

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



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS DEDICATING THE NEW OPEN SPACE AT PHILLIPS SQUARE TO TUNNEY LEE PLAZA

- WHEREAS:** Chinatown's census tracts are designated as an Environmental Justice community, ranking in the 99th percentile of lack of green space, proximity to hazardous waste facilities, and traffic proximity; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Chinatown has only 8% tree canopy, the least open space per capita among neighborhoods, and 89% impermeability; *and*
- WHEREAS:** A project has been initiated by the Boston Transportation Department to redesign the barricaded area of Harrison Avenue known as Phillips Square into a more welcoming and cooling open space in a neighborhood impacted by the heat island effect; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The aforementioned project will include a plaza that intersects with Oxford Place, the childhood home of Tunney Lee; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Tunney Lee was a widely respected and well-loved community leader raised on Oxford Place in Boston Chinatown; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Tunney Lee had a long and influential career as an architect and urban planner both as the chief of planning and design for the Boston Redevelopment Authority and at MIT's Department of Urban Studies; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Tunney Lee worked tirelessly to save working class neighborhoods and communities of color from destruction and demolition as memorialized in the book *People Before Highways*; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Tunney Lee mentored multiple generations of urban planners and community activists across the globe. Tunney Lee was an avid historian of Boston Chinatown who led projects to explore the community's history and historic streetscapes; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss adding and dedicating the new open space at Phillips Square to Tunney Lee Plaza.

Filed on: January 28, 2025