

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE CABO VERDEAN AMERICANS IN BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** The Cape Verdean community in Boston has historically played a vital role in the city's cultural, social, and economic landscape, enriching its diversity and contributing significantly to its vibrancy; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Understanding the history of the nation of Cape Verde is essential in recognizing the resilience and cultural heritage of its people, who endured abuse, exploitation, slaughter, sexual violence, and displacement while the Colonizers looted their land through the African Holocaust for over three hundred years as a port for the West's Transatlantic slave trade, and subsequently gained independence from Portugal on July 5, 1975, marking a significant milestone in their history; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Like the Irish, Scottish, Italians, English and many other Immigrants, Cape Verdean have been arriving in the United States, including Boston, since the late 19th centuries, seeking better opportunities and a brighter future for themselves and their families, and have since become an integral part of the fabric of Boston's communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Cape Verdean community in Boston has demonstrated a strong work ethic and a commitment to self-reliance, rarely seeking assistance despite facing systemic barriers and disparities in accessing essential services and opportunities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The contributions of the Cape Verdean community to Boston are numerous and varied, including their involvement in local businesses, cultural events, educational initiatives, healthcare services, and advocacy efforts, all of which have greatly enriched the city's social and economic landscape; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Despite their resilience and contributions, the needs of the Cape Verdean community in Boston have often been overlooked or inadequately addressed, leading to disparities in healthcare access, educational attainment, economic opportunities, and other areas; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Recognizing the past traumas endured by the Cape Verdean community and the value they bring to Boston, it is imperative for the City Council to hold a hearing

to examine how Boston is addressing their needs and identify ways to better support and empower this vibrant community; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Acknowledging the historical injustices faced by the Cape Verdean community and their enriching contributions to Boston, the City must enhance assistance for this dynamic community, aligning with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 151B, Section 4, which prohibits racial discrimination and ensures equitable treatment for all residents, including Cape Verdeans; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Recognizing the vital contributions and historical significance of the Cabo Verdean American community to Boston, the city must prioritize addressing their unique needs, aligning with the ethos of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 6A, Section 18, which mandates agencies to develop programs tailored to meet the diverse needs of immigrant populations; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**WHEREAS,** Examples of the Cape Verdean community's contributions to Boston include their involvement in local businesses, cultural events, educational initiatives, healthcare services, and advocacy efforts, enriching the city's social and economic landscape; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address the needs of the Cape Verdean community in Boston, with a focus on understanding their historical significance, contributions, and challenges faced. The hearing shall provide an opportunity for community members, advocates, experts, and city officials to share insights, experiences, and recommendations for better supporting the Cape Verdean community in Boston. Topics of discussion shall include but are not limited to healthcare access, educational opportunities, economic development, housing affordability, cultural preservation, and civic engagement. The hearing shall explore ways in which the City of Boston can collaborate with community organizations, institutions, and stakeholders to address the identified needs and enhance the well-being of the Cape Verdean community. The findings and recommendations from the hearing shall inform future policy decisions, resource allocation, and initiatives aimed at advancing equity, inclusion, and justice for all residents of Boston, including the Cape Verdean community.

Filed on: March 5, 2025