

Dear Friends of 15th Suffolk,

Fall is upon us, and it is an autumn like no other! Our district's school children are starting to go back to school this month, mostly through remote learning, though that depends on the school. We all know the hardships of remote learning. Our families in public and affordable housing are often hardest hit. Our community is coming together to ensure we've done all we can to prevent the opportunity gap from widening for black and brown and low-income students. Today on the anniversary of 9/11 we are especially reminded that together we can get through this stronger.



Today Brookline Select Board Member Bernard Greene led us in a 9/11 remembrance hosted by Fire Station No. 5. As we face the difficult challenges ahead we are bolstered by the memory of our courageous 9/11 first responders and the sacrifices of their families.

We'll say more on ways to get involved in the success of our kids momentarily. First I want to apologize for my tardiness in getting out our latest policy review newsletter! Our team had planned to report back on the session's legislative successes and missed opportunities last month. It turns out I drastically underestimated the upheaval that is July in the House of Reps!

Session Extended and Lots to Do



House Chamber

July 24, 2020

Rep. Nika Elugardo

(D) Boston

You may remember that the MA legislature extended session beyond our historic end date of July 31st. We have 5 Conference Committees finalizing bills both branches voted on in [policing](#), [climate](#), [economic development/housing](#), [healthcare](#), and [transportation bonding](#). Next month we'll report on the good, bad and ugly in these policy areas, as well as on some other pending work of the House, including the Budget process and its impact on COVID recovery legislation, as well as bills on labor, immigration, and indigenous justice.

Help 15th Suffolk Kids Succeed

15th Suffolk's TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

15th Suffolk community and friends, we need your help ensuring our students' success! **Team Nika** is partnering with affordable housing leaders to target resources to students in need.

MISSION HILL TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Our 800 Mission Main, Roxbury Tenants of Harvard, and Tobin Community Center youth need "virtual backpack" supplies, especially headsets! To donate a headset (\$15) or lower cost item:

- 1) Purchase on Amazon Wishlist: <https://tinyurl.com/y4k4tpxu>
- 2) Venmo* Jeff Bass @jeffbassboston
- 3) Mail check* payable to "Mission Hill Community Schools Council" Address: Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120

***MEMO LINE: MH TOOLS FOR SCHOOL**

JAMAICA PLAIN TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

Our 600 Mildred C. Hailey Housing Development youth need people power! Volunteers and mentors will help out at the revamped physically distant remote learning youth center. Tech, arts, and education backgrounds are a plus, but all you really need is time, a mask, and to be ready to help from 6 ft away!

To apply as a volunteer please reach out to Isabel.Torres@MAHouse.gov

15th Suffolk Tools for School is a great opportunity to serve and to be connected! **Team Nika** will be keeping you posted on district needs for school kids throughout the school year.

- To donate a headset (\$15) or lower-cost item (preferably by Sept 16) to **Mission Hill "Tools for School"**:
 1. Purchase on [Amazon Wishlist](#)
 2. Venmo Jeff Bass @jeffbassboston, **memo line: "MH TOOLS FOR SCHOOL"**
 3. Mail check payable to MH Community Schools Council, **memo line: "MH TOOLS FOR SCHOOL,"** to Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont Street, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120
- To volunteer with **Jamaica Plain "Tools for School"** at **Mildred C. Hailey' Youth Center**, email isabel.torres@mahouse.gov

Special thanks to the **City of Boston** and to the **Boston Teachers Union** for your help identifying the Tools for School our youth need for successful remote learning!

Online Office Hours

!Talk with Rep Nika!

REP NIKA IS HOSTING OFFICE
HOURS ON ZOOM AND OVER THE
PHONE STARTING ON SATURDAYS
FROM 10:00-11:30AM

Upcoming Office Hours are;

- **September 12th**
- **September 26th**

Rep Nika hosts office hours online, held on Zoom or over the phone, every second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:30 am.

The next Virtual Office Hours are being held **tomorrow**, September 12th. You can still sign up using this [google form](#) for a 15 minute slot, by 5 PM today Friday, September 11th.

The following Office Hours will be held on **September 26th**.



So easy, even Frida signed up!

As always, thank you for the ways you support each other in 15th Suffolk and beyond. We'll keep you posted on how to engage in moving our legislative priorities this extended session and beyond. Stay tuned also for a report on our youth jobs programming, launching in October!

For constituents, advocates, or anyone else looking to get in touch, you can reach the office at **617-722-2582**, or **isabel.torres@mahouse.gov**!

Follow us on social media on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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