



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement
Ruthzee Louijeune, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 16, 2022

Dear Councilors:

Docket #0264, order to review applications for the Commission on Black Men and Boys, was sponsored by Councilors Julia Mejia and Ed Flynn and referred to the Committee on February 9, 2022. The Committee held a working session on March 10, 2022.

Summary of Legislation As Filed:

The purpose of this order is to direct the City Council to receive applications from interested persons for appointment to the Commission on Black Men and Boys (“Commission”). The applications will include a brief statement of interest and suitability as a member of the commission. The Commission consists of 21 members and working in collaboration with the City Council, Mayor Wu is accepting 14 recommendations from the City Council of which seven will be appointed to serve on the commission.

Information Gathered at the Working Session:

An ordinance creating this Commission on Black Men and Boys was initially codified last September as Chapter 11 of the Ordinances of 2021. The ordinance outlines the membership of the Commission and defines its objectives which include but are not limited to advising the Mayor on issues pertaining to Black men and boys, determining budget and policy priorities, and designing projects and programs that promote equity. This year the current ordinance was amended by adding provisions relating to an executive director and defining the role of the executive director. The Mayor will appoint an Executive Director of the Black Boys and Men Commission who will be an existing, paid employee of the City of Boston, to oversee and run the daily operations and administration of the Commission. The executive director would have the powers of a department head to execute contracts, to manage personnel, and advise the Commission. The executive director would be a member of the Commission ex officio without additional compensation and would have a vote on matters before the Commission.

The amendment approved this year was necessary so that a paid city employee is a member of the Commission and is able to execute contracts and manage personnel as required under the ordinance.

In order to collaborate with the City Council, the Mayor requested recommendations from the City Council and will appoint seven members to the Commission from the City Council’s fourteen recommendations. The City Council established an online application process where

residents could apply to be one of the fourteen nominees submitted by the City Council. Commission members will serve two, three, or four year terms.

Councilors discussed the importance of the role of the Commission in ensuring that the perspective of Black men and boys is recognized. Councilors discussed the critical role of the Commission in addressing inequities in the City of Boston and ensuring that the City of Boston is more welcoming. Councilors nominated two to three individuals for consideration by the Mayor for appointment to the Commission. Councilors discussed the community involvement and experience of their nominees. Councilors also recognized the work of former District 7 City Councilor Tito Jackson with this issue and Councilors expressed support that City Councilor Brian Worrell serve as a Commission member. Councilors emphasized the importance of participation. Councilors encouraged those who are not selected to stay involved.

Rationale and Recommended Action:

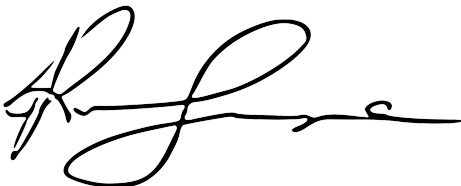
Passage of this order will approve the names of the following fourteen individuals for submission to Mayor Wu: Tito Jackson; Darryl Miller; James Hills; Dave Bazil; James Mackey; Jeff Similien; Justin Brown; Alex Edwards; Devin Morris; Kurt Faustin; Kwame Adams; Louis Elisa; Osa Ohiomoba; and, Stephen Hanton. From these recommendations, Mayor Wu will appoint seven members to serve on the Commission. Brian Worrell was overwhelmingly supported by the City Council process; however, will be included in the administration's selection process.

By the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

Docket #0264, order to review applications for the Commission on Black Men and Boys, ,

submits a report recommending that this order **ought to pass**.

For the Chair:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Louijeune', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ruthzee Louijeune, Chair
Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement