

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON, COLETTA,  
DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL,  
AND LOUIJEUNE



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MALCOLM X'S BIRTHDAY, MAY 19TH AS A BOSTON MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY AND HONORING MALCOLM X'S LEGACY BY ESTABLISHING AND INCLUDING MALCOLM X IN BOSTON'S BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL

- WHEREAS,** Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little, was the fourth of eight children, to Louis Little, a homemaker, and Earl Little, a preacher and active member of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association, on May 19th, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Malcolm X and his family were the targets of a substantial amount of white supremacist violence during his youth and it is likely that his father was murdered due to his role in Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association, leaving his mother a widow; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Malcolm X continued to experience trauma after his mother was committed to a mental health asylum under unclear circumstances in 1939, from which his siblings and he were separated and dispersed to various foster homes or to live with extended family members; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In the early 1940s, as a teenager, Malcolm X moved to Boston at the behest of his older sister Ella Collins, and lived for several years in the neighborhood of Roxbury at 72 Dale St, across from what is now recognized as Malcolm X Park; *and*
- WHEREAS,** During the early and mid-1940s, Malcolm X resided in Boston, spending a significant amount of time around the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Columbus Avenue, which is now known as Jazz Square, where he worked in historically-esteemed establishments such as Boston's Savoy Ballroom, and attending shows at the Hi Hat Lounge, where he met and formed a friendship with Billie Holiday; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1946, Malcolm X was arrested on charges of burglary and sentenced to a grossly disproportionate term in Charlestown State Prison, and though the two white women involved in the same escapades received significantly lesser sentences, he would remain in prison until 1952; *and*

- WHEREAS,** While incarcerated, Malcolm X recovered from addiction, dedicated himself to self-improvement, educated himself by reading voraciously, and joined the Nation of Islam; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Following his release from Charlestown State Prison, Malcolm X became a Minister for the Nation of Islam, a fierce human rights advocate, and a prominent leader in the Civil Rights movement who fought for the rights of Black people in the United States and around the world, influencing the work of various Civil Rights and Black Nationalist organizations during the 1950s and 1960s; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1964, Malcolm X parted ways with the Nation of Islam over ideological and personal differences that arose between the organization and him, and independently founded the Muslim Mosque, Inc., an Islamic movement and organization devoted to engaging in both spiritual and political practices; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Additionally in 1964, Malcolm X made his first pilgrimage to Mecca and returned for a second trip to several African and Arab nations, at which time he received a new name, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, and met with several African leaders, including Kwame Nkrumah, and Ahmed Ben Bella; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1964, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz also founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity, a secular political organization, inspired by the Organization of African Unity, and instituted to fight for the liberation and self-determination of all Black people in the United States; *and*
- WHEREAS,** El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz was assassinated on February 21st, 1965, at 39 years old while speaking at an Organization of Afro-American Unity event at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The New York Police Department demonstrated inaction in their investigation, despite evidence such as surveillance footage collected, which recorded the perpetration of heinous acts, including the firebombing of Malcolm X's home precisely one week before his murder; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Malcolm X left us with many speeches and written works collected within classic texts such as “Malcolm X Speaks”, “The Evolution of a Revolutionary”, and the “The Autobiography of Malcolm X”, which have become pioneering pieces of the historical literature of the Civil Rights, Black Nationalist, Human Rights, and Black Power Movements in the United States; *and*
- WHEREAS,** El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz’s unique teachings and activism strategies retain their impact in the fight for racial justice across the globe, contributing to Black liberation and inspiring countless individuals and advocacy groups, from the Black Panther Party to the noteworthy Black Lives Matter movement; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Many other American cities have recognized Malcolm X's birthday as a holiday, incorporating his unprecedented accomplishments within their educational curriculums, and continue to bring together thousands of community leaders, artists, and vendors to gather in the celebration of unity and Malcolm X's contributions to the African-American community; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Had Malcolm X's life not been taken from us so soon by the forces of racial oppression, our nation would have further benefited from his relentless fight for justice. There will never be another liberator and warrior like Malcolm X - Our nation needs to atone for the harm that was inflicted upon African-Americans and their freedom fighters; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Recognizing Malcolm X's birthday would give the City of Boston the opportunity to commemorate his legacy and contributions, and preserve our history, culture, and identity. Boston's African American community deserves intentional reconciliatory action; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED,** That the Boston City Council hereby acknowledges Malcolm X's legacy by recognizing May 19th, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz's (Malcolm X) birthday as a municipal holiday, ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

**RESOLVED,** That the City of Boston designate and develop a site on Malcolm X Boulevard in order to commission the creation of a Malcolm X Statue as an addition to the Black Heritage Trail; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

**RESOLVED,** That the City of Boston enhance existing plaques, renovate, and register the Malcolm X - Ella Little Collins House (72 Dale Street, Roxbury) to be part of Boston's Black Heritage Trail; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

**RESOLVED,** That the Boston City Council support and engage with community processes to discuss extending Malcolm X Boulevard, renaming Dudley Street in Roxbury to Malcolm X Boulevard.

Filed on May 15, 2024