

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to once again touch base with you and fill you in on the work I've been doing on your behalf (and to keep you abreast of the latest goings on inside City Hall). A quick note: while I have been sending out these periodic newsletters over the past couple of years, considerations over cost and the environment mean that my future newsletters will more likely be available in electronic form, although I will certainly still have some hard copies available for those who do not have ready computer access.



With the coming warm weather, many of you are aware that business at City Hall slows down during the summer months; the weekly City Council meetings will be suspended until the fall, but as always, I will continue to be available to you and working for you, focusing on issues such as Constituent Service, Public Safety, and Economic Development. My door is always open, so please feel free to ask for me whenever you visit City Hall, send me a letter, or send an email about any questions or concerns that you may have. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you soon. Below are some of the issues that I am currently working on, and remember: I always look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions on ways to make Cambridge the best community it can be.

1. Public Safety: Recently, a spate of shootings and other crimes - particularly in North Cambridge and Area IV – have shaken us all. In early March, a double shooting at the corner of Brookline Street and Watson Street resulted in one fatality. On May 10 at 6:00 P.M in the Sullivan Chamber at City Hall, I will chair a meeting of the City Council Committee on Public Safety that will examine contingency plans of the Cambridge Police, the M.I.T and Harvard Police Departments, and other stakeholders in the immediate areas to deal with the increase in violent crime that we typically see during the summer. I will be advocating for increased bicycle and foot patrols to increase police visibility, because greater police visibility has been proven as an effective deterrent. The Committee will also hold a hearing to discuss the Cambridge Police Department's request for another ordinance criminalizing the use of marijuana, and to discuss how this impacts our youth. As you may know, last year Massachusetts decriminalized the possession of smaller quantities of marijuana, which the CPD contends has resulted in increased consumption of marijuana by youth, even in public places. This is an important issue for parents and for our youth.

2. Green Jobs Training: As Mayor, I championed the creation of the Green Jobs Training Program in order to help protect our environment, and to provide new skills and opportunities for Cambridge residents in this emerging industry. I am happy to announce that the Green Jobs Training Program is about to graduate its third class. Now that the program is up and running, we have identified some minor kinks in how the program is set up that may prevent some Cambridge residents from taking advantage of the training. For instance, it has become apparent that certain basic math skills are necessary to pass the admissions test, so I am working with students from Harvard University under the auspices of a program called *Hope in Action* in order to help bolster the basic math abilities of attendees *before* they enroll in the program. This will help ensure that those who do get accepted already possess the math skills needed to

succeed in the program. The Green Jobs Training Program lasts for 17 weeks and it is a great opportunity for Cambridge residents who are unemployed, under-employed, or are considering a career change. Cambridge residents living in a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area can take the class free of charge. For more information about the Green Jobs Training Program, please contact Ms. Pardis Saffaris in the Department of Economic Development at 617-349-4600, or via email at psaffaris@cambridgema.gov, or visit the website of our Green Jobs Training Program, the Asian American Civic Association, at www.aaca-boston.org.

3. Civic Unity: The Civic Unity Committee was established in 1945 to help foster better race relations in Cambridge, but its mission is evolving, as it should, with the times. The roots of the committee can be traced to a report commissioned in the 1940s titled Ethnic Attitudes in Cambridge which examined the condition of blacks with regards to housing, law enforcement, etc. A more current example of its work occurred last month, when I chaired a CUC meeting that featured an update from Police Commissioner Haas on the steps taken by the Cambridge Police Department in response to the Missed Opportunities, Shared Responsibilities: The Final Report of the Cambridge Review Committee report (which regards the 2009 arrest of Professor Henry Louis Gates). We learned from the Commissioner that the CPD has done a lot to implement some of the suggestions presented in the report, such as instituting Legitimacy and De-escalation Training for its officers. While the Committee was happy to hear of these important steps being taken, we were surprised that the CPD had not yet developed a means to inform the community of its work, as was called for in Missed Opportunities. In the near future, I also intend to hold a hearing to discuss the contentious debate about school reform, because our city could use some unity in its aftermath. The next Civic Unity Committee will be announced soon. Join us if you can.

4. Prince Hall Stamp Advisory Committee: Many of you are likely aware that I have been working for many years to get Prince Hall, the early abolitionist and founder of the Black Freemasonry, the recognition that he deserves for the contributions he made towards the founding of this nation. Two years ago, the City Council passed a Proclamation designating Prince Hall as a founding father. Later that year, a resolution that I submitted calling on the City to designate a suitable location for a Prince Hall monument was unanimously approved by the City Council. The monument was built and dedicated last year on the Cambridge Common. This month, I convened another group to begin work on yet another Prince Hall initiative: a postage stamp. A stamp in honor of Prince Hall will be a milestone in getting him the recognition he deserves, and in introducing his legacy to communities that may not have been aware of this great man's contribution to our country.

5. School Reform: On March 15th the School Committee approved the Innovation Agenda – the Superintendent's plan to reform Cambridge Public Schools. As a parent and elected official, I believe that providing our children with a quality education that adequately prepares them for the challenges of the 21st century and the burgeoning global economy should be one of our highest priorities. In achieving this goal, we must not spare any resources or leave any stone unturned. I have been around long enough to know that good intentions often don't lead to good results. While I support some items in the Innovation Agenda, I do not feel the plan did enough to address the achievement gap with regards to race and income. I do not feel that adequate effort was made to reach out to and address the opinions of minority parents, whose children comprise 50% of the total enrollment in the Cambridge Public School district.

This is an area that we must continue to work on.

6. Personal Reflection: April 4, 2011, marked the 43rd anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee. But 43 years after Dr. King's death, there is a fierce urgency in keeping his dream of civil rights alive – not just for African Americans, but for all Americans. That is why I applaud last December's repealing of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and President Obama's instructing the Justice Department to cease enforcement of the odious Defense of Marriage Act.

Furthermore, we must not forget the reason Dr. King was in Memphis in the first place was to lend support to striking sanitation workers. Economic empowerment was the corollary of Dr. King's civil rights advocacy, yet recent events in states across the country – from Wisconsin to Ohio to Michigan – illustrate how the rights of state workers to bargain collectively are under assault under the guise of reducing state budget deficits. There is a fierce urgency to remain engaged in the political process to honor the lives of the people who fought to guarantee these rights for all, and to continue to protect the things we believe in.

7. Marriage Equality: A documentary film titled "Marriage Equality: Byron Rushing and the Fight for Fairness," which revolves around the campaign for marriage equality in Massachusetts, premiered on April 26 in Harlem. The 7th anniversary of marriage equality in Massachusetts is almost upon us, and viewing this documentary will be one fantastic way of commemorating the occasion. I am proud to be featured in the documentary, and I am currently in discussions with the director and production company to have the film screened in Cambridge. I shall provide more information as it becomes available.

8. Senior Town Hall: One of the practices I started while Mayor, which continues today, is to hold an annual Town Hall-style gathering with Cambridge seniors to discuss issues of concern to them. This year, the Senior Town Hall took place on Saturday April 30th at the Citywide Senior Center. The theme was "Positive Aging in the Cambridge Community: Options for Healthy, Happy, and Vibrant Living." Over 100 people attended and enjoyed workshops on health and wellness. A high point of the event was the talk back at which seniors had an opportunity to ask questions or make comments. Attendees were very pleased that a representative from the MBTA was present to address concerns such as those related to shelters at T stops. Timing of lights at crossings and snow removal were also of concern to those present. The City will get back to attendees on some of the issues raised after assessing what might be done. Our seniors are an important part of the Cambridge community, and we must ensure that their needs and concerns are addressed.

9. Women in Leadership: In April, I participated in a panel discussion organized by the League of Women Voters and the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy of the University of Massachusetts, Boston. The panel discussion titled "Run Women Run" was aimed at encouraging more women to seek elected office in the Commonwealth. State senator Katherine Clarke and Representative Gloria Fox also participated in the panel discussion. During the discussion, I noted that Cambridge, unlike many communities in the Commonwealth and nationwide, elected the first woman to the School Committee in the mid-1900s, and we have had a woman in elected office ever since. During the discussion, we each shared our experiences and the challenges we faced running for office, and recommitted ourselves to helping more women get elected. The panel discussion was also a good

opportunity to hear about some of the research that the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy has conducted on this subject.

10. Green Sundays: Going to Church on Sundays used to be a community oriented activity. I recall that we would often walk to a friend's house so that we could all walk to church together. Church attendance still remains a communal activity, yet it seems that nowadays there is more driving than walking to church. I am working on a new initiative, in collaboration with local churches, to encourage community members to walk, bike, ride the train, or carpool to church on Sundays. This is an initiative that will foster a sense of community, while also helping to improve the environment. Local churches have played an important role in highlighting the climate emergency, and they will continue to be a crucial partner with us in the future.

11. Central Square Library Reopening: After being closed for nine months for some much needed repairs and expansion, the Central Square Branch of the Cambridge Public Library will reopen on May 16. During renovation, the library's 30 year old heating and cooling systems were replaced, electrical and data wiring was rerouted to eliminate unsightly and potentially unsafe wires going across floors, the first floor bathrooms were retiled, the kitchen in the Lewis Room was replaced, built-in wall units designed for 33 RPM record albums were replaced with shelving for current materials, the library's Literacy Center was expanded, new shelving was installed in the Children's Room, and the interior of building repainted. All these repairs will make for an exciting and vastly improved experience when the branch reopens.

Snapshot Of The Various Resolutions And Council Policy Orders That I Have Submitted Recently

Policy Orders: Calling on the City Manager and Commissioner to increase police foot patrols in the City during summer | Calling on Manager to work to increase lighting on Yerxa Road underpass | Calling on City Manager to commit resources to explore how to increase Single Residency Occupancy units in Cambridge | Trash barrels on Pearl Street| Regarding the Designation of parking spaces for Loading/Delivery |

Resolutions: Congratulations to Haymarket Fund on its 35th Anniversary | Congratulations to ASPCA on the Occasion of its 145th anniversary | Congratulations to Cambridgeport School on the occasion of its 20th anniversary| Welcoming Rev Maurice Greaves to Cambridge as pastor of Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church | Congratulating Caroline Hunter on being honored by the MTA | Best wishes for a successful Awards Gala to Community Labor United | On the death of poet Rosario Morales | Acknowledging the 44th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King | Celebrating National Reading Awareness Month | Birthday wishes to Ms. Christina Nardella | Acknowledgment of Earth Day | On the death of Ms. Cornelia Wilkins | On the death of Ms. Sheila Graham | Speedy recovery to Shirley Kinch | Stand Against Racism | National Alcohol Awareness Month | National Child Immunization Month | Harvey Milk Day | Fair Housing Awareness Month | On the death of Professor Manning Marable | Congratulations to Deborah Jackson, new president of Cambridge College | Condolences to the family of Mr. Linwood Elliott | Congrats to the Cambridge Family and Children's Service | Congrats to award recipients during the Cambridge Police Department's Award Ceremony| Acknowledging the 22nd City of Cambridge Holocaust Commemoration | Congrats to the organizers of the Boston LGBT Film Festival |

Congrats to Cambridge Community Chorus | In acknowledgement of Fresh Pond Day | Acknowledging Mental Health Awareness Month | Acknowledging National Osteoporosis Awareness Month | National Melanoma Awareness and Prevention Month | National Arthritis Awareness Month | National High Blood Pressure Education Month | Welcoming author Andre Dubus III to Cambridge | Acknowledging the 7th anniversary of marriage equality in Massachusetts |