

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



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION REDEDICATING THE THOMAS IRVING ATKINS ROOM

WHEREAS, Thomas Irving Atkins was born in Elkhart, Indiana in 1939, later becoming the first African American student body president at both Elkhart High School and Indiana University, where he was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa; *and*

WHEREAS, After completing graduate studies in Middle Eastern and Far East Studies at Harvard University, Councilor Atkins earned his law degree in 1969 and became involved in Boston's civil rights movement; *and*

WHEREAS, In 1968, Atkins made history as the first Black elected official to serve At-Large on Boston City Council, serving two terms and championing social and economic justice during a turbulent and defining era in Boston's political life; *and*

WHEREAS, His public service extended beyond the Council as General Counsel of the National NAACP, and Secretary of Communities and Development under Governor Francis Sargent, as well as trial counsel in the landmark case that reshaped Boston Public Schools busing and desegregation; *and*

WHEREAS, Atkins' leadership during many tumultuous periods helped to safeguard students and advance civil rights, often at great personal risk, leaving an indelible mark on Boston's pursuit of equity and justice; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council originally dedicated a fifth-floor conference room in his honor in 2011 to recognize his trailblazing legacy and lifelong commitment to civil rights; *and*

WHEREAS, On the occasion of this rededication, the Council reaffirms Thomas Irving Atkins' enduring contributions to our city, our institutions, and generations of Bostonians whose lives were shaped by his courage and service; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby rededicates the "Thomas Irving Atkins Room" in lasting appreciation of his extraordinary leadership, public service, and historic role in advancing civil rights and social justice in the City of Boston, and that a suitably engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to the Atkins family in recognition of this honor.