

COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL,
ARROYO, BAKER, BREADON, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, LOUIJEUNE,
MEJIA, MURPHY AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST WALGREENS TO POSTPONE ALL CLOSURES OF BOSTON LOCATIONS

- WHEREAS,** Walgreens has recently closed three Boston locations in Roxbury, Mattapan, and Hyde Park—all predominantly Black, Brown, and working class communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Announcements of said closures were made in a surreptitious manner with insufficient time for workers and customers to plan for the termination of the establishments; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Net earnings for Walgreens in FY2022 are \$4.3 billion, compared with \$2 billion in FY2021, reflecting a \$2.5 billion after-tax gain, making these closings particularly disturbing; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Operating income from the first nine months of FY2022 increased 54.3 percent from the previous year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Rosalind Brewer, the CEO of Walgreens, made \$28,333,498 in total compensation and \$7,600,527 in total cash over the preceding year, compared to her predecessor's total compensation of \$17,483,187, consistent with the fact that the Walgreens corporation is doing exceptionally well; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The average Walgreens cashier in Boston earns the minimum wage, \$14.25 an hour, with managers often making just a couple of dollars an hour more; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Walgreens has hidden behind “financial loss” to justify store closures while doubling earnings and increasing CEO pay by \$10,850,311, despite paying employees the legal minimum; *and*

WHEREAS, Walgreens has closed these locations without offering alternatives for how those impacted will be able to access their medicines; *and*

WHEREAS, Walgreens similarly failed to provide employees with adequate notification to prevent income loss; *and*

WHEREAS, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Hyde Park are working class communities, and as such, many of their residents do not have cars, are low income, and need a neighborhood pharmacy both for the access to medicines & household goods from a consumer basis and for the jobs that the stores represent; *and*

WHEREAS, Elderly community members, many of whom have mobility issues and are on a fixed income, rely on having a pharmacy within close confines of their environs, potentially leading to significant personal and public health issues interconnected with and exacerbated by issues of ageism, racism, and class inequality; *and*

WHEREAS, Due to the significance of this matter, it is imperative that Walgreens postpone any planned closures until a robust plan is implemented that guarantees that impacted community members can continue to access their medications, and that all workers whose jobs have been terminated are offered employment opportunities with at least equal pay and hours; *and*

WHEREAS, Profitable corporations that benefit from access to Boston's communities have a responsibility to those communities and must ensure that the masses of poor and working people impacted by store closures are accounted for and that their needs are catered to:
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: The Boston City Council calls upon Walgreens to collaborate with the city and the community to assist the impacted neighborhoods properly, and that they postpone any proposed closures and not open any new stores in Boston until they agree to do so.

Filed on: January 25th, 2023