

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 10, 2022 AS BLACK JOY DAY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Two years ago the Boston City Council unanimously passed a resolution on shifting the narrative of Bostonians away from deficit-based descriptors and affirming our resilient yet under-represented communities; *and*

WHEREAS, The resolution was a response to the tendency for people to describe certain communities only by what they lack, which not only reinforces helplessness, but fogs the memories of our strengths, our resiliency, and our ability to stand up and speak truth to power; *and*

WHEREAS, “Black Joy” has a lot of different meanings. For some, it is living radiantly and unapologetically in your skin – being fierce and in a true celebration of yourself no matter what your personal or collective circumstance. For others, “Black Joy” is dancing, singing, and laughing even in the most challenging times. It’s the belief that our greatness is older than our oppression, our strength is greater than our struggle; *and*

WHEREAS, Recognizing Black Joy is now more important than ever as symbols of Black love, such as the Roxbury Love mural, were torn down; *and*

WHEREAS, Black Joy is not *just* a celebration, it is a form of resistance, for as Zora Neale Hurston once wrote “sometimes, I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It’s beyond me;” *and*

WHEREAS, Black leaders across the city have been doing the work of uplifting the strength, beauty, and power of the black community in times of civil unrest, from images of black women saging the city, to celebrating the Bodega Makeover Project, to folks simply sharing videos of themselves dancing to stop the doom and gloom; *and*

WHEREAS, Black Joy cannot be limited to the month of February or to Juneteenth; Black Joy needs to be celebrated throughout the year, especially in times like these because, as Imani Perry wrote: “Joy is not found in the absence of pain and suffering. It exists through it;” **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED,

That the Boston City Council recognize September 10, 2022 as Black Joy Day in the City of Boston and use it as an opportunity to lead with an asset-based approach to all of the value and beauty that the Black community brings to our city; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED,

That, in an era when we are still fighting to cause Good Trouble to advance the cause of civil rights, we do not forget to celebrate Black Joy.

Filed in Council: