

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, ERIN MURPHY, TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, ARROYO, BAKER, BOK, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, BREADON, LOUIJEUNE, LARA AND FLYNN



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 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, The City of Boston receives invaluable services and expertise while providing limited support in return; *and*

WHEREAS, Intervening in, disrupting, and ending cycles of violence requires collaborative, coordinated, community-based action; *and*

WHEREAS, Both City and community resources exist in fragmented, siloed systems; *and*

WHEREAS, Organizations throughout the City of Boston have worked to build communication structures to support collaboration; *and*

WHEREAS, The City has the resources and convening power to bolster these efforts; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Hartford, CT has worked to empower hospitals and community organizations by implementing a system funded by the city and driven by community leaders to increase available resources while formalizing communication structures; *and*

WHEREAS, Hartford was able to double the number of violence prevention professionals in hospitals as well as expand the number of social workers, street workers, case managers, and other social support professionals throughout their community organizational partners; *and*

WHEREAS, These organizations collaborated to coordinate responses to emergent issues on a daily basis, 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, The City of Boston recognizes the need to develop and use all tools at our disposal in a coordinated manner to intervene in violence, prevent recidivism, build community ties, encourage community healing, and build safe, resilient, and collaborative neighborhoods; ***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 in Council: February 23, 2023