

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, JULIA MEJIA,
BREADON, DURKAN, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE ALIGNMENT
OF THE REPARATIONS TASK FORCE PROCESS, ITS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, AND COMMUNITY
INCLUSION EFFORTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

WHEREAS, On December 14, 2022 the Boston City Council unanimously passed an ordinance which established the City of Boston Reparations Task Force; *and*

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Reparations Task Force in the City of Boston signifies a commitment to addressing historical injustices and advancing racial equity and justice; *and*

WHEREAS, Transparency and inclusivity are essential in the development and implementation of initiatives related to reparations, ensuring that the voices and experiences of affected communities are centered in the decision-making process; *and*

WHEREAS, Community members have raised concerns about the effectiveness and continuity of the Task Force; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a need to assess the process by which the Reparations Task Force was established and the extent to which it has been inclusive, transparent, and accountable to the residents of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Reviewing the creation of the Reparations Task Force, including the development of the Request for Proposals (RFP) to initiate its work, and identifying the individuals or entities involved in drafting the RFP is crucial to ensure transparency; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a need to assess the inclusivity and transparency of the process for selecting Task Force members, including outreach efforts to engage diverse communities to ensure representation from those most impacted by historical injustices; *and*

WHEREAS, The Task Force has reported that they will not complete its work by the end of the year; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a need to extend the life of the City of Boston Reparations Task Force; *and*

WHEREAS, Discussing ways in which the Boston City Council can support the Reparations Task Force to advance its mission will ensure meaningful progress towards restorative justice; *and*

WHEREAS, Constituents have advocated for a process to identify any challenges or barriers encountered during the operation of the Reparations Task Force and exploring opportunities for improvement; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council plays a critical role in oversight and support for initiatives related to reparations and racial equity, and must ensure that the process is equitable, inclusive, transparent, and responsive to community needs; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That a hearing be convened with the Boston City Council to assess the process by which the Reparations Task Force was established and has operated thus far. That relevant stakeholders, including members of the Reparations Task Force, Mayor's Chief of Policy, Mayor's Senior Advisor on Racial Justice, community organizations, advocates, and residents, be invited to provide testimony and input during the hearing. That the City Clerk be directed to transmit a copy of this hearing order to the Reparations Task Force, relevant city departments, and community organizations, and to disseminate information about the hearing widely to ensure broad public awareness and participation and that the hearing be scheduled at the earliest convenience of all involved parties and conducted in a manner accessible to all residents of the City of Boston.

Filed on: March 27, 2024