

5 FOSTER SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Every person in Boston should feel safe and be supported by City departments and services.

Youth Jobs – The surest way to combat community violence is opportunity. We need to invest in our youth and ensure access to paid summer jobs and opportunities during the school year. The City should expand its Superteens program and lower the eligibility age for youth summer jobs to 14 years of age.

Local, Fresh Foods – Bostonians from every neighborhood should have access to locally grown, nutritious food to benefit both their health and the local economy. We should expand urban agriculture and partnerships with farms across the state.

Ending the Opioid Crisis – We need to fund treatment on-demand, work with health care providers to prescribe pain medications safely, and ensure that everyone has access to Narcan to prevent overdose and save lives.

Mental Health Reform – We should increase funding for mental health services and rethink how we approach mental health care. By treating those most in need, we will make our communities safer and reduce strain on our emergency rooms and criminal justice system.

Closing Racial Health Disparities – We must address the disparities in infant mortality, chronic diseases, and other conditions disproportionately affecting communities of color in Boston.

Removing Harmful Materials – The City should not be using taxpayer money to buy polystyrene products, plastic bags, and bottled water, which pose environmental and health risks. We should also explore policy tools to discourage their use in Boston.

Police Body Cameras – In order to ensure the safety of our police officers and civilians, the Boston Police Department should use the lessons learned from the pilot program to develop a permanent and comprehensive body camera program with community input.

Progressive Civil Asset Forfeiture – Residents of Boston deserve due process of law, and the process for recovering personal property seized by law enforcement should be transparent and navigable.

Decreasing Surveillance Technology – The City should be transparent in its use of surveillance technology and balance public safety with citizens' right to privacy. For full accountability, law enforcement should have written policies developed with community process in place before implementing any new technology.

Trauma Supports and Services – Too many of our neighbors, especially in communities of color, are living with untreated trauma. We need to prevent violence with peace education in schools and interrupt the cycle of violence by providing survivors with supportive services.