

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN J. MURPHY, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN,  
FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER,  
WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE SERVICES OUR BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES OFFER TO OUR COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Library was the first free library in the United States. The first building was a former schoolhouse located on Mason Street that opened to the public on March 20, 1854. In 1870, the first branch library was built in East Boston and today we have twenty-six branches in every neighborhood across the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS, Libraries are a great equalizer in society. They provide access to information and resources regardless of an individual's socioeconomic background, race, ethnicity, or gender. This promotes social equity and helps to bridge the digital divide. Libraries also play an important role in preserving cultural heritage. They collect, preserve, and make available materials that document the history, culture, and traditions of communities and nations; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Library serves nearly 4 million visitors per year and millions more online. The BPL believes in lifelong learning for patrons of all ages. For adult learners, the BPL offers many resources to help them achieve their degree or certification, has Immigrant Information Corners at all 26 locations, and provides cost-free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs; and

WHEREAS, Our Boston Public Libraries are extraordinary places -- full of families, seniors, students, Everyone! There's art, community events, music, internet, digital downloading and streaming, copying services and so much more. Public libraries make cities stronger, are important for healthy communities and play an essential role in providing safe and accessible educational resource centers for all residents across the City; and

*WHEREAS,* Libraries are so important because they support education, promote lifelong learning, and provide access to information and resources that are essential for personal and professional growth. They are also vital community spaces that foster social equity, cultural understanding, and civic engagement. Because of all the positive impacts libraries have on our society. It is important that we have a clear understanding on what services each library branch offers, and seeing how we can expand services and outreach to all, with a focus on our seniors and residents in our Boston Housing Authority ; *and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:* That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the services BPL offers to make our

communities stronger for our seniors, families and youth. Representatives from the Mayor's office, Boston Public Library, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend. In addition, members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Filed on: March 13, 2024