

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA AND LIZ BREADON, MURPHY,
COLETTA, ARROYO, BOK, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY,
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CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON'S PLAN TO ERADICATE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS, RECEIVE UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS SPECIFIC TO LGBTQ+ YOUTH

- WHEREAS,** The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the LGBTQ+ youth and young adult homelessness crisis. According to a recent study from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, LGBTQ+ young people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than non-LGBTQ youth; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Although LGBTQ+ Youth in the United States only makes up 7% of the population, they represent 40% of youth experiencing homelessness; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2012, 26% of transgender youth nationwide reported leaving their homes at some point and becoming unhoused due to different forms of family rejection and family violence; *and*
- WHEREAS,** LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness have similar needs to their non-LGBTQ peers; they also have needs specific to their identities. "LGBTQ" is an umbrella acronym, which means the needs of each particular identity under this umbrella are different and therefore require a targeted approach; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Homelessness does not impact every group of YYA in Boston equally. According to the 2017 Massachusetts Youth Count Report, Approximately 50% of YYA experiencing homelessness in Boston are Black. Nearly two-thirds of participants come from the predominantly Black neighborhoods of Roxbury and Dorchester. Additionally, up to 35% of YYA experiencing homelessness in Boston identify as Latinx or Hispanic, and up to 29% of the almost 3,222 YYA experiencing homelessness in Boston are LGBTQ+; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In April 2018, the City, the Boston Youth Action Board, and 280 community members launched the Rising to the Challenge initiative, which explores how to prevent and end unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults (YYA) homelessness in Boston. They released a report and accompanying action plan in November of 2019; *and*

WHEREAS, This report outlined four key strategies: develop a collaborative system, improve early identification and outreach, increase access to and effectiveness of existing resources, and invest in new housing and services resources to achieve the vision and meet the core outcomes for preventing and ending YYA homelessness in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, We envision a city where all YYA have equal access to resources and opportunities, including Black, LGBTQ, pregnant and parenting, systems-involved YYA, and other populations at statistically higher risk of experiencing homelessness and housing instability; *and*

WHEREAS, We envision a Boston where all Youth and Young Adults (YYA) have a safe, identity-validating, and stable place to live, with opportunities to reach their full potential in education and employment, and with self-love and awareness; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the ‘Rising to the Challenge’ plan to prevent and eradicate youth and young adult homelessness and receive updates on implementation and progress specific to LGBTQ+ youth. Representatives from the City of Boston, including the Mayor's Office of LGBTQIA+ Advancement, the Mayor’s Office of Housing, members of the Boston Youth Action Board, community advocates, and members of the public, are encouraged to testify.

Filed on: July 13, 2022