

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND
TWENTY-SIX**

**RESOLUTION HONORING PATRICIA SPENCE FOR HER
TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE
CITY OF BOSTON**

- WHEREAS,*** Patricia Spence has served for thirteen years as the Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Farming Institute of Boston (UFI), guiding the organization from a nascent vision into a transformative force in Boston’s urban agriculture and food justice movement *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Under her visionary leadership and steady stewardship, UFI has become a cornerstone of health, wellness, and food access for the residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan, and a thriving, community-centered ecosystem rooted in the people it serves; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Through Pat’s leadership, UFI has grown from a startup with scarce resources into an organization with a \$3 million operating budget, increasing revenue twentyfold over the last decade and building a strong, diversified base of philanthropic support; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Pat has recruited and nurtured a deeply talented, mission-driven team, growing UFI from a single staff member to eighteen team members today, and cultivating a workplace culture that is itself a powerful reflection of UFI’s values and sense of purpose; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Under her stewardship, UFI has developed and scaled signature, community-centered programs including Farm Stand Fridays, Fit Around the Farm, and the award-winning Urban Farmer Training Program, which together have inspired thousands of residents to reconnect with their health, wellness, and relationship to food, land, and community;; *and*
- WHEREAS,*** Pat led the successful capital campaign to acquire the historic Fowler Clark Epstein Farm as UFI’s permanent home — an extraordinary milestone made possible entirely through philanthropic investment, and a

rare and powerful instance of historic property ownership by a Black-led organization in the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS,

The foundation Pat has built is one of enduring strength and deep community trust, grounded in her unwavering commitment, her bold vision, and her belief in the people of Boston and in what is possible when community is placed at the center of the work; *and*

WHEREAS,

Patricia Spence will conclude her tenure as Founding President and CEO on June 30, 2026, leaving UFI in a position of real organizational strength from which it will welcome its next leader and continue to grow its impact across the City of Boston; ***THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED,

That the Boston City Council hereby recognizes June 18, 2026, as Patricia Spence Day in the City of Boston and honors Patricia Spence for her extraordinary leadership, visionary stewardship, and unwavering commitment as Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Farming Institute of Boston. The Council expresses its profound gratitude for her lasting contributions to food justice, urban agriculture, community empowerment, and neighborhood well-being, and celebrates the enduring legacy she leaves for the residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and the entire City of Boston.

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