

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA, TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON, COLETTA, ARROYO, FLAHERTY, LOUIJEUNE, WORRELL AND FLYNN



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GRADUATE STUDENT WORKER UNIONIZING EFFORTS AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

**WHEREAS,** The success and global prestige enjoyed by Northeastern hinges on the work performed by their graduate employees in research, teaching, grading, and administrative assistance; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Graduate student workers at Northeastern University filed for a union election with the National Labor Relations Board on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as part of an organizing effort stretching back to 2016, with a majority of students signing cards at the time of filing; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Graduate student workers at Northeastern are fighting for better pay following the high cost of living in Boston, dental care, overwork protections, equity for international and domestic students, protections from racial and sexual discrimination, and other necessary improvements to working conditions; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Northeastern Administrators have untruthfully stated during the NLRB process that the workers who do work at the university are not workers and therefore do not have the rights of workers, and the law firm arguing on Northeastern's behalf to the NLRB has stated that all graduate students across the country should be undemocratically denied their union representation at private universities in what would be a ruinous precedent for labor organizing; *and*

**WHEREAS,** When workers rallied against Northeastern manipulating the NLRB process to obstruct and delay the majority of graduate workers' right to hold an election, the administration responded by politicizing the Boston Marathon Bombing to disparage the unit; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Northeastern administration is sending the university police to surveil, harass, and exclusively target BIPOC and trans workers with the threat of criminal charges for participating in protected concerted union activity as part of a pattern stretching back to 2019; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston is a city that recognizes the contributions that union workers have brought and respects the critical gains that unions have achieved for all workers. The city also acknowledges the work of graduate student workers and their well-being as vital for Boston to continue being a hub of innovation and research; ***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council condemns the anti-union behavior of Northeastern University and calls upon the university to allow all working masters and doctoral graduate students to vote in an election this year semester and stop disenfranchising graduate student workers.

Filed on: May 5, 2023