

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, HENRY SANTANA, SHARON DURKAN, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESIDENTS, FAMILIES
AND STAFF AT THE EDGAR P. BENJAMIN HEALTHCARE
CENTER BEING IMPACTED BY THE JULY 1ST, 2024
PLANNED CLOSURE

WHEREAS, For approximately 96 years the Edgar P. Benjamin Healthcare Center has been committed to providing quality care to residents in the Mission Hill and Roxbury neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, The center was founded in 1927 by the late attorney Edgar P. Benjamin as Resthaven, which he donated to the community as a charitable entity dedicated to “providing a home or shelter for and to otherwise assist all people without regard to race, creed or color.”; *and*

WHEREAS, The facility, when founded, was the only Black-owned and operated nursing care facility in New England, and primarily caters to elderly and disabled residents who call the facility home. Today, it continues to primarily serve Bostonians of color, and the facility is highly valued by residents of Mission Hill and Roxbury; *and*

WHEREAS, On around February 12, 2024, Edgar P. Benjamin CEO Tony Francis filed papers with the State announcing that the facility would close by July 1, 2024, due to “insurmountable” fiscal challenges; *and*

WHEREAS, The Edgar P. Benjamin’s closure will impact staff and approximately 76 residents, primarily residents of color, who have felt left out in the decision-making process since the closure was announced; *and*

WHEREAS, While CEO Francis has stated that the facility would work to find placements for all 76 residents as well as jobs for its staff, the community’s trust is low. A meeting was held at the Edgar P. Benjamin on Thursday, February 22, 2024, which did not include staff. Residents left the meeting feeling there was a lack of clarity about where they will be placed once the facility closes; *and*

WHEREAS, Staff members have also reported issues around payment, including having to wait weeks to be paid and being paid with checks that bounced; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council stands with the residents, their family members and the workers at the Edgar P. Benjamin Healthcare Center who are requesting more

transparency and engagement prior to the facility's planned closure on July 1, 2024; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council strongly urges management at the Edgar P. Benjamin Healthcare Center to improve communication with residents, their families and staff regarding the closure and supports their efforts to be consulted and involved in alternative plans prior to the July 1, 2024 planned closure.

Filed on: February 28, 2024