



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMITTEE AT THE BOSTON CITY
COUNCIL**

WHEREAS: The issues of domestic violence and sexual assault remain prevalent in our society including in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS: According to data compiled by Jane Doe, Inc., the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the 2010 National Intimate Partner Survey, Massachusetts was on par with national averages; *and*

WHEREAS: In Massachusetts, nearly 1 in 2 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence, with nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men having experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner, and more than 1 in 7 women having experienced rape; *and*

WHEREAS: Eleven percent (11%) of high school students and six percent (6%) of middle school students reported being physically hurt by a date sometime in their life; *and*

WHEREAS: Between 2003 and December 31, 2012, Jane Doe, Inc. identified 266 victims of domestic violence related homicides and an additional 74 domestic violence homicide perpetrator deaths in Massachusetts; *and*

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately led to an increase in domestic violence, as stay-at-home orders unintentionally caused many victims to be trapped in their home with their abusers, leaving them few options for escape or support, struggling with the stress of financial hardship and an increased sense of isolation. Domestic violence hotlines had reported a surge in the number of calls during the pandemic, with victims expressing greater urgency and severity of the violence that they are experiencing; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control in 2019, 33.9% of Massachusetts women and 31.7% of Massachusetts men experience physical violence, sexual violence, and stalking by their intimate partners in their lifetimes; *and*

WHEREAS: Moreover, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%, and more than half of women killed by gun violence are killed by family

members or intimate partners; *and*

WHEREAS: The issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault are underreported especially by immigrants, members of the LGBTQ community, and those who may be hesitant to contact law enforcement; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council supports the establishment of a standalone Committee on Domestic Violence to discuss opportunities to provide support for victims, ways to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault in our City, solutions for increasing reporting opportunities for all communities, as well as other ways to educate the public to increase awareness about the prevalence of this behavior.

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