

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUENE, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DEVELOP A REPORT ON THE STATE OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN BOSTON

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council Committee on Civil Rights, Racial Equity, & Immigrant Advancement was established in 2002; *and*

WHEREAS, Since then, the Committee has concerned itself with addressing matters including but not limited to those related to equal access to education, housing, employment, healthcare and city services to advance and protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all residents in the City of Boston, regardless of their race, color, national origin, natural ancestry, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability or citizenship/immigration status; *and*

WHEREAS, Questions have been raised as to whether Boston is fully realizing its commitment to being an inclusive city that provides equitable access and equal opportunity to improved economic, educational, and health outcomes for all residents; *and*

WHEREAS, Additional research into the state of civil rights in Boston is necessary to better understand the realities and challenges residents face when civil rights protections are not upheld, and to identify actionable solutions to address and remedy such injustices; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council hold a series of hearings to examine civil rights issues impacting residents of the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at-large to develop an official Committee Report on the State of Civil Rights in Boston. The report shall assess the status of civil rights protections under current local, state and federal anti-discrimination laws and policies; identify which communities are disproportionately impacted by civil rights violations, the frequency and nature of such violations, and the circumstances under which they occur to determine and recommend corrective actions. Such report shall be prepared by the Committee with input from relevant stakeholders to be publicly released by the end of 2026. The series of hearings to be held shall focus specifically on: 1. Examining racial discrimination and disparities in housing, education, employment, healthcare, public safety, civic participation, and access to city services. 2. Examining

age-based discrimination affecting employment, housing, healthcare access, digital equity, and access to public and social services. 3. Examining discrimination and barriers based on gender identity and/or sexual orientation, including access to healthcare, housing, employment, public accommodations, safety, and municipal services. 4. Examining accessibility of public spaces, transportation, housing, employment opportunities, digital services, and compliance with disability rights laws. 5. Examining discrimination based on national origin or immigration status, access to language services, interactions with municipal agencies, workplace protections, housing stability, and the protection of civil liberties for immigrant communities. The Committee shall invite testimony and data from, but not limited to, the following city and state agencies and non-governmental organizations: The Office of Civil Rights; Office of Racial Equity; Boston Public Schools; Boston Police Department; Boston Housing Authority; Boston Public Health Commission, Office of Black Male Advancement; Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD); Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Department of Public Health; NAACP Boston Branch; Lawyers for Civil Rights; ACLU of Massachusetts; Black Economic Council of Massachusetts; Boston Urban League; the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement; Office of Language and Communications Access; Office for Refugees and Immigrants; Department of Labor Standards; MIRA Coalition; Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project; the Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement; Executive Office of Health and Human Services; the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities; Office of Disability Access; Boston Transportation Department; Massachusetts Office on Disability; Department of Developmental Services; MassAbility; Disability Law Center; The Arc of Massachusetts; the Age Strong Commission; Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement; Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Greater Boston Legal Services; AARP Massachusetts; Boston Center for Independent Living; and Massachusetts Senior Action Council.

Filed on: January 28, 2026