



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

July 24, 2025

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

Robert Ciccolo
Superintendent, Boston Police Department
1 Schroeder Plaza
Boston, MA 02120

RE: Public Safety in South End and Roxbury

Dear Commissioner Cox and Superintendent Ciccolo,

I'm following up on an email I recently sent to you about the recent assault on members of the media and South End residents as they were conducting a walkthrough in the neighborhood. I am writing to respectfully ask for a complete investigation to determine what happened and what led to conditions for this assault, and to significantly increase police presence in these impacted neighborhoods. It is critical that those that were involved in the assault are arrested and held accountable in court. We must have zero tolerance for violence and criminal activity in any neighborhood.

Over the last few months, neighbors and small businesses have reported that the spillover issues at Mass & Cass have reached a breaking point. The challenges with open drug use, drug dealing have spread significantly and we have seen an escalation of violence, crime, and illegal activity. It is not safe in and around Mass and Cass any longer. We need a new and aggressive public safety plan to combat these negative activities that have left residents in the South End and Roxbury angry, frustrated and fearful for their families' safety.

South End and Roxbury are historic neighborhoods that are culturally diverse and host many families, seniors, and public housing residents who have lived in the area for many decades. We must provide a safe and healthy environment, clean squares and parks, and a good quality of life for our residents by arresting and prosecuting those who are openly committing illegal crimes. It is critical that the Boston Police deploy more resources in addressing these complex public safety challenges. This is a public health and public safety emergency, and as someone that strongly supports the Boston Police, I hope you will consider my recommendations seriously.

I look forward to continuing our work to keep the neighborhoods in South End and Roxbury safe. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov, or at 617-635-3203.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2