



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. In 2023, a report by Jane Doe Inc documented that there were 19 domestic violence homicides in Massachusetts. In the 2024 Boston Police Crime Statistics Report, there were 903 incidents of domestic aggravated assault, up by 43 incidents compared to 2023; *and*

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

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

WHEREAS: During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in domestic violence, as stay-at-home orders unintentionally caused many victims to be trapped in their home with their abusers. Domestic violence hotlines reported a surge in the number of calls, with victims expressing greater urgency and severity of the violence that they are experiencing; *and*

WHEREAS: 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%. 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 how to better support victims, ways to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault, ways to encourage and increase reporting mechanisms and increase awareness about the prevalence of this behavior.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025