

Offered by Councilor Breadon, Flynn, Arroyo, Fernandes-Anderson, Flaherty, Lara, Louijeune, Mejia, Murphy, Worrell



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE EMPLOYEE UNION

- WHEREAS*, Since the summer 2020 formation of Beacon B.L.O.C. (Building Leaders of Color), led by a collective of Black staffers of the Massachusetts State House, legislative staff have organized for necessary reforms to advance workplace equity; *and*
- WHEREAS*, On Thursday, March 31, 2022, representatives of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2222 notified the President of the Massachusetts Senate of the successful majority of authorization cards supporting the formation of a Massachusetts Senate staff union, and House staff are poised to follow suit; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Once recognized, the Massachusetts State House Employee Union will become the second state legislative staff union in the country, after Oregon in May 2021; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Staff organizers have identified several factors motivating the unionization effort, including the creation of a workplace free from discrimination and sexual harassment; health insurance coverage beginning on the first day of employment; fair and consistent pay grades across offices; measures to recruit, support, and retain a diverse workforce; clearly defined job roles and responsibilities; comprehensive professional development opportunities; and the right to collective bargaining to provide staff a voice in matters concerning their workplace; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Legislative staff are vital to the work of government in supporting constituents and enacting good public policy, and a workplace that supports its staff fosters a strong, open, and respectful culture that will best serve residents of the Commonwealth; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts consistently support unions and organized labor, believing that every worker deserves a union; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*
- RESOLVED*: That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, go on record supporting the unionization efforts of legislative staff and urges voluntary recognition of the Massachusetts State House Employee Union as the second state legislative union nationwide; *AND BE IT FURTHER*
- RESOLVED*: That the Clerk of the City of Boston be, and hereby is, respectfully requested to transmit a suitably attested copy of this Resolution to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, and members of the Boston Delegation to the General Court.