

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia

Arroyo, Baker, Bok, Breadon, Campbell, Edwards, Essaibi-George, Flaherty, Flynn, O'Malley and Janey



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING ADDRESSING CIVIL RIGHTS IN
THE CREATION OF SANCTUARY SAFE SPACES IN BOSTON**

WHEREAS, Boston is a city whose history represents both the successes and the struggles experienced by immigrants across the United States and one that has benefited from residents who hail from all parts of the world, and;

WHEREAS, In light of the resurfacing of ICE encounters in addition to new data made public regarding the presence of ICE in the city of Boston, it is imperative for the Boston City Council to hear from advocates and act in the best interests of our immigrant constituency, and;

WHEREAS, Under the current federal administration, encounters with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency have risen, and;

WHEREAS, According to Lawyers for Civil Rights, 135 incident reports were shared with ICE between 2014 and 2017;

WHEREAS, Numerous studies have been published scrutinizing the propensity of racial profiling during police encounters in Boston, including a study published in 2015 by the ACLU which noted that 63% of BPD Police-Civilian encounters targeted black people, despite making up less than 25% of the population, and;

WHEREAS, The BPD has not published Field Interrogations and Observations since 2017, impeding meaningful conversations and policies which seek to improve transparency and accountability, and;

WHEREAS, Legislation filed by the Boston City Council in 2017 sought to address these civil rights violations and limit the number of public spaces in which ICE can intercept immigrants, and;

WHEREAS, Fear of deportation deter immigrants from being civically engaged and hinders personal, social, and financial growth;

WHEREAS, We have a responsibility to protect our most vulnerable and uphold one of our most basic civil rights, NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine the impact on civil rights that these events have had on immigrant residents as well as to solicit public feedback in the creation of sanctuary safe spaces. Representatives from the City of Boston, Boston Public Schools, the Boston Police Department, the Boston Teachers Union, immigrant advocacy groups such as MIRA, the ACLU, members of the public, and any other interested parties shall be invited and are encouraged to attend.

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