

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ASSESS EXPANDED HOSPITAL & COMMUNITY-CENTRIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION

- WHEREAS,** Violence prevention and intervention programs are most effective when they have adequate financial and governmental support; and
- WHEREAS,** Boston is home to globally recognized research, medical, and community organizations working to reduce violence, prevent recidivism, and build community; and
- WHEREAS,** Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs) like VIAP play a vital role in addressing the cycle of violent injuries by providing comprehensive care and support to victims both during hospitalization and beyond; and
- WHEREAS,** VIAP, a cornerstone of Boston Medical Center, has been successfully guiding victims of community violence through physical and emotional recovery since 2006, offering crisis intervention, mental health services, and ongoing case management; and
- WHEREAS,** There is a notable fragmentation in the approach to violence prevention and intervention, with each hospital having its own program rather than operating under a unified umbrella; and
- WHEREAS,** Violence prevention professionals are currently restricted to working solely in their own hospitals; and
- WHEREAS,** Many hospitals have either no dedicated violence prevention departments or have small departments that lack necessary resources; and
- WHEREAS,** There is a need to assess and expand both hospital and community-centric violence prevention and intervention efforts in the City of Boston; and
- WHEREAS,** Intervening in, disrupting, and ending cycles of violence requires collaborative, coordinated, community-based action; and
- WHEREAS,** Organizations throughout the City of Boston have worked to build communication structures to support collaboration; and

WHEREAS, The City has invaluable resources and convening power to strengthen collaborative initiatives; and

WHEREAS, A model implemented in the City of Hartford, CT, has demonstrated success by empowering hospitals and community organizations, doubling the number of violence prevention professionals, expanding social work and support staff, and formalizing communication structures; and

WHEREAS, These organizations collaborated to coordinate responses to emergent issues daily, ensuring effective and efficient responses utilizing all available tools; and

WHEREAS, This program has rapidly gained buy-in from rival stakeholders and community members; and

WHEREAS, A coordinated and collaborative approach, as demonstrated in Hartford, CT, is essential for effective violence prevention, intervention, community building, and healing; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss enhanced support for hospital- and community-based violence intervention and prevention programs, and that representatives from BPHC, Public Safety, Civic Engagement, and other relevant and interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 24, 2024