

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, BREADON, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE SOUTH END BRANCH OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AND RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EFFORTS OF MARLEEN NIENHUIS TO IMPROVING THE SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY

WHEREAS, The South End Branch of the Boston Public Library has been closed since April 2021 due to repeated flooding, with full reopening of a new facility not expected until at least 2027; *and*

WHEREAS, Nearly 50,000 South End residents have been left without a neighborhood library for more than four years, forcing reliance on distant branches and creating a significant gap in access to essential public resources; *and*

WHEREAS, Prior to its closure, the South End Branch served as a vital educational and civic hub, providing children's programming, literacy initiatives, technology access, workforce development services, and a safe, free community gathering space; *and*

WHEREAS, The prolonged loss of library services has disproportionately impacted children, families, seniors, immigrants, and low-income residents, eliminating early literacy programs, homework support, ESOL groups, computer access, and community meeting space; *and*

WHEREAS, South End Community members and organizations have repeatedly identified feasible options for consistent temporary library services during the closure, yet current offerings remain limited and inadequate to meet neighborhood needs; *and*

WHEREAS, Marleen Nienhuis, a long-time South End resident and dedicated community advocate, made significant contributions to strengthening and improving the South End Branch Library, and the community room at the branch was named in her honor in recognition of her tireless service and commitment to the neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Library has stated a commitment to being a user-centered institution responsive to neighborhood needs, a principle that requires providing meaningful temporary services during extended branch closures; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council honors the contributions and legacy of Marleen Nienhuis and urges The City of Boston and the Boston Public Library to reopen the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library as soon as possible and expedite its current timeline of reopening fully by 2027 and to immediately provide consistent, accessible, and adequately resourced temporary library services in the South End for the duration of the branch closure, including regular multi-day weekly hours and core services for children and adults.

Filed on: February 11, 2026