

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, JOHN FITZGERALD,
BRIAN WORRELL, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY,
SANTANA AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS
PROGRAMMING NEEDS FOR OLDER ADULTS IN THE
CITY OF BOSTON**

- WHEREAS,** The City is committed to addressing challenges that adults 60 or older face to ensure that they may age with dignity and maintain a healthy quality of life in the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Older adults are projected to continue growing as a proportion of Boston’s population, accounting for over 20% of the City’s total population by 2030; *and*
- WHEREAS,** An October 2024 report issued by Health Management Associates (“HMA”) identified several barriers that prevent older adults in Boston from participating in programming, including transportation to spaces, limited program availability, scheduling conflicts, and proximity to offerings; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Dedicated programming and spaces for older adults can reduce the impacts of social isolation which are linked to a range of negative outcomes, including increased prevalence of chronic diseases, cognitive decline, and heightened risk of dementia; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Senior centers play a crucial role in fostering health, social interaction, and community engagement among older adults and function as community hubs that offer a full range of activities and services designated to enhance the quality of life for older Americans; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston currently has four city-run senior centers. The HMA report recommended Boston “shift toward a larger number of city-owned and operated senior centers” because they will “support more flexibility in scheduling and programming”; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Due to the expected growth of Boston’s older adult population, the HMA Report highlighted “the need for Boston to evaluate the current capacity of city-invested spaces and determine the need for expansion over the next 5-10 years, particularly in neighborhoods projected to experience significant population growth”; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address barriers that prevent older adults in Boston from participating in senior programming and to discuss the feasibility of creating a senior center in West Roxbury. Representatives from the Age Strong Commission and relevant departments will be invited to testify at this hearing to be scheduled off-site in West Roxbury.