



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION CONCERNING EQUITABLE GLOBAL VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19

- WHEREAS,** The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University reports that as of March 11, 2022, there have been 453,387,068 cases and 6,028,428 deaths attributed to COVID-19 across the globe; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On Friday, March 11, 2022, Greater Boston Trade Justice organized a rally and vigil at the John F. Kennedy Federal Building in Boston to recognize the second anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic and call for global vaccine access and equity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 694,725,135 doses of the vaccine against COVID-19 have been delivered across the country as of March 11, 2022, and 216,449,810 people (over 65% of the U.S. population) are considered fully vaccinated; *and*
- WHEREAS,** More than 10.9 billion vaccine doses have been administered globally, and about 50 percent of the global population is now fully vaccinated, mostly in wealthier countries, however more than 3 billion people around the world have yet to receive a single dose, and many lower-income nations have relied on vaccines such as China's Sinovac, which appear to be less effective at warding off Omicron infections than the mRNA shots produced by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A failure to vaccinate the global population as quickly as possible will allow the virus to continue mutating and developing resistance to existing vaccines, as has been confirmed by the emergence of the Omnicron variant; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Greater Boston region is home to the global headquarters of Moderna and a major research campus of Pfizer, two of the companies currently enjoying patent protections over the COVID-19 vaccine; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Pharmaceutical corporations are already preparing to sell additional booster shots at high prices in wealthy nations before most people in poorer nations will receive even an initial dose; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There is a moral imperative to scale up vaccine distribution as efficiently and equitably as possible, and the United States must not be allowed to prioritize pharmaceutical corporate profits and vaccine nationalism over the lives and livelihoods of billions of people around the world; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On October 2, 2020, India and South Africa requested a temporary waiver of patents, trade secrets, and other intellectual property protections required by the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on COVID-19 related health technologies, because such protections give pharmaceutical companies monopoly control over the production, price, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, including the right to prevent localized manufacturing of the vaccine by qualified producers in underserved regions of the world; *and*

- WHEREAS,** This waiver would end vaccine originators’ ability to block production and provide the legal certainty needed for governments and investors to start constructing pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities and repurposing existing ones, accelerating the global vaccination effort; and would be a significant, valuable tool in the control and elimination of global vaccine inequity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** More than 130 countries support granting all or part of the WTO TRIPS waiver, however, despite President Biden’s stated support, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has not been assertive in their promotion of the waiver; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Since November 24, 2021, the Moderna Company has added \$40 billion to its market capitalization, more than a third, which is pricing in over 3 billion additional shots, however, has refused to support the TRIPS waiver and has further refused to transfer its mRNA vaccine technology to the WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool or to qualified manufacturers, including the WHO mRNA Technology Transfer Hub; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Development of the Moderna vaccine was done in partnership with the federal government – specifically scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – and almost entirely funded by American taxpayers; *and*
- WHEREAS,** No one in the United States or any country will be safe from the virus until the entire world has access to the vaccines, treatments, and tests needed to end the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Defense Production Act, Bayh-Dole Act, and 28 U.S.C. sec. 1498 are the primary, but not only, sources of presidential authority to expedite and expand the supply of resources from the U.S. and foreign industrial base to support both the U.S. and the world at large;  
***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council goes on record urging the U.S. WTO representatives to, as WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala states, “step up urgently to do our part to reach a multilateral outcome on intellectual property and other issues so as to fully contribute to the global efforts in the fight against COVID-19”; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council goes on record urging the Biden-Harris administration to greatly intensify their efforts to deliver on the WTO TRIPS waiver, as well as to facilitate broad technology transfer to speed vaccine production, and to fund significantly expanded global manufacturing to expedite vaccine supplies that are necessary to end the pandemic;  
***AND BE IT FURTHER***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council goes on record urging the Moderna and Pfizer corporations, specifically, to engage in immediate and full mRNA vaccine technology transfer with multiple qualified manufacturers globally and to manufacture for low- and middle-income countries a larger amount of COVID vaccines at an affordable cost; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***
- RESOLVED:** That the City Clerk be, and hereby is, requested to forward suitably engrossed copies of this resolution to the US delegation to the WTO, President Biden, the Boston Congressional Delegation, and the CEOs of Pfizer and Moderna on behalf of the entire Boston City Council.