



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

January 6, 2025

Kenzie Bok, Administrator
Boston Housing Authority
52 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02111

Re: Boston Housing Authority Elevator Repairs

Dear Administrator Bok,

I'm writing to express my continued concerns with the broken elevators at the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Ruth Barkley Apartments in the South End.

Before the holidays, I heard from Ruth Barley residents that the elevators are down again at 42 Harrison Archway and 16 East Brookline Street. On the week of December 9th, I visited 42 Harrison Archway, the tallest building on the site with thirteen floors. Residents complained that one of the elevators had been out of service for a year while the other had been operating on and off since Thanksgiving Day. Another neighbor mentioned that the elevator at 16 East Brookline is also out of service.

As a result of these broken elevators, a resident missed two chemotherapy sessions. This is simply unacceptable. These conditions may very well be in violation of state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

On the week of December 16th, at a Christmas lunch with the Ruth Barkley residents, I heard from more seniors and persons with disabilities who shared the challenges of not being able to go about their daily lives - get groceries, pick up medication, stay active, get to their medical, family and social appointments, access basic services during these prolonged periods of breakdowns. Those who live on higher floors also felt more isolated, which has had a negative impact on their physical and mental health.

Elevator access is essential for our seniors and persons with disabilities. While I support BHA's efforts to modernize eight of the elevators at the Ruth Barkley, there is an immediate need for the existing elevators in disrepair to be fixed.

Can you provide an update on what is being done to fix the elevators that are out of service at 42 Harrison Archway and 16 East Brookline? Is there a plan to accommodate and support our seniors who need to go to important medical appointments when elevators are down? I have serious concerns that our residents are continuing to miss critical check ups, screenings and appointments.



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I'm committed to continuing to work closely with you and BHA on this issue. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov, or at 617-635-3203.

Sincerely,

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

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2