



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** Boston, an area long inhabited by the Massachusetts Tribe, was conceived and established in 1630 by the arriving English colonists as a Town, with its first elections for Selectmen held on May 16, 1631; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Town of Boston thereafter was governed continuously by its Board of Selectmen, except for the year from April 19, 1775 to March 29, 1776, during which time they were disbanded due to the Siege of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** After many years of debate among the citizenry about whether the population had outgrown a Town style of decentralized governance, on February 23, 1822 the State Government adopted *An Act Establishing the City of Boston*, thereby granting Boston the first City Charter in Massachusetts; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On March 4, 1822, the residents of Boston who were eligible to vote ratified the Act and accepted the Charter to convert their Town into a City; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This vote excluded many Bostonians of the day, including women, certain immigrants, and most of the vibrant Black community of Beacon Hill, but would lay the groundwork for a future of more inclusive City governance; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Board of Selectmen met several times over the following two months to select the City's first Mayor, with their final meeting held on April 24, 1822; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On May 1, 1822, the Selectmen ceremoniously transferred responsibility to the Mayor and Council, and the City of Boston began its existence as City; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Ever since, a City style of governance has enabled the modernization of municipal services, strong collective action, and a dynamic local political culture; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston intends to commemorate the 200th anniversary of its incorporation as a City on Sunday, May 1, 2022; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council marks this important anniversary with gratitude to the many public servants who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the City of Boston and its residents over the past two hundred years, and looks forward to many more centuries of City government in the public interest, in partnership with the whole civic community that calls Boston home.