

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA AND MICHAEL FLAHERTY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR A SENIOR CENTER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF WEST ROXBURY

- WHEREAS,** Senior Centers have become one of the most widely used services among America's older adults; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The National Council on Aging reports that senior center users can learn to manage and delay the onset of chronic disease and experience measurable improvements in their physical, social, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic well-being; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston Centers for Youth and Families currently operates just two stand-alone senior centers, in Charlestown and Dorchester, with a third center in East Boston opening soon; *and*
- WHEREAS,** BCYF currently lists only five BCYF Community Centers as having significant dedicated senior spaces; *and*
- WHEREAS,** West Roxbury is home to a population of over 9,000 senior citizens, the second largest number of senior citizens of any Boston neighborhood; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This is 27% of the neighborhood's population, the highest proportion of senior citizens of any Boston neighborhood; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Senior citizens in the West Roxbury, Hyde Park, and Roslindale neighborhoods currently travel between multiple neighborhoods and community centers to access services, sometimes visiting multiple sites within the same day; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Elders in every neighborhood of Boston should have access to senior center services that can dramatically improve their quality of life. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on assessing the need for a Senior Center in West Roxbury and that Age Strong, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, and related departments, government entities, non-profits, associations, and interested individuals be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 20, 2023