

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO BRING A HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY SATELLITE CAMPUS TO BOSTON

WHEREAS, Boston led the way in Black education, when the Abiel Smith School was opened in 1835 as the first public school for Black children, the conditions of which later led to the desegregation of the city's school system in 1855; *and*

WHEREAS, The student population of Boston's John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics is 30 percent of Black students, a higher percentage than districtwide Black students, and the school routinely ranks among the best in the state; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is home to more than two dozen colleges and universities, and more than a dozen other schools are in neighboring towns, and more than 150,000 graduate and undergraduate students living in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Among those schools in Boston and its nearby cities and towns are some of the country's finest colleges and universities, including Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University and Northeastern University; *and*

WHEREAS, Graduates from those schools replenish our Boston's workforce every year, providing an infusion of new talent, ideas, and backgrounds that help shape our city's composition; *and*

WHEREAS, Many Boston college alumni put down roots in the Greater Boston area, thereby influencing policy, demographics, and culture in the region; *and*

WHEREAS, There are more than 100 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the country, with the vast majority of them located in Southern states as a response to Jim Crow laws; *and*

WHEREAS, The need for more culturally sensitive schools, such as HBCUs, has grown in the past decade based upon court rulings and the actions of the current federal administration; *and*

WHEREAS, Although HBCUs make up just 3% of U.S. colleges, they produce 40 percent of all Black engineers, 40 percent of Black members of Congress, 50 percent of Black lawyers and doctors, and 70 percent of Black dentists; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite being a college town and being home to Roxbury Community College, a Predominantly Black Institution, Boston has no Historically Black College and Universities and no satellite campuses; *and*

WHEREAS, The future of Black Bostonians is in doubt as in recent years, more Black families have purchased homes in Brockton (pop. 104,000) than Boston (pop. 653,000); *and*

WHEREAS, Black Bostonians in Boston Public Schools currently graduate high school, complete MassCore, and complete advanced course work all at a lower rate than their district peers; *and*

WHEREAS, There are various organizations and events in Boston that help cultivate HBCU alumni, including the Building Bridges HBCU Program, the Boston HBCU Alumni Network, the Eastern Area of the Links and the Greater Boston National Pan-Hellenic Council, as well as HBCU tours and pathways from My Brother's Keeper and Journey to HBCUs; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston has previously been close to hosting a satellite campus of an HBCU, with a plan for a satellite campus of Pensole Lewis College of Business & Design proposed earlier this decade; *and*

WHEREAS, The establishment of an HBCU presence in Boston would expand higher education opportunities for students and adults; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston's pipeline of Black alumni putting down roots in the city would be strengthened through the location of a satellite campus of an HBCU in Boston or Greater Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, The establishment of an HBCU presence in Boston would not only expand higher education opportunities for students and adults but also serve as a powerful symbol of progress, partnership, and civic investment in excellence and leadership in education; *and*

WHEREAS, After the initial filing of this hearing order in June 2025, a public listening session was held in August during the city's HBCU weekend, and dozens of meetings were conducted with interested stakeholders from HBCUs, local PBIs and MSIs, HBCU alumni, current student and faculty, perspective students, workforce experts, and more; *and*

WHEREAS, Although Boston has many diverse colleges and universities, the location of an HBCU in the city would not only create a magnet for Black students to attend and later settle in the area, but it would also send a message that the city, once marred by the busing battles of the 1970s has moved forward to a new era. It would also help improve the outcomes for current Black students in BPS by providing role models and evidence of a tangible path to success; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on how the city can attract and support the presence of a Historically Black College and University, and that appropriate representatives of Black Male Advancement, Women's Advancement, Economic Opportunity & Inclusion, Boston Public Schools, and Planning, and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 23, 2026