



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

August 10, 2026

Council President Liz Breadon
Boston City Hall, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

RE: Emergency Council Session on Public Safety

Dear Council President Breadon,

I am writing today to respectfully urge all members of the Boston City Council to return to work immediately for an emergency session to discuss recent and ongoing public safety challenges, and to develop a plan for the final two weeks of August ahead of the start of the school year. We must also make it clear that those who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities deserve our unwavering support, respect, and resources - including officer wellness programs - necessary to effectively serve the people of Boston.

The Boston Police Department has longstanding issues of understaffing, overstretched resources, forced overtime and looming retirements. Boston Police Officers have worked 16 hour days for years. The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association recently noted that the Department is down roughly 600 officers. Boston Police Officers express to me that they are overwhelmed with the recent rise in violent crime and lack of respect for police officers and their families.

In February 2025, we attended the Downtown Public Safety Summit hosted by the Downtown Boston Neighborhood Association (DBNA). At that time, we acknowledged escalating and dangerous public safety issues throughout Downtown Boston. As a result, in March 2025, the One Downtown Task Force was formed with Mayor Wu, Representative Michlewitz, District Attorney Hayden, Rishi Shukla, and I to proactively ensure coordination among stakeholders and mobilize resources to address public safety and related quality of life concerns. Last Wednesday, the One Downtown Task Force and Working Groups met to discuss recent incidents and next steps at Suffolk University Law School. I highlighted the urgent need to address the recent rise of violent crime in Downtown Boston - which serves as our economic engine and home to thousands of young families, professionals, college students, and longtime residents.

We have to acknowledge the status quo is untenable. Boston is not the safest city in the country. We must include the recommendations and opinions from the public, neighborhood organizations, police and first responders as part of this emergency session and overall strategy. It is critical that we both hire hundreds of police officers and work closely with state and federal partners as well. We must demonstrate a willingness to support police officers and their families. Our residents and businesses deserve safer and healthier neighborhoods. I look forward to working with you to schedule this critically important emergency session on the Boston City Council. Let's get back to work immediately!

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, U.S. Navy (Retired)