

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE,
BREADON, COLETTA, ARROYO, FLAHERTY, LARA, MEJIA AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS HOW THE CITY BUDGET IS ADDRESSING EQUITY

- WHEREAS,** In 2020, the City of Boston declared racism as a public health crisis; *and*
- WHEREAS,** 80 percent of white residents own a home, while 33 percent of American less than 20 percent of Dominican and Puerto Rican, and 50 percent of Caribbean Black residents are homeowners; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The median net worth for white households in Boston is \$250,000 while the median net worth for Black households in Boston is \$8; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Residents of Roxbury have the shortest life expectancy in Boston, of less than 59 years, while residents less than a half-mile away in Back Bay have a life expectancy of around 92 year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The public health crisis of COVID-19 has been exacerbated by social determinants of health perpetuated by systemic racism; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Studies have shown that race determines how poor a person is, and poverty is directly correlated to negative factors such as poor health, lack of leadership opportunities, housing insecurity, minimal access to economic opportunities, minimal opportunities to create generational wealth, health inequities, food deserts, barriers to transportation, absence of access to arts and culture, climate injustice, prevention of youth development, civic death, and inadequate recovery from COVID-19; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is committed to addressing inequity through budget priorities and has enacted policies, ordinances, and executive orders designed to ensure that all residents share the opportunities that the City has to offer; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston does not have an equity driven accountable allocation system in place that tracks budgeted and actual revenues and expenses across district neighborhoods to show disproportions that studies have shown to exist; *and*

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Boston City Council to foster and cultivate an inclusive and transparent review of the City’s budget and how the City expends budgeted funds to ensure equity; *and*

WHEREAS, It is the desire of Mayor Michelle Wu, to assure the City Council will have, “... a larger partnership in ensuring our City’s dollars are equitably allocated according to the needs, interests, and visions of our residents”; *and*

WHEREAS, It is the desire of Boston City Council President, Ed Flynn to, “... develop a budget for the City of Boston that addresses our long-standing needs, such as housing affordability and stability, public health, public and pedestrian safety, climate resiliency and sustainability, and equitable access to city services”; *and*

WHEREAS, The City Council, as stewards of the city’s budget and representatives of our constituents, needs to know specific information in order to best advocate for the interests of our constituents, with emphasized attention to marginalized communities and historically disenfranchised Bostonians; ***NOW THEREFOR BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to gather data and information from the City’s various departments and the community to ensure that the City’s budget is meeting equitable threshold allocations in order to monitor and measure the progress regarding: Equity in Housing, Capital Investments, Economic Opportunity to support Generational Wealth Creation, Health Equity, Food Access, Hiring in Leadership Diversity, Pay Equity, Streets, Transportation and Sanitation, Arts and Culture, Environment, Energy, Open Space and Climate Justice, Youth Development, Civic Engagement and 311 response Data, and COVID-19 Recovery for Marginalized Communities.

Filed on: January 25th, 2023