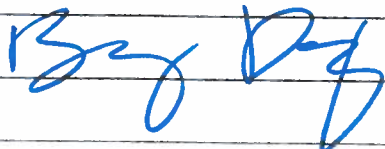


**DISCLOSURE BY ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES SERVING A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
AS REQUIRED BY 930 CMR 5.08(2)(d)2.**

RECEIVED
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

	ELECTED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
Name of elected public employee:	Benjamin B. Downing
Title/ Position	State Senator
Agency/ Department	Massachusetts Senate Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden District
Agency address:	State House, Room 413-F Boston, MA 02133
Office phone:	617-722-1625
Office e-mail:	Benjamin.Downing@masenate.gov
Write an X to confirm each statement.	I am filing this disclosure because: ☒ I am going to engage in an activity that serves a legitimate public purpose, i.e., it is intended to promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; and ☒ A non-public entity (but not a lobbyist) has offered to reimburse, waive or pay travel expenses and costs worth more than \$50.
	ACTIVITY THAT SERVES A LEGITIMATE PUBLIC PURPOSE
Describe the activity which is the reason for traveling.	Weeklong trip to Israel organized by JCRC to better understand complexities of Middle Eastern peace process and daily life in Israel/the region.
Describe your participation in the activity.	I will be there learning from Israelis/Palestinians firsthand.
Date, time and location of activity.	December 3-December 13, 2015 Israel
Please explain how the activity will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality.	The trip will help me understand the current status of the peace process, better informing me of related issues of commerce/cultural exchange with Israeli and with the Massachusetts Jewish community.

TRAVEL EXPENSES	
Identify the person or organization that offered to reimburse, waive or pay your travel expenses.	Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Boston
Address of person or organization.	126 High Street Boston, MA 02110
Provide information in as much detail as possible:	<i>Itemization and explanation of amounts offered:</i>
Transportation:	<i>Air, train, bus, and taxi fare and rental car hire, etc.</i> \$1015.36
Lodging:	<i>Overnight accommodations.</i> See other.
Meals:	<i>Breakfast, lunch, dinner, special events.</i> See other.
Admission:	<i>Registration, admission, tickets, etc.</i> See other.
Other (please list):	<i>Refreshment, instruction, materials, entertainment, etc.</i> \$3,430 - which includes Ground Transportation; Food; Driver; Guide; Hotel; Speakers and Site Visits. \$40.00 - Pre-trip Orientation and Meal \$21.00 - Post-trip Meal (Minus \$200 for Enrollment Fee and \$135 for Tip for Driver and Guide)
Total:	\$4171.36
Write an X beside any relevant statement.	☒ I have attached the relevant itinerary. ☐ I have attached the relevant agenda.
For the exemption to apply, check off <u>both statements</u> .	Having disclosed the facts above, I determine that: ☒ Acceptance of the reimbursement, waiver or payment of travel expenses will serve a legitimate public purpose i.e., it will promote the interests of the Commonwealth, a county or a municipality; AND ☒ Such public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to me or to the person providing the reimbursement, waiver or payment.
Employee signature:	
Date:	11/17/15

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Elected state or county employees – file with the State Ethics Commission.

Members of the General Court – file with the House or Senate clerk or the State Ethics Commission.

Elected municipal employee – file with the City Clerk or Town Clerk.

program*

*whatcha gonna do.

program dated: November 11, 2015

JCRC BOSTON COMMUNITY LEADERS STUDY TOUR December 3-13, 2015

Day One: Thursday, December 3, 2015
DEPARTURE

- 8:15 p.m. Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Friday, December 4, 2015
ARRIVAL

- 2:15 p.m. Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport on LY 016.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Meet with **Mike Hollander**, your tour educator, and depart the airport for **Jerusalem**.
- **Welcome to Jerusalem** - ברוכים הבאים: Enter the vibrant and colorful ancient city of Jerusalem, and experience the convergence of the old and the new.
- Check into the hotel.
- 7:00 p.m. **Home Hospitality Shabbat dinner** with Ruti and Yossi Yudkovitz.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem

Day Three: Saturday, December 5, 2015

THE LAYERS OF JERUSALEM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:30 a.m. *Israeli Society @ 2015*: Dialogue with scholar **Paul Liptz** of Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew Union College, at hotel.
- Walking tour through the **Old City**, for guided visits to the **Cardo**, and the First Temple Period **Broad Wall** in the Jewish Quarter. Continue to the Christian Quarter, part of the **Via Dolorosa**, the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, high perches and deep caverns. (final touring TBA- according to security)
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own in the Old City.
- Visit the renewed **Israel Museum**, one of the most creative and innovative museums in the world with a wide and eclectic collection, ranging from Judaica and archaeology to Renaissance and contemporary Israeli art, concluding with a visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Shrine of the Book and the Second Temple Period Model of Jerusalem.
- 6:30 p.m. *Ethics & Dilemmas in the Field*: Dialogue with **Col. Benzi Gruber**, Deputy Commander of an Armored Corps brigade, at hotel.
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem

Day Four: Sunday, December 6, 2015

GEOPOLITICS FROM THEORY TO FACT

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:00 a.m. *Is the Two State Solution Still Viable?* Meet with **Gershon Baskin**, founder of the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), at the hotel. (TBC)
- 9:30 a.m. Depart the hotel.
- 10:00 a.m. Meet with **Shuli Dichter**, Hand in Hand as its executive director & visit the **Yad BeYad (Hand in Hand) Bilingual School**, dedicated to bringing together Jewish and Arab children in a positive and natural learning environment.
- 11:15 a.m. Drive to Etzion Block.
- 13:30 p.m. *Settlements and settlers*: Drive to **Etzion Bloc** and visit the house of **Shani Abrams Simkovitz**, Director at Gush Etzion foundation, at Lunch at Gavna (TBC).
- Drive to Bethlehem.
- 3:00 p.m. Meet with Political leaders in Bethlehem, possibly **Mayor Vera Barum**, and **Ziad Bau-Amr**, Deputy Prime minister & minister of Culture or with political community leaders, (names TBA & TBC)
- Visit the city of **Bethlehem**, site of Jesus's birth and the Church of the Nativity.
- Return to Jerusalem and to the hotel.
- 6:00 p.m. Group discussion at the hotel.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem

Day Five: Monday, December 7, 2015 – Hanukah First Candle lighting

MEMORIES FOR THE FUTURE & REALITY ON THE GROUND

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:00 a.m. *The Memory of the Holocaust in Contemporary Israeli Society*: Dialogue with Holocaust scholar, Dr. Rachel Korazim.
- 9:30 a.m. Guided visit through **Yad Vashem**, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, including:
 - The new Historical Museum
 - The Children's Memorial
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- **LaDa'at The Geopolitics of Jerusalem** - וירושלים: ובלילה חומה: Travel through the city of Jerusalem, exploring some of its political and diplomatic complexities – including the 'Security Barrier' – to gain a behind-the-headlines insight into current developments.
- 3:00 p.m. Visit **SifTech**, the Jerusalem Entrepreneurship Club, located in the **JVP Media Quarter** and gain insight into the world of Israeli startups and meeting with members.
- *Challenges and Achievements*: Dinner with **Tehila Nachalon**, board member of the Yerushalmit movement, or with **Aaron Leibovitz**, City Council Member, together with **Jerusalem activists**. (TBC)

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Jerusalem

Day Six: Tuesday, December 8, 2015

BUILDING A SHARED SOCIETY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- 8:00 a.m. *The Labyrinth of Israeli Politics*: Dialogue with **Prof. Reuven Hazan** of the Political Science Department at Hebrew University.
- 10:00 p.m. Take a VIP tour of the **Knesset** (Israel's parliament) and meet with an **MK** to discuss current political issues. (Michael Oren, , Nachman Shai,) (TBC)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own.
- Drive north along the **Trans-Israel Highway** for a close-up view of the 'Security Barrier' along the seam zone between Israel and the Palestinian Territories.
- 2:30 p.m. *Living as a Minority in the Jewish State*: Meet with **Professor Dalia Fadila**, President of the Technology and Science College of Baqa al Garbia, for a tour of the campus and conversation on the reality of Arabs living in Israel, success and challenge and what it means to be the first Arab woman to be nominated president of an institution of higher education in Israel.
- Stop on the top of **Mount Carmel** for a panoramic view of Haifa Bay.
- Check into the hotel in **Haifa**.
- Processing session over a private **dinner** at a restaurant in Haifa.

Overnight: Colony Haifa

Day Seven: Wednesday, December 9, 2015
HAIFA TO TEL AVIV

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- 9:00 p.m. Possible meeting with Haifa Deputy Mayor. (TBC)
- 10:30 a.m. Visit the **Technion** for a tour of the campus and visits to projects of interest representing Israel's spirit of innovation.
- 12:30 p.m. Drive along the **Lebanese Border** for powerful overviews and insight into the strategic realities facing Israel in that region, specifically in the aftermath of the 2006 Second Lebanon War.

OR

- Dialogue with **Avi Melamed**, an independent Middle East strategic intelligence analyst, at an observation point.
- Lunch en route.
- 2:30 p.m. Visit the **Rambam Medical Center**.
- Depart for **Tel Aviv**, known as the "city that never sleeps," with its centers of culture, recreation and national history, great beaches and fine stores.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner on own.

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv

Day Eight: Thursday, December 10, 2015
INNOVATION IN ISRAELI SOCIETY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Israel Start up a Nation:*
- Discussion of the current state of start-up companies in Israel, led by **Wendy Singer**, Executive Director of Start-Up Nation Central Israel. (TBC)
- OR
- Meet with **Jonathan Medved** to hear about the story of the development of Israel's high-tech industry, including a visit to, or presentations by, Israeli start-up businesses at the Google Campus or at another High tech location. (TBC)
- Or
- Meet with **Joanna Landau**, Founder of Vibe Israel, a non-profit organization that has set its sights on sharing Israel with the world as the vibrant center of innovation that it is. (TBC)
- Visit the **Shafdan wastewater treatment plant**, which reclaims water for agriculture from cities in the Greater Tel Aviv region. It is one of the largest and most advanced facilities of its kind in the world.
- *Innovation in Tel Aviv:* Visit the **SOSA hub** (South of Salame) is a community comprised of leaders from all walks of the entrepreneurial ecosystem who believe in propelling innovation through constant personal interactions. (TBC)
- Lunch en route.
- *Local Leadership Challenges and Achievements:* Meet with a representative from the **Tel Aviv Municipality**.
- Meet with **Shai Doitsh**, Executive Director of **The Aguda**, The Israeli National LGBT Task Force, at Gan Meir. (TBC)
- Diner at a restaurant in Tel Aviv
- Possible cultural activity (TBC)

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv

Day Nine: Friday, December 11, 2015

CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTH AND CENTER

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to the South.
- Meet with **Dr. Tali Levanon**, Director of Sderot's Mental Health Center, or with a representative from the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC).
- *Living on the Edge*: Visit **Moshav Netiv Ha'asarah**, located on Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, for an insight into the security complexities of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza while trying to create a thriving home, including a dialogue with a resident.
- Lunch en route.
- **LaDa'at Ethnic Tasting Tour** through Tel Aviv's famous **Levinsky Market**, where you'll find a combination of foods and sweets from all over the Mediterranean and hear the unique stories of the individuals who sell them.
- Visit the **Old City of Jaffa**, ascend from the old port through the renovated alleyways to the Jaffa Overlook for an introduction to Tel Aviv at the place where it all began.
- Visit the **Nachalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its bi-weekly crafts fair and eateries. Alongside is the colorful Carmel open-air market and across the way Sheinkin St., with its hip cafés and funky chic shopping.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat service** at Kehillat Beit Daniel in Tel Aviv, led by **Rabbi Meir Azaria**.
- **Shabbat dinner** at hotel

Overnight: Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv

Day Ten: Saturday, December 12, 2015

SHABBAT AT THE DEAD SEA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to the **Dead Sea basin**.
- Ascend by cable-car to **Masada**, Herod's mountain palace and the site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Roman legionnaires. Discuss Masada's role as a symbol of Jewish defence and its current significance in modern Israel.
- Lunch en route.
- Experience an astonishing sense of weightlessness as you float in the super-saline **Dead Sea**.
- Return to Tel Aviv.
- Late check-out from the hotel.
- 7:15 p.m. **Festive farewell dinner** Liliot restaurant.
- 8:45 p.m. Transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport.

Overnight: Flight

Day Eleven: Sunday, December 13, 2015

RETURN

- 00:05 a.m. Departure flight to the U.S.A. on LY 015
- 5:30 a.m. Arrival in Boston.

PARTICIPANTS

Sen. President Stanley Rosenberg - President of the Massachusetts Senate

Sen. Karen Spilka

Sen. Dan Wolf

Sen. Benjamin Downing

Sen. John Keenan

Sen. Barbara L'Italien

Sen. Michael Barrett

Sen. Eileen Donoghue

Sen. Anne Gobi

Sen. Richard Ross

Jeremy Burton JCRC Executive Director

Adam Suttin JCRC Board President, Partner/ Co-Founder of J.W. Childs Associates

Samantha Joseph JCRC Board Chair, Global Expansion Lead for Cambridge Innovation Center

Daniel Napolitano Staff member for the Senate President

Nancy Dolberg Wife of Sen. Barrett

Robert Head Husband of Sen. Gobi

Bryon Hefner Fiancé of Senate President Stan Rosenberg

Joel Loitherstein Husband of Sen. Spilka

Heidi Schuetz Wife of Sen. Wolf

Alex Friedman JCRC Staff Member

DRAFT

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HOTELS

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Jerusalem

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Fax: 972 2 623 2411

COLONY

28 Ben-Gurion Boulevard

Haifa

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Fax: 972 4 851 3366

DAN PANORAMA

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Tel Aviv

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Fax: 972 3 517 1777

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