



Arroyo and Janey

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS WAYS FOR THE CITY TO
PREVENT AND INVESTIGATE INCIDENTS OF HATE CRIMES AND
DISCRIMINATION**

WHEREAS: With the spread of COVID-19, there are many documented reports of racism, discrimination, and hate crimes against Asian American Pacific Islanders (APIs), immigrants, and other vulnerable communities in the United States; *and*

WHEREAS: The recent tragic killings of George Floyd and other black men and women have led to much needed discussions and actions on issues of racial justice and equality, and continued recognition that our communities of color have long suffered institutional racism and discrimination; *and*

WHEREAS: When someone experiences a racist or discriminatory incident, it can be difficult for them to find the avenue to report the incident or seek an investigation, and the victim of a hate crime or a racist incident may also be too fearful to come forward and report to authorities such as the police; *and*

WHEREAS: The Boston Human Rights Commission was established in 1984 to guarantee all residents are given fair and equal treatment under the law and also to investigate and report on complaints relating to discrimination, but it was inactive since 1996 until Mayor Walsh reactivated the Commission in August of 2019; *and*

WHEREAS: Other than the Boston Human Rights Commission, other City departments such as the Office of Immigrant Advancement, the Office of Fair Housing and Equity, Boston Housing Authority, the Disability Commissions and the Boston Police Department also work with constituents who have faced discriminatory and racist incidents; *and*

WHEREAS: As we see an uptick in hate crimes due to COVID-19 and continue to address issues of racism and discrimination, the City should further solidify ways for residents to report hate crime and discriminatory incidents, and have measures in place for the City to formally investigate and review these incidents, as well as providing resources to victims and anti-discrimination education to the public; *and*

WHEREAS: It is critical that we continue to document incidents of hate crimes, and make available racial, socioeconomic and other relevant data related to those incidents so that we can better perform outreach and preventative measures; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss ways for the City to prevent and investigate incidents of hate crimes and discrimination, as well as provide resources and public education on the issue. Representatives from the City of Boston's Human Rights Commission, Office of Immigrant Advancement, Boston Police Department, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.