

Millennium Award

Elected in November 2010, Russell E. Holmes represents Massachusetts' Sixth Suffolk District, which includes a portion of the communities of Dorchester, Mattapan, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain.

At an early age, Representative Holmes learned the importance of community involvement from one of his first mentors in life, Lenzer Evans. Mr. Evans owned Brigham's Ice Cream in Mattapan Square, which provided the first employment opportunity for many young people in the community, including Representative Holmes. Mr. Evans taught all his young employees that work was not just a means for getting ahead, but that they must also leave the community better than the way they found it. From the small corner bench in his shop, Mr. Evans met with state and city leaders to discuss policy and public affairs. Mr. Evans encouraged Representative Holmes to participate as well.

Representative Holmes remembered the lessons of his youth about the importance of community and purchased his first home in Mattapan. Soon after, he began to get involved in public service and civic activism when he decided that the streets in his community could use some upkeep. Enlisting the help of his neighbors, Representative Holmes grew his street cleaning initiative into a community-wide operation that culminated in a partnership with Mayor Menino. As a community leader, Representative Holmes has worked passionately on issues related to local economic development, education, and public transportation. He chaired the Mattapan Library Task Force, which brought Boston's first new public library since 2001.

In 2007, Representative Holmes chaired the Mattapan Economic Development Initiative (MEDI) and was an instrumental force in developing a new set of building codes to attract businesses to the community. More recently, the team won a federal Main Streets designation for Mattapan Square.

In 2018, Representative Holmes has fought tirelessly to bring Criminal Justice Reform, Equitable Transportation - working to improve the Casey Arborway and Forest Hills T- Station, and also Affordable Housing to the 6th Suffolk District. He has also worked hard on opening the Morton Street and Blue Hill Ave Commuter Rail stations.

Representative Holmes enjoys volunteering. In addition to teaching Sunday school at the church of Christ in Roxbury, Representative Holmes has mentored 18 to 22 year-olds, serving as a male role model and coach on the transition from adolescence to adulthood. He has tutored elementary, high school, and college students on academic and life skills and has served as a Big Brother in Big Brother Big Sisters. He currently works as a Certified Financial Planner with Baystate Financial Services. When he is away from the State House, you can usually find Representative Holmes working on local initiatives, teaching Sunday school with his wife Sheree, and knocking on doors to listen to the concerns of his constituents.

