

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, ARROYO,  
BOK, COLLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LARA,  
MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND BREADON



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT ADVANCEMENT

**WHEREAS:** Thirty-five years ago, under the leadership of Mayor Raymond Flynn, the City of Boston's established its first Immigrant Rights unit to assist Boston's immigrants; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Launched on October 1st, 1987, the unit provided health care, job training programs, educational resources and legal services at no cost, aiming to help those who need support to navigate their new lives and those who lived in fear due to their immigration status; *and*

**WHEREAS:** At the time, in spite of a tough immigration stance on the federal level and crackdowns on Irish, Haitian and Central American immigrants in the Greater Boston area, Mayor Flynn called for a more compassionate and humane approach towards those who have come to Boston in search of a better life, and to provide them with health care, assistance, and resources; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Today, the Immigrant Rights unit has expanded and is now known as the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement. The office continues the important work of assisting and strengthening the ability of immigrants to fully and equitably participate in all aspects of life in Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Launched in the Fall of 2020, Immigrants Lead Boston is a key program provided by this office. It is a training program for immigrants who wish to take more civic ownership and become leaders in the community. Each year, a cohort of members learn how to navigate local government and to advocate for their communities; *and*

**WHEREAS:** As we continue to build on this critical work and support those who are new and in need of services, it is also important to recognize the important leadership of Mayor Michelle Wu and the many immigrant-focused nonprofits and partners in Boston and Massachusetts. This includes the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA Coalition), Rian Immigrant Center, VietAid, Agencia ALPHA, Irish Pastoral Center, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Brazilian Workers Center, South Boston En Accion, Sociedad Latina, amongst many others. Their work go hand in hand with what we do in the City; *and*

#### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the Boston City Council congratulates the Office of Immigrant Advancement for their 35th anniversary, recognizes the crucial work that they provide, and celebrates those who have been part of the creation and continued success of this office.

**Filed on: December 14, 2022**