

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR HENRY SANTANA



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
JUNE 2025 AS IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

WHEREAS, June is Immigrant Heritage Month, a designation which celebrates and recognizes the contributions, resilience, courage, and achievements of immigrants in the United States; *and*

WHEREAS, Immigrant Heritage Month was established in 2014 by the I Stand With Immigrants / I Am An Immigrant Initiative, powered by FWD.us, to empower immigrants, introduce positive immigrant-centered stories to the cultural narrative, provide an opportunity to celebrate one's own cultural heritage, and raise awareness surrounding the abundant ways in which immigration enriches our communities, economy, and country; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is the proud home of a large and diverse immigrant population comprising 28.2% of the City's population and including nearly 189,500 people; *and*

WHEREAS, One in ten Boston residents is a naturalized citizen and approximately 30,000 Boston residents are eligible for United States citizenship; *and*

WHEREAS, 14% of Boston's population, or 97,000 people, were noncitizens as of 2020, including lawful permanent residents, those with temporary protected status (TPS), Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals, those holding nonimmigrant visas, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented immigrants; *and*

WHEREAS, Immigrants as a whole contribute economically to Boston, working in service occupations at nearly twice the rate of native-born resident workers, work blue collar jobs at a larger share than native-born workers, make up 28% of Boston's business owners, and have higher rates of workforce participation than those who are native-born; *and*

WHEREAS, Noncitizens play vital roles in Boston's economy, including generating \$2.9 billion of Boston's Gross City Product; supporting 24,000 jobs through customer demand; owning 4,500 Boston businesses; comprising 9.7% of Boston's

resident workforce; and paying \$161 million in state income taxes, \$56 million in state sales taxes, and an estimated \$27.9 million in property taxes; *and*

WHEREAS, Immigration has increased racial and ethnic diversity in Massachusetts, contributing to the vibrancy of Boston’s cultural fabric and introducing new ideas, languages, perspectives, cuisines, art, music, customs, and literature; *and*

WHEREAS, Immigrants are beloved members of Bostonian families; 41% of immigrants living in Boston, including 24,000 noncitizens, are married, and 19% of Boston’s population are the children of at least one immigrant, including 23,000 children in Boston with at least one noncitizen parent; *and*

WHEREAS, Immigrants are vital to the diversity within Boston’s academic community; as of 2020, over 251,000 higher-education students in Massachusetts were immigrants or international students, comprising 56% of the total higher-education student body, including 56,000 first-generation immigrants, 113,000 second-generation immigrants, and 82,306 international students; further, over 56,850 immigrants in Boston are estimated to hold Bachelor’s degrees, including 35,000 noncitizens with Bachelor’s, Graduate, or Professional degrees. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognizes and celebrates the month of June 2025 as “Immigrant Heritage Month” in the City of Boston, in appreciation of the contributions to our City made by all immigrant communities in Boston, and honors the valued presence of immigrants as our community members and neighbors; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council commits itself — and encourages all government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools — to take meaningful actions to support and affirm the equitable rights, freedoms, dignity, treatment, health, and safety of Boston’s immigrant communities.