

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS GAMBLING AND PREDATORY MARKETING IN CHINATOWN

WHEREAS, A public health approach to problem gambling views gambling-related issues as more than just an individual addiction. It also recognizes them as a community issue influenced by environmental conditions, public policies, and larger social systems; *and*

WHEREAS, Chinatown has been the target for casino advertising, marketing, and free casino transportation 52 times a day; *and*

WHEREAS, Asian gamblers make up almost 25% of local casino patrons – almost 3 times the percentage of the Asian population in Massachusetts; *and*

WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies at the city, state, and federal levels should prioritize the identification and investigation of illegal gambling operations in Boston's Chinatown and other affected neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, Chinatown residents experience high concentrations of poverty, limited English proficiency, and social isolation. Asian Americans are the least likely racial group in the U.S. to seek mental health services due to stigma, cultural norms, and the model minority myth; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a significant gap in available resources, including prevention and intervention programs that are culturally appropriate and linguistically accessible. There is also a lack of healthy, culturally relevant recreational opportunities, particularly when it comes to accessible public spaces. Community-based research has explored these issues and offers recommendations to address root causes and strengthen protections for the community; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss gambling and predatory marketing in Chinatown.

Filed on: April 15, 2026