

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA, ARROYO, BREADON, COLETTA,
LOUIJEUNE, WORRELL AND DURKAN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS A GUARANTEED
BASIC INCOME PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES LIVING
BELOW THE POVERTY LINE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Despite our relatively high median income of \$71,834 per household, 18.9% of residents, 1 in 5 people, are living in poverty in Boston, and the child poverty rate is 27.7%, or almost 1 in 3 children; **and**

WHEREAS, Poverty is associated with various health risks, including elevated heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, infant mortality, undernutrition, asthma; **and**

WHEREAS, Individuals living below poverty in the City of Boston face challenges in employment, food and housing security, mental health, and access to many other necessities for living a quality life; **and**

WHEREAS, Women ages 18-24 are the largest demographic living in poverty in Boston, and of the 121,000 people living in poverty in Boston, the majority are People of Color; **and**

WHEREAS, Programs in Cambridge, Chelsea, the State of Alaska, as well as various other locations, have demonstrated that implementation of programs based on guaranteed basic income is capable of relieving economic stress for low-income households; **and**

WHEREAS, The Chelsea program resulted in recipients spending 75% of the \$2.1 million on food, [as was intended](#); **and**

WHEREAS, The Alaska Project showed that dividends did not affect employment, part-time work was increased by 17%, and had a general equilibrium effect on the local economy; **and**

WHEREAS, According to the Pew Research Center, 45% of adults nationwide favor a UBI proposal of \$1,000 per month for all adult citizens; **and**

WHEREAS, A Boston GBI trial program would provide important qualitative and quantitative data to further actions that have been taken at the state level to pass legislation that would provide a guaranteed minimum income to all Massachusetts families, as S.1852 would provide; **and**

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of any city, state, or federal government to meet the basic needs of its constituents, a temporary guaranteed basic income program residents living in poverty can economically stabilize and support individuals, lift them out of poverty, and improve living standards and quality of life; **NOW,**
THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the implementation of a Temporary Guaranteed Income Program for individuals living below the poverty line in the City of Boston and invite relevant stakeholders, including Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Department, Treasury, Equity and Inclusion Department and community advocates to provide necessary input on implementation and analysis of the program

Filed on: November 1st, 2023