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COMMUNITY MEETINGS & EVENTS

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The City of Boston's Budget:

Where Our Money Comes From and How It is Spent

Hosted by Episcopal Church

Corner of Stratford and Clement Ave.
West Roxbury, MA
Tuesday, May 9, 2006
7:00PM

Facilitated by Councilor Sam Yoon

Grant A.M.E. Church Hosts New England Annual Conference

Grant A.M.E. Church
1906 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02118
April 18 - 22, 2006

Questions?
Please Contact Rev. Phyllis Cooley-Chisholm
617.635.2978

From Roots to Wings

Weekly Update From Sam Yoon

From the Office of City Councilor At-Large
Sam Yoon

Week Ending April 15th, 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 the final installment of my four-part series "Inside City Council." It is my hope you have found the information useful and that you are developing a more thorough understanding of the City Council.

Many of you may wonder what an at-large City Councilor does on any given day. Included in this issue is the first ever "Day In The Life" segment. "A Day In The Life" will provide a glimpse into a typical day from my actual schedule. This piece is intended to be informational as well as give examples of how I work as your elected official. Enjoy!

Sam Yoon

**Orders For A Hearing
Inside City Council: Part 4 of 4**

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

What is an order for a hearing?

It is an order (i.e. a formal act...for example, ordinances and resolutions are formal acts) of the city council to hold a hearing on a defined topic.

Once filed with the City Clerk's Office, the request will be heard at the next Council meeting. The Councilor who wrote or "sponsored" the hearing order generally speaks out about its rationale and any background information. The Council President then decides which committee will hold the hearing.

For more information on the city council click on the link below.

Community Forum:
"Grandparents - Society's
Safety Net"

Carney Hospital - Cushing
Auditorium
Dorchester, MA
Saturday, April 22, 2006
4:00PM - 6:00PM

For more information:
Contact Dr. Cheryl R. Harding
617.287.2623

4th Annual "How to Buy a
House" Seminar

Sponsored by Boston Young
Professionals Association

Ivy Restaurant - Mezzanine
49 Temple Place
Dorchester, MA
Monday, April 24, 2006
5:30PM - 8:30PM

Registration and social,
5:30PM - 6:30PM
More Information Click Link
Below

[How to Buy a House
Seminar](#)

Youth Explorations 2006
Kick-off & Youth Fair

Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic
Center

1350 Tremont Street
Boston, MA
Monday, April 24, 2006
2:00PM - 5:00PM
For more information:
617.348.6546

Boston Shines 2006

Citywide Neighborhood
Cleanup With Your Colleagues

Friday, April 28, 2006 and
Saturday, April 29, 2006
8:30AM - 2:00PM

To volunteer or for more
information:
Contact the Mayor's Office of
Neighborhood Services
617.635.3485

[Boston City Council Website](#)



Councilor Yoon's First Order For A
Hearing
[Affordable Housing and "Inclusionary Zoning" Are
Key Issues](#)

On April 5, I filed my very first docket,
numbered 0490 -- an order for a hearing.

Its title was:

Order for a hearing to discuss potential reforms to the
City's affordable housing programs, including the
Inclusionary Zoning Program.

I am proud to have introduced my first matter to the city
council. Special thanks to Kathy Brown of the Boston
Tenants Coalition who helped me to draft this legislation.
My colleagues Felix Arroyo (At-Large) and Jerry
McDermott (Allston-Brighton) signed on as co- sponsors.

As most of you know, the lack of affordable housing is a
major problem for Boston, threatening our vitality and
our future. Unfortunately, during the past few decades
the federal and state government has been providing
fewer and fewer direct resources to cities and towns to
create and to preserve affordable housing. And the cost
of construction is incredibly expensive in Boston.

One of the most important tools that cities like Boston
are using to create some balance in its housing mix is
"Inclusionary Zoning." "Inclusionary" zoning got its name
because it was created to respond to local zoning laws
which many housing advocates felt were "exclusionary."
In other words, zoning in wealthy communities was often
seen as designed to keep out low-income housing, so
those communities could stay wealthy.

Boston's current inclusionary zoning law says that if a
developer needs city financing, is building on city land,
or needs zoning relief, then the developer must set aside
15% of its units for affordable housing. (This applies only
to projects of ten or more units.)

The question I intend to ask in my hearing is: how is
affordability being defined? That is, affordable to whom?
How many units have been created under this program?
Rental or homeownership? And what kinds of exemptions
have developers been seeking from this mandate?

Teen Empowerment
Partners Breakfast

Wed., May 3, 2006
10AM

For more information, click on
link below:

As I said to my colleagues at the April 5 meeting, I thought it was important that we as policymakers take stock of how this program has performed, and most importantly, who benefits?



Neighbors Attend Local Budget
Talk, Use New Technology
Councilor Flaherty and Councilor Arroyo In
Attendance

As part of a citywide neighborhood initiative, on Monday, April 3, at the South Boston Boys and Girl's Club, Councilor at-Large Sam Yoon gave a presentation on the City of Boston budget to over 300 local members of the Cityside Civic Association. Joining me were at-Large City Councilors, President Michael Flaherty and Felix Arroyo.

The City of Boston budget process, which will be underway in the coming weeks, has a significant impact on Boston's neighborhoods. I told my neighbors in South Boston that we were here to share with them this process and to ask for their input so that we could understand their priorities.

Boston City Council President Michael Flaherty's remarks centered on the need for the Council to continue discussions regarding school transportation costs which are in excess of \$70 million annually. Councilor Arroyo pointed out that the PILOT program (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) as it currently is structured, needs to be addressed because the burden of taxes had to be more equally and fairly shared among all of Boston's institutions.

The mock voting process was very interesting for the residents, especially with the use of new technology which was used to collect instant polling results. Residents were able to vote using hand held remote control devices which posted their anonymous responses on a screen.

At the end of the meeting, residents had a clearer perspective on the City's budget process. Christine Mullen, Vice President of the association, said, "It was to the point and I could ask questions. I definitely understand the budget process better."

Upcoming budget presentations are scheduled for West Roxbury, Charlestown, Allston-Brighton, Uphams Corner

and Chinatown. For more information on the budget presentations or if your community group is interested in sponsoring this presentation, please contact the Office of Boston City Councilor at-Large Sam Yoon at 617-635-4217.

Councilor Yoon's A Day In The Life

Monday, April 10th, 2006

The following is a schedule of a typical day...although no two days are ever alike...

6:30AM - 8:00AM

Prepare Naomi and Nathan for school, prepare for work, breakfast

8:00AM - 9:00AM

Take kids to school. I share this responsibility with my wife, Tina, who works four days a week at MIT. Drive to City Hall

9:00AM - 11:00AM

Staff meeting

11:00AM - 12:30PM

Return phone calls to colleagues and constituents

12:30PM - 1:00PM

Lunch

Review scheduling requests

1:00PM - 1:45PM

Meeting w/ representative of women's advocacy non-profit

2:00PM - 3:30PM

Education Committee Hearing, Council Chambers

Topic: School Superintendent Search Process

3:30PM - 4:30PM

Host Young Irish Leaders, Curley Room

Fifteen guests from Boston College Center for Irish Programs

Topic: My election, Boston politics, affordable housing

4:30PM - 5:30PM

Immigration Rally, Boston Common*

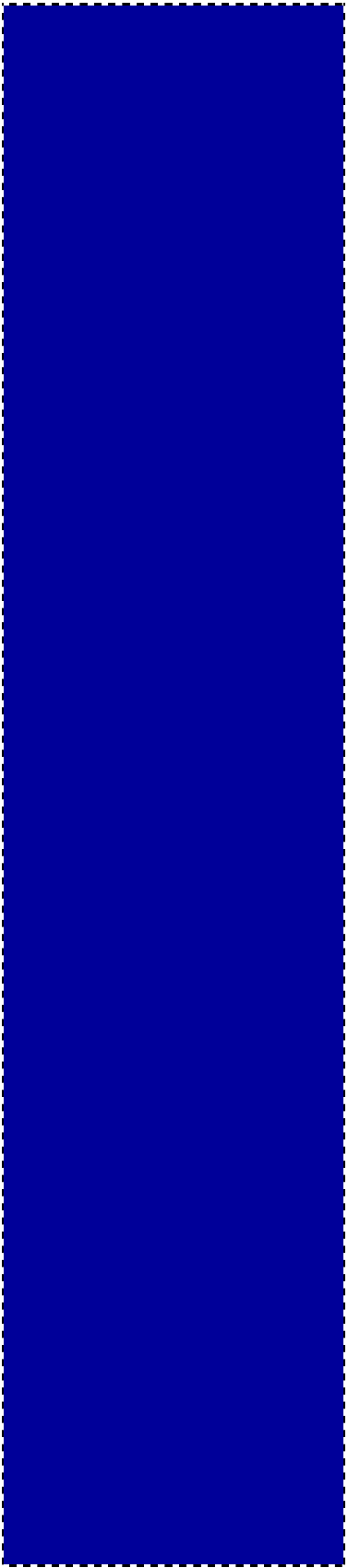
*According to Boston Globe, between 5-7,000 in attendance

I addressed the crowd in support of progressive immigration reform

5:30PM - 7:00PM

Beacon Hill Budget Talk

Hosted by Beacon Hill Business Association



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.

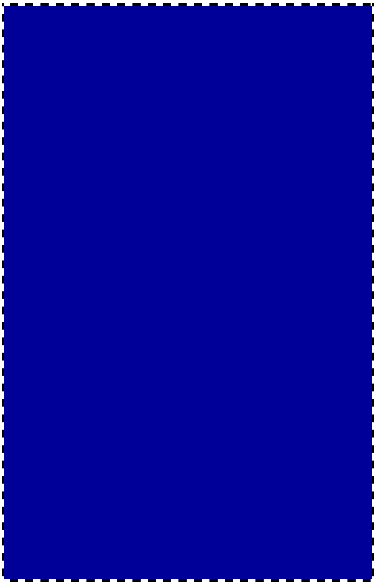
Each newsletter, different programs will be highlighted for your convenience. Please contact our office if you would like more information on any of the programs below. All books and brochures are offered free of charge.

1. Rental Property Survival Seminar- The third Saturday of every month. Hosted by Boston Inspectional Services. Open to the General Public. Call 617-635-5322 for registration and location.
2. Boston Home Certificate Initiative- Finish a certificate home buyer program and become eligible for between \$1,000 and %1.5 of your home purchase price.
3. Homebuying 101- Free ten-hour course teaches the ins and outs of the home-buying process. Call 617-635-4663 or visit: www.bostonhomecenter.com for time, location, and reservation.
4. SoftSecond Basics- Program that combines a conventional first mortgage with a subsidized second mortgage to help qualified low and moderate-income families purchase their first home.

NEWS YOU CAN USE: The Boston HOME Center

Are you looking to buy your first home? Are you an existing homeowner? Both potential and current homeowners can benefit from the Boston HOME Center, perhaps the city's most comprehensive resource for information.

Founded by Mayor Menino a decade ago, the Boston Home Center is both an educational tool as well as a link to financial assistance for qualified residents. First-time homebuyers have access to classes, seminars and can participate in affordable mortgage programs and property lotteries.



The HOME Center is located on the first floor of 26 Court Street, Downtown Boston.

617.635.HOME (4663)

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

phone: 617-635-4217

web: <http://www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil>