

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia, Brian Worrell, Baker, Breadon, Coletta, Durkan, Fernandes Anderson, Louijeune, Murphy and Flynn



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 20, 2023 AS NATIONAL SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS,** The United States faces a national public health crisis of gun violence. On average, more than 13,000 homicides each year continue to rob families and communities of loved ones; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Homicides increased by 30 percent in 2020, compounding the many deaths caused by COVID-19; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Reports from the FBI show that the U.S. homicide rate has come down from its pandemic peak. However, the 2022 rate remained above pre-pandemic levels; *and*
- WHEREAS,** For every 1 homicide victim, there are at least 10 surviving family members, resulting in an average of over 130,000 new survivors of homicide victims each year, and 215,000 new such survivors in 2020; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Homicide victims are loved and grieved by mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, husbands, wives, partners, grandparents, aunts, uncles, extended family members, friends, neighbors, classmates, colleagues, and communities across the country; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Homicide is the leading cause of death among Black Americans age 12-19 and the second leading cause of death for teenagers nationwide as almost 1 in 4 Black American and Latino adults report having lost a loved one to gun-related homicide and more than half of women who are victims of homicides are killed because of intimate partner violence; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Surviving family members need holistic, coordinated, compassionate, and consistent support and services in the immediate aftermath of a homicide and ongoing opportunities for healing in the months and years afterward; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Surviving family members want to remember and honor their loved one's lives regardless of the circumstances surrounding their death; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Survivors of homicide victims are using their tragedies to inform, influence, and impact public policy so that all children, regardless of where they live, can grow up in a safe, peaceful community and survivors,

advocates and providers are working together to implement these equitable and effective community-based responses to homicide; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** The leadership by surviving family and community members is essential to disrupting cycles of violence and promoting peace in all communities and recognition of the needs of survivors can help combat trauma, foster healing, and inform joy for families and communities impacted by homicide; ***THEREFORE BE IT***

***RESOLVED,*** That the Boston City Council recognizes November 20 - December 20 2023 as National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

***RESOLVED,*** That the Boston City Council expresses its support for the designation of a National Survivors of Homicide Awareness Month on the federal level in order to raise awareness of survivors of homicide, support survivors of homicide victims, including families, schools, and communities with support services and information.

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