OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, FERNANDES-ANDERSON, LOUIJEUNE, ARROYO, BOK, BREADON, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, MEJIA AND FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, The City Council has voted unanimously to declare gun violence a public health emergency**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has experienced over 150 shootings this year alone**;** *and*

WHEREAS, Victims of gun violence are increasingly students and young people**;** *and*

WHEREAS, More children have been shot so far this year than in all of 2021; *and*

WHEREAS, Gun violence impacts marginalized communities significantly more often than White communities, with more than 80% of gun violence victims in 2022 being Black or Latinx**;** *and*

WHEREAS, Gun violence is concentrated in neighborhoods that have consistently been underinvested in and lack the civic and social infrastructure of wealthier and Whiter neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, Three out of four shootings occur in either Dorchester or Roxbury, primarily within City Council District 4; *and*

WHEREAS, More than 50% of Boston Public Schools have had a shooting within a 5-minute walking radius; *and*

WHEREAS, Criminal justice responses are best utilized to respond to violence after-the-fact and public health responses are best utilized to prevent violence in the first place; *and*

WHEREAS, The burdens of gun violence impact families long after the headlines stop; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has both the ability and the responsibility to protect and support families as they navigate their lives post-shooting; *and*

WHEREAS, Families and friends of those involved in gun violence may continue to be under threat of retaliation and may require City support in finding safe and secure housing and educational opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, Intervening in, disrupting, and ending cycles of violence requires collaborative, coordinated, community-based action; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has historically found success in reducing gun violence with programs like the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative and The Boston Miracle, ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss appropriate public health and safety responses in conjunction with the community to address gun violence throughout the City with particular attention paid to City Council District 4, and that representatives from BPD, BPHC, Neighborhood Services, and other relevant and interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: January 11, 2023