

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, PEPÉN, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS FOR BOSTON RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, Community colleges play a critical role in Boston’s higher education and workforce ecosystem, providing accessible pathways to credentials, degrees, and family-sustaining employment for working adults, first-generation students, immigrants, and other nontraditional learners; *and*

WHEREAS, The Healey Administration recently made community colleges free for all residents in Massachusetts. Boston Public Schools already had the opportunity for high school students to earn college credit during high school and students were enrolling in community colleges thereafter. Still, many Boston residents continue to face substantial barriers to participation, including work schedules, childcare responsibilities, and difficulty navigating academic and workforce pathways; *and*

WHEREAS, Community colleges serving Bostonians, including but not limited to Bunker Hill Community College and Roxbury Community College, are central to the City’s workforce development strategy and preparation for careers in healthcare, life sciences, building trades, public service, and other high-demand sectors; *and*

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of these workforce pathways depends on program availability, strong partnerships with Boston Public Schools, strong employer partnerships, paid work-based learning opportunities, clear alignment between credentials and careers, and transparent placement and wage outcomes; *and*

WHEREAS, Student support infrastructure, including academic advising, career counseling, mental health services, basic needs assistance, disability access, and one-stop navigation services, is increasingly recognized as essential to student success, particularly for working adults and students with caregiving responsibilities; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has a direct interest in ensuring that community college pathways translate into meaningful economic opportunity for residents and a skilled workforce for local employers; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine access to community colleges serving Boston residents, with particular attention to workforce-aligned pathways, utilization by Boston residents, and the student support infrastructure necessary to ensure enrollment, persistence, and completion.