



## **Colleagues, advocates, friends, and extended family of 15th Suffolk, WELCOME BACK!**

**Our office's monthly newsletter is back, spring is here, and it's safer to be outside again. Much has happened in the first half of the year and much more is coming! Many of our communities are hosting a multitude of local events and many district activities are coming soon. While COVID-19 is still present in our district, precautions are being taken to ensure safety and fun. As we ramp up into the Summer, let's take a glimpse at what our year has looked like so far and prepare for what is to come.**

### **A word from Nika!**

"Dear wonderful friends of 15th Suffolk,

I've deeply missed communicating with you by newsletter. I'm so grateful to be fully on the other side of two long recoveries from unrelated health issues, moving 6 times in 6 months in a debacle of home renovations gone wrong, and a staffing shortage for most of 2021! I have been symptom-free for 10 months, Marcos and I moved into our new house last month, and I am running for Senate in a newly drawn Senate District! Among the best news is our incredible new 15th Suffolk aide, Carlos Rios, a constituent I met knocking on doors in Brookline Public Housing while running for the first time! In a few short months, Carlos has cleared us of 14 months of backlog, put down roots all across the district, and fired up our communications!

You can access our archived newsletters from 2019-2020 here. See you around the district!" - Nika Elugardo, State Representative of 15th Suffolk

## ¡Meet the new Aide!

**My name is Carlos Rios**, and it is a pleasure and an honor to serve 15th Suffolk, the district I grew up in. It is a privilege to work for Nika. She's taken the time to educate me, train me, and bring me along to events where I can network and grow. She is literally the best boss I've ever had. In my time with her, she has ingrained in me that our constituents are priority number one. As such, we try to attend as many meetings and events as possible to meet you. We also make sure we try to respond to mail, emails, and phone calls in a timely manner.





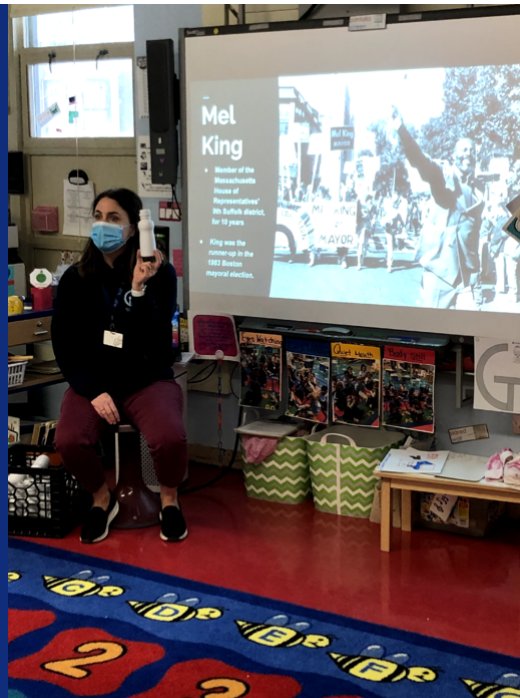
## **Whenever there were events at the State House, we would attend to show support!**

On March 31st, we stood with several legislators and community organizations declaring MA as a State of Love, celebrating **International Transgender Day of Visibility**. We made it clear to LGBTQ+ youth all across the state that they belong here and are loved, despite what is happening across the nation with the "Don't Say Gay" campaign.

On April 4th, we joined with **Zero Debt Massachusetts** on the steps of the State House to advocate for the **Debt-Free Future Act, H.1339/S.829**, a piece of legislation that would make state higher education in MA free for all students. It was also a way for our advocates to declare to President Biden the ever-growing need for erasing student debt nationwide.

## **The World is In Good Hands**

In collaboration with **United South End Settlements**, **Paige Academy**, and **John F. Kennedy Elementary**, the offices of Ayanna Pressley, Sonia Chang-Diaz, and Nika Elugardo got to celebrate and honor the wonderful **Mel King**.



Congresswoman Pressley and Representative Elugardo both heard from Mel King and members of his family about a desire to turn all Ensure bottles into reusable decorative flower vases with the theme "World in Good Hands". Mel collected well over 100 Ensure bottles for this project.

Thanks to Jose Masso Jr. from United South End Settlements, Susan Thompson from Paige Academy, and Shannon Feeney from JFK Elementary, in partnership



with Pressley's team, Chang-Diaz's team, and our own, we were able to finally make it happen. On April 2nd, we got to show Mel and his family the results of three groups that participated in this project.

We are continuing this project by donating the bottles to other groups that are interested, with the Mel King Institute being our newest recruit in painting new vases. If you are interested in playing a role in Mel's dream, please reach out to our office!



### Justice 4 Housing

One of our greatest allies and partners for change are Justice 4 Housing. Their mission is to provide stable housing for formerly incarcerated individuals. As this tackles housing insecurity and supports formerly incarcerated individuals, we are incredibly grateful for this partnership.

On March 16th, Nika joined J4H in celebrating and thanking Boston Housing Authority for its partnership in starting the Stable Housing and Reintegration Program (SHARRP). Many housing options have CORI policies which can prevent those ready for re-entry from finding stable housing. However, BHA provided J4H with Section 8 Vouchers to be allocated to individuals returning to the community, homeless after incarceration. This is a promising first step in full policy change.

And on April 21st, J4H launched their Far From Home Report Unveiling, which contained 10 policy change recommendations that would tackle housing insecurity. The campaign kick-off will be a continuing project across the city as they engage with city officials in tackling this issue.



#### A WORD FROM LESLIE, Founder and Executive Director

*"Whether it is housing justice or criminal justice, Rep Nika stands with us! We are proud to have Representative Nika Elugardo as our Champion for key legislator matters; such as H4071 presenting subsidy vouchers upon re-entry and budget amendments like H4700, that provide opportunities for sustainable housing, for individuals who have been negatively impacted by the criminal justice system. We stand with you! Justice 4 Housing will continue to advocate for systemic change, dismantle archaic systems and end discriminatory policies that discriminate and exclude justice-involved individuals.*

*Thank you for your expertise and mentorship,  
Leslie Credle, #DeCriminalizeHousing"*

**¡WALK AROUND - MISSION HILL!**



One of the privileges of serving such a wonderful district is that we get to meet the various business owners serving our constituents. We are very happy to see many of them are once again enjoying a sense of normalcy. Even more, we got to see how many of them are helping their community following a global crisis. We are pleasantly surprised by how certain business owners stepped up to support those living around them.

Two that I'd like to highlight is Subway on S Huntington and Solid Ground Cafe on Huntington Ave. Subway is supporting its community by shifting ideas and by acting as a welcoming neighbor to the Envision Hotel. The owner, Vishal, treats people with challenges in recovery with kindness and generosity. As for Solid Ground Cafe, they had begun a Pay It Forward program, where customers can pay for an extra sandwich or beverage, allowing those struggling with food insecurity to be able to have food.

This is what community looks like. Please consider checking out the other businesses below that were a part of our Mission Hill walk-around. More site visits will be happening in the nearing future.



SOLID GROUND CAFE

## Pay It Forward

*Our Mission Hill community means everything to us. Thank you to our loyal patrons, not only for allowing us to continue to run a locally-owned business, but also helping us support our neighbors in need.*

*Please consider supporting our effort to serve our neighbors who could use breakfast today.*

Sandwich - \$5   Beverage - \$3  
Bakery Item - \$2

You can also donate your "Free Drink" stamp card to go towards a Pay It Forward Beverage

*By contributing to this effort, we can continue to serve all of our neighbors.  
Thank You.*







## **¡STOP BY!**

### **Subway**

2 S Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130

### **Solid Ground Cafe**

742 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115

### **Mama's Place**

764 Huntington Ave #6321, Boston, MA 02115

### **Penguin Pizza**

735 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115

### **Nails on Huntington**

39 S Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130

### **Nana's Hair Braiding**

901 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115

### **Dunkin Donuts**

37 S Huntington Ave Unit #2, Boston, MA 02130

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS & SERVICES

# **WALK & ROLL !IS BACK!**

**!SAVE THE DATE!**  
**6/11/2022**  
**10 am - 12 pm**



**Team Nika Walk & Rolls are to:**

- 1) celebrate community by journeying across neighborhoods**
- 2) identify and enjoy public spaces like parks and libraries**
- 3) identify accessibility issues for people with mobility challenges, cyclists and others.**

**June (date) is a Disability Walk & Roll where we'll focus on documenting accessibility issues, like sidewalk cracks, bad curb cuts, and T accessibility problems.**

**Join us! We'll be walking or rolling from Heath Street train station to Brigham Circle.**

## ROBOTICS CAMP



**JULY 11 - JULY 22, 2022 / M-F: 10 AM - 01:00 PM**

MCH Youth Center

*3 Bickford Street, Jamaica Plain 02130*

Calling ALL youth ages 12 – 15. This summer, DO you want to learn  
**Computer Coding** using Lego Robots? *Lunch provided.*

**CONTACT: Yolanda Torres**, (Tenant Task Force President)  
617-553-9680, ex: 341. [yolanda.torres@mchtenants.org](mailto:yolanda.torres@mchtenants.org)

### **Job Posting: Robotics Class Instructor** (Using Lego Mindstorms)

**Job Type: Part-time, Temporary @ \$20/hour**

We're looking for a robotics instructor to teach children ages 9-15 about robotics!

Instructor will need to help develop the Curriculum using the FIRST Lego League as a basis, to teach kids about the fundamentals of robotics and autonomy using Lego Mindstorms.

#### **Requirements:**

- Knowledge of computer coding
- Familiar with Lego Mindstorms
- CORI/SORI
- Enjoy teaching/interacting with kids from diverse backgrounds.
- Technical background is nice but not required.

**CAMP DATES: July 11th – July 22, 2022**

**TIME: From 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**Location: Mildred C. Hailey Youth Center, Jamaica Plain**

**Address:** 34 Heath St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

(Across from the **Jackson Square Station/Orange Line**)

**CONTACT: imonphy@gmail.com**

## **Boston Fire Department -Teen Fire Academy**

The Boston Fire Department in partnership with The Department of Youth Engagement &

Employment announces: 2022 Summer Jobs Opportunity Boston Fire Summer Teen Academy -

Application is now open!

Apply: [Success Link](#)

Mayor Michelle Wu's

# NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOURS

9:30am-10:30am



2022 [boston.gov/coffee-hours](https://boston.gov/coffee-hours)

Wednesday, May 4: East Boston Memorial Park <i>Porter and Orleans Streets, East Boston</i>	Wednesday, June 8: Smith Playground <i>235 Western Avenue, Allston-Brighton</i>
Friday, May 6: McLaughlin Playground <i>238 Tucker Hill Avenue, Mission Hill</i>	Thursday, June 9: Fallon Field <i>910 South Street, Roslindale</i>
Monday, May 9: Doherty Playground <i>349 Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown</i>	Friday, June 10: Peters Park <i>230 Shawmut Avenue, South End</i>
Friday, May 13: Mozart Park <i>10 Mozart Street, Jamaica Plain</i>	Monday, June 13: Horatio Harris Park <i>Walnut Avenue and Monroe Street, Roxbury</i>
Wednesday, May 18: Ramler Park <i>120 Peterborough Street, Fenway-Kenmore</i>	Wednesday, June 15: Langone Park <i>529 Commercial Street, North End</i>
Friday, May 20: Billings Field <i>309 LaGrange Street, West Roxbury</i>	Wednesday, June 22: Ronan Park <i>Mount Ida Road and Marie Street, Dorchester</i>
Wednesday, May 25: Commonwealth Avenue Mall <i>15 Commonwealth Avenue, Back Bay/Beacon Hill</i>	Friday, June 24: Iacono Playground <i>150 Readville Street, Hyde Park</i>
Tuesday, May 31: Carvey Playground <i>995 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester</i>	Wednesday, June 29: Medal of Honor Park <i>East 3rd and M Streets, South Boston</i>
Thursday, June 2: Elliot Norton Park <i>295 Tremont Street, Bay Village/Chinatown</i>	Thursday, June 30: Walker Playground <i>550 Norfolk Street, Mattapan</i>

Sponsored by  Parks and Recreation **DUNKIN'** CITY of BOSTON 



OUR SPRING

# MULCHCAPADE

IS BACK!

JUNE 11TH, 2022  
10AM-2PM



329 CENTRE STREET JAMAICA PLAIN, BOSTON 02510



**New Generation Consultants  
and Associates**

**NGCA** is a Consultant and Mental Health Organization that promises to provide the utmost professional development, clinical, coaching, and mental health service in Boston and surrounding communities.

### Reshaping Community Wellness

NGCA offers the Reshaping Community Wellness initiative as the first of its kind in training programs. It is designed to help BIPOC human services



providers to be equipped with the tools needed to infuse mental wellness into their workplace.

## Farmers Markets

(June 21 - Dec 16)

- Tuesday and Friday, 11 am to 6 pm, Roxbury Crossing
- Thursday, 11 am to 6 pm, Brigham Circle

## Gore Street Gardening

Access the community garden on 6-8 Gore Street. The space is overseen by the Mission Hill Health Movement.

## Annual Mission Hill Health Fair

Saturday, September 24th

Sheehy Park

## Senior Exercise Programs

**Feet First Walking Group**

*(Funded by Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust)*

Friday, 10 am, Spring - Fall

**Mindful Movement w/ Friends**

Parker Hill Library Thursday 4:30 pm, Spring - Winter

**Summer Outside at Sheehy Park**

Saturday 10:30 am

## Becoming an Effective Advocate Series

*New at policy? Want to learn how to influence your community? Here's an intro video series that can educate anyone on the exciting world of Legislators and advocates!*



**WATCH THE SERIES HERE**

<https://electnika.com/advocate/>

# ***Talk with Rep Nika!***



**Is coming back!**

**Keep your eyes open for that schedule.**

## **LEGISLATION**

**Here is a brief summary of all of my legislation and where they are:**

**Bills Coming to the Floor:**

- **H3735, An Act designating September as PCOS Awareness Month - Reported Favorably, in Third Reading**
  - Established September as PCOS awareness month to raise awareness for polycystic ovary syndrome and its impact on women of color.

- **H4205, An Act Relative to Certain Affordable Housing in the Jamaica Plain section of the City of Boston - Reported Favorably, in Third Reading**
  - Eases procurement restrictions for BHA for the federal public housing project

### **Priority Bills Reported Favorably that I'm currently mobilizing for:**

- **My Education Bills below were Attached to H682, An Act relative to educator diversity - Reported Favorably:**
  - **H582, An Act Providing for the Creation of a Permanent Commission Relative to the Education of American Indian and Alaska Native Residents of the Commonwealth**
    - Establishes a commission to support increasing competitive educational opportunities and improving educational outcomes for Native American students in the Commonwealth and to further tribal self-determination by helping ensure that students have an opportunity to learn their heritage languages and histories
  - **H583, An Act ensuring diversity in public education**
    - Addresses bias in the certification and testing requirements for aspiring teachers.
  - **H584, An Act relative to anti-racism, equity, and justice in education**
    - Establishes a commission and trust fund for the purpose of furthering anti-racist curricula in the Commonwealth
- **H4071, An Act securing housing options for eligible tenants with a history of criminal justice involvement - Reported Favorably**
  - Adds formerly incarcerated persons experiencing housing instability to pre-existing preferences in housing programs throughout MGL.
- **H2018, An Act relative to employment protections for victims of abusive behavior - Reported Favorably**
  - Provides for reasonable workplace accommodations for employees who are survivors of domestic violence.
- **H2891, An Act to Protect Elder Housing - Reported Favorably**
  - Enables municipalities to set terms for freezing property taxes of income-eligible elder homeowners and provides for the just cause eviction of elder tenants age 75 and older

### **Priority Bills that were given Extensions:**

- **H2890, An Act providing for climate change adaptation infrastructure and affordable housing investments in the Commonwealth “HERO Bill” - (Revenue, July 31st )**
  - Modernizes the Deeds Excise Fee to provide about \$300 million in new revenue annually dedicated to climate and housing priorities.
  - [Link to HERO Bill Website](#)

- **H4229, An Act to restore Boston's governmentally-involved housing protection - (Housing, July 31st)**
  - The bill would create a board to establish maximum rents for government-owned and subsidized housing, as well as housing that used to be government-owned and subsidized but is now privately owned, such as the Forbes building.
- **H3781, An Act Establishing a Commission to Review Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in Public Schools - (Healthcare, June 1st)**
  - Establishes a Commission to review the lack of health insurance coverage for medically necessary treatment in schools and the cost to public school districts

#### **Priority Bills Attached:**

- **H581 & H3377**
  - **H581**, An Act Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascots by Public Schools in the Commonwealth, accompanied **S2493** which was reported out favorably from Education and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means. **H3377**, An Act to Protect Native American Heritage, was reported out favorably from Tourism, Arts, and Culture.
- **H3453, An Act to Eliminate Debt-based Incarceration and Suspensions - Attached to H3535, Reported Favorably from Transportation**
  - Eliminates unpaid debt as a cause for license suspension.

#### **Other Bills of Interest:**

- **H1223, An Act to establish a Massachusetts public bank - (May 30th)**
  - Establishes a Massachusetts public Bank to assist businesses and municipalities in recovering from the economic repercussions of COVID-19, respond to the unmet affordable financing needs of cities and towns in the Commonwealth, promote affordable housing and sustainable agricultural production, to provide for local climate mitigation financing, and to support the development of BIPOC and women-owned economic enterprises, as well as SBEs in underserved communities.
  - [Link To Bill Website](#)
- **H1378, An Act enabling local options for tenant protections - (Housing, July 31st)**
  - Establishes a Massachusetts public Bank to assist businesses and municipalities in recovering from the economic repercussions of COVID-19, to respond to the unmet affordable financing needs of cities and towns in the Commonwealth, to promote affordable housing and sustainable agricultural production, to provide for local climate mitigation financing, and to support the development of BIPOC and women-owned economic enterprises, as well as SBEs in underserved communities.
- **H358, An Act promoting fairness in the rendering of dwelling accommodation services - Reported Favorably**
  - Prohibits brokers from charging fees to non-clients



### **CONTACT OUR OFFICE**

**For constituents, advocates, or anyone else looking to get in touch, you can reach the office at (617) 722-2263, or [carlos.rios@mahouse.gov](mailto:carlos.rios@mahouse.gov)!**



**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!**



State Representative Nika Elugardo, 24 Beacon Street, Room 448, Boston, Massachusetts 02133,  
United States

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