

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, ERIN MURPHY, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BOK, BAKER, MEJIA, ARROYO, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, WORRELL AND BREADON



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING LUNAR NEW YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays for our AAPI communities, and it begins on the second new moon after winter solstice, and is usually celebrated for a week starting from New Year's Eve to the sixth day of the New Year; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In Boston, we have a large number of AAPI residents who celebrate Lunar New Year, with numerous lion dances, banquets, and other events to celebrate this holiday. We also have one of the largest Chinatowns in the United States, a vibrant Vietnamese community in Dorchester, and many smaller pockets of AAPI communities throughout the city; *and*
- WHEREAS:** AAPIs are an integral part of our city and our society; they are our neighbors, frontline healthcare workers, school teachers, small business owners, policymakers, military members, youth sports coaches, among many others; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Despite their contributions and sacrifices, AAPIs have faced strong institutional discrimination and racism throughout history, with the most prominent examples being the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which was repealed in 1943, and Japanese Internment during World War II. Since COVID-19, there has been a significant increase of racist incidents and hate crimes committed against AAPI residents; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Lunar New Year is designated as a state holiday in California, and the New York City Council voted to make Lunar New Year as an official school holiday, and there is a bill in Congress to designate Lunar New Year as a federal holiday; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There is now an effort with Asian American organizations in Boston and surrounding areas to advocate for Lunar New Year to be an official holiday in Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Designating Lunar New Year as an official holiday in the City of Boston would be an appropriate way to recognize the positive impacts made by our AAPI neighbors, as well as advance cultural exchange and diversity; *and*
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:** That the Boston City Council supports designating Lunar New Year as an official holiday in the City of Boston, and to recognize the contributions of our AAPI neighbors and continues to support our AAPI community.

Filed on: February 15, 2023