

Update From Sam Yoon

City Councilor At-Large
February 2, 2007

Dear Sam,

With a new Council president and some creative administrative restructuring in place, 2007 will be an exciting year for the Boston City Council.

I am enthusiastic about my appointment to Chair the Committee on Human Services and excited to continue my work as Chair of the Committee on Housing.

As we develop ideas for our city, I would like to highlight a resource that has been particularly influential in my thinking about housing and the future of the city. *The Geography of Opportunity*, by Xavier Souza Briggs, is a fascinating collection of papers that explores social and economic development and its link to housing policy. Albeit an academic perspective, it is a timely volume that I strongly recommend to those interested in urban vitality and growth.

You can learn more about *The Geography of Opportunity* in this issue. If you have questions regarding the book or about the Update From Sam Yoon newsletter, please contact my office.

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[The Geography of Opportunity](#)

What's Happening In Your Community?



Summer Job Registration Info

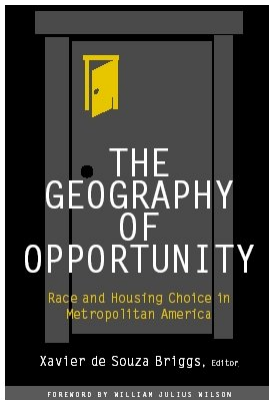
The Boston Youth Fund has announced 2007 summer job hotline dates.

To register call
617.635.HOPE (4673):
Feb. 20-22 10am-2pm
Feb. 27 4pm-8pm
or register online @
www.cityofboston.gov
Feb. 20-22

For more info call Boston
Youth Fund @
617.635.4202

Chinese New Year Spectacular

New Tang Dynasty
Television (NTDTV) will
host this wondrous event
that will feature music and
dance of China's
legendary golden age: the



The Geography of Opportunity is a recent work that was edited by Xavier De Souza Briggs, a professor of sociology at MIT who also happens to be a neighbor of mine in Fields Corner.

The central theme of his book is this: how well we do in life, whether as individuals or as communities, depends a great deal on where we live, and on who lives

next door to us. However, some of us have more choice about where to live than others.

Every day, thousands of individuals and families make these residential decisions under varying constraints, and the result is an urban/suburban America that is becoming increasingly segregated by race and class – and opportunity.

One of my favorite chapters is titled "Can We Live Together?" The author of this chapter, Camille Zubrinsky Charles, focused not on institutional barriers to housing opportunity, but on an individual's own mental barriers to integration. Her analysis revealed a variety of attitudes and preferences that ethnic groups use when choosing neighbors/neighborhoods. This was an important question to consider: Can we indeed live together?

Suffice it to say that this article and the entire thrust of The Geography of Opportunity raised some difficult but important questions for me. I am convinced more than ever that the future of our city depends on how well we are able to live together and to share opportunity within and among our many neighborhoods. Professor Briggs agrees. In a recent email he said this:

"One of my goals with the book was to convince people that the big question facing America, and especially its increasingly diverse cities and suburbs, is one of will. Do we have the will to grow and develop in a way that makes the heart of the American experiment-- opportunity for all--a real prospect?"

[Yoon To Chair Council Committees On Housing and Human Services](#)

Tang Dynasty.

Location: The Boston Opera House
539 Washington Street
Boston, MA

Date/Time: February 10, 2007 7:30pm - 9:30pm

For more info click on link below!

[NTDTV Chinese New Year Spectacular](#)

Faneuil Hall "Taste of Quincy Market" - Internat'l Food Festival

More than 100 food samplings from all over the world offered FREE OF CHARGE the first Wednesday of every month!

Location: Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Date/Time: Starts Wed. Feb 7th 5pm-7pm

For more information call 617.523.1300 or click on the link below!

[Faneuil Hall Website](#)

February Escape

Celebrate Fat Tuesday- better known as Mardi Gras- with the USES Harriet Tubman House!

Location: 566 Columbus Ave.
South End

Date/Time: February 15, 2007 7pm - 10pm

Council President Maureen Feeney announced committee assignments this week. As part of her efforts to consolidate responsibilities, President Feeney adopted rules to establish new committees: Environment and Health, Human Services and Labor and Workforce Development.



For more info call
617.375.8151

Let us know what is going on in your neighborhood! Send info about community meetings and events to:
Harry.Harding@cityofboston.gov

Councilor Yoon retained Chair of Housing and additionally, appointed Chair of the Committee on Human Services. This committee will deal with veterans, the homeless, New Bostonian issues as well as other services to residents.

Councilor Yoon was also appointed Vice Chair of Public Utilities & Cable Communications, a committee chaired by former Council President, Michael Flaherty.

In addition, Councilor Yoon will also serve as a member of the following committees: Arts, Film, Humanities & Tourism; Environment & Health; Financial Services & Community Investment; Government Operations; Intergovernmental Relations; Rules & Administration and Ways & Means.

Steps Toward Street Memorial Protocol



Memorials for homicide victims have been visible in parts of the city in nearly every neighborhood-on street corners, light posts, playgrounds and in front of homes and businesses.

Divided opinions about street memorials led Councilor Yoon, colleagues and other community activists, to explore solutions and the path to a common ground.

In July 2006, the City Council Committee on City & Neighborhood Services convened at City Hall to discuss the city policy regarding street memorials.

The public hearing, an order authored by Councilor Yoon, invited testimony from victims' families, various community leaders as well as representatives from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, the Boston Police Department and the Boston Public Health Commission.

Quick Links...

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[Boston City Council](#)

[City Council Video Library](#)

[My Neighborhood](#)

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Since the July hearing, Councilor Yoon has remained involved in the process to secure street memorial protocol. "The public, especially those who have lost loved ones, deserves closure on this issue," says Councilor Yoon.

After months of examination, gathering input from various stakeholders, Councilor Yoon delivered a recommendation to the Boston Public Health Commission.

In the report, Councilor Yoon states, "By concentrating on services that tackle trauma and grief, we can then be more effective with issues that are results of bereavement such as street memorials. In other words, I am advocating the need for a holistic approach [to trauma response]."

Click on link below to view Councilor Yoon's report in its entirety.

[Protocol Recommendations to BPHC](#)

A Day In The Life Of Councilor Yoon

A typical day for a City Councilor is a congested mix of meetings, phone calls, emails and more meetings. Although each day brings new sets of challenges, some days offer unique interactions in a wide range of issues.



January 25th, 2007 was a particularly interesting day, given the breadth of topics Councilor Yoon worked upon:

8:30am - 10:00am: Councilor Yoon met with local developers for breakfast to discuss development ideas for Downtown Boston and the waterfront

11:00am - 12:00pm: Councilor Yoon met with Chip Rives and Kathy Kiely, President of the Ad Club of Boston

12:00pm - 1:00pm: A break for lunch and preparation for an afternoon meeting

1:00pm - 2:00pm: A policy discussion about poverty with James Jennings, Tufts Urban Studies Professor, and Horace Small of the Union of Minority Neighborhoods

2:00pm - 2:30pm: Phone time with constituents

2:30pm - 3:30pm: Discussion with Ron Rakow from the city's Tax Assessing Department

3:30pm - 4:30pm: Meeting with Chief of Staff to review scheduling commitments, policy updates and constituent requests

5:00pm - 6:00pm: Home with family

6:30pm - 8:00pm: Councilor Yoon attends prayer group

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