

# THE STATE OF THE CITY

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS AND FACT SHEET

Our city teams have worked every day to make Boston a home for everyone since Mayor Wu took office.  
**Here's some of what we accomplished together.**

### HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

- 300 new affordable homes built for first-time homebuyers, with 500 more under construction
- 600 units of new housing for seniors built, with nearly 300 more under construction and another 400 funded and ready to build
- 1,000 units of BHA housing under construction
- Launched the Boston Acquisition Fund (BAF), a public-private revolving loan fund, to protect families and support mission-driven developers in purchasing occupied multi-family housing in the city\*
- Permanently protected 347 homes at the Fairlawn Apartments in Mattapan with support from the BAF
- Announced an expansion of the office-to-residential conversion program to include universities and employers looking to reactivate office buildings as dorms or workforce housing
- Created the Boston Planning Department, accountable to the people of Boston, restoring planning as a core City function\*
- Changed Mattapan zoning in response to residents, now the number of projects that require a variance from the Zoning Board of

Appeals is down by two-thirds, while applications that meet the zoning code fully are up 30%

- Cut the permitting timeline for projects by 20% in Squares & Streets neighborhoods
- Removed barriers for residents to build ADUs citywide, and supported local contractors in getting them built\*
- Announced the launch of the Co-purchasing Housing Pilot Program during speech
- Announced the City's first Anti-Displacement Action Plan during speech

### BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- BPS is growing enrollment for the first time in a decade
- BPS educators won Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, Assistant Principal of the Year, and School Counselor of the Year
- MCAS scores are improving
- Received the largest grant in the history of the Boston Public Schools, \$38M from Bloomberg Philanthropies to double the size of the Edward M Kennedy Academy for health careers, in partnership with our city's largest employer, Mass General Brigham\*
- Launched Zum, an app for families to view bus assignments, receive alerts about delays, and live-track students' rides for the very first time

- Launched a new partnership between the Ruth Batson Academy and the University of Massachusetts Boston UMass flew students to the Vatican for a climate summit, brought guest speakers onto campus, and is now supporting full scholarships for RBA graduates to study education
- Launched "Great Starts," a one-stop online portal to help families find childcare options\*
- More than 50,000 Boston students and their guests have already enjoyed free visits through Boston Family Days\*
- Mayor Wu announced that BPS will stand up new advanced math programs
- Renovating White Stadium into a world-class athletics hub guaranteed for BPS students, coaches, and residents 15 hours a day, more than 345 days of the year
- Reached tentative agreement with Boston Teachers' Union on a three-year contract
- Taught more than 500 children to bike, built ten new gardens with BPS, and provided swim lessons to 3,500 young swimmers as part of the Mayor's Connect Learn Explore Program

**\*Announced in 2024 SOTC speech and accomplished this past year**

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## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, WORKER EMPOWERMENT & CITY CONTRACTING

- Awarded over \$150 million contracts to businesses owned by people of color
- Added 225 liquor licenses, with support from the Council, Legislature, and the Governor
- Launched the SCALE Program to provide grants and technical assistance to local businesses, helping to build their capacity to compete for more and bigger contracts\*
- Expanded Open Streets
- Guaranteed a summer job to every BPS student who wanted one, providing over 10,000 jobs\*

## COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

- The first ever Boston Fire cadet class will be graduating this year
- Opening the paid detail system for residents to serve as civilian flaggers following a historic police union contract\*
- Lowest year for incidents of gunfire since we began tracking this data more than a decade ago

## BASIC CITY SERVICES

- Reopened the Mattahunt with the asbestos gone, and the space fully accessible, with new floors and windows, a dedicated teen room, and a freshly-painted gym complete with a scoreboard
- Cut the ribbon on the new Engine 17 firehouse on Meetinghouse Hill, which the City allocated \$30 million to invest in the wellbeing of Boston firefighters\*

## TRANSPORTATION

- Partnered with Google to optimize traffic signal timing and improve traffic flow in highly congested areas and key intersections\*

## ARTS & CULTURE

- Announced BCYF Creates, an investment in free, high-quality arts programming offered at Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) community centers for youth ages 8-14 during speech
- Announced \$3 million in funding from The Monuments Project at the Mellon Foundation to make a historic investment in arts and programming in Boston's public spaces during speech

## ENVIRONMENT & PARKS

- 95 electric school buses ready the start of the next school year
- Executed the largest installation of green roofs on bus shelters anywhere in the country
- Boston was the only American city invited by his Holiness Pope Francis to present at the Vatican last summer
- Received a \$10 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to build out green jobs and enhance climate and coastal resilience across Boston neighborhoods
- It's Electric installed its first on-street EV charger
- Announced Boston Energy Saver, a historic new partnership with Eversource and National Grid that will secure more than \$150 million in state funding for residents to upgrade their homes and lower their bills, during speech

*\*Announced in 2024 SOTC speech and accomplished this past year*

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# THE STATE OF THE CITY

## ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS AND FACT SHEET

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### HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

- More than 850 residents become first time homeowners with assistance from the City
- More than 11,000 new units of housing built, with more than 3,000 affordable—the most in at least 25 years
- 6,000 more units permitted, with another 13,000 in the pipeline ready to go
- Worked with partners to acquire more than 700 homes in the last 3 years
- Received applications to create 760 new apartments since the launch of the office-to-residential pilot program in October 2023, with at least 1,000 units expected to be under construction by next summer in the Downtown neighborhood\*
- Rezoned more of Boston over the last two years than the past twenty years combined\*

### BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Championed investments in early education to expand Boston's Universal Pre-K (UPK) program with close to 5,000 three- and four-year olds participating

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, WORKER EMPOWERMENT & CITY CONTRACTING

- Closed nearly all union contracts, settling all of them over the table, cutting reliance on outside management attorneys by 90% within the first year and a half
- Grown the number of contracts with businesses owned by women or people of color by almost 50%

### COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

- Became the safest major city in the country
- Saw 160 overdose deaths of Boston residents in the first 8 months of 2021, compared to 123 overdose deaths in the first eight months of 2024 - that is a 23% decline
- Seen a decline in incidents of gun violence and in the number of people directly impacted by gun violence for the fourth consecutive year

### BASIC CITY SERVICES

- Opened 9 pools and cut the ribbon on 20 parks and playgrounds since 2021.
- Resolved over 570,000 311 requests, repaired more than 30 miles of sidewalk and more than 60 miles of roadway, filling 15,000 potholes and relighting 11,000 streetlights

- Expanded Boston Public Library services by 10,000 hours

### TRANSPORTATION

- The 23, 28, and 29 buses continue to be fare-free

### ARTS & CULTURE

- Neighborhood and Downtown Activation Grants have provided \$3.9 million in 2024 to 92 grantees to support the creation of over 100 free community-focused arts, cultural, and creative activations in public spaces that foster joy, strengthen community wellbeing, and advance placemaking across Boston neighborhoods

### ENVIRONMENT & PARKS

- Saved residents and businesses more than \$260 million on energy costs in the four years since the launch of the Boston Community Choice Energy program
- Planted more than 5,000 street trees along neighborhood streets
- Home to more than 300 climate tech companies
- East Boston and South Boston are the place where living sea walls—an Earthshot prize winning idea—are first being piloted

**\*Announced in 2024 SOTC speech and accomplished this past year**