

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA, COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, SHARON DURKAN, BREADON, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING MENSTRUAL PRODUCT ACCESSIBILITY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, In August 2023, the City of Boston launched a pilot program aiming to make menstrual products more accessible in Boston by offering free menstrual products and education programs at some Boston Public Library branches; *and*

WHEREAS, Through the program, free pads and tampons are available in all female, male and gender neutral bathrooms at the Brighton, Codman Square, East Boston, North End, Mattapan and Roxbury branches of the Boston Public Library system; *and*

WHEREAS, Menstrual products are necessary for half of our population and essential to all menstruating individuals' personal and mental health. Period poverty, or not being able to afford menstrual products, is a common concern for low-income menstruating individuals in high-income countries; *and*

WHEREAS, According to a 2021 study published in the BMC Women's Health Journal, many young menstruating individuals cannot afford products to meet their monthly needs, especially Black and Brown individuals. This may impact their mental well-being due to the shame and stigma associated with a lack of income or accessibility to affordable products; *and*

WHEREAS, These products can cost families more than \$200 per person, per year. This initiative was designed to help make these essential products accessible to anyone who cannot afford these products. Additionally, this pilot has helped reduce the stigma around menstruation by providing free workshops for the community from Love Your Menses; *and*

WHEREAS, As Boston continues to learn from this pilot program in Boston Public Libraries, the City should consider continuing to grow this program in locations with the highest need as well as in Boston Public Schools; **NOW. THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA AND COUNCILOR RUTHZEE
LOUIJEUNE**

to discuss menstrual product accessibility in the City of Boston, and that the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement, Boston Public Schools, advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: January 24, 2024