



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS THE MONKEYPOX VIRUS AND THE CITY'S STRATEGY FOR THE BREAKOUT

- WHEREAS,** Since the first US monkeypox case was identified in mid-May, more than 6,600 probable or confirmed cases have been detected in the United States. Cases have been identified in every state except Montana and Wyoming; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The federal government declared a public health emergency against the Monkeypox virus to bolster the response to the outbreak. The announcement will free up money and other resources to fight the virus, which may cause fever, body aches, chills, fatigue, and pimple-like bumps on many parts of the body; *and*
- WHEREAS,** As of Thursday, August 4th, Massachusetts state officials reported 157 confirmed cases of monkeypox; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Vaccination efforts nationwide have been criticized as slow and lackluster. The federal government said it had a limited supply of the JYNNEOS vaccine in its stockpile. Massachusetts has requested a total of 26,271 doses and, so far, has been sent 16,251 doses of that allotment; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The virus is not unique to the LGBTQ community, and these individuals shall not be stigmatized for it. The nature of monkeypox's close-contact spread has led to a disproportionate impact on such individuals in the LGBTQ community; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The COVID-19 pandemic is still not over with the new highly transmissible BA.5 Omicron subvariant lurking. Boston must be prepared to handle two public health threats simultaneously; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to address the Monkeypox virus and discuss the strategy for the city, including preventative steps, availability and access to testing and vaccinations, treatments, and increasing knowledge and awareness of the virus to residents. Representatives from the Administration, the Boston Public Health Commission, healthcare staff, and any other interested parties shall be invited to attend.