



**Boston City Council**  
**ED FLYNN**  
Councilor - District 2

May 9, 2025

Michael Cox  
Commissioner, Boston Police Department  
1 Schroeder Plaza  
Boston, MA 02120

**RE: Downtown and Boston Common Public Safety**

Dear Commissioner Cox,

As the weather warms up, I'm writing in regards to public safety in Downtown and the Boston Common. Last year, we saw an increase in drug use, drug dealing, crime, illegal activity in the Downtown area and Boston Common during the Summer. Hotspots included the area outside Park Street MBTA Station, the intersection of Tremont and Park Street, the Brewer Fountain, Winter Street and Tremont Street. We heard from small business owners, residents, students, colleges and other leaders in the Downtown community who expressed concerns for their personal and public safety, especially walking around the area in the evenings.

Last November, I held a hearing at the Boston City Council on these public safety issues at the Boston Common, Public Garden, and the Downtown area where nearly 100 neighbors were both present at the Iannella Chamber at City Hall, shared online testimony on their experiences, or provided written testimony. In February this year, due to these persistent public safety and quality of life concerns from residents, small businesses and nonprofit partners, the City worked closely with key stakeholders to form the One Downtown Task Force - made up of Downtown leaders, Boston Police, Elected Officials and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

This year, in advance of warmer temperatures, I am respectfully requesting that the Boston Police take proactive steps necessary to provide for a safer environment for our families, residents, and visitors. It is critical that the Boston Police continue its efforts in addressing these complex public safety challenges, especially in collaboration and cooperation with Downtown leaders and the One Downtown Task Force. I am committed to continuing with advocating for more resources for the Boston Police on the Boston City Council.



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Downtown and Boston Common are the most visited areas and the economic engine of our City. We must provide a safe and healthy environment for our residents, families, and visitors who want to visit and enjoy it, and arrest and prosecute those who are openly committing illegal crimes. Let's continue to ensure public safety for all and to keep our Downtown and Boston Common the treasured spaces they are.

I look forward to continuing our work to keep our Downtown and Boston Common safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov](mailto:Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov), or at 617-635-3203.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn

Boston City Councilor, District 2