



March 7, 2025

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

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

Dear President McCarron and Director Bourque,

We write to you ahead of the 122nd Annual St. Patrick's Day/ Evacuation Day Parade asking for your assistance in ensuring that this tradition remains a family friendly festivity 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 the people of South Boston endured last year. So we are seeking your assistance in getting this message to the Boston area college and school district leaders of your association.

For the last year, 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) composed of 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 have conducted monthly preparation meetings.

Our focus has remained on addressing the public safety and quality of life issues that created the unacceptable "anything goes" atmosphere last year, including public drinking, disturbing incidents of violence and assaults that went viral on social media, people on rooftops without a roof deck, overcrowding on roof decks, beer cans thrown at parade marchers, and public urination on resident's property.

The Task Force is committed to restoring the Evacuation Day & St. Patrick's Day Parade to a family-friendly event - inclusive for our seniors, persons with disabilities, and young children and families - that not only focuses on celebrating a consequential victory during the American Revolution, but to honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans, military families and first responders, as well as our proud immigrant heritage. The Task Force has also worked to adjust the parade to an earlier start time at 11:30am and developed strategies to address public drinking and underage alcohol smuggling via the MBTA.



Although the City of Boston is down more than 130 officers this year, other law enforcement agencies have stepped up to provide the needed resources from state partners and surrounding jurisdictions to provide assistance. Law enforcement and the Parks Department will have personnel at key locations like Medal of Honor Park, the site of the first Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the country, where serious incidents of violence went viral on social media last year. Boston Fire Department Commissioner Paul Burke has conveyed that enforcement over roof deck overcrowding will take place. The Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) and Boston Licensing Board will be working with the Boston Police, bars and package stores to ensure underage purchases of alcohol do not take place on Parade Day weekend.

Our message to visitors to South Boston's parade is simple: please show some common courtesy and respect for the residents, veterans and military families, our dedicated first responders, and our nation's history. Operate under the golden rule and if you wouldn't do it back home, don't do it here. As Elected Officials, we have given our full support to public safety officials to enforce the law to keep the community safe. We ask that you assist us in communicating this message directly to all of the Boston area College Presidents and High School Superintendents so that they understand the public safety protocols in place for South Boston at 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 in this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephen Lynch in blue ink.

Stephen Lynch  
United States Congressman

Handwritten signature of Ed Flynn in blue ink.

Ed Flynn  
Boston City Councilor, District 2

Handwritten signature of Nick Collins in blue ink.

Nick Collins  
State Senator, 1st Suffolk District

Handwritten signature of David Biele in blue ink.

David Biele  
State Representative, 4th Suffolk District