



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING ON THE PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR
VENTILATOR DISTRIBUTION AND ICU BEDS IN THE EVENT OF
A SHORTAGE AND ENSURING THAT HEALTH INEQUITIES DO
NOT DICTATE MEDICAL CARE DURING THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

- WHEREAS: On April 7, 2020 the Boston Globe reported that “Massachusetts’ Public Health Officials asked a small number of physicians and bioethicists to develop detailed recommendations on the distribution of ventilators and intensive care beds” in the event of a shortage during the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS: On April 7, 2020 the Boston Globe reported that the proposed recommendations appear to be based on guidelines adopted in Pennsylvania that ranks patients on various survivability standards; *and*
- WHEREAS: On April 7, 2020 the Boston Globe reported that “data appears to show that the pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on communities of color, several of which are reporting infection rates outpace their populations;” *and*
- WHEREAS: On April 7, 2020 Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that the medical community has known for a long time that diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity and asthma are prevalent in communities of color and that COVID-19 patients with those very underlying conditions often require ventilators and intensive care and have the highest likelihood of death due to COVID-19; *and*
- WHEREAS: According to the Boston Public Health Commission, racism has an independent influence on all social determinants of health and racism in and of itself has a harmful impact on health; *and*
- WHEREAS: If we deny ventilators and ICU beds based on pre-existing conditions caused in part or in whole by racism it will impact people of color disproportionately and would be a continuation of systemic racism directly leading to worse health outcomes for people of color; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED: That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the proposed guidelines, as reported by the Boston Globe, that recommend how ventilators or intensive care beds are rationed in the event of a shortage; ensure that racism does not play an intentional or unintentional role in deciding who gets medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic; and that the Boston Public Health Commission, Massachusetts Health Commission, Mass General Hospital, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Beth Israel Hospital, Tufts Medical Center, Boston Medical Center, Carney Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Faulkner Hospital, East Boston Community Health Center and the League of Community Health Centers as well as other relevant parties be invited to testify.

FILED ON: April 8, 2020