



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

November 27, 2023

Alex Geourntas  
City Clerk  
1 City Hall Square, Room 601  
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Please see below my letter regarding my vote on Docket #1368.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Flynn".

Ed Flynn  
Boston City Councilor  
District 2



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

Dear Attorney Cederbaum,

At the August 9th, 2023 Council Meeting, I voted against Docket #1368, the Home Rule Petition for a Special Law re: an Act authorizing the Retirement Board of the City of Boston to grant certain retirement benefits to Boston Firefighter Mr. Allen Curry. We thank and honor Mr. Allen Curry for his heroism and service to our city and country, both as a firefighter and Vietnam Veteran. It is right and proper that the City Council would review his case as he seeks justice for the injuries that he sustained.

My no vote was in no way reflecting any disrespect to Mr. Curry and his experience. I indicated as such on the Council floor and expressed my view that he is a hero for his service on behalf of our country. My vote simply stemmed from my belief that there is a longstanding process for these matters that needs to be followed properly. It was my understanding, and that of several Council colleagues, that this late file would receive a hearing or working sessions to discuss this matter and formal vote on August 30th. This process was flawed and the chair of the committee once again failed to provide any positive leadership.

Furthermore, we received this home rule petition from the chair of the committee as a late file - in fact, it was emailed to Council colleagues five minutes before the start of our meeting - so this docket did not even appear on the agenda, and Councilors did not have time to review the issue and evidence.

As City Councilors, it is our responsibility to do our due diligence on matters that we vote on, including reviewing the relevant documentations beforehand, hearing testimonies, and asking questions. Traditionally, there would be at least a hearing or working session held before a vote on a home rule petition regarding disability and pensions. We were not able to do that this time and, as City Council President, I am concerned about following long-term precedent when it comes to these matters.

The City Council declined to put in the work hours necessary to have a proper hearing and review of the relevant documentation before it was sent to the Mayor, and possibly the State House and the Governor. We failed the residents of Boston, unfortunately. This should not be the way the City Council deals with similar matters moving forward to avoid any concerns as to whether the process was carried out properly.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn  
Boston City Council President, District 2