

Offered by Councilors Andrea J. Campbell and Ricardo Arroyo, Essaibi-George, Breadon, Mejia, Wu, O'Malley, Edwards, Bok, Flaherty, Flynn and Janey



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING COVID-19 VACCINES

- WHEREAS:** People of color have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with Black people representing 27% of total cases and Latinx people 33% of cases despite being 25.3% and 19.7% of the population, respectively; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Boston is home to a world-class health care community of hospitals, community health centers, biotech industry that has led the fight against the pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reviewing vaccines which, if authorized, could be distributed by the end of this year; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Effective and equitable distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine to a large portion of the population is critical to ending the pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Historically, medical racism against Black people, including denied treatment and purposeful mistreatment, has led to distrust of medical institutions among communities of color; *and*
- WHEREAS:** A recent survey by the COVID Collaborative, Langer Research, UnidosUS and the NAACP found that if a coronavirus vaccine were offered free of charge, fewer than half of Black people and 66 percent of Latino people said they would definitely or probably take it; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Communities hardest hit by COVID-19 ought to be prioritized for treatment and relief, but many in communities of color are concerned that they will not have equitable access to a vaccine once it is available; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Essential workers have been on the front lines of the pandemic and protecting these workers is critical for maintaining and rebuilding our economy and our City after this pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Multilingual community outreach and partnership with community leaders is necessary for effective and equitable distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston has a responsibility to develop strategies that will result in the most equitable outcome possible for communities of color; ***NOW THEREFORE***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss strategies to equitably distribute and address distrust in a COVID-19 vaccine, and that representatives from the health care community and industry, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Health and Human Services Department, the Office of Equity, public health advocates including the Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 8, 2021