OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN AND BRIAN WORRELL

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION FOR JULY 4, 2025, IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY AND CALLING FOR A RETURN TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES THAT ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THIS REPUBLIC

WHEREAS, On our country's Independence Day on July 4, the City of Boston and the Boston City Council take pride as the birthplace of the American Revolution and the beginning of open rebellion against King George III and the British monarchy**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of 1780 is the oldest functioning written constitution in the world and served as a model for the United States Constitution of 1789. Written by John Adams, the Commonwealth's constitution includes key aspects of American governance that are now widely accepted: separation of powers; checks and balances; an independent judiciary; and the Declaration of Rights, provisions that protect individuals against state power that were later reflected in the U.S. Constitution as the Bill of Rights**;** *and*

WHEREAS, One of the foundational pillars of our democracy is the separation of powers embodied within the Constitutional framework. As James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper No. 47, "The accumulation of all powers legislative, executive and judiciary in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many, and whether hereditary, self appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny"; *and*

WHEREAS, In just the first six months of his second term, however, President Trump and his appointees have shown a blatant disregard for the separation of powers by disobeying court rulings, attempting to overturn birthright citizenship, denying foundational civil liberties such as habeas corpus, withholding Congressionally-approved funds, closing Congressionally-created departments and agencies, unilaterally imposing tariffs, deploying the U.S. military on U.S. soil against our own residents, and, most recently, launching military strikes without the consent or consultation of Congress in violation of the Constitution and the 1973 War Powers Act**;** *and*

WHEREAS, President Trump and his appointees have publicly stated and shown that they are targeting Boston's residents through aggressive immigration enforcement under the false pretense that the City is unsafe due to the mere presence of immigrants, terminating Temporary Protected Status of our immigrant populations, withholding funds from and attempting institution-wide censorship of Boston's

world-renowned educational, healthcare and scientific institutions, threatening military interventions to interrupt activities that are plainly protected free speech under the Constitution, rescinding protections for members of our LGBTQIA+ community, weakening access to gender-affirming healthcare, harming our college graduates by creating obstacles to student loan forgiveness, and cutting veterans healthcare and employment services**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court and Congress have generally acquiesced to President Trump's abuse of powers, including recent Supreme Court decisions holding that President Trump is "absolutely immune from criminal prosecution for conduct within his exclusive sphere of constitutional authority" [Trump v. United States, No. 23-939 (U.S. July 1, 2024)]; that the courts lack the authority to issue nationwide injunctions to block "blatantly unconstitutional" orders like President Trump's order ending birthright citizenship [Trump v. CASA, Inc., No. 24-884 (U.S. June 27, 2025)]; and allowed President Trump to end the Temporary Protected Status of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans without court review [Noem v. National TPS Alliance, 24-1059 (U.S. May, 19, 2025); Noem v. Doe, No. 24-1079 (U.S. May 30, 2025)]; while Congressional Republicans rejected a war powers resolution that would have let Congress decide if President Trump could strike Iran again, have declined to assert Congress's constitutional authority over spending or tariffs, and passed a budget bill that cuts taxes for the wealthy and increases funding for ICE while cutting funding for Medicaid, food assistance, and clean energy programs, despite widespread popular opposition; *and*

WHEREAS, The actions of President Trump and his administration have led other major cities like Philadelphia to pass resolutions calling for an end to behavior that resembles that of a monarch and tramples upon the founding principles of our Constitution**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The people of Boston have shown repeatedly through protests and rallies large and small, in the City's center, in neighborhoods, in elderly communities, and elsewhere, that we expect democracy, respect the Constitution, and are willing to stand up for both**;** ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the Massachusetts Congressional delegation to push their Congressional colleagues to exercise their legislative authority to enforce the Constitution, to work with the Judicial Branch to restore the separation of powers, to ensure that illegal or unconstitutional acts, including acts of corruption, are overturned, and to demonstrate in all actions that the United States of America has no king.

Filed on: July 9, 2025