OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MICHELLE WU AND LIZ BREADON
O’Malley, Flynn, Flaherty, Edwards, Bok, Campbell, Baker, Essaibi-George, Mejia
Arroyo, and Janey

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE TO ENSURE GENDER
INCLUSIVITY ON CITY FORMS

WHEREAS, Language is important and can promote inclusion and representation, or reveal and
reinforce harmful stereotypes and exclusion; and

WHEREAS, The LGBTQIA+ community continues to face marginalization, discrimination, and
violence, especially toward trans and gender non-conforming community
members; and

WHEREAS, Social science research has established that the use of gender-inclusive pronouns
and language reduces bias and promotes healthy, positive societal views; and

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has an obligation to ensure that the language used on city
forms does not discriminate by sex, social gender or gender identity, and does not
perpetuate gender stereotypes, but rather reflects the diversity of all our residents
and families; NOW THEREFORE

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

Section 1. The City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter VI, shall be amended by adding at the
end thereof, the following new section and subsections:

6-11 Gender Inclusion
All existing and future City-issued forms, documents, and certificates that provide for a gender
or sex designation, shall include a non-binary gender identification option, to be marked as “X”,
that may be selected as gender designation. All forms shall reflect gender inclusion and inclusion
of all family structures.

The Office of Intergovernmental Relations shall prepare a report for the Council, listing all City
forms or documents that require individuals to designate their gender or sex, whether the form
has a gender neutral designation option, and whether, if applicable, binary gender designation is
required by City, State, or Federal law. This report shall be filed in Council within 60 days of the
passage of this ordinance.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Filed on: November 13, 2020