

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL



**ORDER OF CITY COUNCILORS MATT O'MALLEY
AND MICHELLE WU**

- WHEREAS:** Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV); and
- WHEREAS:** In December 2019, a new strain of the Coronavirus, known as COVID-19, was identified in Wuhan, China, and has currently affected more than 50 countries, with the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring COVID-19 a "public health emergency of international concern" and the United States federal government declaring the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency; and
- WHEREAS:** COVID-19 can cause the affected person a fever, cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia, and in some cases death; and
- WHEREAS:** As of February 28, 2020, more than 84,000 COVID-19 cases have been identified worldwide, of which 8,000 cases are considered serious, and at least 2,800 fatalities have been attributed to the COVID-19 virus; and
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. has had 61 total cases of COVID-19, one of which resulted in death, and the City of Boston has recorded one confirmed case of COVID-19 and 33 other Bostonians are being monitored and are self-quarantined; and
- WHEREAS:** The health risks caused by the spread of COVID-19 have negatively impacted economic markets, travel, tourism, and planned large-scale events; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council has taken steps to provide accurate information about COVID-19 to residents in multiple languages, as well as emphasizing the need to temper misinformation that encourages stereotypes and discrimination toward Asian American residents, small businesses, and communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Currently, the risk of contracting COVID-19 in the United States is reported to be relatively low, however, the City of Boston should take proactive steps towards informing our residents and visitors on how to protect themselves, as well as provide regular updates as this pandemic unfolds. **THEREFORE BE IT**

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ORDERED: The Boston City Council, hereby assembled, orders a hearing to evaluate the City of Boston's preparedness for the coronavirus strain COVID-19. Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services, Office of Neighborhood Services, Age Strong Commission, Boston Public Schools, and COVID-19 experienced medical professionals shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: March 2, 2020