



Black Male
Advancement

Boston Black Men and Boys Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Bruce C. Bolling Building, 2300 Washington St, Roxbury, MA
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Attended

1. Frank Farrow – Executive Director, BMA
2. Maddrey Goode – Chair, BMBC
3. Devin Morris – Vice Chair, BMBC
4. Jakhi Dean – Secretary, BMBC
5. James Mackey
6. Andre Barbour
7. Malik Aziz
8. Richard Claytor
9. Dr. Antione Salvador
10. Dr. Rufus Faulk
11. Rudy Luders
12. Dr. Richard Kelly Cameron
13. Shareef Smith
14. Laurence Justice
15. Hasan Muhammed
16. Noah Tewolde

Absent

1. Anthony Richards II
2. Tony Brewer
3. William Dickerson
4. Piter Brandao
5. Jerel Ferguson
6. Ailson Carvalho

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Maddrey Goode at 6:26pm
- Commissioners present and quorum confirmed.

December 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Correct date on meeting minutes
 - December 3rd, not December 4th

BMA Updates

- Bikes Not Bombs present for meeting
- The BMA 2025 Impact Report

- The BMA 2025 Impact Report highlights the stories, data, and partnerships that define BMA's progress over the last year..
 - The report will be available online at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/black-male-advancement>
- BPS Reads
 - BMA staff will read to grades K-3 every Friday during the month of February.
 - The Office extended an invite to Commissioners to join BMA staff and read to students on Thursday, February 26, 2026.
- Community Empowerment Grants
 - BMA will announce grant recipients within two weeks.
 - Over \$500,000 in grants will go to community organizations improving impact and supporting the mission of the Office.
- Boston 100 Legacy Celebration
 - The event, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of Black History Month, will take place Friday, February 27, 2026 at 6:00pm at Hue Boston.
- BMA Equity Study
 - The Office is wrapping up Phase I of the Equity Study.
 - Updates for the commission and a public briefing are being planned.
- BMA Partner Network Meeting
 - Networking event with grantees and community partners
 - Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Bruce C. Bolling Building in Roxbury, MA.
 - Initial launch
 - Updates on what's going on in the city
- Follow BMA on all social media platforms
 - Get on our list serve and let us know what's going on in the community

City Council Updates

- Brian Worrell, City Councilor, District 4
 - Focus on launching snow corps
 - March 3rd City Council hearing regarding snow removal relief, the creation of a snow corps, and the purchasing of snow melters.
 - Taxes
 - Property taxes up 13%
 - Value of commercial property falling compared to value of residential property

- Tax value up on residents and down on commercial office buildings
 - Mayor Wu filed legislation in February 2024 to provide temporary, targeted relief and slow the pace of the shift onto residential taxpayers.
 - Focus on launching snow corps
- Miniard Culpepper, City Councilor, District 7
 - Informed he could not attend due to still being in city council meeting

Executive Committee Updates

- Devin Morris
 - Few terms ending in June, so community and current commissioners → make nominations on who should fill empty seats on commission
 - Same with committee leadership
 - Next couple of weeks, each committee meeting with mayor's chiefs on budget setting
 - Not just initial meeting, but subsequent quarterly meetings on how the money is being used
 - Office of Black Male Advancement has a number of events over course of next few months
 - Recognition of commissioners having consistent representation at BMA events over course of the year that are most related to work of your committee
- Statement on behalf of the commission read by Maddrey Goode, Chair

The Commission on Black Men and Boys Statement on the State of Black Men and Boys in Boston in 2026

BOSTON, MA – Each year the Commission on Black Men and Boys (“the Commission”) releases policy and budget recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year to the Mayor. Beginning this Black History Month and continuing

every year moving forward, the Commission will release an annual statement outlining progress, persistent challenges, and the actions needed to ensure Black men and boys can thrive in every neighborhood of our city.

The Commission on Black Men and Boys was established through a 2021 ordinance and is made up of 21 Black males with experience, knowledge and expertise on issues pertaining to Black men and boys in the City of Boston. The Commission serves as an advisor for the Mayor and Mayor's Office of Black Male Advancement.

Over the past several years, in partnership with Mayor Michelle Wu, the Commission has made meaningful progress. Through the Commission's advocacy and leadership, the Mayor's Office of Black Male Advancement has been codified into law, a citywide equity study engaging more than 3,000 residents has been launched, and a \$2 million annual budget was secured to support this work. Through the Commission's annual budget and policy recommendations, additional investments have advanced opportunities across education, housing, health, and community safety, including expanded support for My Brother's Keeper Boston, increased pre-development funding for emerging developers, new resources for men's mental health and fatherhood, and \$1.75 million in community grants serving thousands of residents.

At the same time, persistent challenges remain. Black men and boys in Boston continue to face entrenched disparities across education, housing, employment, health, and community safety. These challenges are

compounded when equity and inclusion commitments are inconsistently implemented, or when city decision-making structures lack transparency and/or timely communication with the Office of Black Male Advancement.

The Commission has observed and advocated for issues regarding:

- Increased Black representation within City government leadership roles
- Increased support for recruitment, retention, and advancement of Black employees within City government
- Continued development concerns, including opportunities for emerging developers on city owned land, where community expectations around accountability and Black homeownership remain high.
- Continued need for transparent community engagement on the redevelopment of White Stadium, particularly how the project will impact neighboring communities and small businesses who bid for contracting opportunities.
- Expanded capacity for the Office of Worker Empowerment's City Academy to support a workforce training center.
- Continued community concern regarding exam school access and equity.
- Ongoing dialogue related to the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) between Boston Public Schools, the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, and the North Atlantic States Regional Carpenters Council.

- Ensuring the Office of Violence Prevention's organization and funding structures are communicated publicly.
- The urgent need to build stronger alignment with Boston Public Schools, particularly around literacy, college and career pathways, teacher diversity, and early intervention for Black boys.
- Persistent challenges with disaggregated data collection and transparency, which are essential for measuring progress and informing policy.
- Ensuring the Mayor's Office of Black Male Advancement is consistently consulted when policy and budget decisions are made.

These issues are not isolated. They are interconnected, and they require coordination and a shared understanding across City leadership that equity is not supplemental work, but core to governance and the future of Boston's well-being.

Despite these challenges, the Commission also recognizes strong examples of what effective collaboration can look like. Partnerships such as the Boston Public Health Commission's collaboration with the OBMA elevated critical men's mental health resources and access. Boston Public Schools' continued support for My Brother's Keeper Boston expanded mentoring, career and college pathways, and student advancement. Moreover, the creation of the White Stadium Advisory Board including community voices, as well as the establishment of the Office of Violence Prevention, demonstrate that when departments work together, outcomes improve.

The Black Men and Boys Commission remains committed to partnering with Mayor Michelle Wu. As Boston confronts rising costs of living, educational inequities, labor market challenges, and community safety concerns, Black men and boys cannot remain an afterthought. Their outcomes are a measure of the city's moral and economic health.

We urge the Mayor to recommit to the mission of the Office of Black Male Advancement, clear and consistent equity implementation across all departments, and transparent data collection and public reporting to track progress. We further urge policy and budget decisions to align with the City's commitment to racial equity, alongside sustained, long-term investment in the lives and futures of Black men and boys.

The Black Men and Boys Commission stands ready to continue this work collaboratively, candidly, and with the urgency our communities deserve.

Respectfully,

The Commission on Black Men and Boys Leadership:

Maddrey Goode - Chair Devin Morris - Vice Chair

Anthony Richards II - Committee Chair Andre Barbour - Committee Chair

James Mackey - Committee Chair Richard Claytor - Committee Chair

- Commission Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Recommendations
 - Equity and Racial Justice Committee (Maddrey Goode, Chair)

Budget Proposal Brief Description	Department	Committee Priority Ranking	FY27 Budget Request
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Racial Equity Toolkit to embed racial equity in policy, programs, budget, and hiring across all city departments and monitor metrics for accountability	Equity and Inclusion Cabinet - Racial Justice	1	Level Funding
Program Fund My Brothers Keeper (MBK) Boston program funds - BMA has oversight of MBK funds housed in Boston Public Schools. Request to return MBK funds, and FTE to BMA for oversight and administration.	Office of Black Male Advancement/Boston Public Schools	2	Level Funding
Added capacity for diversity efforts across all levels of city government	People Operations	3	Level Funding
Race & Ethnicity Data Standard for City of Boston	Equity and Inclusion Cabinet - Racial Justice	4	Level Funding

- o Affordable Housing & Pathways to Homeownership Committee (Anthony Richards II, Lead)

Budget Proposal Brief Description	Department	Committee Priority Ranking	FY27 Budget Request
Program fund Expand down payment assistance and interest rate buydowns for first time homebuyers	Office of Housing	1	Level Funding
Anti-displacement action plan and toolkit	Planning Department	1	Level Funding
Program fund A homeownership voucher pilot to establish anti-displacement first generation homeownership opportunities for homebuyers affected by the benefits cliff.	Office of Housing	2	Level Funding
Program fund Expand pre-homebuyer preparation programs to help first-time homebuyers get lender ready (e.g. credit repair, lowering debt, savings, and budget management)	Office of Housing	3	Level Funding
Program fund Increase pre-development funding for emerging developers	Office of Housing	4	Level Funding

- o Economic Opportunity & Workers Empowerment Committee (Andre Barbour, Lead)

Budget Proposal Brief Description	Department	Committee Priority Ranking	FY27 Budget Request
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Program fund Additional capacity to recruit participants and identify high value career training program and employment opportunities	Office of Worker Empowerment	1	Level Funding
Program Fund Additional capacity for technical assistance for small businesses and entrepreneurs	Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion	1	Level Funding
Program fund Additional capacity for the Boston Jobs Bank (BRJP)	Office of Worker Empowerment	2	Level Funding
Program fund Additional capacity for a financial empowerment program (credit and asset building) and constituent outreach	Center for Working Families	2	Level Funding
Program fund Fund for school year jobs	Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity	3	Level Funding

- Education and Youth Advancement Committee (Devin Morris, Lead)

Budget Proposal Brief Description	Department	Committee Priority Ranking	FY27 Budget Request
Contract Support for enhancing student literacy and high quality curriculum	Boston Public Schools	1	Level Funding
Contract Enhancing social emotional supports	Boston Public Schools	2	Level Funding
Program fund Support for student and family empowerment and restorative justice task forces	Boston Public Schools	3	Level Funding
Program Fund A required financial literacy course for all BPS students to graduate high school. BPS and BMA to work in partnership for the initial pilot. Funds housed in the BPS budget.	Boston Public Schools	4	Level Funding
Contract Expanding program support for diverse teacher recruitment & retention	Boston Public Schools	5	Level Funding

- Public Health and Wellness & Fatherhood and Families (Richard Claytor, Lead)

Budget Proposal Brief Description	Department	Committee Priority	FY27 Budget Request
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		Ranking	
Program fund Expand Behavioral & Mental Health Initiative to include programs for adults	Boston Public Health Commission	1	Level Funding
Program fund Additional capacity to support health equity education and outreach	Boston Public Health Commission	2	Level Funding
Program fund Additional capacity in the Father Friendly Initiative to support fathers	Boston Public Health Commission	3	Level Funding
Program fund Additional capacity to support substance abuse and recovery	Boston Public Health Commission	4	Level Funding

- Community Safety and Returning Citizens Committee (James Mackey, Lead)

Budget Proposal Brief Description	Department	Committee Priority Ranking	FY27 Budget Request
Program fund Additional support for transitional housing	Office of Returning Citizens	1	Level Funding
Program fund Added capacity for the Community Safety Team and the expansion of violence prevention and intervention outreach efforts	Boston Public Health Commission - Office of Violence Prevention	1	Level Funding
Program Fund Added capacity for trauma response - coordinated response and recovery program	Boston Public Health Commission - Office of Violence Prevention	2	Level Funding
Program Fund Added capacity for returning citizen transition/success coaching	Office of Returning Citizens	2	Level Funding

Committee Report Out

- **Equity & Racial Justice**
 - Equity Study
 - 3000 Residents participated and 20 interviewed
- **Affordable Housing**
 - N/a
- **Economic Opportunity & Workers Empowerment**
 - N/a
- **Education & Youth Advancement**
 - BPS budget freeze

- Focus on hiring and retaining Black educators
 - Committee is meeting with BPS about proposed budget
 - There are budget restrictions, but how is the budget being utilized and how much is being utilized
 - Boston Public School Senior Graduation Risks
 - ⅓ of BPS seniors at risk of not graduating
 - Only 40 percent of BPS Black high school graduates completed MassCore in 2025. For more information, please follow this [link](#).
 - Exam school policies, emotional supports, and teacher supports
 - ICE presence
 - Increased communications for schools dealing with ICE presence near school buildings
- **Health and Wellness & Fatherhood and Families**
 - Identifying Liaison in BPHC
 - Primary collaborator and focus at BPHC
 - Focus on expanding behavioral and mental health efforts for adults
- **Community Safety & Returning Citizens**
 - N/a

Adjournment

- 7:53 - Motion to adjourn by Richard Claytor
- Noah Tewolde seconded