

Offered by Councilors Matt O'Malley and Kim Janey



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**AN ORDER ON BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH,
RACIAL AND GENDER EQUITY IN THE
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

WHEREAS: The United States has the highest rate of deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy compared to any other developed country, 18 per 100,000 births; and

WHEREAS: The maternal mortality rate for black women is 40 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to 12.4 for white women according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS: In Massachusetts, 199 pregnancy-associated deaths were identified between 2005-2014; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates of maternal mortality in the country, yet the Massachusetts State Health Assessment documents that persistent prenatal care disparities remain for black mothers despite the Commonwealth's low overall rate; and

WHEREAS: The percentage of black mothers suffering from the symptoms of postpartum depression is three times higher than the percentage for white mothers in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston needs an intersectional approach to maternal health, including access to prenatal care, mental health services and diversity in clinical research at anchor institutions; and **THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the Boston City Council, hereby assembled, orders a hearing on black maternal health, racial and gender equity in the healthcare system in the City of Boston.

Filed in City Council: February 21, 2019