

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, HENRY SANTANA, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, WEBER AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO UPDATE AND REPLACE BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL SIGNAGE

- WHEREAS,** The Black Heritage Trail is a historical and cultural asset that commemorates the legacy and contributions of Boston's Black community, particularly during the fight for abolition and civil rights; and
- WHEREAS,** The signage along the Black Heritage Trail serves in educating the public, guiding visitors, and preserving historical narratives, but has suffered from wear and tear, inconsistent styling, outdated information, and inadequate accessibility; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Stakeholders, including the Museum of African American History, the National Park Service, the Boston Landmarks Commission, the Commemoration commission, and others have underscored the urgent need to update and maintain signage along the trail; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Museum of African American History holds the intellectual property rights to the Black Heritage Trail, the National Park Service operates guided tours, and the City of Boston has signage installed on City-owned infrastructure, necessitating inter-agency coordination for updates and long-term maintenance; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Accessibility improvements, including uniform signage, clear wayfinding markers, and digital enhancements such as interactive maps, QR codes, and multilingual resources, are necessary to ensure broader engagement from residents, tourists, and students, and those with disabilities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston has an obligation to support the preservation and visibility of Black history within its public spaces, ensuring that the stories of resilience, activism, and community-building along the Black Heritage Trail remain accessible and engaging for future generations; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore opportunities for updating and replacing Black Heritage Trail signage, with a focus on interagency collaboration, funding mechanisms, long-term maintenance responsibilities, and accessibility improvements. Representatives from the Museum of African American History, National Park Service, Boston Landmarks Commission, the Commemoration Commission, and other relevant stakeholders shall be invited to testify.