

## **Stephen Passacantilli Waterfront Platform**

### **Climate Change Preparedness**

Throughout our City's history, the neighborhoods of District 1 have enjoyed a long and productive relationship with Boston Harbor. Initially serving as a working port, since the massive cleanup in the 1980s and the construction of the Deer Island water treatment plant, Boston Harbor has fueled our commerce and provided vast opportunities for recreation, and tourism. However, a new threat has arisen. The predicted climate change induced rise in sea levels threatens to destroy our beautiful waterfront. Numerous studies show that a five-foot rise in sea levels will result in water engulfing the low-lying waterfront areas across our District, causing catastrophic flooding throughout much of our District from coastal storms, such as Superstorm Sandy, which barely missed Boston in 2012.

The City's Climate Readiness study found that East Boston has the most land area vulnerable to significant future risks from flooding and that Charlestown and the North End also face significant risk. The challenge now is for city, state and national leaders to work together to address these challenges. We need to make sure that we are planning for the future now by tapping into industry experts, our robust educational and business communities and our institutions to work together with our communities to not only confront, but solve these issues together.

### **Waterfront Development**

It has been a decade since the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) released the Water-Dependent Use Management Plan for the Navy Yard. I will arrange a working group of BPDA waterfront planners, community members and stakeholders to update this plan and create similar planning for the entire District. This will promote better coordination on waterfront development and infrastructure, while upholding important sustainability goals. For example, an updated Management Plan could have been incorporated into the recent RFI that was released for the Navy Yard, including Pier 5, to provide more structure, development guidelines, and input from the community.

### **My Action Plan**

Because making sustainability a way of life and protecting our neighborhoods from the perils of climate change and sea level rise is a top priority for our District, I will work hard on your behalf to:

- Ensure our waterfront remains accessible to all. Our waterfront is a valuable public resource. Waterfront developments must not be allowed to privatize the waterfront. Developments need to provide accessible and meaningful open space, as well as a properly constructed and maintained Harborwalk.
- Create pocket parks and gardens along waterfront to provide much needed attractive and peaceful oases to enjoy the waterfront. Floating gardens are an innovative way to bring green space to our waterfront, while introducing public and interpretative art to be enjoyed by all.
- Enhancing resiliency planning and preparation for rising sea levels by funding flood mitigation measures for coastal park spaces to protect residential neighborhoods from

potentially devastating impacts. Such measures include building gently sloping coastal banks and planting and maintaining native plant species to prevent flooding and reduce flooding impacts should they occur.

- Provide ample education and awareness to our communities on the very real effects of climate change. Identify local flood risk areas and adapt planning and zoning to address climate change issues with preventative mitigation measures. An example of this is requiring essential life-safety mechanical systems to be installed at higher elevations, similar to what Spaulding did by installing its life-safety systems on its roof.
- Pursuing enhanced connections between neighbors via water-based transportation options, prioritizing options that link parks and public spaces along our waterfront. Because this is such an important quality of life and economic issue, I am interested in pursuing a specific waterfront transportation plan soon.