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JAMAICA PLAIN, ROXBURY, WEST ROXBURY

City Councilor Matt O'Malley to tour business districts in Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 25, 2013 05:23 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

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Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley announced this month he plans to meet with local business owners and help raise support for local shopping this summer by holding a series of walks through business districts in neighborhoods he represents.

"Locally-owned and operated businesses are the fuel that powers our city's economic engine," said a statement from O'Malley, who represents District 6 which includes Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, parts of Roslindale, Roxbury and Mission Hill. "I have stayed in close touch with local business owners in my district since my election in 2010. This summer I want to reach out to them again and find out how the city can help them grow and thrive."

O'Malley will host the first walk on Friday, July 26, touring the Hyde/Jackson business district. The walk will start at 3 p.m., leaving from the Hyde/Jackson Main Streets office at 329 Centre St.

He also plans to later tour the Jamaica Plain business districts of Centre/South, Centre Street, Egleston Square and Forest Hills and the West Roxbury business districts along Centre Street, Washington Street and Fairview Corner, according

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to a statement from his office. Dates for those walks have not been announced.

“Each of Boston’s business districts has its own personality and unique flavor,” the councilor said in a statement. “We must do all that we can to protect and nurture our small, independently-owned businesses.”

On Friday, O’Malley will be joined by his Latino liaison, Alexandra Valdez, and Gerald Robbins, director of Hyde/Jackson Main Streets.

The city councilor said he plans to speak to local business owners and workers about the state of Boston’s economy, what it takes to run a small business, daily issues they encounter and how O’Malley’s office can support them.

"Merchants in the Hyde/Jackson Square commercial business district have come from around the world to locate here," said a statement from Robbins. "They are successful not just in a business sense but by helping to strengthen our community by bringing people to Centre Street and by employing hundreds of residents."

O’Malley has tried some creative approaches in the past to meet face-to-face with constituents, including by holding office hours [at farmers’ markets](#) and [while running](#). He also holds more traditional office hours each month at local coffee shops.

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