

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RICARDO ARROYO , TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON,
BREADON, LARA, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, WORRELL, MURPHY AND FLYNN**



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS' (BPS) LACK OF RELIGIOUS AND DIETARY
REQUIREMENTS FOR JEWISH, MUSLIM, AND PLANT
BASED STUDENTS**

- WHEREAS,** Correctional facilities in Massachusetts serve their inmates halal and kosher food options, which is a right that should be afforded to Boston Public School (BPS) students; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In Chicago only 13 schools have provided kosher or halal food options for the students, in comparison to BPS who have no kosher and halal food options; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In New York City they have allotted \$1 million into the FY 2019 budget pilot program to provide kosher and halal meals to students in NYC public schools; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2023 the New York State Legislature proposed Senate Bill A3923: An act to amend the education law, requiring public schools to offer a plant-based food option, a halal food option and a kosher food option as an alternative to every meal or snack offered in food service to any student who chooses such alternative meal or snack as an option; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On Thursday, May 12th, 2022 Mayor Michelle Wu and BPS announced a \$17 million contract with City Fresh Foods, a minority-owned business, to provide meals during the school year and summer programs to BPS students; *and*
- WHEREAS** As BPS makes new strides in contracting with minority owned businesses they should also make sure that within that contract they are including all minorities, including students who eat kosher and halal meals or prescribe to a plant based diet; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston should take the appropriate steps to give access to nutritious kosher and halal meals to meet the dietary requirements of all students during the school day; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** *That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the implementation of kosher halal, and plant based meals; and that the representatives from the Administration, City Fresh Foods and Boston Public Schools be invited*

Filed in Council: March 1, 2023