



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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February 16, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

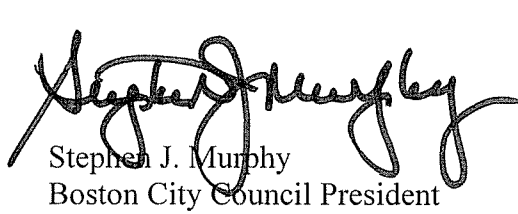
We are writing to express our deep concern about the potential for funding cuts in Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) that may be included in the Administration's budget request for Fiscal Year 2012. While we understand that the improvement of our nation's budgetary outlook will require difficult choices, we believe that cutting CSBGs, which are the source of funding for community action programs, will hinder, rather than help, our nation's economic recovery. Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Administration leave intact funding levels for CSBGs when it submits its FY12 budget proposal to Congress later this month.

As you know, community action programs are the federal government's only comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of vulnerable citizens and helping struggling Americans get the services they need to achieve economic security. Covering 1,065 agencies in 99 percent of U.S. counties, community action programs last year provided critical supports such as employment, education and housing to 20.7 million Americans facing an array of enormous challenges ranging from extreme poverty, disability, and lack of employment.

In Boston, we have seen firsthand the incredible positive impact of Action for Community Development (ABCD), a widely respected community services program founded in 1962. ABCD makes a difference every day for 80,000 individuals and their families in the city every year. ABCD has a network of neighborhood offices, Head Start centers, Family Planning sites, Fuel Assistance sites throughout the city, helping residents get back on their feet, find jobs and pay taxes. Moreover, every CSBG dollar is multiplied 20 times over in private and public funds raised to support community programs and meet needs. As winter storms continue to bear down on our state and the New England region, ABCD is helping more than 26,000 low-income families survive a bitter winter with its Fuel Assistance program, launching the Earned Income Tax Credit campaign that will help close to 10,000 working poor families access up to \$6,500 each in tax credits, providing Head Start and child care services for 2,400 children and their families, and beginning recruitment for 5,000 inner-city youth for the agency's summer jobs and education program.

We believe that CSBG-funded projects will help our country "win the future" by ensuring that all Americans achieve economic security and become productive, contributing members of society. We appreciate your consideration of our request to preserve CSBG funding in your Administration's FY12 budget proposal and stand ready to work with you as we confront the challenges facing our nation in the future. In addition to this letter, the Boston City Council, on February 9, unanimously passed a resolution in support of preserving CSBG funding.

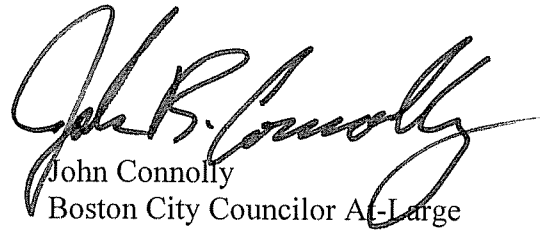
Sincerely,



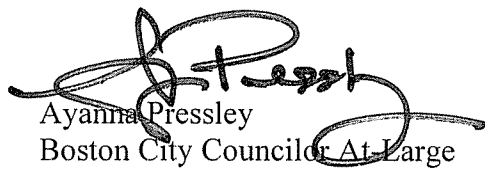
Stephen J. Murphy
Boston City Council President



Felix G. Arroyo
Boston City Councilor At-Large



John Connolly
Boston City Councilor At-Large



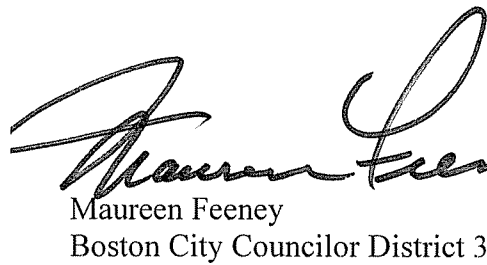
Ayanna Pressley
Boston City Councilor At-Large



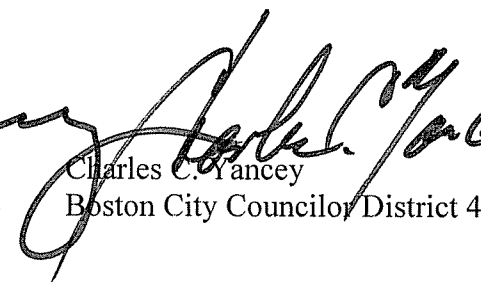
Salvatore LaMattina
Boston City Councilor District 1



Bill Linehan
Boston City Councilor District 2



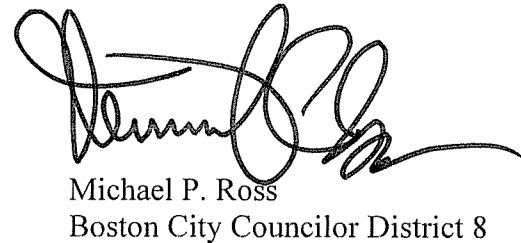
Maureen Feeney
Boston City Councilor District 3



Charles C. Yancey
Boston City Councilor District 4



Matthew O'Malley
Boston City Councilor District 6



Michael P. Ross
Boston City Councilor District 8



Mark Ciommo
Boston City Councilor District 9