

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, BREADON, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FERNANDES ANDERSON, MURPHY, PEPEN, SANTANA, WEBER AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE HEALTHY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) in Massachusetts enables Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to access fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables by providing reimbursement for purchases made at farmers' markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs; *and*
- WHEREAS,** HIP supports local farmers and enhances food security for low-income households, many of whom include seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families with children; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In September 2024, approximately 10% of SNAP households in Boston, representing just under 10,000 households, received HIP benefits, demonstrating the program's vital role in addressing nutritional needs; in 2024, nearly \$3M of HIP benefits were utilized by Boston residents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) recently announced cuts to HIP benefits, reducing the reimbursement to \$20 per household per month, for all SNAP households, effective December 1, 2024, from the previous benefit of \$40 to \$80 per month depending on household size; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These cuts, driven by insufficient state budget allocations, will undermine the program's ability to operate year-round and may exacerbate food insecurity among Boston residents while reducing sales for Massachusetts farmers; *and*
- WHEREAS,** HIP has demonstrated measurable success in improving dietary quality, with participants purchasing 1.23 additional daily servings of fruits and vegetables on average, and each dollar invested generating \$2 in local economic activity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston's farmers' markets, mobile markets, and CSA programs heavily depend on HIP-supported transactions, which are essential to sustaining their operations and contributing to the city's local food economy; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council support full funding for the Healthy Incentives Program whereby the Massachusetts Governor and Legislature add an additional \$10 million allocation for HIP in a supplemental budget to ensure uninterrupted operation through fiscal year 2025.