



Mary Bourque, Executive Director
Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
(M.A.S.S.)
209 Burlington Road, Suite 113,
Bedford, MA 01730

Rob McCarron, President
Associated Independent Colleges & Universities of
Massachusetts (AICUM)
5 Brighton Street
Belmont, MA, 02478

Dear President McCarron and Director Bourque,

We write ahead of the 123rd Annual St. Patrick's Day / Evacuation Day Parade to request your assistance in ensuring this tradition remains a family-friendly celebration for all. With Parade Day fast approaching, we want to remind visitors to South Boston that there will be zero tolerance for the out-of-control behavior that residents have endured in past years. We ask for your help sharing this message with Boston-area college presidents and school district leaders within your association.

For the past two years, a Task Force assembled by Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn and the South Boston elected officials (Congressman Stephen Lynch, State Senator Nick Collins, and State Representative David Biele) has convened monthly preparation meetings. Participants include the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, Boston Police Department, Boston Fire Department, Massachusetts State Police, MBTA Transit Police, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, and other city and state agencies.

Our focus remains addressing the public safety and quality-of-life issues that created an unacceptable "anything goes" atmosphere in previous years, including public drinking, violence and assaults that went viral on social media, unsafe rooftop gatherings, overcrowded roof decks, beer cans thrown at parade marchers, and public urination on residents' property.

The Task Force is committed to restoring the Evacuation Day & St. Patrick's Day Parade as a family-friendly event for seniors, persons with disabilities, children, and families. The parade honors a consequential victory of the American Revolution while recognizing the service and sacrifice of our veterans, military families, first responders, and our proud immigrant heritage. The Task Force has also moved the parade start time to 11:30 a.m. and developed strategies to address public drinking and underage alcohol smuggling on the MBTA.

Although the City of Boston continues to face law enforcement staffing challenges, additional support from partner agencies will supplement the public safety presence. Personnel will be stationed at key locations such as Medal of Honor Park, the site of the nation's first Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where serious incidents have occurred in the past. Boston Fire Department Commissioner Paul Burke has confirmed that enforcement of roof-deck capacity limits will take place. The Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) and Boston Licensing Board will also work with Boston Police, bars, and package stores to prevent underage alcohol purchases during Parade Day weekend.

Our message to visitors to South Boston's parade is simple: please show courtesy and respect for residents, veterans and military families, our dedicated first responders, and our nation's history. Follow the golden rule— if you would not do it back home, do not do it here.

As elected officials, we have given our full support to public safety officials to enforce the law and keep the community safe. We ask that you assist us in communicating this message directly to Boston-area college presidents and high school superintendents so they understand the public safety protocols in place for South Boston during the annual St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade and the consequences for their students if they break the law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephen Lynch
US Representative
*MA 8th Congressional
District*



Nick Collins
State Senator
First Suffolk District



Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor
District 2



David Biele
State Representative
Fourth Suffolk District