



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor

March 13, 2009

Dear Friend:

I am writing to request your participation in a new initiative to support Boston's residents during this difficult economy. The EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families. In Boston, there are thousands of workers who will qualify for the EITC; most are teenagers, young adults, students, or spouses supplementing their studies or family income.

However, there are millions of American families who are eligible for the EITC but do not retrieve it - because they are either unaware, or do not know how - leaving billions of additional tax credit dollars unclaimed. In order to increase EITC utilization, the City of Boston (C.O.B.) is actively seeking ways to raise awareness of the credit and the assistance available for filing the relevant tax forms. As a result, I have designated Friday, March 27th – Sunday, March 29th, 2009 as *EITC Weekend*.

EITC Weekend is a collaboration of faith institutions and the City to promote economic empowerment and financial stability for our working individuals and families. I am asking all of our religious leaders to highlight the importance of individuals and families taking advantage of this service; as opposed to the exorbitant fees and high interest rates associated with Refund Anticipation Loans. In addition, my office will be reaching out to religious leaders inviting them to attend a conference call that will further outline *EITC Weekend*.

We are currently requesting City staff and volunteers to “adopt” their own or another religious institution in their neighborhood. These volunteers will request permission to distribute informational flyers from the numerous and diverse churches, synagogues, mosques and Kingdom Halls during *EITC Weekend*. If you would like to participate in this worthy endeavor, please feel free to contact my office, and speak directly with James Hills, either by phone: 617-635-3518, or by email: james.hills@cityofboston.gov. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston