

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, EDWARD M. FLYNN,
BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN,
SANTANA, AND WEBER**



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE BOSTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- WHEREAS,** The Boston Human Rights Commission was established to ensure full and equal access to public services and accommodations, investigate and address discrimination, promote human rights, conduct research, educate the public, and advise the City on matters affecting civil and human rights in Boston ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The mission of the Boston Human Rights Commission is to enforce human rights, foster dignity and respect, create a culture of accountability and compliance, provide outreach and education, identify patterns of discrimination, and serve as a driver of social change grounded in equality, equity, and inclusion for all Boston residents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Commission has historically addressed a wide range of issues affecting Boston residents, including housing discrimination, immigrants' rights, LGBTQ+ protections, hate incidents, broadband access and the digital divide, police reform, racial equity, and barriers to accessing public services, while also serving as a resource for individuals seeking assistance with discrimination complaints; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston's Equity Cabinet has undertaken significant work to advance equity, inclusion, language access, fair housing, immigrant advancement, disability rights, and other civil rights initiatives, yet Boston currently lacks an active independent human rights commission empowered to study the problems of discrimination in the City, conduct hearings and investigations, identify patterns of inequity, issue reports and recommendations, engage residents and stakeholders, propose rules and legislative reforms, and advise the Mayor and City Council on matters affecting human rights and equal treatment; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City Council has a responsibility to examine whether the current ordinance governing the Boston Human Rights Commission remains adequate to meet the needs of Boston residents, including questions regarding the Commission's authority, jurisdiction, protected classes, appointment structure, reporting requirements, complaint procedures, timelines, staffing model, relationship with state and federal agencies, and overall role in advancing and protecting human rights within the City of Boston; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing regarding the future of the Boston Human Rights Commission and potential reforms to strengthen its effectiveness, accountability, accessibility, and impact, and that representatives of the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on June 24, 2026