

**COUNCILORS JOHN FITZGERALD, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN,
FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN,
SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE**



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE
CURRENT TRAUMA RESPONSE RESOURCES IN
THE CITY OF BOSTON AND THE POTENTIAL FOR
EXPANSION**

WHEREAS: In 2023, there was a total of 144 shootings and 37 homicides across the City of Boston, with the first murder of 2024 occurring in Dorchester on the first of this year; and

WHEREAS: The presence of violence can generate long term neighborhood trauma across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston among individuals and communities of all demographic groups; and

WHEREAS: Unresolved trauma can leave both victims and witnesses with long-term negative impacts, including substance abuse, mental health issues, employment or educational difficulties, and the committing of further crime and violence; and

WHEREAS: A method of reducing such impacts is through trauma-informed care which uses counseling and other reflection centered healing in order to help an individual or community reconcile past traumatic events; and

WHEREAS: The Boston Public Health Commission and community partners have historically ran the Neighborhood Trauma Team Network, a 24/7 support hotline for residents dealing with trauma; and

WHEREAS: This network, in addition to trauma care, also provides victims with safe housing assistance, temporary relocation, and housing for survivors who felt unsafe in their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS: According to the Boston Public Health Commission's 2022 Annual Report, in FY22, the program provided victim support to 126 incidents of gun/stabbing-related incidents city-wide, from the Neighborhood Trauma Team Network; and

WHEREAS: A total of 683 residents impacted by trauma received support from the network, including stabilization, short-term, or long-term support services; and

WHEREAS: Other Municipalities such as Lynn have already began developing unarmed response teams in order to identify victims and direct them towards trauma informed care; and

WHEREAS: Finding effective trauma coping resources can be difficult and many individuals coping with these issues do not know where to turn and what resources are available to them; and

WHEREAS: The expansion of an outreach team with licensed professionals can provide victims and those affected by trauma related issues with the immediate resources needed in order to resolve the trauma of both individuals and the neighborhood as a whole: and

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council conduct a hearing to review the existing neighborhood trauma resources in the City of Boston with the potential for expansion to improve outreach and support for violent crime, domestic violence and other traumatic instances and that the appropriate city officials and members of the public be invited to attend.

Filed in City Council: February 23, 2024