

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS HOW THE CITY BUDGET IS ADDRESSING EQUITY

**WHEREAS,** In 2020 the City of Boston declared racism as a public health crisis; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Eighty percent of whites own a home while only one-third of African Americans, less than one-fifth of Dominicans and Puerto Ricans, and only half of Caribbean blacks are homeowners in the City of Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The median net worth for white households in Boston is a quarter million dollars in comparison to the \$8 median net worth for Black households; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Residents of Roxbury have a life expectancy of less than 59 years, the shortest in all of Boston, while Less than half a mile away across Massachusetts Avenue, residents of Back Bay have the city's highest life expectancy of almost 92 years; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Consequently, this public health crisis has been exacerbated by social determinants of health perpetuated by systemic racism; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Studies have shown that race determines how poor you are and that poverty is directly correlated to negative outcomes, such as, poor health, lack of leadership opportunities, housing insecurity, minimal access to economic opportunities to support generational wealth creation, health inequities, food deserts, barriers to transportation, absence of access to arts and culture, climate injustice, prevention of youth development, civic death, and inadequate recovery from COVID; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City is committed to addressing equity through our budget priorities and has enacted numerous policies, ordinances and executive orders designed to ensure that all of its residents share in the opportunities that the City has to offer, however, The City does not have an equity driven accountable allocation system in place that tracks it's budgeted and actual revenues and expenses across district neighborhoods to show disproportions that studies have shown exist; *and*

**WHEREAS,** It is the responsibility of the Boston City Council to foster and cultivate an inclusive and transparent review of the City's Budget and the way in which the City of Boston expends its budgeted funds to ensure equity; *and*

**WHEREAS,** It is the desire of Mayor Michelle Wu, to assure the City Council will have, “...a larger partnership in ensuring our City’s dollars are equitably allocated according to the needs, interests and visions of our residents”; *and*

**WHEREAS,** It is the desire of Boston City Council President Ed Flynn to, “...develop a budget for the City of Boston that addresses our long-standing needs, such as housing affordability and stability, public health, public and pedestrian safety, climate resiliency and sustainability, and equitable access to city services”; *and*

**WHEREAS,** As stewards of the City budget and representatives of our constituents, the City Council needs to know specific information in order to best advocate for the interests of our constituents, with emphasized attention on marginalized communities especially historically disenfranchised Bostonians; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to gather data and information from the City and Community to ensure that the City’s Budget is meeting equitable threshold allocations in order to monitor and measure the progress regarding: Equity in Housing, Capital Investments, Economic Opportunity to support Generational Wealth Creation, Health Equity, Food Access, Hiring in Leadership Diversity, Pay Equity, Streets, Transportation and Sanitation, Arts and Culture, Environment, Energy, Open Space and Climate Justice, Youth Development, Civic Engagement and 311 response data, and COVID Recovery for marginalized communities.

Filed on: March 15, 2022