

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



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RESIDENCE LIFE WORKERS AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

- WHEREAS,** As of February 13, 2023, a majority of Boston University Residence Life workers signed authorization cards indicating intent to unionize with SEIU Local 509; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The union would comprise 280 undergraduate and graduate student workers responsible for caring for and responding to the needs of students living in on-campus housing and for building residential community; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Residence Life workers at Boston University host events, hold office hours, and run on-call offices in residence halls, including some 24-hour on-call shifts; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Resident Assistants (RAs) and Graduate RAs are paid in-kind with housing from the University, but receive no monetary compensation, yet must obtain University permission to take second jobs to pay for food and other necessities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These workers are often approached by students in need of major mental health support or difficult dispute resolution, and are seeking paid training in crisis management and mediation rather than the current limited unpaid training; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These workers have no access to a formal accommodation process for illness or medical leave, nor formal policies or protections related to discipline or termination, leaving them vulnerable to losing their housing without recourse; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Residence Life workers across the country are winning significant improvements to their working conditions by organizing together, including for better wages at UMass Amherst, and through recently-formed unions at Wesleyan University, Barnard College, and Tufts University, which have won enhanced meal support and fairer disciplinary processes; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston University workers have been energized by the recent victory of the BU Graduate Workers, who won their union election by a margin of 1414 to 28; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Residence Life workers at Boston University are seeking what every worker needs: reasonable compensation and protections, a fair way to address issues in the workplace without fear of retaliation, and a voice in the decisions that affect their work and their lives; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council supports the BU Residence Life Workers Union and calls upon Boston University to ensure a fair and accessible union election process.

Filed on: February 27, 2022