

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, ERIN MURPHY, BREADON, COLETTA
ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER,
WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION'S "HEALTH OF ASIAN RESIDENTS IN BOSTON" REPORT

- WHEREAS:** Last week, the Boston Public Health Commission published its first "Health of Asian Residents in Boston" Report. The report provides information and data on the physical and mental health of Asian residents in Boston, as well as the Health of Chinatown Residents; *and*
- WHEREAS:** According to the Report, 66,500 Asians currently live in Boston, making up ten percent of the city's population. While Chinatown is home to the highest population of Asian residents with over 46% of the population identifying as Asian, neighborhoods such as Allston/Brighton and Roxbury also have over 20% of Asian residents; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Much of the data reported favorably for Asian residents in the categories of maternal and infant health, substance use, chronic diseases, and mortality rates. Areas that require attention include improving access to medical care, expanding mental health outreach and education, and focusing on the prevalence of select cancers such as liver and lung cancer; *and*
- WHEREAS:** While 96% of Asian adults have health insurance - on par with Boston as a whole - only 65% of residents reported having a regular doctor compared to 83% of the non-Asian population. There is less access to consistent medical care; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The data also shows that the mortality rate among Asian women with liver cancer is two times higher than non-Asian women, and the rate among Asian men is 69% higher than non-Asian men. Lung cancer mortality rates are 63% higher among Asian residents, especially men; *and*
- WHEREAS:** On mental health, while statistics seem to show that there are lower rates of mental illness in the Asian community, the report acknowledged that the lower reported rates could be due to factors such as cultural stigma, which leads to underreporting of symptoms. Increased mental health outreach and education is needed for youth, families, immigrants and seniors; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It is critical that the Boston Public Health Commission continue to outreach and invest in resources, including language access to ensure that residents who may need physical and mental health support can seek access. The report also concluded that "more data is needed on the health of Asian Bostonians, and efforts should include creative ways of improving linguistic and cultural capacity in surveying data

collection across data sources.”; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the “Health of Asian residents in Boston” report. Representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, non-profits from the Chinatown community and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

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