



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

Ruthzee Louijeune, Council President
One City Hall Square, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Council President Louijeune,

Please note I am again writing to you regarding the inexcusable and persistent difficulties in scheduling and holding City Council hearings, due to both cancellations by my colleagues and a lack of willingness to engage on any and all controversial issues by the city administration. This week, our City Council colleagues deferred to the administration to cancel my hearing on Monday, August 18th regarding the impact of CORI, after it was subsequently discovered that a level 3 sex offender was on the City of Boston payroll as recently as August 12th. As a former Massachusetts Superior Court Probation Officer, I wrote to you on Friday, August 15th on the importance of discussing CORI and its impact on returning citizens.

Moreover, following the tragic death of a 5 year-old child in Hyde Park on April 28th, and subsequent reports that a Boston Public School (BPS) bus driver had an expired state-required certification, Councilor Murphy and I called for a hearing on the hiring, training, and compliance certification of bus drivers. After weeks of planning, that hearing was scheduled for tomorrow, August 21st at 10am; however, the administration again requested to postpone this hearing.

On August 6th, my resolution to declare Mass & Cass and impacted neighborhoods a public safety and public health emergency was blocked by Councilor Durkan and sent to committee. Both Councilor Fitzgerald and I continue to work towards scheduling an in-person hearing in the South End on Thursday, September 4th, while I am now told that the administration is again responding they are unavailable.

Leadership demands more than social media, sound bites, and highlighting national issues. Our neighbors did not send us to this body to only talk about these issues when it's politically convenient. Over the last several years, we have lost credibility in the eyes of residents due to a series of ethical and legal lapses. Nearly a year ago, Councilor Durkan even blocked a resolution in support of working families and union dockworkers. Now, we've normalized blocking any discussion that may provide transparency, and play politics with difficult conversations in election season. As Council President, I ask you what the Boston Globe Editorial Board posed today, "...if councilors can't get answers to relevant questions, what hope do their constituents have?"

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2