

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON,
BREADON, MEJIA, SANTANA AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION URGING A STATE AND CITY PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD HOUSING FOR YOUNG ADULTS, INCLUDING THOSE AGING OUT OF DCF, ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** Children aging out of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) system face some of the highest rates of housing instability, educational disruption, and long-term economic hardship in the Commonwealth; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has already recognized the urgency of this crisis by providing rent assistance to DCF-involved youth, yet housing insecurity remains a significant barrier to their long-term success and well-being; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston is home to a network of community colleges already offering tuition-free education to residents, creating a powerful infrastructure to support educational access and social mobility; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A groundbreaking opportunity exists for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Boston, and Boston's community colleges to form a transformative partnership to build on-campus housing, offering both shelter and guaranteed education to vulnerable young adults; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Dr. Jonathan K. Jefferson, President of Roxbury Community College (RCC), has expressed a clear willingness to explore and support the implementation of such a housing initiative on RCC's campus, signaling institutional alignment and urgency to act; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This model would designate dedicated housing units on community college campuses for young adults aging out of DCF custody, with sections designed specifically for parenting students and others for students without children, recognizing the diverse and complex needs of these populations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Commonwealth currently provides case management services to youth aging out of DCF custody, and any housing and education partnership developed under this model should include robust, wraparound case management services to support the academic, emotional, and housing stability needs of participating students; *and*

WHEREAS, Providing both free tuition and stable, supportive housing would represent a revolutionary intervention, offering guaranteed education, shelter, and stability in one comprehensive framework and establishing the first such model in the state;
and

WHEREAS, This initiative would not only address the urgent needs of DCF-involved youth but also significantly advance equity, close the racial wealth gap, and break cycles of poverty and displacement through intentional public investment; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Boston, and local higher education institutions to develop and fund a pilot program to build permanent housing on community college campuses for young adults, prioritizing those aging out of DCF care; and that the Boston City Council affirms its support for this visionary model, beginning with Roxbury Community College, as a statewide first that lays the foundation for generational change and positions Boston as a national leader in education-based housing solutions.

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