

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, BAKER, ARROYO, BOK, BREADON, COLETTA, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN**



## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

### **ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE NEED FOR A HEALTH CENTER IN NUBIAN SQUARE**

- WHEREAS,** The health of the citizens of our city is of paramount concern, but as it stands today, there are glaring health disparities and inequities that are consistent with with the impacts of racism and class inequality; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There are parts of Roxbury where the average life expectancy is a mere 59 years old, while less than half a mile away, in the wealthier and whiter Back Bay, the average life expectancy is 92 years old; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Of the 224 nations on earth, only 16 have a shorter life expectancy than Roxbury; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A concrete way to combat this grave concern, as well as other crucial and compelling matters connected to health, would be to offer to the people of Roxbury a full serviced, state of the art, holistic health facility; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In Roxbury and North Dorchester, the percentage of adults with asthma is 16%, and hospitalization rates for the ailment are nearly 80% higher than the City's overall average; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Black Massachusetts residents have more than twice the rate of diabetes related mortality compared to white Massachusetts residents and more than four times as many diabetes related emergency department visits; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The opioid epidemic has significantly impacted Nubian Square and its surrounding areas, contributing to increased homelessness, mental health crisis, and other problematic social, emotional, economic, and health indicators in the community; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There is an essential need for a culturally competent, diverse set of doctors, nurses, and other medical staff, who can offer a variety of health methodologies; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Such a center will offer not only classic medical supports, but could also incorporate nutritionists, athletic trainers, yoga instructors, and other approaches to ensure that the full array of health treatments are provided; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Exercise improves mental health by reducing anxiety, depression, and negative thoughts and improves self esteem and cognitive function; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Proper nutrition is a crucial component of health and development. Better nutrition is linked with positive health indicators in a number of ways, including infant, child, and maternal health; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The obesity rates among Black and Latino Bostonians are at 32% and 30% respectively, nearly double the 17% rate of white Bostonians; *and*

**WHEREAS,** A health clinic located in the heart of Black and Brown Boston that incorporates nutrition, exercise, mindfulness, and other approaches, in addition to offering quality medical services of a more traditional variety, would be of inestimable worth to the Black, Brown, and working class components of our Commonwealth: **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the need for a health center in Nubian Square and that relevant entities, such as Boston Public Health Commission, health practitioners, nutritionists, athletic trainers, community stakeholders, and others, be invited to participate in said hearing.

**Filed on:** October 19th, 2022