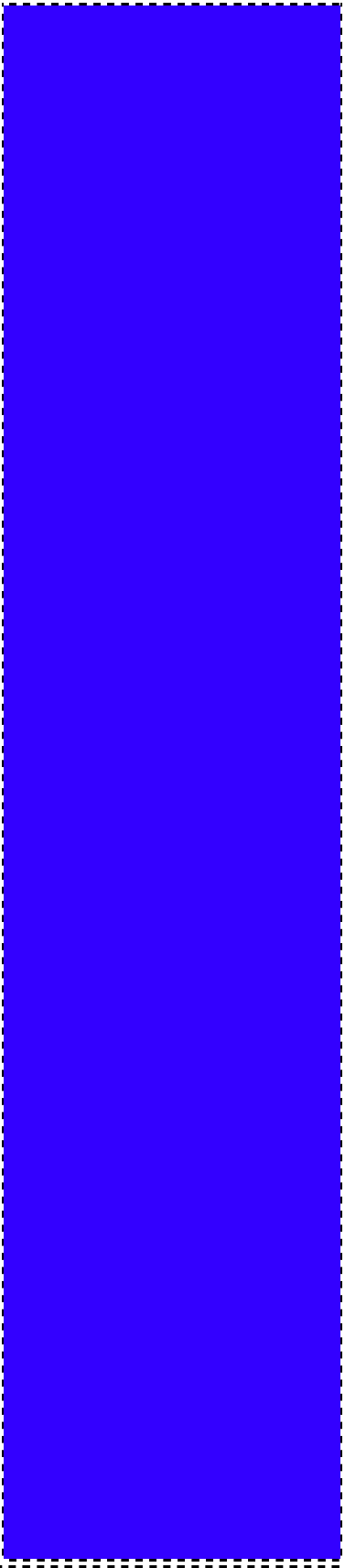
[For More Info. Regarding Boston City Council Click Here](#)



Councilor Yoon Launches Citywide Budget Talks  
Wants Taxpayers to be Involved

Beginning this week, Councilor Yoon will launch his citywide budget talks in an effort to educate local taxpayers and stimulate discussion about the dollars spent in the forthcoming city of Boston budget.

The series, entitled, The City of Boston's Budget: Where Our Money Comes From and How It Is Spent, was



developed by Councilor Yoon and is sponsored by Councilor Felix Arroyo, Councilor Stephen Murphy and President Michael Flaherty. Councilor Yoon will facilitate the discussions.

The dates and locations of these discussions are listed below. For more information, please contact Frank Woodruff in our office @ 617.635.4217 or via e-mail: Frank.Woodruff@cityofboston.gov

March 16 @ 6:30 Host: Melville Park Neighborhood Association  
Epiphany School, 154 Centre St., Dorchester

March 28 @ 7pm Host: Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council  
Curtis Hall, 20 South St., Jamaica Plain

March 30 @ 6pm Host: Project R.I.G.H.T.  
New Boston Pilot Middle School, 270 Columbia Rd., Dorchester

April 3 @ 6:30pm Host: Cityside Neighborhood Association  
Boys & Girls Club, South Boston, Corner of W. 6th and F St.

April 13 @ 6:30pm Host: East Boston United  
East Boston Social Center, 68 Central Square, East Boston

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#### "Nicole's Law" Require Resident Carbon Monoxide Detectors by March 31st

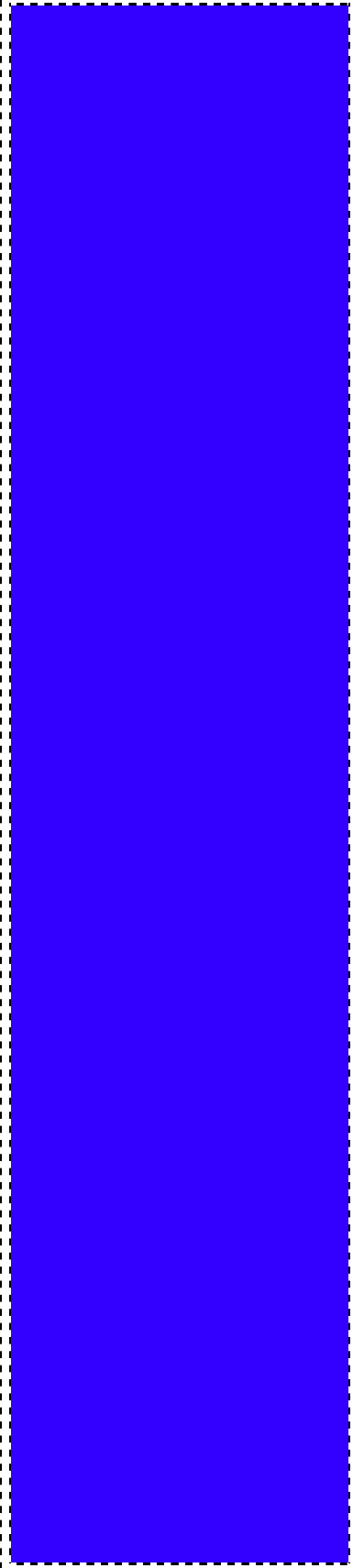
On November 4th, 2005, Governor Mitt Romney signed a bill requiring carbon monoxide detectors in most homes by March 31st. Supported overwhelmingly by state and local elected and fire officials, the legislation is called "Nicole's Law" in memory of Nicole Garofalo, a seven-year old Plymouth girl who died from lethal gas fumes due to a blockage of an exhaust vent in her family's home.

According to the Boston Globe, there were close to 3,000 carbon monoxide cases reported in Massachusetts during 2003. The federal Centers for Disease Control Prevention reports that nationally, about 480 people die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning each year. The colorless, odorless gas provides little warning without a detector (a device costing about \$30)

Nicole's Law, similar to the smoke detector requirement, will be enforced by local fire departments during home inspections prior to the sale or transfer of the property.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE: Free Tax Preparation For Bostonians



The Boston EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) Campaign has commenced its 5th season. Free tax preparation is available at 22 neighborhood sites across the city of Boston. Mayor Menino sponsors the campaign with numerous partners, including ABCD, Codman Square Health Center and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Volunteers are certified by the EITC coalition and the IRS to provide quality free tax prep for low to moderate income households. Banking services, credit repair and benefits screening are also available at the sites.

Site information is available on the website at [www.bostontaxhelp.org](http://www.bostontaxhelp.org). Sites are both walk-in as well as by appointment. The campaign is committed to providing all Bostonians access to wealth building services. Flyers are available in seven language. Seven "ambassadors", or outreach workers, are available to do translation and tax preparation in the following languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole and Somali. If you have questions regarding eligibility, feel free to call the hotline at 617.918.5275. For questions about the campaign, call Mimi Turchinetz, Campaign Director, at 617.918.5259.

[Free Tax Preparation Information](#)

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE: Housing Information**  
[Homeowner and Homebuyer Programs](#)

As Chairperson of the City Council Housing Committee, Councilor Yoon would like to inform you of city and state programs available to homeowners and homebuyers.

Each week, different programs will be highlighted for your convenience. Please contact our office if you would like more information on any of the programs below. All books and brochures are offered free of charge.

1. Lead Safe Boston- Low or no interest loans are available to eliminate lead from your home. Also available are informational guides on the dangers of lead in drinking water. [www.ci.boston.ma.us/dnd/b\\_lead\\_safe\\_information.asp](http://www.ci.boston.ma.us/dnd/b_lead_safe_information.asp).
2. Guide to City Owned Property- Brochures available OR visit [www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/1\\_Real\\_Estate.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/1_Real_Estate.asp).
3. Senior Homeowner Services- Low-income seniors in the City may be eligible for loans, grants, and assistance for safety and structural improvements to their home. [www.cityofboston.gov](http://www.cityofboston.gov)  
Keyword: Boston HomeWorks.

4. Good Neighbors Handbook- A must-have for landlords AND tenants. The handbook outlines: security deposits, rental agreements, tenant rights, and much more. Visit on the web: [www.cityofboston.gov/rentalhousing](http://www.cityofboston.gov/rentalhousing).

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### Help Make Our Newsletter Better

This newsletter is intended as a resource for information for all of our city's communities. With Councilor Yoon, together we share the belief in a better Boston. In the future there will be an opportunity to subscribe to the Weekly Update From Sam Yoon. Watch for announcements!

If you would like to share information about an event or meeting in your community, please contact Harry Harding in our office via email or phone using the contact information below.

#### Follow up Links

- [City Of Boston](#)
- [Community Event Search](#)
- [Boston Housing Authority](#)
- [My Neighborhood/My District](#)

email: [harry.harding@cityofboston.gov](mailto:harry.harding@cityofboston.gov)  
phone: 617-635-4217  
web: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil>