

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BRIAN  
WORRELL, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA,  
MURPHY, SANTANA AND WEBER



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MATTAPAN SQUARE TASK FORCE FOR ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL GROWTH

**WHEREAS,** Mattapan is one of the most diverse Boston neighborhoods, with one of largest Haitian and Caribbean communities and homeownership rates amongst Black and Brown populations in the state; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In recent years, the current administration has invested in the community through robust zoning changes with PLAN: Mattapan and starting large-scale traffic projects such as redesigning Cummins Highway; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The neighborhood center of Mattapan Square is a vibrant economic hub with a rich history of BIPOC-owned small businesses promoting their diverse cultures to residents and visitors, yet face many obstacles to opening and sustaining their storefronts; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Business owners - and residents - have voiced major obstacles to obtaining permits and licenses, renovating their older buildings owned by mostly absentee landlords, and creating welcoming spaces when nearby communities continue to disregard the Square with illegal dumping; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Mattapan Square Main Streets district has been operating without a full-time, dedicated executive director and active board for over a year, restricting the Square from receiving transformative grants that other Main Streets districts, such as Roslindale Square, have been able to thrive from; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Community groups such as the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council have advocated for more City efforts and attention to support Mattapan Square and bring it to its full potential like other nearby neighborhood centers; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The name Mattapan comes from the Neponsett tribe meaning “a good place to be” or “a good place to sit”, Mattapan deserves a neighborhood center for residents and visitors to gather and support small, locally-owned small businesses; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the development and implementation of a city-led Mattapan Square Task Force dedicated to launch and support economic growth in the community. Experts on

small business development, Main Streets officials, administration officials, and community members will be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 29, 2025