

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, ARROYO, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY AND WORRELL**



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

### **RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF FANEUIL HALL, THEREBY BEGINNING A PROCESS OF ADDRESSING ANTI-BLACK RACIST SYMBOLS PREVALENT IN BOSTON**

**WHEREAS**, Reparations for Black people in Boston and around the globe are inextricably connected to the assessment, evaluation, and appropriate decontextualization of anti-Black symbols; and

**WHEREAS**, Anti-Black symbols foster negative stereotypes and are a form of violence designed to humiliate, harm, and demean Black people; and

**WHEREAS**, Anti-Black symbols reflect and remain hostile to the idea and ideal of achieving Black equality in Boston and achieving a true multi-racial democracy in the City of Boston, across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and in our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Boston purports to be a city that makes claims to address anti-Black racism as a public health crisis, seeking to address negative conditions, attitudes, and difficulties that hinder Black life in Boston; and

**WHEREAS**, According to a 2021 Mass Inc poll, fifty-one percent of all Bostonians believe that the name of Faneuil Hall should be changed because of its deep and tragic association with the trans-Atlantic Slave trade and nearly 70 percent of all Black Bostonians believe there should be a name change ( according to the same Mass Inc. poll); and

**WHEREAS**, Faneuil Hall represents the legacy and persona of Peter Faneuil, who was a white supremacist, a slave trader, and a slave owner who contributed nothing recognizable to the ideal of democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, Faneuil Hall and the Faneuil Hall Quincy Market Place bears no obvious, ostentatious physical markers related to the slave trading of Africans within its immediate vicinity; and

**WHEREAS,** The Faneuil Hall and the Faneuil Hall Market Place is a publicly owned building where less than .01 percent of businesses located there are owned by Black people; and

**WHEREAS,** Faneuil Hall represents a place where positive history has been made and where democracy-loving people have gathered and organized despite the odious reputation of Peter Faneuil; and

**WHEREAS,** Faneuil Hall is a “public thing” to be enjoyed by all, even those Blacks (and their legacy) who were once enslaved in Boston and;

**WHEREAS,** The name “Faneuil Hall” retains a legacy for Blacks locally and nation that connotes exclusion and stigmatization; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston would make positive steps toward reparative justice and reconciliation for Black people by changing the name of Faneuil Hall and using the name change process as a gateway toward deeper actions, dialogue, and conversations related to racial repair and reconciliation; and

**WHEREAS,** Changing the name of Faneuil Hall to the name of a true freedom fighter (such as Crispus Attucks, Elizabeth Freeman, or Frederick Douglass) or to a noble concept, such as “Freedom Hall” or “Liberty Hall” facilitates the flourishing of democracy and educates the local and national public about how we should best use our public spaces and memorials; and

**WHEREAS,** Through changing the name of Faneuil Hall Boston residents can regain its reputation of being the “Cradle of Liberty;” and

**WHEREAS,** Changing the name of Faneuil Hall would not erase history but enhance our sense of history and place history in its proper perspective; and

**WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council in a “public apology” process that acknowledged the City of Boston’s role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing affirming that the name of Faneuil Hall be changed and the City pursues every effort to educate current and future generations about why the name of Faneuil Hall was changed and that the City Council initiate funding and planning efforts for erecting a significant memorial to the transatlantic slave trade at, or near Faneuil Hall that is equivalent to other Downtown memorials that recognized inhumanity through practiced genocide.