

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS HENRY SANTANA, JULIA M. MEJIA, ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, BREADON, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING  
JUNE 2026 AS IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH  
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

**WHEREAS,** June is Immigrant Heritage Month, a designation which celebrates and recognizes the contributions, resilience, courage, and achievements of immigrants in the United States; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Immigrant Heritage Month was established in 2014 by the I Stand With Immigrants / I Am An Immigrant Initiative, powered by FWD.us, to empower immigrants, introduce positive immigrant-centered stories to the cultural narrative, provide an opportunity to celebrate one's own cultural heritage, and raise awareness surrounding the abundant ways in which immigration enriches our communities, economy, and country; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is the proud home of a large and diverse immigrant population comprising 28.2% of the City's population and including nearly 189,500 people; *and*

**WHEREAS,** One in ten Boston residents is a naturalized citizen and approximately 30,000 Boston residents are eligible for United States citizenship; *and*

**WHEREAS,** 14% of Boston's population, or 97,000 people, were noncitizens as of 2020, including lawful permanent residents, those with temporary protected status (TPS), Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals, those holding nonimmigrant visas, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented immigrants; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Immigrants as a whole contribute economically to Boston, working in service occupations at nearly twice the rate of native-born resident workers, work blue collar jobs at a larger share than native-born workers, make up 28% of Boston's business owners, and have higher rates of workforce participation than those who are native-born; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Noncitizens play vital roles in Boston's economy, including generating \$2.9 billion of Boston's Gross City Product; supporting 24,000 jobs through customer demand; owning 4,500 Boston businesses; comprising 9.7% of Boston's

resident workforce; and paying \$161 million in state income taxes, \$56 million in state sales taxes, and an estimated \$27.9 million in property taxes; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** Immigration has increased racial and ethnic diversity in Massachusetts, contributing to the vibrancy of Boston's cultural fabric and introducing new ideas, languages, perspectives, cuisines, art, music, customs, and literature; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** Immigrants are beloved members of Bostonian families; 41% of immigrants living in Boston, including 24,000 noncitizens, are married, and 19% of Boston's population are the children of at least one immigrant, including 23,000 children in Boston with at least one noncitizen parent; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** Immigrants are vital to the diversity within Boston's academic community; as of 2020, over 251,000 higher-education students in Massachusetts were immigrants or international students, comprising 56% of the total higher-education student body, including 56,000 first-generation immigrants, 113,000 second-generation immigrants, and 82,306 international students; further, over 56,850 immigrants in Boston are estimated to hold Bachelor's degrees, including 35,000 noncitizens with Bachelor's, Graduate, or Professional degrees; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** Our immigrant communities are as diverse as they are sizable, and with this diversity comes intersecting identities and varied needs; the City of Boston should strive to uplift these intersecting identities and meet these needs through supporting specialized, culturally-specific, and intercultural programming; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** The City of Boston already invests resources in programs supporting immigrant communities, including citizenship and naturalization, workforce development, small business support, and youth mentorship; these initiatives should seek to address overlapping identities such as race, ethnicity, class, caste, gender, sex, refugee status, citizenship status, disability status, and sexual orientation, and develop measurement and reporting methods to track equitable impact; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** Over 1.3 million LGBTQIA+ adult immigrants in the United States face unique challenges and require targeted health, legal, and culturally-informed programming, underscoring the need for approaches that recognize both immigration status and LGBTQIA+ identity; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** Pride Month and Immigrant Heritage Month intersect, creating a critical opportunity to celebrate and support LGBTQIA+ immigrants, to support cross-collaboration among public health institutions to tackle intersectional issues impacting LGBTQIA+ immigrants, and to encourage nonprofits and organizations to expand their programming, resources, and advocacy efforts to address the unique and intersectional needs of immigrant communities; *and*

**WHEREAS,** There's more work to be done to protect and honor immigrants and their heritages, including but not limited to inclusive and accurate historical education, combatting health disparities, promoting data privacy, funding culturally relevant public art, uplifting cultural institutions, protecting the civil rights of immigrants, and preventing displacement; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Immigrant communities help shape Boston's rich and diverse culture, and these heritages, backgrounds, histories, and intersecting identities deserve to be honored and uplifted during both Immigrant Heritage Month and year-round. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council recognizes and celebrates the month of June 2025 as "Immigrant Heritage Month" in the City of Boston, in appreciation of the contributions to our City made by all immigrant communities in Boston, and honors the valued presence of immigrants as our community members and neighbors; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council commits itself — and encourages all government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools — to take meaningful actions to support and affirm the equitable rights, freedoms, dignity, treatment, health, and safety of Boston's immigrant communities, and to meaningfully honor and uplift immigrants with intersecting identities.

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