

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, MEJIA, ARROYO, BREADON,
COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO FORMALIZE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF ENDING LEGACY ADMISSIONS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

- WHEREAS,** Access to educational opportunities supports individual health, wellness, and economic vitality while enhancing community safety, productivity, and innovation; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is home to both world-renowned colleges and universities as well as an increasingly diverse population; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Universities and colleges have a vested interest in not only promoting diversity, but also correcting past wrongs and inactions relating to slavery, colonization, and racial discrimination; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Supreme Court of the United States has found that “College admissions are zero-sum. A benefit provided to some applicants but not to others necessarily advantages the former group at the expense of the latter” (Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College, 600 U.S. ____ (2023)); *and*
- WHEREAS,** Harvard University’s use of admission preferences for athletes, legacies, donors, and children of faculty (ALDC’s) provides White students with a significant advantage, with 43% of White admittees having ALDC preference compared to less than 16% of students of Color; *and*
- WHEREAS,** One review indicated that as many as 75% of ALDC students would not have been granted admission to Harvard were it not for their privileged status; *and*
- WHEREAS,** ALDC status has been found to provide an admissions boost equivalent to 160 additional points on the SAT, making them three times as likely to gain admission than their non-legacy peers.; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Major institutions including MIT, Amherst College, Johns Hopkins University, and the state systems of Colorado, California, and Georgia have all eliminated ALDC preferencing; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These actions have resulted in increased diversity of student populations; *and*

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts State House is currently considering legislation that would ban the practice of preferencing Legacy and Donor-related students at all public or private certificate- or degree-granting college, junior college, or university; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston and its institutions have a vested interest in addressing and remedying the harms of the past through proactive measures, ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the City Council assembled hereby proclaims its support for the end of legacy and donor preferencing in the higher education admissions process and encourages both State action on relevant legislation and institutional action to voluntarily eliminate said preferences.

Filed on: Jul 17, 2023