Offered by Councilors Michelle Wu and Ricardo Arroyo

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING PLANNING FOR AN EQUITABLE RECOVERY FROM THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to expose systemic inequities and necessary social-distancing policies are deepening pre-existing social, economic, and public health disparities across communities; *and*

WHEREAS: In the week after the City of Boston declared a Public Health Emergency due to coronavirus, unemployment claims across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts surged to nearly twentyfold the number of claims from the prior week, and many workers may not be eligible for unemployment assistance at all; *and*

WHEREAS: The impacts of closing down non-essential businesses, schools, child care, and community spaces create tremendous financial and emotional distress disproportionately borne by communities who were already at greater risk of displacement, including renters, youth, hourly wage workers, communities of color and immigrant residents; *and*

WHEREAS: When all non-essential travel is limited, the presence or absence of resources available to residents in each neighborhood is amplified--residents face even greater barriers to food access, digital connectivity, open space without full mobility; *and*

WHEREAS: Although the timeline for lifting social-distancing policies may be uncertain, there is total certainty that communities will require City-supported recovery efforts, and planning for that recovery should be urgent and focus on equity; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss a framework to ensure equitable recovery from the economic, social, and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that representatives from the Boston Planning and Development Agency, the Economic Development Cabinet, the Housing Cabinet, Boston Public Schools, community organizations, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: April 1, 2020