

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RENAMING RUGGLES STATION TO HONOR A FIGURE REFLECTIVE OF BOSTON'S VALUES

WHEREAS, Ruggles Station, located in the Roxbury neighborhood, derives its name from Ruggles Street, which was named in 1825 for the Ruggles family, including Timothy Ruggles, a Loyalist military officer and enslaver in the 18th century; *and*

WHEREAS, The continued use of names associated with individuals connected to slavery may conflict with the City of Boston's commitment to equity, inclusion, and the accurate recognition of history; *and*

WHEREAS, There is growing public support, including grassroots advocacy efforts, to reconsider the naming of public infrastructure in order to better reflect the values and diversity of the communities they serve; *and*

WHEREAS, Phillis Wheatley, an enslaved woman brought to Boston who became a pioneering poet and the first African American to publish a book, represents resilience, intellectual achievement, and the contributions of Black Americans to the City's history; *and*

WHEREAS, David Ruggles, an abolitionist and conductor on the Underground Railroad, dedicated his life to freeing enslaved individuals, including assisting Frederick Douglass, and exemplifies the moral leadership Boston seeks to uplift; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has previously taken action to rename public spaces, such as the transformation of Dudley Square to Nubian Square, in recognition of historical context and community identity; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council expresses its support for the renaming of Ruggles Station and calls upon the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Station Naming Committee, in collaboration with the community and the Office of Mayor Michelle Wu, to consider a new name that honors a figure whose legacy reflects the values, diversity, and history of the City of Boston.

Filed on: April 15, 2026