

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BOK, MEJIA, FLYNN, BREADON, COLETTA,
FERNANDES ANDERSON, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY AND ARROYO



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS UTILIZING
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING TO
IMPROVE DIGITAL EQUITY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** Mayor Wu has laid out an ambitious plan to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to pursue a Green New Deal for Boston and build a more sustainable and equitable city for all; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Internet is becoming for the modern city as essential a public utility as water and sewer, yet too many Bostonians without it are locked out of school, public meetings, critical information, and key services; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Consistent high-speed internet is fast becoming a core piece of economic development infrastructure for which cities are judged by businesses and potential residents alike; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Improving digital equity in our city is a key piece of achieving a Green New Deal for Boston and has been a priority for the Boston City Council; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Providing more Bostonians with the tools and support to participate in the digital world will allow them to search for housing and identify available resources, learn and work remotely or grow their businesses online; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It will also expand access to vaccines, critical telehealth, and virtual care and help combat the effects of social isolation, especially among seniors; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston should utilize a portion of its ARPA funding to make a significant investment in expanding digital equity through Tech Goes Home, in line with the proposal submitted to the Boston City Council on May 3, 2022;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss using up to \$2 million of the city's ARPA funding to make an initial investment in expanding digital equity in Boston through Tech Goes Home, and that representatives from the Department of Innovation and Technology, Boston Human Rights Commission, the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, the Office of Budget Management, Tech Goes Home, and the public, be invited to attend.

Filed on: May 17, 2022