



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Government Operations  
Ricardo Arroyo, Chair

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

February 16, 2022

Dear Councilors:

*Docket #0240, an ordinance amending City of Boston Code, Chapter XV Section XI Creating a Commission on Black Men and Boys*, was sponsored by Councilor Julia Mejia and referred to the Committee on February 2, 2022. The Committee held a working session on February 11, 2022.

### **Summary of Legislation As Filed:**

This docket would amend the current ordinance by adding provisions relating to an executive director and defining the role of the executive director. The executive director would be appointed by the Mayor to oversee the daily operations of the Commission on Black Men and Boys (“Commission”). The executive director would have the powers of a department head to execute contracts, to manage personnel, and advise the Commission. The executive director would be a member of the Commission ex officio without additional compensation and would have a vote on matters before the Commission.

### **Information Gathered at the Working Session:**

The Chair provided background information on the Commission, summarized its objectives, and reviewed the language of the docket. Councilors expressed support for the Commission and for the proposal so that the Commission can operate effectively. Councilor Mejia explained that the change to the current ordinance will ensure that the Commission is properly equipped with staff and budget.

The following individuals from the Administration participated: Frank Farrow, Executive Director, Office of Black Male Advancement and Chief Mariangely Solis Cervera, Equity & Inclusion, Mayor’s Office. Mr. Farrow explained that he is the Executive Director of the Office of Black Male Advancement (“OBMA”), a newly created office, and in that capacity, he will oversee the Commission and will be a member of the Commission. Mr. Farrow explained that according to the City’s Law Department, a change in the current ordinance is needed so that a member of the Commission is able to execute contracts and manage personnel as required under the ordinance and that such a person needs to be a paid city employee

The Chair inquired about the relationship between the OBMA and the Commission, compensation and whether there would ever be a case where the executive director of the OBMA or the Commission would be two different people. The Chair asked if the Executive Director

will receive one salary or two. Mr. Farrow stated that he will receive one salary under the OBMA and that he will have the title of Executive Director of the OBMA and the Commission. Mr. Farrow explained that he will be compensated through his position of Executive Director of OBMA, not the Commission. Mr. Farrow further explained that the intent of the proposal is to provide transparency and to ensure that the Commission is fully functional with a budget and an office. The Chair indicated that the language of the proposal may need to change in order to provide clarification around the compensation piece. Councilors expressed support that the Commission has the resources that it needs. Councilors also asked about the structure of the Commission and the appointments. The Administration explained that the Commission will consist of 21 members all appointed by the Mayor. The Administration also explained that in order to collaborate with the City Council, the Mayor is accepting recommendations from the City Council to the Commission and will appoint seven members from the City Council's fourteen recommendations. Councilors discussed proposed language changes to provide clarity. Councilors discussed filing an ordinance to establish the OBMA, including language that the executive director of the OBMA and the Commission shall be the same person, and providing clarification about compensation.

### **Summary of Amendments**

The Chair proposed amending the first sentence in Section 15-11.2(d) by adding the following clause after the term "Director": of the Black Boys and Men Commission that shall be an existing, paid employee of the City of Boston, and striking the phrase "which shall be a paid position" also in the first sentence.

The first sentence is amended as follows:

"The Mayor shall appoint an Executive Director of the Black Boys and Men Commission that shall be an existing, paid employee of the City of Boston, to oversee and run the daily operations and administration of the Commission."

### **Rationale and Recommended Action:**

Passage of the docket will ensure that the Commission has the necessary tools and resources to function. The new draft of the docket eliminates confusion concerning the compensation of the executive director.

By the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

***Docket #0240, an ordinance amending City of Boston Code, Chapter XV Section XI Creating a Commission on Black Men and Boys,***

submits a report recommending that this docket **ought to pass in a new draft.**

For the Chair:



Ricardo Arroyo, Chair  
Committee on Government Operations