

>> I THINK WE'RE GOING TO -- HI, EVERYONE. I'M GOING TO SEE IF CO-SPONSORS ARE ON. WE'RE GOING TO WAIT A MINUTE OR SO TO GET A COUPLE MORE COUNCILLORS. I SEE RICCARD GO AND JULIA ARE HERE NOW.

>> HOW IS MY AUD?

>> AUDIO IS GOOD.

>> I LISTEN BACK TO THE PLAYBACK AND SEE I HAVE SOME ECHO SOMETIMES.

>> IT SOUNDS GOOD ON MY PHONE, AT LEAST.

>> IS (indiscernable) HERE?

UH-OH, WHERE DID SHE GO.

>> MY INTERNET IS A LITTLE -- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR OR SEE ME.

>> I CAN BOTH HEAR AND SEE YOU.

>> I CAN SEE YOU AND HEAR YOU.

THIS IS DIANE.

>> MY PLEASURE.

>> I THINK WE HAVE MOST OF OUR PANELISTS, JOSE IS HERE.

>> HELLO, EVERYONE.

>> HELLO, JOSE. RICARDO, WAS BERNARD GOING TO JOIN?

>> JAMES BENNETT IS HERE.

>> OH, JAMES, OKAY. PERFECT.

OKAY.

AND PROFESSOR WESTINABI, TOO.

>> HOW ARE YOU? HOW IS EVERYBODY?

>> GOOD TO SEE YOU.

>> GOOD TO SEE YOU. CO-SPONSORS ARE GOOD TO GO?

ANYONE NEED ANY TIME?

CARRIE, I THINK WE'RE GOOD TO GO.

>> IT'S ALL YOURS.

>> THANK YOU.

I WANT TO WELCOME EVERYONE TO OUR BOSTON CITY COUNCIL HEARING, NO LONGER IN THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, BUT COMING AT YOU FROM ZOOM.

WE ARE HERE FOR A HEARING ON THE DOCKET THAT WAS JOINTLY CO-SPONSORED BY MYSELF, COUNCILLOR ARROYO AND COUNCILLOR JULIA MEJIA.

MY NAME IS MICHELLE WU, AND I'M CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE ON PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION.

SO WE ARE JOINED TODAY BY COLLEAGUES ON THE CITY COUNCIL, BY EXPERTS AND PANELISTS, WHO WILL BE SHARING THEIR VIEWS, AND WE WILL ALSO HAVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THE END.

I'M LOOKING AROUND IN MULTIPLE DIRECTIONS BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO DO THE HEARING FROM TWO DEVICES BECAUSE MY INTERNET IS ALSO VERY SLOW.

SO I TRY TO SEE EVERYBODY ON THE SCREEN ON MY LAPTOP, BUT THEN KEEP THE PHONE ON SO I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SURE I'M PLUGGED IN.

AT THIS POINT, I WILL IT OVER TO MY CO-SPONSORS FOR OPENING STATEMENTS, AND THEN I'LL GIVE A LITTLE MORE BACKGROUND AND THEN WE'LL DIVE IN.

COUNCILLOR RICCARD GO ARROYO.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. AND THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR MEJIA FOR RAISING THIS TO THE TOP, WHERE IT BELONGS. AS WE TALK ABOUT POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY, IN PRE-COVID-19 TIMES,

COMMUNITIES AT THE LOWER ECONOMIC SPECTRUM AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A SCIENTIFIC THAT WHITE FAMILIES HAVE \$250 IN NETWORK, AND BLACK FAMILIES HAVE \$8. AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CLOSE DOWN EMPLOYMENT AND YOUR NETWORK, AND BEFORE THAT IT WAS AT \$2. 2 -- \$8. AND HOW QUICKLY WE CAN ACCELERATE THAT COVER REOR NOT. I'M DISAPPOINTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ISN'T HERE TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION. I KNOW THEY WERE INVITED. I THINK IT IS VITAL THAT WE HAVE THEIR VOICE AT THIS TABLE AS WE TALK ABOUT THE WAYS THAT RECOVERY IMPACTS COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND THE WAYS IN WHICH WE WANT TO RAISE THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS AND MAKE SURE THAT THOSE BUSINESSES NOT ONLY COME BACK STRONG, BUT COME BACK IN NUMBERS THAT THEY WEREN'T THERE PREVIOUS. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT OUR CONTRACTING, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS CITY IS OPERATED, AND THE WAYS IN WHICH WEALTH IN THIS CITY HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED AND THE WAY THAT RESOURCES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED, AND THIS HAS BEEN A LONG-SERVING PROBLEM. THIS IS NOT NEW. AND THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THOSE IN THE WAY WE BRING OUR ECONOMIES BACK AND OUR CITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS BACK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PANELISTS FOR BEING HERE

TO OFFER THEIR INSIGHTS.

WITH THAT, CONCEDE.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU,

COUNCILLOR ARROYO.

AND NOW COUNCILLOR JULIA

MEJIA.

>> THANK YOU TO THE CHAIR.

THANK YOU TO COUNCILLOR

ARROYO FOR YOUR WORK ON

UPLIFTING THESE ISSUES.

FOR ME THIS ISSUE IS

REALLY PERSONAL BECAUSE IT

IS SOMETHING I SEE EVERY

DAY IN MY FAMILY AND IN MY

COMMUNITY.

WE WERE ALREADY FACING

PROBLEMS WITH HOUSING,

JOBS, EDUCATION, AND SO

MANY OTHER ISSUES BEFORE

THIS OUTBREAK HIT.

SO MY LEAGUE, COUNCILLOR

ARROYO, STATED THIS IS NOT

A NEW CONVERSATION TO US.

COVID-19 DIDN'T CREATE

THESE INEQUITIES, THEY

ALREADY EXISTED.

ALL IT DID WAS EXPOSE AND

CONFIRM WHAT WE ALREADY

KNEW, THAT WE HAVE SYSTEMS

IN OUR TODAY THAT ARE NOT

ALIGNED IN EQUITY.

FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING TO

GET COMPETENT FOOD, AND

THERE IS A DELAY IN TERMS

OF PROCESSING FOR EVERYONE

ELSE, AND BUSINESSES

ACROSS THE CITY ARE

SHUTTING THEIR DOORS

BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD

TO STAY OPEN DURING THIS

CRISIS.

IT IS FRUSTRATING AND

CHALLENGING TO BE REMINDED

OF THIS, ESPECIALLY WHEN

THERE ARE NO MEMBERS FROM

THE ADMINISTRATION WHO

SHOWED UP TODAY.

IT IS FRUSTRATING, BUT I'M

ALSO OPTIMISTIC TO SEE

THAT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE

JOINED THIS

CONVERSATION -- BECAUSE I

KNOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A

SOLUTION-BASED DYIN DIALOGUE,

AND SO I LOOK FORWARD TO
THE WORK AHEAD AS A RESULT
OF THIS HEARING.

AND THAT'S JUST THE
BEGINNING.

I WANT TO WALK AWAY ARE A
CLEAR DIRECTION ACTION
ITEM SO WE CAN GET TO WORK
ON CREATING LONG-TERM
SOLUTIONS, ONES THAT GO
BEYOND COVID-19.

I JUST WANT TO THANK
EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING
IN THIS PROCESS.

AND AS I SAID BEFORE, I'M
NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO
GOING BACK TO THE WAY
THINGS USED TO BE.

I'M REALLY ALL ABOUT
MAKING SURE THAT WHATEVER
WE DO LAY OUT FOR THE
FUTURE IS SOMETHING IS
SOMETHING THAT WILL BE
SUSTAINABLE.

I BELIEVE WITH POLITICAL
WILL, THERE IS NOTHING WE
CAN'T MAKE HAPPEN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BE
SPEAKING TODAY AND FOR
THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO DO
THIS WORK.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU
SO MUCH, COUNCILLOR MEJIA.
I WILL ADD TO THE VERY
ELOQUENT REMARKS OF MY
CO-SPONSORS AND COLLEAGUES
IS THAT I THINK WE HAVE
REALLY NOW, UNDENIABLY,
HAD EVERYONE'S EYES OPEN
AROUND JUST HOW MANY
CRISES WE NEEDED TO
ADDRESS ALL ALONG AND HOW
MUCH RESILIENCE AND
STRENGTH THERE HAS BEEN IN
THE COMMUNITY, WHICH ARE
NOW THE SAME COMMUNITIES
AND THE SAME FAMILIES
BEARING THE BURDEN OF
INEQUITIES ARE BEARING THE
BURDEN OF COVID-19 ON THE
ECONOMIC SIDE AND THE
HEALTH SIDE.
AND WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO

AVOID WITH THIS HEARING,
ON THE RECOVERY SIDE, EVEN
IN THE FIRST STEPS OF
STIMULUS AND RELIEF, WE
SEE THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT
THE MOST ARE LEAST ABLE TO
ACCESS IT, WHETHER IT IS
BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE
BARRIERS OR TOOLS.
AND THOSE WHO HAVE BIG
BANKS AND LAWYERS, HELPING
THEM TO GET THEIR SHARE OF
THE PIE FIRST, WE NEED TO
MAKE SURE THAT THE CITY OF
BOSTON'S RECOVERY EFFORTS
ARE VERY, VERY
INTENTIONAL.
I WANT TO JUST GIVE A
QUICK SUMMARY OF THE
LETTER THAT CAME FROM THE
ADMINISTRATION SHORTLY
BEFORE THE HEARING.
I KNOW WE HAD REQUESTED --
THIS IS A VERY, VERY BUSY
TIME FOR EVERYONE, AND
THERE IS A LOT ON
EVERYONE'S PLATES, AND WE
HAD REQUESTED ANY NUMBER
OF FOLKS TO SPEAK
PARTICULARLY ON RECOVERY,
WITH RESPECT TO PLANNING,
AND ESPECIALLY TO
UNDERSTAND HOW THE FUNDS
HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED.
WHO HAS GOTTEN THEM, AND
HOW HAS THAT ALLOCATION
BEEN EQUITABLE.
THE RESPONSE WE RECEIVED
TODAY IS EVERYONE IS TOO
BUSY.
BUT THEY SENT A LETTER
"THANK YOU FOR INVITATION
TO TESTIFY AT TODAY'S
HEARING.
WE ARE UNABLE TO TESTIFY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE DUE
TO THE SUMMERRITY AND
QUICKLY CHANGING NATURE OF
THE HEALTH CRISIS THAT IS
BEFORE US.
THE CITY OF BOSTON AND THE
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS ARE MAKING
EVERY EFFORT TO ADDRESS

THIS PANDEMIC.

WE ARE WORKING TO EXPAND DEPARTMENTS, PROVIDE RESOURCES TO OUR RESIDENTS, AND CONTINUE THE OPERATIONS OF THE CITY, WE ARE ALSO DEVELOPING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

ONCE THE SURGE HAS ENDED, IT WILL BE INCUMBENT ON US AND THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO LEAVE THE CITY ON RECOVERY."

THERE IS A SECTION ON THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DESCRIBING EQUITY EFFORTS, DESCRIBING DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND BOOKS, DESCRIBING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS, AND ALSO DESCRIBING PLANNING FOR SEVERAL SCENARIOS RELATED TO SCHOOL REOPENINGS, WITH DIFFERENT TIMEFRAMES.

WHILE THE PLANS WILL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE, WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO SHARE HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARIES OF THE PLANS IN THE FUTURE.

THERE IS A SECTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND SECURITY, WHICH WAS AN ISSUE BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, AND THIS CRISIS HAS AMPLIFIED IT.

WE ARE WORKING TO ENSURE THAT OUR MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS, INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE SAFE.

THEY ARE ALSO WORKING TO PROVIDE HOUSING STABILITY FOR ALL BOSTON RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE RESTAURANT, ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICE SECTORS, WHICH ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE PEOPLE OF COLOR AND TO FACE LOST INCOME.

CURRENTLY THEY'RE WORKING TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF RENTERS AT RISK,

AND PARTNERING WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING INDUSTRY TO HELP RENTERS, AND RECOGNIZING THAT MANY IN THE PRIVATE MARKET NEED ASSISTANCE.

AND WITH THAT IN MIND, WE'RE WORKING WITH LENDING PARTNERS TO PROVIDE EXTRA PROTECTION FOR HOMEOWNERS ABOVE AND BEYOND WHAT THE LEGISLATION PROVIDES.

THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTED A SECTION TO THE LETTER THAT SAYS BOSTON'S DIVERSE NETWORK OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS IS WHAT MAKES OUR CITY GREAT.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE HEART OF BOSTON'S ECONOMY.

WE HAVE -- WE'RE PROCESSING THE NEARLY 3,000 APPLICATIONS

RECEIVED FOR THE RELIEF FUND, AND WE'LL BE ISSUING THE FIRST ROUND OF CHECKS IN THE COMING DAYS.

WE ALSO KNOW THAT FUNDING IS JUST ONE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

THEREFORE THE CITY CREATED A FINANCIAL HANDBOOK AND POSTED IT ON O.E.D.'S WEBSITE, AND PROVIDING A LIST OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES.

WE ARE REACHING OUT TO SMALL BUSINESSES SO THEY CAN ACCESS THE SECOND ROUND OF THE FEDERAL PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM, P.P.P.,

MAINTAINING AN OPEN LINE WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES, HOSTING A CONFERENCE CALL EVERY DAY AT 3:00 p.m.,

AND LASTLY, WORKING ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND HELPING PEOPLE NAVIGATE THAT SYSTEM.

AND FINALLY, THE BOSTON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

AGENCY CONTRIBUTED A SECTION SAYING:

"CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IS CURRENTLY PAUSED -- WHILE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IS CURRENTLY PAUSED, BOSTON HAS EXPERIENCED BIGGEST CONSTRUCTION BOOM IN HISTORY AND IT MUST CONTINUE."

THEY HAVE PAUSED THE PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS FOR ALL ARTICLE 80 PROJECTS. HOWEVER, B.P.A. STAFF IS STILL WORKING AND PLANNING STUDIES IS ONGOING.

THIS ADMINISTRATION'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY COUNCIL HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT AS WE ALL WORK TO SUPPORT AND EMPOUR EMPOWER THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

THIS IS AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME, AND WE HAVE A CHANCE TO SET A PRECEDENT FOR HOW OUR CITY COMES TOGETHER. THE STEPS WE TAKE WILL NOT ONLY HELP THE PEOPLE OF BOSTON WEATHER THIS STORM, BUT TO FACE OTHER CRISIS IN YEARS TO COME.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU, AND STARTING TO MOVE TOWARDS RECOVERY.

SO I WILL MAKE SURE THAT THE ENTIRETY OF THAT LANGUAGE GETS SHARED PUBLICLY, BUT I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS MY DISAPPOINTMENT AND FRUSTRATION THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ANYONE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT TO ANSWER ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, AND PARTICULARLY TO TALK ABOUT THE FUNDS AND THE SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUNDS, AND THE (indiscernable) FUNDS.

AND NOW, TURNING TO THE REST OF THE HEARING, WE ARE JOINED BY

COLLEAGUES -- I APOLOGIZE,
WE DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THE
ORDER, BUT COUNCILLOR JIM
JAMIE IS HERE, COUNCILLOR
LYDIA EDWARDS, COUNCILLOR
ANDREA, COUNCILLOR
O'MALLEY.

I THINK I GOT EVERYONE
THERE, AND I'M SURE CARRIE
WILL CORRECT ME WITH THE
RIGHT LIST IN ORDER WHEN
WE GET TO QUESTIONS.

I WILL ASK MY COLLEAGUES
IF SOMEONE HAS A PRESSING
STATEMENT THAT YOU WOULD
LIKE TO MAKE, FEEL FREE TO
RAISE THE BLUE HAND ON THE
ZOOM FEATURE.

OTHERWISE BECAUSE WE HAVE
MULTIPLE PANELISTS, IT
WOULD BE GREAT TO SIGN IN,
IF EVERYONE IS OKAY WITH
THAT.

OKAY.

[INAUDIBLE]

>> COUNCILLOR WU, I WANTED
TO VERY BRIEFLY SAY THAT I
HAVE -- I'M GOING TO HAVE
TO STEP OUT FOR PART OF
THIS HEARING, SO I JUST
WANTED TO SAY HOW
IMPORTANT IT IS AND HOW
MUCH I THINK THIS IS
ABSOLUTELY THE RIGHT TIME
TO BE HAVING THESE
CONVERSATIONS BECAUSE WE
CAN'T BE HAVING THEM AS
PART OF A POST-MORTEM
AFTER THE FACT.

WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW
WE COME BACK FROM THIS IN
A WAY THAT IS EQUITABLE
AND IS MORE THAN EQUITABLE
IN THE SENSE THAT IT TAKES
THIS OPPORTUNITY OF CRISIS
TO BUILD A MORE JUST
SOCIETY THAN THE ONE WE
HAD GOING INTO THIS
CRISIS.

I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU
FOR HOLDING THIS, AND TO
SAY I WILL HAVE TO MISS
PART OF IT, BUT I WILL
REVIEW IT AFTERWARDS.

SO THANKS.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU

VERY MUCH.

COUNCILLOR BOK.

I SEE PRESIDENT JAMIE

WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A QUICK
STATEMENT.

>> MADAM CHAIR, THANK YOU

SO MUCH FOR THE

OPPORTUNITY.

I'LL TRY TO BE BRIEF.

I WANT TO GO ON RECORD

PUBLICLY THANKING YOU AND

THE OTHER MAKERS OF THIS

VERY IMPORTANT HEARING

ORDER.

WHAT ALL OF THIS, AS WE'VE

ALL SAID, IS POINTING OUT

THE PRE-EXISTING

CONDITIONS THAT WERE

ALREADY IN OUR COMMUNITY,

IN TERMS OF INEQUITY AND

WHAT COVID-19 HAS DONE ON

TOP OF THAT.

NOT ENOUGH TO BE CONCERNED

WITH THE HEALTH, WE ALSO

HAVE TO BE CONCERNED WITH

THE WEALTH.

IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT

CONVERSATION.

SO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING

IT FORTH.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU

VERY MUCH, MADAM

PRESIDENT.

>> I WILL DIVE IN NOW WITH

A NOTE TO MY COUNCIL

COLLEAGUES, IF AT SOME

POINT THE SCHEDULES ARE

SHIFTING, AND YOU HAVE TO

HOP OFF, FEEL FREE TO

RAISE YOUR BLUE HAND, AND

I'LL TRY TO JUMP TO YOU

EVEN IF WE'RE IN THE MIDST

OF TESTIMONY.

THAT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL

TO THE PROCEEDINGS.

AND THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH

FOR JOINING US.

WE WILL GO AT THIS POINT

TO THE PANEL TESTIMONY.

WE HAVE ONE, TWO, THREE,

FOUR, FIVE, SIX FOLKS

LINED UP TO TESTIFY AS

COMMUNITY LEADERS AND EXPERTS, AND WE ALSO HAVE FOUR PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY WAITING ROOM. SO WE'LL GO FIRST TO THE PANEL.

I THINK THE EASIEST WAY ON ZOOM TO DO THIS IS WE'LL JUST ASK THE PANELISTS TO GO ONE AT A TIME, AND THEN GO TO COUNCILLORS FOR QUESTIONS, RATHER THAN HAVING EACH PERSON GO AND THEN "Q" AND "A" BECAUSE THAT WILL GO ON FOR A LONG TIME.

I WILL START BY TURNING TO FORMER SENATOR DIANE WILKERSON, IF I CAN UNMUTE YOU.

OKAY.

SENATOR WILKERSON, THE FLOOR IS YOURS FOR AN OPENING STATEMENT.

>> I THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIRMAN.

I'M GOING TO ASK, TOO, MY INTERNET IS ALSO UNSTABLE. IT IS FLAGGING ON MY PHONE.

YOU MIGHT SEE THAT I HAVE A SECOND -- MY LAPTOP HERE, TRYING TO GET IN.

I BELIEVE YOU WOULD HAVE TO LET ME GET IN.

JUST IN CASE I LOSE YOU ON MY PHONE -- THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IN FACT, I THINK I WOULD RATHER DO THAT, ANYWAY.

IF I CAN DO THAT RIGHT NOW, AND YOU CAN SEE ME.

>> Chairman: CERTAINLY.

WE'LL DO IT.

>> HERE I AM.

HELLO, EVERYONE.

CAN I JUST START, MADAM CHAIR, BY SAYING THANK YOU TO YOU AND THE COUNCIL.

>> Chairman: HOLD ON.

OKAY.

I HAD MUTED YOUR OTHER DEVICE, BUT I THINK I'LL JUST KEEP BOTH ON BECAUSE

THEN WE'LL GET SOUND FROM
ONE AND VIDEO FROM
ANOTHER.

>> HOW ABOUT THIS?
[IT IS ECHOING]

>> Chairman: I THINK
WE'RE SET.

>> OKAY.
THANK YOU.

I JUST WANTED TO START BY
SAYING THANK YOU TO THE
COUNCIL, TO THE CHAIR.

TO MADAM PRESIDENT.

THIS IS SO IMPORTANT, AND
I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO BE
BRIEF BECAUSE YOU ALL SAID
SO MUCH IN THE

CONVERSATION AND THE
INTRODUCTION THAT I'M
GOING TO LOOK FORWARD TO
THE DISCUSSION AND
QUESTIONS AFTER THE FACT.

WE KNOW -- FIRST I WOULD
SAY THAT I AM SO VERY
TROUBLED THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION CHOSE NOT
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS
PROCESS WHILE WRITING TO
YOU HOW ANXIOUS THEY WERE
TO BE WORKING WITH YOU ON
A PLAN.

I'M NOT SURE HOW WE DO
THAT, IF WE'RE NOT SHARING
INFORMATION AND TALKING,
BUT I WILL LEAVE FOR YOU
TO FIGURE THAT OUT IN YOUR
WORK.

I THINK THIS IS PART OF
THE OLD PRACTICE OF
BOSTON, THAT WE HAVEN'T
FIGURED OUT HOW TO CHANGE
YET, THAT WHEN PEOPLE
DON'T WANT TO WORK
TOGETHER, I'M NOT SURE HOW
WE GET THERE.

BUT YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED
BY THIS HEARING YOUR FOCUS
AND COMMITMENT.

SO HERE IS THE PROBLEM,
AND HERE IS THE GOAL: WE
ALREADY KNOW THAT SMALL
BUSINESSES, AND
PARTICULARLY BUSINESSES
OF COLOR, HAVE NOT SHARED

WELL EITHER IN THE PROCESS OF REMEDY, THROUGH THE PAYROLL PROTECTION PROCESS, WE HAVE ONE MAJOR BANK WHO DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO PARTICIPATE IN PROCESSING APPLICATIONS AND SANTENDER, AND THEY FAILED THEIR TEST FOR BOSTON DURING SPRINGFIELD IN THE SAME URBAN PROCESS YEARS AGO.

I WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SAY A FUND THAT IS GOING TO BE DIRECTED TO THAT POPULATION.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GET IT IN THIS NATIONAL PROCESS, IN THE STATE PROCESS, AT ALL.

THEY JUST WON'T.

IF THE ESTIMATE IS THAT 25% OR SO OF THE BUSINESSES WILL NOT SURVIVE, THEN WE HAVE TO MULTIPLY THAT BY THREE, AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT A COMMUNITY THAT IS ALREADY BEHIND, IN TERMS OF THE ECONOMIC STATUS, LOOKS LIKE WHEN 60% OR 70% OF WHAT WE DO HAVE IS GONE.

BECAUSE I THINK UNLESS WE MOVE NOW, PLAN NOW, AND WORK TOGETHER, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THERE NEEDS TO BE SUPPORT IN THE SYSTEM, AND SO I KNOW -- I HAD A

CONVERSATION WITH THE CITY THIS MORNING ABOUT THAT.

WE HAVE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO FLUENT IN SPANISH AND ACTUALLY VIETNAMESE AND PORTUGUESE, WHO ARE STANDING, READY, AND WILLING TO ASSIST BUSINESSES.

BY THE TIME THEY FIGURED OUT WHAT TO DO, THE MONEY WAS GONE, THE FIRST TIME. EVEN THE CITY MONEY, THE APPLICATIONS THAT THEY

HAVE, THEY HAVE NO IDEA
HOW 3,000 APPLICATIONS ARE
GOING TO BE PROCESSED IN
THE POOL THAT WE HAD.
I HEARD, AFTER THE FACT --
[VIDEO AND AUDIO BREAKING
UP]

>> -- I'M NOT SURE HOW
THAT WORKS, EITHER.
THERE IS NOT VERY MUCH
INFORMATION.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THERE
ARE PEOPLE --

[AUDIO BREAKING UP]

>> -- THAT I THINK MOST OF
YOU HAVE RECEIVED, THAT
DOCUMENT THAT WAS SENT BY
THE BOSTON BLACK COVID-19
CALL, AND THE COALITION IS
GROWING, AND I WOULD SAY
THAT IT IS ALSO THE ONE --
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE IN A
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MOMENT, AND PEOPLE WERE
WILLING TO TALK ABOUT
CIVIL RIGHTS AND HEALTH
CARE, BUT WHEN HE STARTED
TALKING ABOUT THE ECONOMY
AND THE ECONOMICS OF
RACISM AND POVERTY, THINGS
GOT REAL HEATED.

AND I THINK THAT'S WHERE
WE'RE HEADED.

I APPRECIATE YOUR
ATTENTION, YOUR FOCUS.
LIKE I SAID, WE HAVE SOME
SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
THAT WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO
YOU IN WRITING.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE HEARING
THAT SUBMITTED TO YOU
FORMALLY BY THE COALITION
AFTER THIS EVENING.

AND I JUST STAND READY TO
BE INVOLVED IN WHATEVER
WAY I CAN.

I HAVE SOME VERY SPECIFIC
SUCCESSFUL HISTORY IN
DEVELOPING PLANS AROUND
EQUITY INCLUSION THAT
WORKED, AND I APPRECIATE
EVEN BEING EXTENDED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO COME BEFORE
YOU.

[AUDIO AND VIDEO BREAKING UP]

>> Chairman: I CAN'T TELL IF IT IS ON MY END. IT LOOKS LIKE THE SOUND CUT OUT RIGHT AT THE END. SENATOR.

I THINK YOU WERE JUST SAYING YOU APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY, AND THEN THE SOUND CUT OUT.

>> I SAID, WE CAN DO IT. WE CAN DO IT BETTER.

I THANK THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND ALL OF THE MEMBERS FOR ALLOWING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE WITH YOU.

I'M HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU SO MUCH.

OKAY. THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT LAST PART.

SO WE'LL GO NEXT TO JOSE AND THEN JUST A PREVIEW FOR THE OTHER PANELISTS, AFTER JOSE WE'LL DO PROFESSOR PAUL WATINABI, PRISCILLA FLIPPING AND JAMES BENNETT. JOSE?

I'LL UNMUTE YOU.

>> LET ME SEE HERE. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> Chairman: YES.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GOOD AFTERNOON.

THANK YOU FORGIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE TODAY.

I'M JOSE DUARTE, AND I'M THE OWNER OF A SMALL RESTAURANT IN BOSTON'S HISTORIC NORTH END.

I HAVE BEEN IN THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS FOR ABOUT 21 YEARS.

WE OPENED IN 1999.

IT HAS BEEN A JOURNEY FOR US.

WE HAVE BEEN VERY CONNECTED TO THE CITY FOR

THE LAST 15 YEARS, 20
YEARS, HELPING, AND
INCORPORATING, AND BEING
PART OF THE COMMUNITY.
WE ARE AN ELEMENTAL
COMPONENT ON THIS WHOLE
COMMUNITY.
UNFORTUNATELY, WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO US, TO ME, TO
THE SMALL BUSINESS, IS
KIND OF LIKE A TRAUMA.
WE FEEL THIS IS A
TRAUMATIC EVENT ON US, THE
SMALL BUSINESSES.
WE WENT FROM HAVING A
RESTAURANT THAT WAS
EMPLOYING 25 -- HAD 25
EMPLOYEES AND WAS -- AT
THE END OF THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY, WE HAD TO SHUT
DOWN COMPLETELY.
WE WERE LEFT WITH BILLS.
WE WERE LEFT WITH HAVING
TO SEND PEOPLE HOME.
SOME OF THEM NOT ABLE TO
COLLECT UNEMPLOYMENT.
SOME OF THEM, YOU KNOW,
FINDING IT A REALLY HARD
TIME TO GO THROUGH THE
SYSTEM OF APPLYING FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT.
ETC., ETC.
IT HAS BEEN A VERY
DIFFICULT MOMENT FOR ME
AND MY FAMILY BECAUSE NIS
THIS IS WHAT I KNOW WHAT TO DO,
TO RUN RESTAURANTS.
WE TRIED TO DO A BUNCH OF
DIFFERENT THINGS, WE HAD
CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR
LANDLORD, ETC., ETC.
BUT I'M HERE TODAY TO
ACTUALLY THINK FORWARD.
I KNOW THAT WE HAVE THIS
ISSUE.
GRANTS ARE GOOD, THEY'RE
GREAT.
P.P.P. DOESN'T WORK FOR
US.
I GOT APPROVED, BUT I'M
NOT OPEN.
I HAVE TO SPEND THE MONEY
ON THE RESTAURANT IN EIGHT
WEEKS.

HOW DO I TELL A BARTENDER
OR A SERVER, THAT IS HOME
COLLECTING UNEMPLOYMENT,
THAT HE IS GOING TO MAKE
LESS MONEY IF I REHIRE
THEM.

NO ONE WANTS TO.
THEY'RE AFRAID.

HOW DO I MAINTAIN SOCIAL
DISTANCE?

HOW DO I MEET MY
LIABILITIES, MY RENT?

FROM THE POINT OF TRYING
TO TALK TO MY INSURANCE
COMPANY, OF COURSE WE'RE
NOT GETTING ANY BUSINESS
INTERRUPTION, WE'RE NOT
GETTING ANYTHING FROM ALL
OF THE FOOD SPOILAGE.

WE'RE TRIED TO GIVE FOOD
AWAY.

I'VE BEEN ASKING THEM TO
TRY TO GIVE ME A DISCOUNT
BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT
IS FAIR FOR ME TO HAVE TO
PAY THE FULL AMOUNT ON THE
POLICY IF I DON'T HAVE ANY
LEGAL LIABILITY OR
ANYTHING REPRESENTING
THAT.

SO THEY'RE VERY HARD TO
DEAL WITH.

THE WHOLE PROCESS OF
APPLYING TO THE P.P.P. HAS
BEEN A DISASTER FOR ME.

I APPLIED, I FILLED OUT
THAT APPLICATION SIX
TIMES.

THE SEVENTH TIME, I THINK
I WAS RIGHT, WITH THE CITY
OF BOSTON, I WAS THE FIRST
IN LINE.

AND IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT
BECAUSE IT WAS NOT CLEAR.
IT WAS IN ENGLISH.

SO I CAN IMAGINE HOW
PEOPLE IN THE GHETTO IN
THE SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD,
THAT IS REALLY DOING A
GREAT JOB -- HOW ALL OF
THE OTHER BUSINESSES, THE
SMALL BUSINESSES, ARE
FINDING THIS HELP?
THEY CAN'T APPLY.

IN FACT, I GOT AN E-MAIL
SENT BACK THAT I WAS
MISSING INFORMATION.
AND I SAID, I SUBMITTED
ALL OF THE INFORMATION.
CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME
WHAT INFORMATION IS
MISSING SO I CAN SEND IT
TO YOU.

AND I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT
WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.
NOT AN ANSWER BACK.
SO...IMAGINE IF SOMEONE
WHO IS AT LEAST TRYING TO
GET INTO APPLY, FROM ALL
OF THE SMALL
COMMUNITIES -- LIKE SOME
OF THE LATINO COMMUNITIES
AND BLACK COMMUNITIES,
THEY HAVE THE LANGUAGE
BARRIER AND THEY DON'T
HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, IT IS
VERY DIFFICULT.

I VOLUNTEERED TO HELP
OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES TO
APPLY FOR THE HELP.

SO IT IS REALLY
FRUSTRATING, I USE THAT
WORD, AND CHALLENGING.
RIGHT NOW WE ARE AT THE
POINT, OKAY, DO WE TAKE
THIS -- WHAT DO WE DO WITH
THAT?

HOW DO I DEAL WITH MY
LANDLORD.

SO WE OPEN, BUT HOW DO WE
OPEN?

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

THERE IS NO TOURISM.

WE LOST ALL OF THE EVENTS,
ALL OF THE SPORTING
EVENTS.

WE LOST THE MARATHON AND
THE SEAFOOD SHOW.

WE WORK WITH THE TOURISM.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO

RECUPERATE THAT TOURISM?

WHAT CAN WE DO TO BRING
THAT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE
BACK TO GO TO A
RESTAURANT?

BECAUSE WE EMPLOYED A LOT
OF PEOPLE.

SO HOW CAN WE USE

TECHNOLOGY?

CAN WE HAVE THEM HELP US

TO DESIGN A MODEL -- I

DON'T KNOW, TESTING?

CAN WE SEE WHAT OTHER

CITIES HAVE DONE?

DOES IT WORK?

DO WE HAVE A WAY TO

APPROACH OUR LANDLORDS AND

TELL THEM, HOW ABOUT WE DO

A PERCENTUAL RATE.

25% OF P.P.P., THAT WORKS

IN RURAL AMERICA, IN THE

CITY.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE

TO USE THAT FOR A MONTH'S

RENT.

SO IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT.

I'M JUST THINKING FROM NOW

ON, BUSINESS IS NOT GOING

TO BE THE SAME.

AND YOU'VE SEEN THE

EXAMPLE.

WE WERE TALKING ABOUT

KITCHENS AND ALL OF THE

APPS AND UBERS AND ALL OF

THAT AND ARTIFICIAL

INTELLIGENCE, I THINK THAT

NOW IS COMING ALONG.

IT IS COMING BACK WITH A

DIFFERENT MODEL.

SO HOW CAN WE GET THESE

SMALL BUSINESSES TO BE

SUCCESSFUL IN THESE TIMES

THAT ARE CHANGING?

WHAT RESOURCES CAN THE

CITY PROVIDE TO THESE

MINORITIES SO THEY CAN

CONTINUE IN THE LOOP?

I MEAN, IN ANOTHER SMALL

BUSINESS WE HAVE IN THE

CITY OF NORWELL, IN TWO

DAYS I HAD TO GO TO THE

WEB PAGE TO DO SOME

TAKEOUT, BUT I WAS ABLE TO

DO THAT, AND THAT HELPED

US GETTING BY A LITTLE

BIT.

BUT HOW CAN WE LOOK AT ALL

OF THESE RESOURCES THAT

ARE OUT THERE TO MAKE THIS

HAPPEN?

WHETHER IT IS CONSULTING,

ADVICE.

BECAUSE A LOT OF THEM
DON'T DO IT BECAUSE THEY
JUST FEEL FRUSTRATED.
I'M SORRY IF I WENT TOO
LONG ON THIS.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU
SO MUCH.

THIS IS GREAT.

AND I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES
WILL HAVE LOTS OF
QUESTIONS FOR YOU ABOUT
YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE
APPLICATIONS AND YOUR
MENTORING OF OTHER
BUSINESSES AND OTHER IDEAS
THAT YOU HAVE.

SO WE'LL GO THROUGH THE
REST OF THE PANEL AND THEN
RETURN TO LARGER "Q" AND
"A."

SO THANK YOU SO MUCH,
JOSE.

AND NOW PROFESSOR PAUL
WATINABI.

I WILL UNMUTE YOU.

>> I WANT TO THANK THE
COUNCILLORS AND MY FELLOW
PANELISTS FOR THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ABOUT
THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

I WANT TO UNDERLINE THE
FUNDAMENTAL PREMISES THAT
EVERYBODY HAS TALKED
ABOUT, AND THAT IS THAT
CRISES, WHETHER IT BE A
FLOOD OR A HURRICANE OR A
FINANCIAL CRISIS, OR IN
THIS CASE, A HEALTH
CRISIS, ALL DOES THE SAME
THING.

IT DOES NOT CREATE AN
INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE.
IT JUST AMPLIFIES IT.

THAT IS TRUE IN THIS CASE.
MY HOPE IS WHAT WE LEARN
FROM THIS IS NOT THAT THIS
IS GOING TO HAPPEN THE
NEXT TIME, MY HOPE IS
FINALLY WE'LL UNDERSTAND
THIS SO THAT THE NEXT
CRISES, WE'LL BE ABLE TO
DEAL WITH THE
FUNDAMENTALS, SO THEY
DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH

THIS ACTION TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

SO THAT'S MY HOPE.

AND I HOPE THAT HOPE WILL TRIUMPH OVER EXPERIENCE, AS LEAST RELATED TO THIS EXPERIENCE.

I'M GOING TO FOCUS PRINCIPALLY ON THE ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, TO THE EXTENT IN WHICH THEY SHARE SOME OF THE ELEMENTS THAT I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT WITH MY OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND SOME OF THE UNIQUE ELEMENTS AS WELL.

WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT SOME OF THE SYSTEMIC FACTORS, WE TALKED ABOUT HEALTH CARE AND ACCESS BARRIERS, ABOUT ECONOMIC BARRIERS, AND ABOUT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL BARRIERS.

I WANT TO JUST GIVE A LITTLE EXAMPLE FROM THIS EXPERIENCE THAT REFLECTS ALL OF THESE SYSTEMIC FACTORS.

IN TERMS OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS, PART OF THE DISCUSSION THAT HAS BEEN OUT THERE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT RACIAL DISPARITIES, BUT PRINCIPALLY MADE THE ARGUMENT OF HOW HEAVILY IT HAS IMPACTED OUR BLACK AND LATINO BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

BUT TO ME, WHAT IS MISSING SIGNIFICANTLY IS WHAT HAS THE IMPACT BEEN ON THE ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY? IF YOU LOOK AT SOME OF THE DATA, IF YOU LOOK AT THE POSITIVE TESTS, YOU SEE THAT ASIAN-AMERICANS REPRESENT ONLY 3% OF THE POSITIVE TESTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, WHICH IS LESS THAN THEIR SIZE OF THE POPULATION, SO IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A DISPARITY.

BUT IF YOU LOOK AT OTHER DATA, THE MOST IMPORTANT DATA, THE DEATH BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, YOU WILL SEE THAT ASIAN-AMERICANS, 11% OF THAT TOTALLED THE DEATHS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON, WHICH ARE ASIAN-AMERICAN.

ALMOST FOUR TIMES THE NUMBER OF PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVES.

THIS INDICATES TO A SIMPLE DEGREE SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

IT INDICATES THERE IS SOME PROBLEMS WITH ACCESS TO TESTING.

AND THERE IS SOME DISTURBING DATA, IN TERMS OF EMERGENCY ROOM HOSPITALS, AND ASIANS MAY THE TOP GROUP IN THAT. PERHAPS ASIAN-AMERICANS ARE NOT GETTING TESTED, AND THEY'RE GETTING INTO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, AND UNFORTUNATELY MOVING TOWARDS DEATH FASTER, AND IN A HIGHER PERCENTAGE THAN ANY POPULATION IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

WHAT THIS ALL REFLECTS IS ACCESS TO THINGS LIKE TESTING, TO CARE, TO TREATMENT, AND SO FORTH, THAT IS, ONCE AGAIN, INEQUITABLE REPRESENTED. IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC BARRIERS, AS I POINTED OUT, THE ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, MUCH LIKE SOME OF THE OTHER COMMUNITIES, RELIES HEAVILY ON SMALL BUSINESSES, RESTAURANT WORKERS, NAIL SALONS, PEOPLE IN SMALL CONSTRUCTION BUSINESSES AND SO FORTH.

THE FEDERAL ACCESS TO PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THEM -- THESE PROGRAMS ARE USUALLY ALL FILLED UP, OR

THE MONEY IS TAKEN BEFORE
THEY EVER GET A SHOT AT
IT.

AND WHY IS THAT THE CASE?
WELL, PROBABLY THERE IS A
PATTERN, AND THE PATTERN
IS THAT A PROGRAM GETS
ANNOUNCED, IT FIRST COMES
OUT IN ENGLISH, AND THEN
IT MIGHT COME OUT A FEW
DAYS LATER IN SPANISH, AND
THAT A FEW DAYS LATER OR
WEEKS LATER IN OTHER
LANGUAGES.

BY THE TIME IT COMES OUT
IN OTHER LANGUAGES, ALL OF
THE MONEY IS GONE AND ALL
OF THE MONEY HAS BEEN
TAKEN AWAY.

SO WHAT'S ONE OF THE
SOLUTIONS TO IT?

PART OF IT IS YOU HAVE GOT
TO UNDERSTAND THAT EITHER
YOU EAR MARK OR TARGET
MONEY FOR MINORITY
BUSINESSES, OR THEY DON'T
GET ANY ACCESS TO IT.

IT IS THE ONLY WAY BY
WHICH THESE COMMUNITIES
ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO
SHARE IN THIS -- IN THESE
KINDS OF PROGRAMS
EQUITABLY.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO
TARGET CERTAIN AMOUNTS OF
THE MONEY -- AND I DON'T
KNOW WHAT KIND OF
PROGRAMMING THE CITY IS
CONSIDERING, BUT CERTAINLY
THE FEDERAL MONEY FOR
SUPPORTING SMALL
BUSINESSES.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE IT
DIDN'T SET ASIDE OR EAR
MARK A SIGNIFICANT PORTION
OF MONEY FOR MINORITY
BUSINESSES.

BECAUSE, ONCE AGAIN,
THEY'RE EXPERIENCE AND
CAPACITY, PARTICULARLY
WITH AN ASIAN-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY, IS ABOUT 70% OF
THE ADULTS ARE IMMIGRANTS,
AND ABOUT HALF OF THEM

CAN'T SPEAK ENGLISH VERY WELL.
EVEN THEIR ABILITY TO ACCESS OR APPLY FOR THESE FUNDS IS SIGNIFICANTLY LIMITED.
AND WE THINK ABOUT THE WORKERS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT, THE IMPACTS OF IT, AND THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO DELIVER GROCERY GOODS, WHO STOCK THE SHELVES, WHO ARE PROVIDING SUPPORT AS WELL. BUT ALSO AT THE OTHER END, THEY'RE HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND SO FORTH. SO IT IS NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF THE IMPACT ON THEM ECONOMICALLY, BUT IN TERMS OF RISK AS WELL.
THERE IS AN UNDIFFERENTIATED RISK. FOR ASIAN-AMERICANS, IT MEANS ANTI-ASIAN TARGETING.
WE WANT TO BLAME SOMEBODY ELSE.
WHETHER IT IS A 9/11 THING, AND THEY DECIDED IT WAS GOING TO BE OUR MUSLIM AND ARAB BROTHERS AND SISTERS THAT ARE GOING TO BE TARGETED.
IN THIS CASE, THIS ALLEGEDLY FACELESS ENEMY DOES HAVE A FACE, UNFORTUNATELY, FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WHO HAS ENABLED IT TO OTHER PEOPLE, AND THAT FACE IS THAT OF ASIAN-AMERICANS AND CHINESE-AMERICANS AND PEOPLE WHO LOOK ASIAN. IT HAS HAD SUCH AN IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY IT IS HARD TO MEASURE. IT IS HUGE IN TERMS OF THE MICRO AND MACRO IMPACTS. PEOPLE BEING STABBED AT, PEOPLE BEING DOUSED WITH LIQUIDS AND SO FORTH, AND ALL OF THIS IS AN IMPACT IT HAS HAD ON OUR

PARTICULAR COMMUNITY.
IT IS ONE THAT IS SHARED
AT DIFFERENT TIMES WITH
DIFFERENT GROUPS.
UNFORTUNATELY, IN THIS
CIRCUMSTANCES, OURS IS THE
ONE THAT IS HIT
PARTICULARLY HEAVILY IN
THESE REGARDS.

>>> IN ALL OF THESE
REALMS, I THINK IT IS
NECESSARY FOR US TO
UNDERSTAND WE NEED TO HAVE
WAYS TO RESPOND TO A
SYSTEMIC DEPRESSION,
SYSTEMATIC INJUSTICE.
WE DO NEED TO DEAL WITH
THE CRISIS, BUT WE WANT TO
THINK ABOUT TRYING TO
RECOVER IN THE SHORT AND
MID-TERM, AND LONG-TERM.
AND TO EMBRACE THE NOTION
NOT OF DISCRIMINATION AND
PREJUDICE AND
SCAPEGOATING, AND TO TRY
TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES
ONCE AND FOR ALL TOGETHER
AS A COMMUNITY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU
VERY MUCH, MR. WATINABI.
I WANT TO NOTE THAT SINCE
I MADE THE INITIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT, WE'VE ALSO
BEEN JOINED, A LONG TIME
AGO, BY COUNCIL MICHAEL
FLAHERTY AND EDWARD FLYNN.
AND IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK
AT ANY POINT, AND I WOULD
ASK PARTICULARLY IT IS
BECAUSE YOU NEED TO LEAVE
FOR ANOTHER COMMITMENT, WE
SO APPRECIATE YOUR TIME,
SO RAISE YOUR BLUE HAND ON
ZOOM, AND I WILL JUMP IN
AT THAT MOMENT FOR A QUICK
STATEMENT.
IF YOU WOULD RESERVE THAT
SO WE CAN KEEP GETTING
THROUGH THE TESTIMONY AND
THE PANELISTS, THAT WOULD
BE THE WONDERFUL.
NEXT ON THE PANEL, WE WILL
GO TO SHIGRIN IGO.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON,
EVERYONE, MADAM CHAIR, AND
COLLEAGUES ON THE CITY
COUNCIL, ALL MY PANELISTS
WHO ARE HERE, AND OTHERS
WHO ARE JOINING.

ON BEHALF OF BECKMA AND
OUR MEMBERS, I WISH TO
EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER
TESTIMONY IN DOCKET 0584,
REGARDING PLANNING FOR
EQUITABLE RECOVER FOR THE
IMPACTS OF COVID-19.

I WOULD LIKE TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE
HERCULEAN EFFORTS OF THE
HEALTH CARE WORKERS, WHO
ARE WORKING TIRELESSLY TO
TREAT THOSE IN OUR
COMMUNITY, WHO ARE SICK,
AND HELPING THEM TO
RECOVER, OR TO BE THAT
LAST KIND SMILE OR
HANDHELD FOR MANY OF OUR
LOVED ONES WHO ARE PASSING
AWAY, AND I WANT TO
APPLAUD OUR ESSENTIAL WORK
FORCE, MANY WHO ARE WOMEN
OF COLOR, WHO CONTINUE TO
TRANSPORT OF FOOD OR STACK
STORE SHELVES OR DELIVER
THE ESSENTIALS TO OUR
HOMES.

THIS IS A CRITICAL TIME
FOR YOU ALL OF US,
ESPECIALLY FOR THE BLACK
COMMUNITY, AND IN THE
GREATER BOSTON AREA MORE
SPECIFICALLY.

A RECENT McKENZIE STUDY
NOTED THAT NATIONALLY
BLACK AMERICANS ARE TWICE
AS LIKELY TO LIVE IN AREAS
WHERE IF A PANDEMIC HITS,
IT WILL CAUSE OUTSIDE
DISRUPTION.

AND 39% OF ALL JOBS HEALED
BY BLACK AMERICANS, AND
35% HELD BY WHITE
AMERICANS ARE THREATENED
WITH REDUCTION OF HOURS,
REDUCTION OF PAY.
LOCALLY, THE STATISTICS

ARE EQUALLY ALARMING.
ACCORDING TO CENSUS DATA
IN MASSACHUSETTS, OVER
1200 BLACK-OWNED FIRMS
EMPLOYED 14,000 PEOPLE.
WHEN WE SERVED OUR
MEMBERSHIP IN EARLY MARCH,
WE FOUND THAT OVER 90% OF
RESPONDENTS WERE IN A IS
SOMEWHAT SEVERE FINANCIAL
IMPACT.
AND THEY ONLY HAD CASH TO
LAST THEM UP TO 90 DAYS,
IF AT ALL.
AND OVER 40% WOULD HAVE TO
LAYOFF STAFF IN ORDER TO
TEMPORARILY SURVIVE.
AND THIS WAS CLOSE TO 60
DAYS AGO.
IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT A
LARGE PORTION OF THESE
BUSINESSES ARE BASED IN
BOSTON.
AS WE KNOW AS AN
ORGANIZATION, THAT BLACK
BUSINESSES TEND TO LOCATE
IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.
DUE TO THE STAY-AT-HOME
ORDER ISSUED TWO WEEKS
AFTER OUR SURVEY, WE KNOW
THAT THESE NUMBERS ARE NOW
DESPERATELY HIGHER.
THE BLACK BOSTON COMMUNITY
ARE EXPERIENCING AN
OUTSIDE DISRUPTION.
IN APRIL 2020 REPORT NOTED
THAT ALTHOUGH
MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES
WERE MORE LIKELY TO
SHUTTER DURING THE GREAT
RECESSION, THEY HELPED
STABILIZE THE ECONOMY
DURING THE RECOVERY
PERIOD.
NATIONALLY, MINORITY
NUMBERS HELPED TO ADD
1.8 MILLION JOBS, WHILE
FIRMS OWNED BY WHITE MALES
LOST 800,000 JOBS, AND
FIRMS EQUALLY OWNED BY
WHITE MEN AND WOMEN LOST
ANOTHER 1.6 MILLION JOBS.
IT IS CLEAR TO US WHAT WE
INVEST IN BLACK AND OTHER

MINORITY BUSINESSES, NOT ONLY DO THESE COMMUNITIES THRIVE, BUT THE ENTIRE ECONOMY IS SAVED. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS PROFOUNDLY IMPORTANT THAT THE CITY BALANCES ITS EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE IMMEDIATE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS, WITH AN EFFORT TO SAVE AND PROTECT BLACK AND OTHER MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES.

IF QUICK AND DECISIVE ACTION IS NOT TAKEN, WE COULD SEE THE DEEPEST GROWTH OF THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP IN OUR TIME, WHICH WOULD HAVE SHORT AND LONG-TERM EFFORTS ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CITY LONG AFTER THE VIRUS HAS PASSED.

AS HAS BEEN NOTED BY MY FELLOW COLLEAGUES ON THE PANEL -- AS WE NOTED IN A RECENT GLOBE EDITORIAL, ALONG WITH FOLKS LIKE STEVE GROSSMAN, THE DESIRE OF THE WHITE HOUSE TO GET OUT MONEY QUICKLY RATHER THAN FAIRLY, IT LOCKED MANY OF OUR SMALL BUSINESSES OUT OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE EMERGENCY CAPITAL.

THE NEW PACKAGE BEING DELIBERATED IS SET TO REPEAT THESE SAME MISTAKES, AND TO ENSURE THAT ONE OF THE LARGEST TRANSFER OF WEALTH IN OUR LIFETIME WILL BYPASS COMMUNITIES AND CONTINUE TO BE IGNORED.

AND THE STATE FUMBLES ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY, AS THEY ARE RELYING ON FEDERAL EFFORTS ONLY TO STAVE OFF DISASTER.

THAT'S WHY WE JOINED GROUPS LIKE THE MASS ASSOCIATION, AND OVER 75

STATE-WIDE ORGANIZATIONS,
CALLING ON GOVERNOR BAKER
AND THE LEGISLATURE TO SET
ASIDE \$150 MILLION, TO
PROVIDE GRANT RELIEF AND
LOW INTEREST LOANS.
WE KNOW THAT THE CITY OF
BOSTON CANNOT WAIT.
AS WE SIT HERE AND TALK
TODAY, ANOTHER BLACK-OWNED
BUSINESS HAS BEEN PUTTING
UP A CLOSED SIGN IN THE
WINDOWS.
OTHER WORKERS ARE BEING
TOLD THAT THEIR JOB IS NO
MORE.
AND DOZEN OF FAMILIES ARE
WONDERING HOW TO PAY OFF
THEIR MORTGAGE OR THEIR
GROWING DEBT.
WE BELIEVE AT BECKMA THAT
BUSINESS OWNERSHIP PLAYS A
LARGE ROLE IN ELIMINATING
OR REDUCING THE RACIAL
WEALTH GAP, IT IS
CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT
THE CITY ACT NOW IN INVEST
IN THE FUTURE OF ALL.
TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF
THE BUSINESSES BOTH IN
THIS CURRENT MOMENT AND IN
THE COMING WEEKS AND
MONTHS, WE BELIEVE THE
CITY SHOULD DO THE
FOLLOWING: THE OFFICER OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS
ALREADY BEGUN COLLECTING
DATA, AND WE BELIEVE THEY
NEED TO CONTINUE TO DO
THIS.
AND WE ENCOURAGE THE
CONTINUATION OF THIS
EFFORT THROUGHOUT THE
CRISIS AND IN THE RECOVERY
PHASE TO ENSURE OR TO
GUIDE WHERE THE CITY AND
OTHER PARTNERS ARE
INVESTING THEIR RESOURCES.
UNDER GUIDANCE, TO ADDRESS
THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE
BLACK COMMUNITY, WE
STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THAT
THIS COUNCIL, AS A BODY,
CONSULT WITH EXPERTS LIKE

THOSE REPRESENTED ON THE PHONE TODAY.

SO I WAS VERY HAPPY TO SEE THAT SENATOR WILKERSON IS ON THIS CALL.

WE ENCOURAGED COUNCIL STRONGLY TO ENGAGE SENATOR WILKERSON, LEWIS ALISSA, ANDREA PORTER, RON MARLO, AND MANY OTHER WHO'S HAVE WORKED IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPACE FOR YEARS AND YEARS, AND WHO HAVE A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF HELPING TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES.

NOT ONLY AT THIS HEARING, BUT BEYOND THIS HEARING, IN CONVERSATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE PROCESS.

UNDER PROTECTION -- AS BECKMAN AND OTHERS ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO GET PROTECTION EQUIPMENT TO FAMILIES, THE COUNCIL CAN ALSO SUPPORT LOCAL COALITION EFFORTS TO PROVIDE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE THAT DEEMED ESSENTIAL.

RIGHT NOW THERE ARE OWNERS AND WORKERS WHO ARE CONTINUING TO GO TO THEIR JOB SITES WITHOUT PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT BECAUSE OF LACK OF AVAILABILITY, AND SO AS WE ALL KNOW, THIS IS INCREASING THE CHANCE OF SPREADING THE VIRUS TO ONE ANOTHER, AS WELL AS BRINGING IT BACK HOME TO THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

IN THE REALM OF GRANTS, IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT THE CITY HAS A SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND.

WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO REPLENISH THIS FUND SO MORE BUSINESSES OF THE

CITY CAN ACCESS NEEDED CAPITAL.

BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CITY TO SUPPORT EFFORTS LIKE THE BUSINESS EQUITY COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND, THAT THIS IS EQUITY INITIATIVE OUT OF EASTERN BANK, AND THE FOUNDATION FOR BUSINESS EQUITY, AND THE BOSTON FOUNDATION, BECAUSE IT IS FUNDS LIKE THESE THAT ARE TARGETING BLACK AND BROWN BUSINESSES.

SO WORKING WITH THEIR PROVEN RESULTS, I THINK THE CITY CAN GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS SUPPORTING BLACK AND BROWN BUSINESSES HERE.

JOSE NOTED EARLIER THE DIFFICULTY OF PAYING RENT AS A BUSINESS OWNER.

I COMPLETELY AGREE, AND MANY OF OUR MEMBERS ARE FACING THAT AS WELL.

WE DO KNOW THAT THE STATE RECENTLY PASSED LEGISLATION TO HALT THE EVICTION OF RENTERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS, BUT THERE NEEDS TO BE A FREEZING OF RENT AND MORTGAGES.

BECAUSE THE WAY IT STANDS NOW, AS SOON AS THIS LEGISLATION SUNSETS, THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT THE LANDLORD FROM IMMEDIATELY FILING FOR THOSE EVICTIONS.

SO WE NEED A HALT TO RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS RIGHT NOW.

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE CITY TO DO JUST THAT.

IN TERMS OF FUNDING, JOYCE BOWELING NOTED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE ACTIONS TO RELEASE C.P.A. FUNDS, WHERE A LOT OF THAT MONEY IS DEDICATED TO SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT.

AND SO WE ENCOURAGE THE

COUNCIL TO TAKE ACTION ON THAT.

AND, OF COURSE, YOU KNOW, A YEAR AGO -- ALMOST A YEAR AGO -- MANY OF US WERE SITTING IN THE CHAMBER TALKING ABOUT EQUITY AND THE CITY OF BOSTON CONTRACTS.

AND SO, YOU KNOW, THIS IS A TIME WHERE THE CITY IS SPENDING A WHOLE LOT OF MONEY ON A LOT OF CONTRACTS IN ORDER FOR FOLKS TO HELP END THIS PROCESS EITHER IN THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS OR EVEN IN THE RECOVERY PHASE.

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITY TO CONNECT BLACK AND BROWN BUSINESS OWNERS TO THESE CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES, BUT ALSO WE NEED TO HOLD THE ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR CONTRACTS THAT EXIST OUTSIDE OF THE CRISIS, WHETHER IT BE IN B.P. S., OR SOME OF THE LARGER DEPARTMENTS.

AS THESE DEPARTMENTS CONTINUE TO ROLL ON, THERE CONTINUE TO BE BARRIERS TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS TO WIN THESE CONTRACTS.

SO WE NEED TO -- YOU KNOW, LAST YEAR BECKMA SUBMITTED NOT ONLY TESTIMONY BUT RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO ELIMINATE THOSE BARRIERS, AND WE HOPE THAT THE COUNCIL WILL REVIEW THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS AND THAT OF EVERYONE ON THIS PANEL, TO REMOVE THOSE BARRIERS BUT WE DON'T NEED TO CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE THEM AFTER.

SO WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS.

AGAIN, I REALLY DO APPRECIATE THE CO-SPONSORS

OF THIS HEARING,
COUNCILLOR WU AND
COUNCILLOR ARROYO, AND ALL
OF THE COUNCILLORS WHO
JOINED THE CALL, AND THE
FACT THAT WE'RE THINKING
ABOUT THE RECOVERY
PHASE -- A LOT OF THE
FOCUS RIGHT NOW IS, OF
COURSE, ON THE IMMEDIATE
CRISIS.

BUT FOR ME, EQUITY IS
ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT IN
PUBLIC SPACES AND CHEERED,
BUT OFTENTIMES IT IS AT
THE BACK END OF A
CONVERSATION.

SO I APPRECIATE YOUR
LIFTING THIS UP AND
TALKING ABOUT THE RECOVERY
AND EQUITY AT THIS MOMENT.
SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO
CONTINUED CONVERSATION AND
ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS.
THANK YOU.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU
SO MUCH, SHIGRIN.

LOTS THERE, AND APPRECIATE
THAT YOU ALWAYS COME WITH
BIG RECOMMENDATIONS AND
ALWAYS IN ALIGNMENT WITH
WHAT WE'VE BEEN TALKING
ABOUT ALL ALONG.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART
OF THE PANEL.

NEXT, WE WILL GO TO
PRISCILLA FLYNT BANKS.

I SEE YOU ON THE ZOOM, BUT
MY COMPUTER IS SAYING
YOU'RE CONNECTING, BUT CAN
YOU HEAR US?

WE MIGHT BE HAVING SOME
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

CAN YOU HEAR US?

WE'LL SKIP OVER AND TRY TO
CONTACT HER AND SEE IF WE
CAN GET HER RECONNECTED.

SO WE WILL GO OVER TO
JAMES BENNETT.

>> MY NAME IS JAMES
BENNETT, AND I HAVE OWNED
A STORE DOWNTOWN FOR ABOUT
20 YEARS.

RIGHT NOW I'M JUST A --

I'M JUST A SMALL BUSINESS
OWNER, AND RIGHT NOW THIS
IS JUST CRAZY TO ME.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
>>> I CAN'T GET MY
QUESTIONS ANSWERED.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN I FIRST
TRIED TO FILL OUT FOR THIS
INFORMATION, FOR HELP, I
TRIED TO FILL IT OUT
ONLINE, AND IT SAID TO
TALK TO YOUR BANK.
I GO TO MY BANK, AND MY
BANK IS SANTENDER.
AND THEY TOLD ME TO GO
BACK TO MY COMPUTER AND
FILL OUT THIS.
DURING THE WHOLE TIME,
THEY SAID, ALL OF THE
MONEY HAS RUN OUT.
I THOUGHT, DID THEY PUT A
COUPLE OF DOLLARS UP HERE?
WHAT IS GOING ON.
I'VE BEEN A BUSINESS OWNER
FOR 20 YEARS, AND I NEVER
THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO GO
THROUGH THIS TYPE OF
STUFF.
AND LAST WEEK WAS VERY
STRESSFUL.
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE NOT
GETTING NO HELP OUT HERE.
ALL I NEED IS SUPPORT,
ASSISTANCE, SOMEWHERE TO
GO TO, INSTEAD OF EVERY
TIME I GO OVER HERE AND
IT'S GO OVER HERE, AND I
DON'T GET MY QUESTIONS
ANSWERED.
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.
I'M LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.
I'M, LIKE, HOW ARE WE
GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS?
I'VE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR
20 YEARS, AND LIKE I SAID,
I'M 50 YEARS OLD.
DO I LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB
SOMEWHERE?
OF COURSE I'LL DO WHAT I
HAVE TO DO, BUT I'M
SAYING, THIS IS, LIKE I
SAY, CRAZY.
THAT'S ALL I GOT TO SAY.
>> Chairman: THANK YOU

SO MUCH, MR. BENNETT.
WE HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS
FOR YOU, TOO.

I APPRECIATE YOU BEING
PART OF THE PANEL AND
SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES
WITH US.

WE ARE TRYING TO SEND SOME
NOTES TO PRISCILLA, TO SEE
IF WE CAN GET HER BACK ON.
IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GOING
TO EXERCISE THE PRIVILEGE
OF THE CHAIR TO MAKE SURE
THAT THE BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS' PERSPECTIVE WAS
REPRESENTED AS WELL.
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT
RECOVERY.

SO I SEE MS. SUSAN MALONE
IS WITH US NOW.

SUSIE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO
GIVE A STATEMENT?

CAN YOU HEAR US?

LET ME UNMUTE YOU.

>> HI.

SORRY.

I WAS JUST TEXTING THE
OTHER MOM WHO WAS GOING TO
BE ON.

SHE IS ON WITH HER SON, A
TEACHER, RIGHT NOW.

I TEACH HER DAUGHTER AT
WINTER GARDENS, AND I'VE
BEEN MEETING WITH THE
PARENTS AND TAKING CALLS
FROM PARENTS REGULARLY,
OBVIOUSLY, SINCE THIS ALL
BEGAN.

SO I'M GOING TO REPRESENT
THEM.

I WILL SAY THAT A LOT OF
THE PARENTS AT ORCHARD
GARDENS -- I TEACH SIXTH
GRADE THERE -- ARE
ESSENTIAL WORKERS, SO THEY
ARE STILL AT WORK.

YESTERDAY WHEN WE HAD THE
4:00 MEETING, A LOT OF
PARENTS WERE STILL WORKING
AT THAT TIME, ALSO.

SO I REPRESENT SOME OF THE
IDEAS THEY'VE BEEN TELLING
ME, AS WELL AS MY
STUDENTS.

I JUST WANTED TO SAY,
FIRST OF ALL, THANK YOU TO
THE CITY COUNCILLORS WHO
HAVE BEEN COMING IN AND
LISTENING, AND IT HAS BEEN
WONDERFUL, AND NOT JUST IN
THE PAST MONTH, BUT OVER
THE PAST FEW YEARS, TO
LISTEN AND SUPPORT OUR
SCHOOL.

AND WE'VE LEARNED SOME BIG
LESSONS IN THAT TIME FROM
HAVING PEOPLE LIKE KIM
JAMIE AND MICHELLE WU, AND
GEORGE COME INTO MY
CLASSROOM IN DIFFERENT
WAYS, AND LYDIA EDWARDS TO
TALK ABOUT AND SUPPORT OUR
SCHOOLS.

THE THING IS, WHEN YOU
COME IN AND LISTEN TO OUR
PARENTS AND THE STUDENTS
AND THE COMMUNITY, YOU GET
BETTER ANSWERS ON HOW TO
HELP THE COMMUNITY.

I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.

I JUST WANT TO PUSH THE
IDEA THAT THIS NEEDS TO
CONTINUE, AND IT NEEDS TO
GET DEEPER, AS FAR AS
REALLY TAKING A CLOSE LOOK
AT WHAT PARENTS AND THE
STUDENTS ARE GOING THROUGH
RIGHT NOW, AND WHAT THEY
WILL BE GOING THROUGH IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

I ASKED MY STUDENTS THE
OTHER DAY -- WE'VE BEEN ON
AN APRIL VACATION ZOOM,
BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO DO
THAT ANY WAY, AND WE'VE
BEEN HAVING CONVERSATIONS.
AND ONE CONVERSATION WAS,
WHAT WILL THE SCHOOLS LOOK
LIKE WHEN THEY REOPEN?
THE STUDENTS ACTUALLY HAD
A LOT OF LEGITIMATE
CONCERNS AND GOOD IDEAS.
AND THAT IS IN THE FAR
FUTURE, BUT IT WILL COME
UP ON US SOON.

AND THEY WERE, LIKE, HOW
ARE THE BATHROOMS GOING TO
WORK?

AND HOW ABOUT THE STUDENTS
WITH AUTISM.

I WANTED TO EMPHASIZE WE
NEED TO LISTEN TO THE
COMMUNITY AND THE PARENTS
AND THE STUDENTS.

THE PARENTS HAVE HAD SOME
GREAT IDEAS, AS WELL AS
GREAT CONCERNS ABOUT
PROCEDURES.

MANY OF WHAT I'VE HEARD
FROM THE TESTIMONY HERE,
ABOUT RENT AND THINGS LIKE
THAT, GETTING THE
FINANCIAL SUPPORT THEY
NEED RIGHT NOW.

BECAUSE, LIKE I SAID, MANY
OF THEM ARE ESSENTIAL
WORKERS, BUT SOME OF THEM
AREN'T ABLE TO WORK RIGHT
NOW.

AND SO THERE ARE VERY REAL
CONCERNS WITH THE PARENTS
ABOUT THAT.

I'M JUST LOOKING AT MY
NOTES.

SO I THINK ONE THING I
NOTICE IS THAT WHEN THE
OFFICIALS MAKE CHOICES
ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN
THE CITY, THEY'RE REALLY
CLEARLY ABLE TO SEE THE
BUDGET AND THE LAWS.

AND I WANT THE PARENTS AND
THE STUDENTS AND THE REAL
COMMUNITY TO BE AT THE
CENTER OF THESE
DISCUSSIONS.

BECAUSE I THINK WHAT
THEY'RE ABLE TO SEE IS THE
REALITY AND THE HUMANITY
OF THE SITUATION AS WELL,
IN A CRYSTAL CLEAR WAY.

SO I JUST WANTED TO
ENCOURAGE THAT AND TO FIND
WAYS THAT WE CAN REALLY
GET TO NOT JUST THE USUAL
SUSPECTS OF SPEAKING TO
THIS TOPIC.

SO THANK YOU AGAIN.

I DON'T WANT TO GO ON FOR
TOO LONG.

AND I THINK MS. BAPTISTE
HAD TO GO ON AND TALK TO

HER SON'S TEACHER.
MY PARENTS -- MOST OF THEM
ARE BILINGUAL AND
TRILINGUAL, AND I'VE HAD A
LOT OF THEM COME IN AND BE
GUEST SPEAKERS IN MY CLASS
OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS,
AND ONE THING WE'RE
THINKING OF PROMOTING IS
SOMEHOW HAVING THE PARENTS
TAKE A LEAD IN EDUCATING
OTHER PARENTS, OTHER
STUDENTS, ON JUST REALLY
BASIC THINGS AT THE
BEGINNING.

AND COUNCILLOR MEJIA
TALKED ABOUT THIS LAST
NIGHT, WHEN SHE WAS IN MY
MEETING WITH THE PARENTS.
BUT HAVING THIS IDEA OF
HAVING THE PARENTS AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS REALLY
LEAD THE STUDENTS IN THEIR
LEARNING RIGHT NOW BECAUSE
THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF
REALLY GOOD LESSONS THAT
THEY'VE ALWAYS OWNED,
BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCES
AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE.
AND IT HAS BEEN REALLY
EXCITING TO SEE PEOPLE
FROM THE COMMUNITY
TEACHING IN MY CLASSROOM,
LIKE THEY NEVER HAVE
BEFORE.

SO I'M WORKING WITH SOME
PARENTS ON TRYING TO
FIGURE THIS OUT, BUT I
WOULD LOVE SOME MORE
CONSIDERATION FOR THINKING
OUTSIDE THE BOX AS FAR AS
HOW STUDENTS CONTINUE TO
LEARN AND TEACH.

I KNOW THAT B.P.S. HAS A
DIVERSITY PROBLEM WITH THE
TEACHERS, THERE IS NOT
ENOUGH DIVERSITY IN THE
TEACHING STAFF AT SCHOOLS,
JUST LIKE ORCHARD GARDENS.
SO THIS IS A POSSIBILITY,
AND IT MIGHT BE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK INTO
HAVING PARENTS AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS DO THE

TEACHING RIGHT NOW.
BUT, ANYWAY, THANK YOU SO
MUCH FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
AND PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW
ELSE I CAN HELP OUT.
I APPRECIATE IT.

>> Chairman: THANK YOU,
MS. MALONE, WE SO
APPRECIATE YOU.

WE'RE GOING TO TRY AGAIN
TO SEE IF PRISCILLA CAN
HEAR US?

OKAY, SHE IS UNMUTED.
OKAY, WE'LL KEEP WORKING
ON IT.

AND MS. FLOODBANKS, IF YOU
CAN AT ANY POINT -- I'LL
ASK MY STAFF TO REACH OUT
DIRECTLY AND KEEP GOING
BACK AND FORTH TO SEE IF
WE CAN GET YOUR AUDIO
WORKING.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL GO
TO QUESTIONS FROM
COUNCILLORS.

WE'LL START WITH THE
CO-SPONSORS.

COUNCILLOR RICARDO ARROYO.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.
I JUST WANT TO THANK ALL
OF OUR PANELISTS FOR THEIR
INSIGHTS.

I'LL TRY TO KEEP THIS
BRIEF SO WE CAN%
OTHER FOLKS AND THEN I'LL DO A
SECOND ROUND.

MY FIRST QUESTION IS FOR YOU, IF
YOU CAN UNMUTED.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.
I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SPOKEN
ABOUT AND FIRST OFF, I'M SORRY
FOR THE TRAUMA THAT ARE YOU
EXPERIENCING NOW WITH EVERYTHING
THAT'S HAPPENING.

AND WITH THAT SAID, AS YOU HAVE
TRIED TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THAT,
I KNOW YOU TALK ABOUT FILLING
OUT APPLICATIONS OVER AND OVER
AGAIN AND HAVING KIND OF THESE
DELAYS IN SERVICE.

I KNOW YOU HAVE BOTH APPLIED TO
THE FEDERAL AND THE MUNICIPAL,
THE CITY OF BOSTON.

CAN YOU GIVE US SOME FEEDBACK,

PRODUCTIVE FEEDBACK ON THE MUNICIPAL FRONT OF THAT, WHAT THAT PROCESS LOOKED LIKE?

>> YES.

THE FIRST ONE WAS THE STATE ONE, \$10 MILLION IN 24 HOURS THEY WERE GONE.

BY THE TIME I CAME TO THE APPLICATION, IT WAS GONE.

THE MUNICIPAL, THE FIRST THING WAS THEY ANNOUNCED THAT, THERE WAS NO INDICATION ON WHETHER YOU APPLY ONLINE OR YOU APPLY PERSONALLY OR ON A FORM.

THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF HOW THAT APPLICATION COULD BE DONE.

SO ONCE WE FOUND OUT IT WAS GOING TO BE ONLINE AT NOON THAT DAY, WE WERE KIND OF WAITING IN LINE, EVERYBODY ON THEIR COMPUTERS.

SO THE APPLICATION, THE PROCESS COMES OUT AND THEN THERE WAS A PAUSE ON THE FORM THAT ASKED FOR AN AFFIDAVIT FOR PROPERTY, WHICH TELLS YOU THAT YOU NEEDED TO FILL THIS AFFIDAVIT THAT IS ATTACHED TO IT.

AND THERE WAS NOTHING ATTACHED TO IT.

SO I HAD NOTHING BUT PUTTING A WHITE PIECE OF PAPER AND SAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT AFFIDAVIT I NEED TO ATTACH, BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING HERE.

SO I SENT THAT OUT AND THEN I WAITED.

ABOUT FIVE DAYS AFTER I RECEIVED AN E-MAIL THAT I NEEDED TO REAPPLY.

SO I RAN IN TO THE WHOLE PROCESS AGAIN.

I THINK THERE WERE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND SOME OF THEM WILL CLARIFY.

AND THEN THE AFFIDAVIT WASab THERE.

SO I FILLED THE AFFIDAVIT, ABOUT THE PROPERTY IN BOSTON.

THEN I JUST WAITED.

SO THEN I RECEIVED ANOTHER E-MAIL ABOUT FIVE DAYS AGO, SIX DAYS AGO, THAT SAID THAT I HAD MADE IT TO THE SECOND ROUND OF,

I DON'T KNOW THE ROUND OF THE ROUNDS, I DON'T KNOW.

I SAID WOW, THIS IS GOOD NEWS. BUT WE NEED YOU TO COMPLETE THIS INFORMATION, MEMBER I.D., WHICH I HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED.

I SPENT SOME TIME, I FILLED ALL THE INFORMATION, I BECAME VENDOR OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, I GOT A VENDOR I.D. NUMBER, I PUT IT IN THERE.

THEY ALSO ASKED ABOUT YOUR ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME, DOES THIS REFER TO THE BUSINESS, DOES IT REFER TO PERSONAL?

I QUITE UNDERSTAND IT A LITTLE BIT BUT HOW YOU MAKE THIS PROCESS, YOU KNOW, WHO DO YOU GO TO TO ASK THESE QUESTIONS, YOU KNOW?

AND THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER QUESTION IN THERE.

I NOTICE ON THIS LAST E-MAIL IT WAS MULTILINGUAL, SO THE WHOLE INFORMATION, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS, YOU CAN E-MAIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IT WAS IN SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, CREOLE, WHICH WASN'T BEFORE.

SO ANYWAY, I FULFILLED THE INFORMATION AGAIN AND I SEND THEM E-MAIL DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON THAT IS IN CHARGE AND I HAVE HER NAME.

SO I JUST NEED TO KNOW IF YOU WANT ME TO REAPPLY AGAIN BECAUSE I HAD ALREADY GIVEN YOU ALL THE ANSWERS AND I JUST DON'T KNOW IF YOU NEED ME TO GIVE YOU ADDITIONAL OR OTHER INFORMATION, SO COULD YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT'S MISSING.

AND THAT WAS THE LAST E-MAIL I SENT OUT TWO DAYS AGO, I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM IT.

SO I THINK THAT THE APPLICATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN TESTED SOMEHOW, SHOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE TESTED IN A WAY THAT OKAY, WE'RE GOING TO SEND THE APPLICATIONS TO SMALL=4 BUSINESSES, BUT NOT EVERYBODY IS COMPUTER SAVVY.

WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT RUN BUSINESS THAT THEY FIND HARD

TIME GOING IN TO A COMPUTER, YOU KNOW, HOW DO WE MAKE THIS PROCESS A LITTLE BIT MORE FAIR FOR EVERYBODY TO APPLY. AS I HEARD, I THINK THAT THE

BUSINESS, BUT HOW MANY SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THERE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON?

WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES?

AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT IS BEING SHARED?

HOW IS THIS?

HOW DO WE PRESSURE WHO NEEDS IT, WHO DOESN'T NEED IT, YOU KNOW?

SO THAT'S KIND OF THE EXPERIENCE ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS THAT I WENT THROUGH, THAT I THINK THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE BIT MORE STREAMLINED IN A WAY, WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

AND ALSO MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES THAT PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT THESE EXISTED.

THANK YOU FOR THAT.

MY LAST QUESTION OF THISSED ROUND.

I KNOW YOU MADE COMMENTS IN THE PAST ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP REACHING OUT AND THE DIFFICULTY THEY HAVE HAD WORKING WITH THEIR BANKS AND THAT SPECIFICALLY GOES TOWARD THE RENTAL, MORTGAGE 3 RELIEF.

IF YOU COULD JUST PRESENT SOME OF YOUR SOLUTIONS THAT YOU THINK WOULD REALLY HELP ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY FOR BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES AND OUR BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, THAT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

>> THIS IS REGARDING BANKS.

>> BASICALLY THE ISSUES THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAVE HAD WITH OPERATING WITH BANKS WHEN IT COMES TO RENT OR MORTGAGE RELIEF.

>> WELL, I MEAN, YOU KNOW, I GUESS THERE ARE SEVERAL ISSUES THAT FOLKS HAVE HAD WITH BANKS. SO OUTSIDE OF THE FEDERAL

PROGRAMS, I KNOW THAT THE MAYOR ANNOUNCED A COUPLE WEEKS AGO SOME DEAL WITH FOLKS IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY ON WHAT THEY WERE DOING FOR RENT AT LEAST FOR RENTERS, HOMEOWNERS THAT LIVED HERE, BUT I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT BUSINESS OWNERS.

I WOULD SAY GOING BACK TO WHAT THE MAYOR DID IN THAT REGARD WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO REPLICATE THERE.

BUT I THINK ALSO THE COUNCIL ITSELF REACHING OUT AS A BODY TO THESE BANKS, HAVING A CONVERSATION AND SAYING THIS IS WHERE WE ARE AND WE NEED YOU TO PUT A PAUSE HERE.

I MEAN WORKING WITH THEM IN THAT WAY.

BUT YOU KNOW, AGAIN, I'M PART OF DIFFERENT COALITIONS WORKING ON THIS AND WE HOPE TO GET THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL AS WELL.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

CHAIRMAN WU, CHAIRWOMAN W I SEE.

>> THANK YOU.

I SAW THAT COUNCILOR EDWARDS WANTED TO MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT.

I ASSUME PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU NEED TO RUN TO ANOTHER COMMITMENT.

I THINK WE GOT PRISCILLA BACK, I'M HEARING FROM MY TEAM.

IS IT OKAY, COUNCILOR EDWARDS?

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> YES.

>> EXCELLENT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILOR MEJIA, FOR LETTING ME COME IN VERY QUICK, I APPRECIATE THAT.

I HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO THE HEARING THE ENTIRE TIME, I'M ON MY WAY TO ANOTHER EVENT.

I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING THIS VITAL CONVERSATION AND DEMONSTRATING THAT THE HEARTS OF THE CITY COUNCILORS ARE CERTAINLY WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY STRUGGLES OF

EVERY DAY BOSTONIANS AND TRYING TO FIGURE OUR WAY OUT OF. THIS WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THIS HEARING IS WE DON'T ASSUME WE'RE THE EXPERTS. WE DON'T EVEN ASSUME THE ADMINISTRATION IS THE EXPERTS. WE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE DEALING WITH IT, WHO HAVE THE PAIN AS OF COURSE CONGRESSWOMAN PRESSLEY OFTEN STATES, PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PAIN SHOULD BE CLOSEST TO THE POWER AND THIS KIND OF HEARING IS A DEMONSTRATION OF JUST THAT. SO I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE FOLKS HERE TO DEMONSTRATE AND EXPOSE AND JUST BE AS VULNERABLE AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN ADJUST GOVERNMENT TO ACTUALLY MEET YOUR REAL NEEDS. TWO COMMENTS OR TWO THINGS I WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT. NUMBER ONE, YESTERDAY WE HAD A VIBRANT HEARING WITH FOUR MEMBERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT EQUITABLE PLANNING, WHICH AS WE KNOW IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED ALSO TO OUR RECOVERY. HOW DOES THE BPA PLAN AND WHY ISN'T EQUITY PART OF THE 7 THINGS IT CONSIDERS WHEN LOOKING AT A PROJECT AT THE PLANNING STAGE? BEFORE IT'S BUILT, BEFORE YOU HAVE AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING TO PEOPLE OF COLOR, OR FAMILIES, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE SURE YOUR PLANS ACTUALLY INCLUDE THEM? AND SO I JUST WANTED TO SAY, YOU KNOW, WE HAD A WONDERFUL CONVERSATION, I HEARD A COMMITMENT FROM THE CITY COUNCIL TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A ZONING AMENDMENT THAT DOES JUST THAT. WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO COMMIT TO THAT, BUT WE ARE MOVING FORWARD FOR THE COMMUNITY TO MAKE SURE PLANNING LOOKS AT JOBS, LOOKS AT INCLUSION, LOOK AT FAMILIES, ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT ASPECTS THAT ARE WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE

OPPRESSED THROUGH ZONING.
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE AS WE
PLAN WE WILL BE LISTING THOSE
OPPRESSIONS, NUMBER ONE.
NUMBER TWO, THIS CONVERSATION
WILL CONTINUE ESPECIALLY ABOUT
THE CITY CONTRACTING.
I'VE HEARD THAT COME UP.
ON APRIL 30, COUNCILOR JANEY AND
I, I DON'T KNOW IF SHE
MENTIONED, THIS WE ARE HAVING
THE BOSTON RESIDENCY AND JOB
POLICY HEARING WHERE WE WILL BE
GOING THROUGH AND THIS IS PART
OF THE BIENNIAL HEARING THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION REQUIRED AT OUR
TWO, THREE YEARS AGO, REQUIRED
TO HAVE A HEARING IN APRIL AND
OCTOBER TO ANALYZE THE NEW
GUIDELINES OR THE NEW QUOTAS FOR
THE BOSTON RESIDENCY JOB POLICY,
WHICH IS 52% OF THE JOBS AND
CONSTRUCTION SHOULD BE PEOPLE OF
COLOR, EXCUSE ME, SHOULD BE
BOSTON RESIDENTS, 40%, PEOPLE OF
COLOR AND 12% WOMEN.
WE HAVE NOT MET THOSE NUMBERS IN
MANY CASES.
SO WE WILL BE COMING BACK TO
LOOK AT THE NUMBERS AND ALSO FOR
THE FIRST TIME LOOKING AT HOW
THEY'RE ENFORCING.
THEY HAVE A FINE, THEY HAVE REAL
DATA COMING IN TO THEM.
THIS IS GREAT TIME TO SET UP THE
INFRASTRUCTURE, SAYING THIS IS A
GREAT TIME.
I BET YOU CAN NOW AND I BET YOU
HAVE THE TIME TO FINAL LIE SET
UP GUIDELINES TO MONITOR THAT,
FINALLY SET UP THE GUIDELINES,
COMING TO OCTOBER, WHEN WE'RE
GETTING TO WORK, MAKING SURE
PEOPLE IN BOSTON, PEOPLE OF
COLOR, WOMEN WORKING ON THE
PROJECT, MONITOR LITERALLY DOWN
TO THE DAY LOOKING AT THE
PAYCHECK STUBS AND WHO IS ON THE
JOB.
THAT IS APRIL 30th.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE IN THAT YOUR
CALENDAR FOR THOSE OF YOU
CONCERNED ABOUT WHO IS WORKING,
PLEASE COME TO THAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, CHAIRWOMAN
WU.

I HAVE TO GO.

I LOVE THIS KIND OF
CONVERSATION.

AND I JUST THANK YOU, COUNCILOR
MEJIA AND COUNCILOREER TWO,
FRESHMEN COUNCILORS CAME OUT
SWINGING HARD AND WITH BOLDNESS
AND BRAVERY THAT IS JUST
WONDERFUL AND A BREATH OF FRESH
AIR FOR ALL OF US WHO WERE THERE
BEFORE YOU.

SO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF
YOUR WORK WITH.

I HAVE TO GO, EVERYONE.

BUT THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR EDWARDS.
WE APPRECIATE YOU.

OKAY, WE'RE GOING TO TRY ONE
MORE TIME.

I SEE YOU'RE HERE I'M UNMUTING
YOU.

CAN YOU HEAR US, PRISCILLA?

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> YES!

>> YES, THANK YOU, FINALLY!

THANK YOU ALL FOR HAVING THIS
DISCUSSION.

AS LYDIA JUST GOT FINISHED
TALKING ABOUT ONE OF OUR PET
PEEVES, SOMETHING WE WORKED ON
SO HARD, THE BOSTON RESIDENT JOB
POLICY AND THE NEW ORDINANCE AS
WELL AS THE ECONOMIC JUSTICE
COMMISSION.

SO WE ARE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.

HOWEVER, WE ARE SUFFERING.

WHEN I SAY WE'RE SUFFERING,
WE'RE SUFFERING.

OUR COMMUNITIES, THE COMMUNITIES
THAT WE SERVICE, OUR PEOPLE
DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.

WHEN I SAY ANYTHING, I MEAN WE
ARE THE LAST TO GET.

WE NEED MASKS.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE HEALTH
COMMUNITY NEEDS THE MASKS, BUT
SO DON'T WE, SO DOES OUR
COMMUNITY.

WE HAVE TAKEN UP TO RAISING
MONEY TO GET MASKS.

WE HAVE RAISED MONEY TO GET GIFT
CARDS TO PEOPLE SO THEY CAN GO

AND DO SHOPPING.

THERE'S ALSO PEOPLE THAT YOU MAY NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT, THAT NEEDS TO GO TO THE LAUNDROMAT AND WASH THEIR CLOTHES.

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PARTNER WITH A LAUNDROMAT THAT WE ARE SHARING AND THEY ARE GIVING OUT GIFT CARDS FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO THE LAUNDROMAT, \$40 ON EACH AND THE LAUNDROMAT SAID HE WOULD DO IT AGAIN.

THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT WE ARE TRYING DO THE HE GRASSROOTS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

THE FACT THAT WHEN THIS MONEY CAME DOWN FOR THE BUSINESSES, A LOT OF OUR COMMUNITY DID NOT RECEIVE IT.

YOU KNOW, IT WAS THE SAME THING IN THE MORTGAGE, WHEN THEY KEEP ASKING YOU TO REPEAT, SEND THIS DOCUMENT, SEND THAT DOCUMENT. AND PEOPLE GET FRUSTRATED SENDING THE SAME DOCUMENTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

SO CLEARLY THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A LOT OF THINGS TO BE CHANGED IN THE WAY THEY HAVE BEEN BEING.

AND ESPECIALLY AROUND THE CONSTRUCTION BECAUSE AS BROTHER LOWE SAYS, IF THEY HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO SHUT DOWN THE CONSTRUCTION, DOES HE HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO ENSURE PEOPLE ARE IN COMPLIANCE WHEN THEY GO BACK TO WORK.

AND THE SMALL BUSINESSES, WE KNOW IT'S HORRIBLE.

IT'S HORRIBLE.

YOU KNOW, I MEAN NOT ONLY ON THE CITY SIDE, BUT ON THE STATE SIDE.

PEOPLE ARE CONTINUING TO DO STUDIES ON US.

WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE STUDIES DONE ON US.

WE SEE IT.

WE ARE LIVING IT FIRSTHAND.

AND SO THAT IS MY TESTIMONY.

I REALLY APPRECIATE EVERYBODY ON HERE, BUT WE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.

I JUST LOST MY MOTHER YESTERDAY
TO COVID.

I JUST FOUND OUT MY MOTHER HAD
WAS IN A NURSING HOME IN A FOUND
OUT TODAY THAT SHE PASSED FROM
COVID.

SHE WAS 87 YEARS OLD.

SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN 88 ON
TUESDAY.

THIS HAS HIT HOME FOR ME.

AND AS YOU ALL KNOW, I HAVE BEEN
FIGHTING IN THIS COMMUNITY, THE
BLACK ECONOMIC JUSTICE
INSTITUTE, ME AND MY HUSBAND
FIGHTING IN THIS COMMUNITY FOR
CLOSE TO 8 YEARS NOW.

WE WANT TO SEE CHANGE IN THE
CITY.

WE WANT TO SEE A DIFFERENCE.

AND I'M, THE ADMINISTRATION
SHOULD BE ASHAMED THEY DID NOT
SHOW UP.

THEY OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF
THEIR SELF THAT THEY DID NOT
SHOW UP.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO POST AN
AUDIT COMMITTEE, THAT'S WHY WE
NEED IT.

I WANT TO THANK YOU, THANK YOU
FOR WORKING WITH ME TO GET ME
ON.

BUT IT'S REAL.

THIS IS REAL.

>> THANK YOU, MS. FLINT-BANKS.

WE'RE SO SORRY FOR YOU LOSS AND
WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE GOING
ON, REALLY, REALLY GRATEFUL THAT
YOU ARE WITH US.

NOW RETURNING TO QUESTIONS FROM
COUNCILORS.

SPONSOR COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

>> YES.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIRWOMAN WU AND
PANELISTS FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP
IN THIS WORK.

I DO HAVE SOME QUICK QUESTIONS.
I SHARE THE SAME FRUSTRATION AND
SENTIMENTS.

I FEEL LIKE I'M AT A POINT IN
THIS WORK THAT THIS I WANT TO
MOVE BEYOND THE DIALOGUE.

I FEEL LIKE WE HAVE ALREADY
TALKED NOW ABOUT THESE

SITUATIONS AND SO I'M REALLY
LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ACTION
PIECE OF THIS WORK.

BUT MY QUESTION SPECIFICALLY
RIGHT NOW IS FOR PROFESSOR PAUL.
THIS IS IN REGARD TO HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTES IN BOSTON.
THEY WERE ONE OF THE FIRST TO
SHUTTER THEIR DOORS ONCE THE
OUTBREAK HIT.

AND I'M JUST WONDERING HOW
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES,
PARTICULARLY IN MAJORITY,
MINORITY CAMPUSES LIKE UMASS ARE
ADDRESSING OR HAVE ADDRESSED THE
ISSUES OF XENOPHOBIA AND
LANGUAGE ACCESS.

MY SECOND QUESTION TO YOU
SPECIFICALLY IS THAT MORE FOR MY
DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL LESSONS ARE IN
ENGLISH.

I SPEAK BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH
BUT IF MY HOME WAS LIKE 45% OF
BPS HOMES WHERE STUDENTS SPEAK
LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH,
BEING ABLE TO HELP MY DAUGHTER
WERE HER LESSON PLANS WOULD BE
HARDER.

SO AS SOMEONE WHO WORKS IN
HIGHER EDUCATION SPACE, WHAT
RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU HAVE TO
MAKE IT EASIER FOR NON-ENGLISH
SPEAKERS TO ENGAGE IN THE
EDUCATION SPACE SNIFF QUESTIONS
FOR OTHER PANELISTS.

-- SPACE.

I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS FOR OTHER
PANELISTS.

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO GO THROUGH
ALL MY QUESTIONS?

>> I KNOW SENATOR WILKERSON HAS
TO LEAVE RIGHT AT 5:00, SO IF
YOU HAD A QUESTION FOR HER MAYBE
WE SHOULD QUICKLY PRIORITIZE
THAT ONE AND MAKE SURE SHE GETS
THE ANSWER IN.

HOLD ON.

WE LOST HER SATELLITE.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

>> YES.

>> I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC
QUESTIONS FOR SENATOR WILKERSON.
SHE KNOWS SHE IS MY SISTER IN
DISRUPTION AND ALL FOR THAT

SENSE OF FIRE AND URGENCY SHE BRINGS TO THE DIALOGUE AND I APPRECIATE YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THIS CONVERSATION.

BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR HER AT THIS POINT.

>> OKAY.

GREAT.

THEN MAYBE LET'S GO TO PROFESSOR PAUL AND I WILL SWING BACK AS WE GET CLOSER TO THAT POINT IF SENATOR WANTS TO SAY ANYTHING BEFORE SHE STEPS OFF.

LET'S DO THE FIRST QUESTION, WE'LL HAVE THE SENATOR GO AND THEN RETURN TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.

I HOPE PEOPLE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS REALLY A GERMANE QUESTION TO THE CITY OF BOSTON AND PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN BOSTON.

THAT IS THE 8th CASE IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, THE FIRST IN MASSACHUSETTS AND THE FIRST CASE ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS TOOK PLACE RIGHT HERE IN BOSTON AT UMASS BOSTON, INSTITUTION I'M A PART OF.

AND I MUST SAY THAT I THOUGHT IN TERMS OF DEALING WITH THE SITUATION, THIS IS REMEMBER BACK IN JANUARY, THIS IS THE END OF JANUARY, WELL BEFORE ANYBODY HAD THIS REALLY SERIOUSLY ON THEIR RADAR SCREENS THAT WE HAD TO DEAL WITH THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION.

SO IN GENERAL I THINK THE CAMPUS WAS WISE IN HOW IT DEALT WITH IT.

I'M QUITE SURPRISED THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO TEST SOMEBODY SO QUICKLY AND GIVE THEM THE PROPER PROCEDURES TO PROTECT THE REST OF THE CAMPUS AND THEIR COMMUNITY.

AND I THINK IT WAS USEFUL AT THE VERY BEGINNING, NOT ONLY DID IN ANNOUNCING THE CASE THAT THEY TALKED ABOUT THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES BUT THEY ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE NEED NOT TO SCAPEGOAT AND DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE BECAUSE OF THIS

CRISIS.

AND THE ANTICIPATION OF THIS I
THOUGHT WAS VERY VALUABLE.

IT I

LOT OF US HAD AND I MUST SAY I
WAS ABLE TO GET CONSULTED A BIT
ON SOME OF THIS LANGUAGE TO MAKE
SURE THAT WE NOT FOCUS ONLY UPON
THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES, BUT
TALK ABOUT THE SOCIAL AND THE
LEGAL AND THE RACISM THAT IS
OFTEN A PART OF THESE SITUATIONS
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

NOW, IN TERMS OF COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES, AS YOU KNOW UMASS
BOSTON IS GETTING ABOUT,
SCHEDULED TO GET ABOUT \$12
MILLION IN TERMS OF MONEY COMING
DOWN FOR THE ASSISTANCE THAT'S
BEEN PROVIDED IN THE FIRST CARES
ACT.

OTHER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON ARE
GETTING FAIRLY LARGER SUMS OF
MONEY FRANKLY, MANY ARE PRIVATE
INSTITUTIONS, WITH LARGER
ENDOWMENTS AND LARGER AMOUNTS OF
MONEY BEHIND THEM AND I'M NOT
SURE WHAT THE FORMULA WAS TO BE
USED FOR, BUT I WOULD SUGGEST
THAT THOSE UNIVERSITIES, ONCE
AGAIN, THAT SUPPORT UMASS BOSTON
AS AN INSTITUTION, ONE OF THE
FEW IN THE NORTHEAST THAT OVER
50% OF ITS STUDENTS ARE STUDENTS
OF COLOR AND MANY OF THEM, AND
IT HAS A POPULATION AS WELL AS
HEAVILY LOW INCOME AND FIRST
GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS,
THAT I WOULD SUGGEST THAT
PERHAPS THOSE CONSIDERATIONS BE
PART OF THE FORMULA TOO IN TERMS
OF PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR
INSTITUTIONS IN TERMS OF
COLLEGES AND SO FORTH AND THE
ABILITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR
THEM.

I KNOW WHEN WE MOVED ON TO
ONLINE ONLY DECISIONS, WHICH WE
MOVED TO VERY EARLY ON, THERE
WERE CONCERNS ABOUT AS IS TRUE
FOR THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
I'M SURE ABOUT WHETHER FOR
EXAMPLE STUDENTS HAD ACCESS TO

COMPUTERS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY,
HAD ACCESS TO INTERNET SERVICES,
WHICH COST A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT
OF MONEY.

LOTS OF PEOPLE FOCUSSED ON THE
HARDWARE, BUT THE QUESTION IS,
DID YOU HAVE A SERVICE THAT YOU
COULD BE ABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO
THE INTERNET AND SO FORTH.

SO THESE ARE QUESTIONS THAT ONCE
AGAIN SPEAK TO THE INHERENT
INEQUALITY THAT WE TALKED ABOUT.
AND I CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR SECOND
QUESTION, COUNCILOR.
IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH --

[INAUDIBLE]

>> SORRY.

IT WAS SPECIFICALLY AROUND
HAVING ACCESS OR LIMITED ENGLISH
SUFFICIENCY AND WHAT TRANSITION
IS LIKE TO SUPPORT THOSE TYPE OF
LEARNERS.

>> THAT'S AN EXCELLENT POINT.

ONE THING ABOUT CRISES,
INCLUDING THIS ONE, THEY REFLECT
THINGS THAT ARE POSSIBLY THE
COMMON EVERY DAY EXPERIENCE OF
FAMILIES UNDER THESE SITUATIONS.
SO THE NOTION, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT
FAMILIES THAT DO NOT HAVE
ENGLISH SPEAKERS IN THEIR HOME,
THE ROLE THAT THEIR CHILDREN
HAVE TO PLAY AS REPRESENTING
THEM WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND
FILLING OUT FORMS AND DOING ALL
THAT SORT OF THING HAS BEEN
REFLECTED ONCE AGAIN.

AND THE NOTION THAT
AUTOMATICALLY YOU HEAR ALL THESE
WONDERFUL STORIES AND THEY ARE
WONDERFUL STORIES OF HOW PARENTS
ARE HELPING THEIR CHILDREN WITH
THEIR HOMEWORK AND HELPING THEM
SORT OF DO SOME TEACHING AND SO
FORTH.

A VERY DIFFICULT THING TO DO IF
YOUR PARENTS DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH
AND THE INSTRUCTION IS IN
ENGLISH AND SO FORTH.

SO ONCE AGAIN, THIS ISÑ A CRISIS
THAT BOTH AMPLIFIES AND REVEALS
SOME OF THESE FACTORS THAT ARE
THE EVERY DAY EXISTENCE OF

STUDENTS IN THE BOSTON SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES THAT ARE, THAT HAVE HEAVY FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPEAKERS IN THEIR HOME AND THE NEED TO RESPOND TO THEIR PARTICULAR NEEDS, WHETHER IT'S FILLING OUT A FORM TO GET ASSISTANCE AS A SMALL BUSINESS OR ASSISTING WITH THE SCHOOLS OR FILLING OUT THE CENSUS EVEN OR JUST DOING A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES. I HOPE THIS HAS REVEALED INEQUITIES AND OUR NEED TO ADDRESS THEM.

THANK YOU FOR ASKING ABOUT THAT.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS CONVERSATION AND INFORMING OUR THINKING.

I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE ON TO CHEF JOSE, IF IT'S POSSIBLE.

>> COUNCILOR, IS IT OKAY?

I KNOW THE SENATOR HAS TO HOP OFF AND WANTS TO SAY ONE THING. LET ME GO QUICKLY TO MADAM PRESIDENT, WHO WANTED TO MAKE A QUICK STATEMENT AND THEN SENATOR WILKERSON AND BACK TO COUNCILOR MEJIA'S QUESTION.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. MANY THANKS, COUNCILOR MEJIA, TO YOU, TO COUNCILOR WU AND CERTAINLY TO COUNCILOR ARROYO FOR AGAIN BRINGING THIS VERY IMPORTANT HEARING FORWARD AND THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR LEADERSHIP.

I WANT TO THANK COUNCILOR EDWARDS FOR BRINGING UP OUR HEARING THAT'S HAPPENING AT THE END OF THE MONTH, OFFER MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO PRISCILLA.

YOU HAVE MY PRAYERS, BUT NOT ONLY MY PRAYERS, YOU HAVE MY CONTINUED ADVOCACY ON THIS IMPORTANT WORK.

I ALSO JUST WANT TO THANK THE PANELISTS THAT ARE HERE TODAY. I HAVE SPENT THE VAST MAJORITY OF MY CAREER WORKING AS AN ORGANIZER AND AS AN ADVOCATE AND I KNOW THAT IS HOW YOU GET THINGS DONE WORKING IN COALITION

WITH EACH OTHER AROUND A COMMON SHARED GOAL, SO I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT EVERYONE IS NOT JUST HERE ON THIS CALL BUT FOR ALL THE WORK THAT YOU'RE DOING AND REALLY APPRECIATE THE ENTREPRENEURS ON THE PANEL, BECAUSE I KNOW YOU GUYS ARE REALLY BEING HIT PARTICULARLY HARD.

JUST WANTED TO SHARE AS WE HAVE TALKED THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS PANDEMIC WE KNOW THAT IT IS BUILT UPON EXISTING INEQUITIES AND THAT THOSE INEQUITIES ARE BEING EXACERBATED ABOUT I THIS PANDEMIC, AS THINK COUNCILOR MEJIA AS A SPONSOR OF THIS IMPORTANT HEARING ORDER HAS SAID AS OTHER, WE DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO NORMAL.

WE WANT TO LIFT UP ALL OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT WE HAVE SHOWN WHEN THERE IS URGENCY, WE HAVE SHOWN WHEN PEOPLE COME TOGETHER AND PUSH WE CAN GET THINGS DONE.

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MORE KIND, MORE GENEROUS AND WE NEED TO CONTINUE WITH THAT.

I KNOW I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO NORMAL BECAUSE GOING BACK TO NORMAL WAS KILLING US.

IT WAS A SLOW, PAINFUL DEATH FOR BLACK PEOPLE, FOR PEOPLE IN THE LATIN X COMMUNITY, FOR POOR PEOPLE AND IT'S AN AGONIZING DEATH THAT LOOKS LIKE THE HEALTH DISPARITIES WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT, WHETHER HEART DISEASE, ASTHMA, DIABETES, AND IN MY DISTRICT THAT PLAYS ITSELF OUT WITH 30-YEAR MORTALITY GAP FROM ONE END OF MY DISTRICT TO THE OTHER AND I JUST THINK IT'S IMPORTANT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THIS THAT WE LIFT UP, THAT THIS IS ABOUT SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES. THIS IS NOT ABOUT PERSONAL CHOICES.

IT'S NOT ABOUT BLAMING PEOPLE FOR HAVING HEART DISEASE OR DIABETES.

IT IS ABOUT THE SYSTEMIC

INEQUITIES THAT ARE A RESULT OF STRUCTURAL RACISM THAT THESE, THIS SITUATION WAS CREATED BY CITY COUNCILS AND STATE LEGISLATURES ALL ACROSS OUR COUNTRY AS WELL AS THE ROLE THAT CONGRESS AND OUR COURTS HAVE PLAYED IN CREATING THESE INEQUITIES.

SO I JUST WANT TO LIFT UP AS NOT THIS PERSONAL CHOICE, BECAUSE I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO, YOU KNOW, TALK ABOUT WELL, PEOPLE SHOULDN'T SMOKE OR MAYBE THEY SHOULDN'T DRINK.

SO IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT OUR STARTING POINT IS THE STRUCTURAL RACISM AND THAT IT IS ABOUT THESE INEQUITIES.

AND SO I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK. I WANT TO GO BETTER AND AS THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNCIL, I AM SO INCREDIBLY PROUD OF MY COLLEAGUES ON THE COUNCIL FOR THE WORK THAT YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN DOING NOT JUST, YOU KNOW, POST-COVID IN THIS PANDEMIC BUT PRE-COVID BECAUSE AGAIN, MANY ISSUES EXISTED AND THIS COUNCIL HAS BEEN ON THE CASE.

MANY OF MY QUESTIONS WERE GEARED TOWARD THE ADMINISTRATION AND I'M DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY'RE NOT HERE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS.

BUT THE LAST THING THAT I WOULD SAY FOR ME, THIS IS ABOUT RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND WE HAVE TO BE INTENTIONAL AND USE THAT EQUITY LENS, BUT WE CAN'T GET TO REAL JUSTICE UNLESS WE'RE REPAIRING THE HARM.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP THE HURT AND STOP THE HARM AND MANY FOLKS WOULD SAY THAT THAT HARM IS STILL HAPPENING RIGHT NOW.

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP IT. YOU HAVE TO REPAIR IT.

AND UNTIL WE REPAIR IT WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TRUE JUSTICE.

SO AGAIN, I APPRECIATE MY COLLEAGUES, I APPRECIATE EVERYONE ON THIS PANEL FOR BRINGING THIS CONVERSATION TO

LIGHT AND REALLY FOR THE WORK
THAT IS HAPPENING.

SO THANK YOU AND I WILL STAY ON
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN.

>> THANK YOU.

NOW WE'LL GO OVER TO SENATOR
WILKERSON.

I KNOW SHE HAS A HARD STOP AT
5:00.

>> I AM HOSTING A CONFERENCE
CALL AT 5:00 SO I HAVE TO BE ON
THERE.

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS WERE
PERFECT SEGUE TO MY CLOSING
COMMENTS.

NUMBER ONE, WE ALL KEEP, WE KNOW
AND WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE
HISTORICAL INEQUITIES THAT BLACK
AND BROWN PEOPLE ARE FACING AT
EVERY LEVEL, AS RESIDENTS AND AS
BUSINESSES AND WHAT SHE SAID IS
MY CLOSING POINT.

THAT IS, WE CAN'T KEEP TALKING
ABOUT IT AND THEN SENDING THESE
SAME BUSINESSES THROUGH THE SAME
OLD PROCESS AND THEN BEING
SURPRISED THAT WE HEAR WHAT CHEF
IS TELLING US.

WHAT HE SHARED WITH YOU IS WHAT
I HEAR WITH EVERY BUSINESS,
SMALL BUSINESS THAT APPLIES
EXCEPT ONE, ABOUT THE CONSTANT
E-MAIL SAYING YOU STILL NEED
MORE INFORMATION AND THERE WAS
NO INFORMATION TO COME.

SO WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN YOU TRY TO DO
EQUITY AND JUSTICE ON THE FLY.
AND WHAT I WOULD JUST SAY TO YOU
IS JUST, AND I'M AT A POINT
WHERE I SAID WE HAVE TO TALK IN
THOSE STARK LANGUAGES.

THAT'S WHAT I TAKE AWAY FROM
WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID.

WE HAVE TO CALL IT WHAT IT IS,
BECAUSE WHEN WE TALK AROUND IT
PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS GET THIS.
YOU KNOW, THIS IS THE ARGUMENT
FOR A SEPARATE FUND FOR BLACK
AND LATINO AND BUSINESSES OF
COLOR.

I THINK WE JUST MADE IT IN THIS
CONVERSATION.

I WILL BE FOLLOWING UP SEGUN AND

MR. JAMES BENNETT BECAUSE I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT, AND WITH THE CHEF AS WELL. MOSTLY WITH THE COUNCIL I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU. WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT GETTING THE CITY IN THE ROOM. IF YOU NEED US TO BE SPEAKING LOUDLY ABOUT THAT, WE'RE HERE. I WAS HOPING PRIS SLAL -- PRISCILLA WOULD SPEAK MORE ABOUT WHAT THE BLACK COALITION IS DOING BECAUSE THEY HAVE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS BUT WE HAVE TO START WITH INFORMATION. WE MUST GET AN ACCOUNTING OF THE MONEYS THAT HAVE BEEN SPENT AND MONEYS TO BE SPENT. WE MUST. THERE'S NO WAY WE MOVE FORWARD IN AN ENLIGHTENED WAY WITHOUT THAT. I KNOW THAT IS SOMETHING WE CAN COUNT ON SEGUND AND CHEF. THANK YOU TO THE COUNCIL. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE APRIL 30 HEARING. MADAM PRESIDENT, LAST YEAR I HAD TO LEAVE. THIS YEAR, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GO. I LOOK FORWARD TO PARTICIPATING AND SUPPORTING BECAUSE THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HEARINGS I ATTENDED NOT JUST LAST YEAR BUT EVER BECAUSE YOU GUYS WERE REAL AND I BRAGGED ABOUT WHAT YOU AND COUNCILOR EDWARDS DID AT THAT HEARING. AND I'M GOING TO BE BRAGGING ABOUT THIS ONE TOO BECAUSE THIS IS REAL TALK. SO -- >> YOU SHOULD KNOW COUNCILOR WU AND I ALSO FILED ON THE SPEND, THE PROCUREMENT, SO GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN THAT HEARING AS WELL. AND PRISCILLA, PLEASE KNOW I CREATED THE POST-AUDIT COMMITTEE SO IT EXISTS, WE HAVE IT. >> THANK YOU. >> THANK YOU. >> THANK YOU BOTH.

>> FINALLY, THANK YOU, COUNCILOR MEJIA TO FINISH YOUR ROUND OF QUESTIONING.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> YOU'RE GOOD.

>> GREAT.

I'M NOT SURE BECAUSE I WAS MUTED BEFORE WHEN I FIRST STARTED SPEAKING, I WANTED TO ALSO SEND MY CONDOLENCES TO MY SISTER IN SERVICE, PRISCILLA, IN REGARD TO HER MOM PASSING, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

I THINK MY QUESTION WAS, MY NEXT QUESTION WAS TO CHEF JOSE.

SO WHEN INITIALLY THE RENTAL RELIEF FUND WAS OPENED FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON, THE ONE FOR THE RENTS, I APPLIED JUST TO SEE WHAT THE EXPERIENCE WOULD BE LIKE, JUST BECAUSE I'M AN EXPONENTIAL LEARNER, I LIKE TO FIGURE IT OUT, TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I CAN DO DIFFERENTLY.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WAS REPLIED BACK WITH A RESPONSE LATER TO FIND OUT THEY WERE MOVING IN TO A LOTTERY AND THEN THAT I WAS NUMBER 14,332 ON THE LIST, SOME CRAZY NUMBER LIKE THAT.

THERE WAS NO OTHER FEEDBACK IN TERMS OF WHAT ELSE WAS OUT THERE OR WHAT OTHER INFORMATION, YOU KNOW, RESOURCES THAT I CAN APPLY TO.

AND I'M JUST CURIOUS BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE, WHEN YOU SAY THAT PEOPLE CAN CALL, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO THEM, DO YOU THINK, THAT WAS A RESOURCE THAT YOU FELT, WAS THERE ANY FOLLOW UP WITH YOU POST THE APPLICATION PROCESS? DID ANYONE CHECK IN TO SEE HOW THINGS WERE GOING?

>> NONE AT ALL.

I BASICALLY LEARNED THROUGH MY ACCOUNTANT THAT THE CITY WAS LAUNCHING THIS BUSINESS RELIEF FUND AND THAT WE SHOULD GO TO THE WEB SITE.

THERE WAS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE

EVERYTHING CLOSE WITH THE SBA
AND ALL THE CHANGES DAILY AND
THE WHOLE SITUATION WITH THE
BANKS THAT A LOT OF THE BANKS
WANTED TO PULL OUT LAST MINUTE,
THEY DIDN'T WANT TO DO THE LOANS
BECAUSE OF THE LIABILITY THEY
WOULD BE UNDER.

BUT I NEVER RECEIVED A FOLLOW
UP.

AT THIS POINT I AM TRYING TO
HELP MY BUSINESS NO MATTER HOW.
TODAY I APPLIED FOR A FACEBOOK
GRANT.

I APPLY FOR THE CITY,
FOR THE IADL BECAUSE I NEED TO
SOMEHOW GET BY.

I MEAN I HAVE TO, I OWE MONEY.
I NEED TO REOPEN.

WHAT'S GOING TO BE, IT'S GREAT
NOW.

WE CAN GET ALL THIS, BUT HOW,
WHAT'S NEXT IS IMPORTANT.

AND I TAKE IT FOR WHEN WE START
SPEAKING OKAY, WE KNOW THE
REALITY BUT WE HAVE TO ACTUALLY
THINK ABOUT WHAT'S COMING.

AND REGARDS THE APPLICATION, A
SIMPLE APPLICATION, I RECEIVED
AN E-MAIL AFTER AWHILE AND IT
WAS NOT A PERSONAL.

IT WAS A GENERAL E-MAIL, YOU
KNOW, GENERIC.

THERE WAS NO, LIKE ONE TO ONE.

IN FACT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE
PROCESS, WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT
THAT WAS A FORM MISSING THAT
EVERYBODY WAS GOING TO GET
HANDED THAT ONE, I

COUNCILOR ARROYO AND I SAID HEY,
I THINK THERE'S A FORM MISSING.

PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO FILL
THIS OUT BECAUSE IT'S JUST NOT
THERE.

IT'S JUST DONE WRONG.

SO HE TRIED, JUST E-MAILED THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

I E-MAILED THEM AND DIDN'T GET
AN ANSWER.

SO I UNDERSTAND THEY PROBABLY
HAD 5,000 E-MAILS, SO EVERYTHING
IS COLLAPSE.

AND IT'S A CRISIS, YOU KNOW, BUT
A LOT OF THOSE RESOURCES THAT

ARE THERE, WE'RE JUST TRYING TO
FIGURE THINGS OUT.

I MEAN WE WERE ALL CRAZY ABOUT
THE PPE BUT NOW IT'S BAD FOR ME
BECAUSE I CAN'T OPEN.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'M GOING TO
OPEN.

AND I CANNOT USE THOSE FUNDS IF
IztI GET APPROVED AND IF I GET THE
MONEY IN THE BANK, I HAVE 8
WEEKS TO USE IT, 25% OF THAT HAS
TO GO THE RENT, UTILITIES AND
THE OTHER 10% TO PAYROLL.

MY GUYS ARE COLLECTING
UNEMPLOYMENT.

MOST OF THEM ARE MAKING MORE
MONEY THAN THEY NORMALLY MAKE ON
A WE CANNILY BASE.

SO THIS IS LIKE, YOU KNOW, A
LITTLE DIFFICULT.

SO I MEAN THIS CONVERSATION FOR
ME, I'M HERE TO SORT OF SHARE MY
SITUATION AND SHARE HOW MANY OF
US IN THIS SMALL BUSINESSES ARE
GOING THROUGH THIS.

BUT I REALLY, REALLY THINK THAT
THE CONVERSATION GOING FURTHER
WITH, YOU KNOW, APPLYING AND
EVERYTHING HAS TO BE A STRATEGY
TO REOPEN, TRY TO, A STRATEGY TO
BRING THE ECONOMY BACK TO WHAT
IT WAS.

YES, WE NEED JOBS.

HOW DO WE GET THOSE JOBS?

WE NEED TO BRING TOURISM BACK.
WE WANT PEOPLE TO COME BACK TO
BOSTON.

WE WANT ALL THE EVENTS, WE WANT
ALL THIS SO WE CAN GENERATE ALL
THAT.

SO THAT'S KIND OF WHAT'S, I
CANNOT THINK ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED.

I WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT CAN
WE DO?

YOU KNOW, LIKE HOW CAN WE FIX
THIS?

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU FOR THAT.

THANK YOU.

I DO HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION, BUT
THIS ONE IS FOR SEGUN.

I'M MOVING ON TO MY LAST
QUESTION.

IT'S ABOUT BECKMA.

THEY HAD A SURVEY NEAR TO THE START OF THIS OUTBREAK AND IT CONCLUDED AT OVER A HALF OF BUSINESSES WHO RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY WILL HAVE TO SHUT DOORS WITHIN SIX MONTHS GIVEN THE CURRENT CASH FLOW.

WE'RE NOW LESS THAN TWO MONTHS SINCE THAT REPORT WAS RELEASED AND I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW HOW MANY BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN IMPACTED SO FAR.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MANY BUSINESSES IN YOUR NETWORK WERE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS GRANT ISSUED BY CITY, STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND NETWORK APPLIED FOR GRANTS BUT HAVEN'T RECEIVED ONE.

AND I WOULD, I'M REALLY CURIOUS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE INVITED TO THE TABLE IN REGARDS TO PUTTING TOGETHER THE SET OF CRITERIA WHERE DID THE CITY REACH OUT TO YOU TO HELP INFORM THIS THINKING AT ALL AROUND THE RECOVERY, AROUND THE FUND. JUST CURIOUS.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR, FOR THE QUESTIONS.

SO I'LL START OFF FIRST WITH THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES.

SO ACTUALLY HAPPY YOU ASKED THAT QUESTION.

WE'RE ACTUALLY PUTTING TOGETHER A SURVEY TO SEND OUT TO OUR MEMBERS TO COLLECT JUST THAT INFORMATION.

WE HELD OFF ON SOMETHING THAT IN THE LAST WEEK BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT OUR BUSINESSES ARE SURVEYED OUT.

LITERALLY THEY'RE BEING INUNDATED WITH E-MAILS TRYING TO COLLECT INFORMATION.

SO WE'RE TRYING TO HOLD OFF ON THAT BUT EXACTLY TO YOUR POINT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THIS REPORT CAME OUT ALMOST TWO MONTHS AGO.

WE NEED TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON OUR MEMBERS THEMSELVES.

THAT SURVEY IS GOING OUT NEXT WEEK AND WILL BE FOR THE NEXT

COUPLE WEEKS AFTER THAT ENSURING WE GET A ROBUST RESPONSE TO THAT TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

ANECDOTALLY I'LL SAY MANY BUSINESS MEMBERS HAD ISSUES ACCESSING ANY NUMBER OF THE RESOURCES THAT ARE OUT THERE. I'LL STICK WITH THE GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND NOT TALK A LOT ABOUT ANY NON-PROFIT RESOURCES OR CORPORATE FUNDS.

ON THE CITY LEVEL, WE KNOW THAT A NUMBER OF FOLKS DID APPLY.

I CAN'T SAY I HEARD ANY DIFFERENT ANY TERMS OF THE ISSUES THAT WERE PRESENTED ON THIS HEARING TODAY.

WE HAVE SOME MEMBERS WHO SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED, OTHERS WHO RECEIVED THE SAME FEEDBACK OR LACK OF INFORMATION THEREOF ON THE PROCESS.

BUT REALLY A LOT OF OUR FOLKS TRIED FOR THE FEDERAL RESOURCES.

THIS WRITES THE MAJORITY OF ISSUES WERE, THIS IS WHERE THE MAJORITY OF ISSUES WERE.

WHEN PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM WAS SUPPOSED TO ROLL OUT ABOUT THREE FRIDAYS AGO NOW, A LOT OF MEMBERS, LIKE BANK OF AMERICA AND OTHERS WHO SPOKE OUT OF THE GATE, WE'RE NOT DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, WE'RE NOT DOING A LOAN WITH YOU, PUTTING BLACK AND GROWN FOLKS OUT OF THE MIX BECAUSE BANKS DON'T DO, WE GET DENIED LOANS.

AUTOMATICALLY WE'RE NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM, WITH SOME OF THE LARGER BANKS.

AS THE DAYS PROGRESSED AND MORE BANKS STARTED TO OPEN UP WHO GOT ACCESS TO THIS, IT BECAME QUITE CLEAR THAT IF YOU HAD A CFO, IF YOU, YOU KNOW, HAD, IF YOU WERE A WELL-RESOURCED BUSINESS YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IMMEDIATELY, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE ALL READ THE STORIES OF HOW CORPORATE ENTITIES LIKE SHAKE SHACK AND RUTH'S CHRIS, ANNOUNCED IS

GIVING BACK THE MONEY, TO LITTLE AVAIL.

IT'S THEIR MONEY AND SO THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO ACCESS THAT AT THIS MOMENT.

BUT YOU KNOW, THEY ALL GOT MONEY.

AND OUR BUSINESSES DID NOT.

AND SO THERE ARE OVER 2

MILLION PPE APPLICATIONS STILL IN THE QUEUE RIGHT NOW AND WE KNOW THAT MANY OF THOSE ARE BLACK AND BROWN BUSINESS OWNERS WHO PROBABLY AGAIN WON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THAT BECAUSE WHAT WE ALSO KNOW IS THAT BANKS WERE PRIORITIZING LARGER CUSTOMERS TO GET THEM ACCESS TO PPP MONEY OR WHAT THEY WERE DOING WAS IF YOU HAD JUST A SLIGHT MISTAKE OR DIDN'T INCLUDE AN INSIGNIFICANT DOCUMENT YOU WERE AUTOMATICALLY PUSHED OUT AND THOSE WHO HAD EVERYTHING ARE GIVEN PRIORITY BECAUSE THEY WANT TO STICK TO THIS MANDATE OF 10 DAYS OF GETTING THE MONEY OUT THE DOOR. ANYWAY, SO A LOT OF OUR MEMBERS HAD ISSUES.

I WILL SAY THAT ON BECKMA SIDE, WE ESTABLISHED A PARTNERSHIP WITH BERKSHIRE BANK, A PHENOMENAL PARTNER, THEY OPENED THEIR DOORS TO NEW CUSTOMERS REFERRED TO THEM BY US.

SO ANY MEMBER WHO REACHED OUT TO BECKMA TO SAY OUR BANK IS NOT DOING BUSINESS US WITH, ALLOWING US TO ACCESS PPP MONEYS, WE WERE ABLE TO SEND THEM TO BERKSHIRE AND THEY GOT THEIR APPLICATIONS PROCESSED AND THEY WERE ABLE TO RECEIVED THOSE MONEYS AND WE'LL BE DOING THE SAME THING WHEN CONGRESS PASSES THIS NEXT PACKAGE THIS WEEK.

IN TERMS FOR THE STATE, JOSE MENTIONED AGAIN THAT THERE WERE 10 MILLION DOLLARS AVAILABLE AT THE STATE LEVEL AND 36 HOURS THAT MONEY WAS GONE.

AND WHAT THE STATE REPORTED WAS THAT ALL THE APPLICATIONS THEY RECEIVED WERE 3,000, INDICATED

THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR \$135 MILLION.
THAT WAS FOR ALMOST 2 MONTHS AGO AGAIN.
SO WE KNOW THAT THE NEED IS WAY MORE THAN THAT RIGHT NOW.
SO YOU KNOW, WE KNOW MANY BUSINESSES ARE SUFFERING, MANY HAVE HAD TO CLOSE DOORS.
IF THEY HAVEN'T CLOSED DOORS THEY HAVE LAID OFF THEIR STAFF, SO THAT THE OWNERS OR FOUNDERS OF THE BUSINESS ARE ABLE TO REMAIN TO CONTINUE THE BUSINESS IN SOME WAY AND NOW FOLKS ARE IN A STAGE OF TRYING TO GET AS MUCH CAPITAL AS POSSIBLE.
AGAIN, AS JOSE MENTIONED EVERYONE IS DOING THE SAME THING, APPLYING TO EVERYTHING AS THEY CAN.
SO GETTING THE CAPITAL BUT ALSO FINDING WAYS TO PIVOT THEIR BUSINESS.
SO THE FINAL QUESTION ABOUT IF WE WERE INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS FOR THE CITY, DEVELOPING THE GRANT FUND, YOU KNOW, WE DEFINITELY SHARED OUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROCESS.
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT IT WAS LIKE A HUGE, YOU KNOW, TASK FORCE OR SOMETHING THAT HELPED TO DEVELOP THE APPLICATION PROCESS.
BUT CERTAINLY DID SPEAK WITH CHIEF OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ABOUT PAST BARRIERS ON APPLICATIONS AND WHAT OUR MEMBERS WERE EXPERIENCING WITH FEDERAL ESTATE PROGRAMS AND WHY EITHER WE WEREN'T ABLE TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION OR JUST DIDN'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS IN GENERAL BECAUSE IT WAS SO DIFFICULT OR COMPLICATED.
SO I WILL SAY THAT THE CITY DID LISTEN TO SOME OF OUR CONCERNS AND REMOVED SOME OF THECA BARRIERS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR MORE FOLKS TO APPLY.
BUT AGAIN, THAT'S THE APPLICATION PROCESS.
IN TERMS OF REVIEWING THE APPLICATIONS AND ALL THAT STUFF,

WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY, SHARE ANY THOUGHTS ON THAT. SO, YOU KNOW, WOULD LOVE TO HEAR IF THE ADMINISTRATION WERE HERE, WHAT THAT PROCESS WAS LIKE AND HOW WE CAN PERFECT IT IN THE FUTURE.

>> I THINK THAT AS WE CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS CONVERSATION AROUND EQUITY AND HOW DO WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT LOOKS, YOU KNOW, TALK ABOUT THE RECOVERY PHASE OF THIS, IT'S MAKING SURE THAT THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING THE WORK, LIVING THE REALITY, DO INFORM ALL ASPECT OF THIS WORK. I THINK YOU ARE A VALUE-ADDED IN TERMS OF MAKING SURE WE'RE DOING THINGS IN WAYS THAT ARE UPLIFTING THE REALITIES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING BUSINESS IN BOSTON, PARTICULARLY BLACK AND GROWN FOLKS.

SO I APPRECIATE YOUR LEADERSHIP AND THINGS THAT IS DEFINITELY A RECOMMENDATION THAT I WOULD HAVE, THAT I WILL SHARE WITH FOLKS, SO THAT THEY GET ON IT. THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR MEJIA. COUNCILOR FLYNN REQUESTED COUNCILOR PRIVILEGE TO GET IN. I THINK HE HAS ANOTHER COMMITMENT. COUNCILOR FLYNN, QUICKLY, THEN NEXT WILL BE COUNCILOR BREADON, COUNCILOR CAMPBELL AND COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE, THEN COUNCILOR FLAHERTY.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WU. THANK YOU TO THE PANELISTS FOR BEING HERE AND FOR YOUR IMPORTANT WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE IN THIS CITY FOR SO MANY YEARS. THIS WAS AN INFORMATIVE HEARING. I LEARNED A LOT FROM THE PANELISTS, LEARNED A LOT FROM MY COUNCILORS, COLLEAGUES. ONE ISSUE I WANTED TO FOCUS ON, I KNOW PAUL TALKED ABOUT IT EARLIER, IS THE CRITICAL ROLE LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAYS IN NOT

ONLY THIS PANDEMIC, BUT IN OUR SOCIETY.

I'M LUCKY ON MY STAFF TO HAVE FOUR WOMEN AND THEIR ALL IMMIGRANTS, THEY SPEAK CANTONESA, MANDARIN AND SPANISH. WITHOUT, THAT I COULDN'T REACH OUT TO THE ASIAN COMMUNITY OR LATIN X COMMUNITY, THE PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITY THAT'S VERY LARGE IN MY DISTRICT BUT IT'S CRITICAL DURING THE BUDGET PROCESS, BUDGET SEASON LANGUAGE ACCESS IS A CRITICAL PART OF THE DISCUSSION.

AND AS PAUL WAS MENTIONED EARLIER, I THINK MICHELLE MENTIONED EARLIER AS WELL, YOU KNOW, WE WHERE SEEING A LOT OF, WE ARE SEEING A LOT OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WE'RE SEEING ASSAULTS, INTIMIDATION, MYSELF AND COUNCILOR WU ARE SPONSORING A RESOLUTION NEXT WEEK THAT HAS, THERE'S ACTUALLY ANOTHER RESOLUTION IN THE CONGRESS AGAINST ANTIBULLYING, ANTI-INTIMIDATION AGAINST OUR ASIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS ACROSS OUR CITY AND COUNTRY, BUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE ASIAN COMMUNITY IS VERY REAL, IT'S VERY SIGNIFICANT.

WE SEE IT ALMOST EVERY DAY ACROSS OUR COUNTRY AND IT'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF, BUT ALSO TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO.

AS WE DISCUSS PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES, LAST YEAR WE WERE AT THE JOSIAH QUINCY SCHOOL WITH A GROUP OF PROFESSIONAL SCIENTISTS AND THEY SAID THAT CHINATOWN, THAT CHINATOWN HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF ASTHMA OF ANY NEIGHBORHOOD IN MASSACHUSETTS. CERTAINLY THE LOCATION, IT'S SURROUNDED BY THE MASS PIKE AND HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND THE TRAIN SYSTEM AND THE TRUCK ROUTES. BUT PUBLIC HEALTH HAS TO BE A CRITICAL PART OF THIS DISCUSSION GOING FORWARD.

THAT'S SOMETHING I'M GOING TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON WORKING CLOSELY WITH MY COLLEAGUES. AGAIN, THIS IS AN INFORMATIVE HEARING.

I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO THE MAKERS, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, SAY THANK YOU TO THE PANELISTS FOR YOUR WORK ON THIS ISSUE. MUCH LONGER, MUCH LONGER THAN ME, BUT IT'S GREAT TO LEARN FROM YOU GUYS.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR FLYNN.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WU.

>> GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP.

NEXT, COUNCILOR BREADON FOR

QUESTIONS.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME IF.

>> YES, WE CAN HEAR YOU.

>> GOOD.

I'M WORKING OFF MY PHONE AND IT'S NOT ALWAYS SATISFACTORY. I WANT TO THANK THE MAKERS FOR THIS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT HEARING.

THIS IS A VERY, VERY IMPORTANT CONVERSATION TO HAVE NOT ONLY NOW, RIGHT IN THE MOMENT OF THIS CRISIS BUT GOING FORWARD.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BRING UP THE ISSUE OF PARTICULARLY AROUND INTERNET ACCESS AND ALSO ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE ACCESSIBILITY OF BROADBAND FOR FAMILIES AT HOME, BUT ALSO FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND FOLKS WHO ARE GIG WORKERS.

SEEING THIS PAST TIME IN BOSTON WE HAVE MORE OF A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET SYSTEM THAT I WOULD SUPPORT MORE BUSINESSES AND SO WE WOULDN'T FIND OURSELVES IN THIS CRISIS OF SCRAMBLING TO FIND HOT SPOTS AND, YOU KNOW, JUST REALLY THAT INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD SUPPORT SO MANY, IS A W MANY WAYS, AND I SEE THAT'S AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF THE CONVERSATION GOING FORWARD. I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR QUESTIONS.

I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM LISTENING TO THE CONVERSATION THIS AFTERNOON AND REALLY THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL GOING FORWARD.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, COUNCILOR BREADON.

NEXT, COUNCILOR CAMPBELL.

>> THANK YOU TO THE MAKERS, THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WU AND COUNCILOR ARROYO AND COUNCILOR MEJIA FOR THIS IMPORTANT HEARING AND IMPORTANT CONVERSATION.

THANK YOU TO THE PANELISTS AS WELL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND YOUR ONGOING ADVOCACY WITH RESPECT TO THESE ISSUES.

I TOO AM DISAPPOINTED THAT NO ONE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION IS HERE AND WE EXPRESSED THE SAME THING IN THE HEARING YESTERDAY ON THE GUIDELINES, QUESTIONS, AROUND VENTILATORS AND ICU BEDS THAT I GET EVERYONE IS EXTREMELY BUSY BUT ALL OF THESE TOPICS ARE OBVIOUSLY RELEVANT TO COVID-19 AND SO I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE TIME TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS.

I COULD SEE IF THEY WEREN'T RELATED TO WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT, I GET THAT.

JUST WANTED TO PUT THAT ON THE RECORD.

AND RAISE

LIKE THEY DON'T JUST GIVE YOU THE MONEY.

THEY ALSO TALK TO BUT HOW TO USE THE FUNDS IN AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS SURVIVE THE CRISIS AND ALSO MATCH YOU WITH ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING SO THAT YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO PIVOT YOUR BUSINESS FOR WHAT WILL BE THE NEW NORMAL MUCH THAT'S ONE EXAMPLE.

I ALSO KNOW THAT THE COVID RELIEF COALITION, THIS IS AN EFFORT BETWEEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE LAWYERS

FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, AND MANY DIFFERENT LAW FIRMS THAT ARE WORKING TO PROVIDE THAT KIND OF SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES, TO HELP THEM THINK THROUGH HOW THEY CAN PIVOT.

I THOUGH E-MORE ALL AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS FOR THEM ARE MAKING THEIR SERVICES AVAILABLE TO FOLKS WHO ARE NOT ORIGINALLY IN THE COHORTS.

YOU KNOW, I THINK, THOUGH, THIS SPEAKS TO AN UNSTATED POINT OF COMMUNICATION AND GETTING THAT INFORMATION OUT TO SMALL BUSINESSES.

WE DO THAT WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP AND I KNOW THAT SOME OF THE OTHERS TRY TO THE WITH THEIRS BUT I THINK A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND OUR ORGANIZATIONS AND THOSE IN YOUR NETWORK TO GET THAT INFORMATION OUT THERE WOULD BE INCREDIBLY HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE SUCH A FINGER ON THE PULSE OF YOUR OWN BUSINESS COMMUNITIES, POTENTIALLY WORKING THROUGH MAIN STREET ORGANIZATION AS WELL TO GET THIS INFORMATION OUT THERE TO LET FOLKS KNOW ABOUT RESOURCES THAT EXIST OUTSIDE OF THE CITY.

>> AND I GUESS MY, THAT'S VERY HELPFUL AND HAPPY TO SUPPORT IN ANY WAY I CAN IN THAT REGARD. I THINK THAT IT'S CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THERE ARE BUSINESSES ALREADY DOING SOME OF THAT REPURPOSING WHO ARE LOOKING FOR CAPITAL TO MOVE QUICKLY. WE HAVE A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES WHERE BUSINESSES ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND RIGHT NOW, RIGHT? BUSINESSES OF COLOR, SO HOW DO WE SUPPORT THEM IN THESE EFFORTS?

AND THEN THOSE THAT ARE STRUGGLING, HOW THE WE HELP THEM AS WELL? HOW DO WE GET CREATIVE PARTICULARLY ON THE IMMEDIATE NEED TO ON DO CAPITAL.

I ALSO WANTED JUST TO JUST FLAG THAT IN A LOT OF CONVERSATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PHILANTHROPIC SPACE, ORGANIZATIONS LOOKING TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES, THEY'RE SAYING

BUSINESSES, THEY'RE LUMPING IN WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES AND BUSINESSES OF COLOR. AND I HAD A CONVERSATION JUST YESTERDAY WITH THE BOSTON FOUNDATION AROUND A SPECIAL FUND SPECIFICALLY BEING VERY INTENTIONAL ABOUT BUSINESSES RUN BY PEOPLE OF COLOR.

SOMETIMES I THINK PEOPLE ARE LUMPING THOSE IN AND I THINK WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL.

I WANTED TO FLAG THAT BECAUSE I'M HEARING FROM SOME BUSINESS OWNERS, YOU KNOW, WITH THE LIMITED RESOURCES THERE ARE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TRULY INTENTIONAL FOR BUSINESSES RUN BY PEOPLE OF COLOR?

AND THEN I GUESS THE QUESTION IS ON THAT, ON THE MONEY QUESTION, GIVEN YOUR WORK, GIVEN WHAT YOU'RE SEEING AND OTHER PANELISTS MAY HAVE THOUGHTS ON THIS TOO, YOU KNOW, WHAT IS, WE HAVE A SENSE OF THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

WE HAVE SOME DATA, RIGHT, THAT PAINTS A PICTURE OF WHAT POSSIBLY THE NEED COULD BE. BUT WHAT ARE YOU SEEING IN TERMS OF WHAT IS NEEDED MONETARILY? FOR EXAMPLE, THE SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND AT THE OUTSET THERE, WERE ALREADY QUESTIONS AROUND IS THAT ENOUGH MONEY TO HELP BUSINESSES?

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THAT, THAT FUND WILL BE GONE LIKE THAT AND CLEARLY THAT HAS HAPPENED.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE BUSINESSES DOES IT COVER?

SO WHAT DOES THAT NUMBER LOOK LIKE IN THE SHORT-TERM?

I KNOW THERE'S MORE CONVERSATION AROUND THE LONG-TERM TO HELP

BUSINESSES RIGHT NOW.

>> I APPRECIATE THAT QUESTION AND I APPRECIATE IT BECAUSE THERE IS, THERE PROBABLY IS LITERALLY NO WAY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION BECAUSE OUR BUSINESSES WERE ALREADY IN SUCH A PRECARIOUS POSITION BEFORE THIS EVEN HAPPENED THAT TO WONDER WHAT THAT FIGURE WOULD BE TO HELP THEM SURVIVE, WE WOULD NEVER MEET IT.

I MEAN RIGHT NOW THE CONVERSATION ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL IS HOW THEY'RE SETTING ASIDE \$60 BILLION THAT THEY THINK WILL REACH MINORITY BUSINESSES.

WE KNOW MOST OF IT IS NOT, BUT WE KNOW THAT'S NOT ENOUGH. SO IN THE CITY I DON'T THINK ANYTHING THAT, WE COULD RAISE \$100 MILLION TOMORROW, IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO HELP ALL OF THE MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES ACROSS THE CITY OR EVEN IN GREATER BOSTON SURVIVE THIS.

SO ESPECIALLY FOR CAPITAL ALONE, SO TO YOUR POINT EARLIER, YOU KNOW, IT NEEDS TO BE MATCHED WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IF WE JUST GIVE PEOPLE MONEY IT JUST WON'T BE ENOUGH.

I THINK HELPING PEOPLE FIGURE OUT HOW TO KEEP THEIR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT.

IN TERMS OF THE MONEY NUMBER, I DON'T THINK ANYBODY THAT'S RAISED WILL EVER -- I THINK WE SHOULD RAISE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, NONETHELESS, IN ORDER TO SAVE AS MANY BUSINESSES AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE SENATOR WILKERSON SAID IN HER OPENING COMMENTS IF WE'RE SAYING THAT HALF THE BUSINESSES WILL FAIL, MULTIPLY THAT BY THREE FOR BLACK AND GROWN COMMUNITIES BUT THIS CITY WILL NOT SURVIVE IF EVEN HALF OF MINORITY BUSINESSES FAIL BECAUSE MINORITY BUSINESSES ARE KEEPING THIS CITY GOING.

SO THE BOSTON FOUNDATION HAS A GOAL OF 10 MILLION AND THAT'S,

YOU KNOW, THEY WANT TO KEEP GOING AFTER THAT, BUT, YOU KNOW, OTHER FUND EXIST AS WELL TO TRY TO FILL IN THE GAP, BUT THE CITY WOULD HAVE TO SET ASIDE 50 TO \$100 MILLION IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE.

>> AND MY LAST QUESTION IS, IN HOSTING THESE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS CONVERSATIONS AS A WAY TO GET AT THAT INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN THE COMMUNITY ON THE GROUND, YOU KNOW, GOVERNMENT AS WE ALREADY KNOW IS SLOW TO RESPOND, YOU KNOW, IF WE DON'T CHANGE THE WAY IN WHICH WE DO BUSINESS, WE WILL ALWAYS BE REACTIVE AND JUST LATE, FRANKLY. SO AS A PARALLEL TRACK LOOKING AT HOW CAN COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTS PLAY A ROLE IN THE SOLUTIONS, RIGHT.

I'VE BEEN TELLING A LOT OF RESIDENTS, WHETHER IT IS DONATING TO OUR BUSINESSES, BIOLOGY SPECIFIC [INDISCERNIBLE] FREQUENTING PLACES, PEOPLE ARE STILL BRINGING THEIR [INDISCERNIBLE] TO LOCAL BUSINESSES, RIGHT.

RIGHT NOW WE'RE GETTING MASS FROM A SEAMSTRESS. WE WANT THE COMMUNITY TO BE CREATIVE TO HELP BUSINESSES. MY QUESTION IS, WHAT ARE YOU SEEING FOR THE COMMUNITY TO BE DOING THEIR PART TO HELP BUSINESSES, PARTICULARLY BUSINESSES OF COLOR STAY AFLOAT AND THRIVE?

>> I WOULD SAY EXACT HERE THAT. I THINK THE CITY HAVE RESOURCES [INDISCERNIBLE] THAT ARE STILL OPEN.

A LARGE NUMBER ARE ON THAT LIST SO BENEFITS WORKING WITH THE BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEEN PRODUCED [INDISCERNIBLE] WHICH IS WHY IF IS CITY IS [INDISCERNIBLE] SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO ARE [INDISCERNIBLE] BUT IN TERMS OF AGAIN COMMUNITY YES, WHETHER YOU STAYED WHETHER IT BE PATRONIZING AN ORDER OF DELIVERY

AND GIFT CARD, ETCETERA, THESE
WHAT'S HAPPENING FOLKS KIND OF
STAY AFLOAT [INDISCERNIBLE].

>> I WANT TO BE RESPECTFUL TO MY
OTHER COLLEAGUES.

IN THE SAME CONTEXT WITH YOU
GUYS, CONSIDER ME AS A PARTNER
IN THE WORKS.

TO THE BUSINESS OWNERS, THANK
YOU TOO BUT TO JOSE AND JAMES,
THANK YOU GUYS FOR JOINING THE
CALL.

HE'S SAYING THANK YOU, HE CRIES
WHEN HE SAYS THANK YOU.

THANK YOU ALL YOU GUYS FOR THE
WORK YOU'RE DOING AND AGAIN
THANK YOU TO THE MAKERS FOR
HOSTING THIS CONVERSATION.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH COUNCILOR
CAMPBELL.

WE HAD TWO FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY
WHO HAS BEEN WAITING INTO THE
ZOOM NOW.

HI ANTONIO.

WE HAVE TWO COUNCILORS LEFT TO
ASK QUESTIONS ON THE PANEL AND
THEN WE'LL GET YOU INTO THE
CONVERSATION.

COUNCILOR ANNISSA
ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

>> THANK YOU CHAIRMAN WOULD AND
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO IS
HERE TODAY.

I THINK IT'S CERTAINLY THIS TIME
IS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO TALK
ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THIS
PANDEMIC ON OUR BUSINESSES, ON
OUR FAMILIES, ON OUR RESIDENTS,
ON OUR NON-PROFIT PARTNERS IN
SPRINGTIME BECAUSE WE ALL GET
THOSE INVOTATIONS.

SPRINGTIME IS A BIG, IT'S A HUGE
OPPORTUNITY FOR A LOT OF OUR
NON-PROFIT PARTNERS TO DO FOR
FUND RAISING.

I THINK WHAT A NUMBER OF I THINK
WHAT EVERYONE HAS SAID IS THAT
THIS PANDEMIC HAS REALLY
EMPHASIZED AND AMPLIFIED
DISCREPANCIES THAT WE HAVE KNOWN
HAVE EXISTED AND UNFORTUNATELY
[INDISCERNIBLE] TO THE LACK OF
PRESENTEDNESS THAT SO MANY OF
OUR BUSINESSES WEREN'T PRESENTED

FOR THIS PANDEMIC.
NOT THAT WE COULD FORESEE IT BUT
WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE SAFETY
NET WAS IN PLACE AND THE
INFRASTRUCTURE WAS IN PLACE OR
SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN PLACE.
I THINK FOR US AS A CITY IN OUR
WORK AS A CITY COUNCIL IT'S NOT
JUST TO MAKE SURE WE'RE COMING
OUT OF THIS IN A CONSIDERABLE
WAY BUT THAT WE'RE MAKING SURE
WE'RE HELPING BUSINESSES OR
ORGANIZATIONS AND QUITE FRANKLY
JUST OUR RESIDENTS ACROSS THE
CITY HAVE A STRONGER FOUNDATION
AND BUILD A STRONGER FOUNDATION.
I THINK FOR ENTREPRENEURS IN
PARTICULAR AND THOSE THAT ARE
HERE LEADING AN ORGANIZATION
STILL YEARS WITH HIM AUNT PURE
SPIRIT.
ENTREPRENEURS WILL STILL
ENTREPRENEURS.
THEY WILL STRUGGLE THEIR WAY OUT
OR FAIL, NEW BUSINESSES WILL
EMERGE.
HOW DO WE MAKER SURE THEY EMERGE
OR REEMERGE OR COME ANEW BEING
STRONG.
I THINK AN IMPORTANT PART OF
THIS IN THIS ARGUMENT I THINK
ALSO LIVES WITH HOUSING
CONVERSATIONS IS HOW DO WE HELP
CREATE OWNERSHIP BECAUSE
OWNERSHIP CREATES POWER,
OWNERSHIP CREATES AN OPPORTUNITY
TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS AND
QUITE FRANKLY BUILD EQUITY BOTH
IN YOUR BUSINESS AND IN
COMMUNITY.
FOR ME, I'M REALLY CONCERNED
ABOUT NOT JUST OUR RESPONSE BUT
HOW DO WE DOUBLE DOWN ON
BUILDING A STRONGER
INFRASTRUCTURE ESPECIALLY FOR
OUR MINORITY OWNED AND LOCALLY
OWNED BUSINESSES IN OUR CITY.
TO ME IT'S A [INDISCERNIBLE] WE
TALK ABOUT MAKING SURE THEIR
CURRICULUM IS ACCESSIBLE TO
ALL OF OUR STUDENTS WITH
DIFFERENT LEARNING ABILITIES AND
LEARNING STYLES AND COMING WITH
A DIFFERENT FOUNDATION OF

KNOWLEDGE, HOW DO WE MAKE SURE THAT CURRICULUM IS ACCESSIBLE. I THINK SOME OF THE WORK WE'VE DONE HAS RECOMMENDED VERY CLEARLY.

JOSE SHARED THIS AND I KNOW BUSINESSES HAVE SAID THAT THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING AS A CITY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO OUR BUSINESS OWNERS.

IT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE TO SOME OF OUR PRESIDENTS WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ACCESSING SOME HOUSING RESOURCES.

SO FOR ME, THE NEXT STEP WHAT THIS HAS REVEALED TO ME OUR NEXT STEP IS A HOW DO WE CREATE OPPORTUNITY ACROSS THE SECTOR BUT HOW DO WE ALSO MAKE SURE WE'RE NOT JUST SUPPORTING ESPECIALLY OUR BUSINESS OWNERS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PANDEMIC CRISES, HOW TO WE MAKE SURE THAT ANYTHING NEW THAT COMES ABOUT IS BUILT ON THE STRONGEST FOUNDATION THAT WE HAVE YET IMAGINED.

HOW DO WE GET [INDISCERNIBLE] THOSE ARE NOT NECESSARILY CLEARLY QUESTIONS THAT COULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BUT IT'S MY THINKING, I OWN MY OWN BUSINESS AND FOR ME OWNERSHIP OF MY PROPERTY HAS BEEN A STABILIZING FACTOR FOR ME, HAS GIVEN ME SOME REAL, AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEVERAGE MY BUSINESS IN A DIFFERENT WAY AND TO LEVERAGE MY WORK IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

SO I AM AM NOT SURE ANYONE HAS AN RESPONSE TO THAT.

IT'S SORT OF AN OPEN ENDED QUESTION OR AN OPEN ENDED PROMPT.

BUT ACCESSIBILITY, OWNERSHIP AND CREATING STRONGER INTRA STRUCTURE.

IT IS CRITICAL TO THE WORK [INDISCERNIBLE] THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR [INDISCERNIBLE] PANELISTS WHO ARE HERE TODAY.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

WE'LL GO TO COUNCILOR FLAHERTY.

>> GOOD EVENING, MADAM CHAIR,
EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING.
THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS I
WANT TO [INDISCERNIBLE] RECENT
LOUSE [INDISCERNIBLE] I'M SORRY
SHE'S GOING THROUGH THIS AT THIS
TIME.

I WANT TO GIVE OUT TO THE
PROFESSOR FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION
TO HIGHER EDUCATION
[INDISCERNIBLE] LITTLE THING TO
HIM.

AND QUESTIONS TO FOLLOW UP ON
OWNERSHIP IN TERMS OF SMALL
BUSINESSES AND THEY ARE ACTUALLY
GETTING ABSOLUTELY SMOKED, ALL
BUSINESSES, NOT JUST THE
BUSINESSES OF WOMEN AND PEOPLE
OF COLOR.

THIS IS ESTIMATING BUSINESSES.
WE HAD DURING PROBABLY OVER A
LITTLE OVER A WEEK AGO THE
LEARNING THAT POTENTIALLY IN THE
CONSERVATIVELY CLOSE TO 25 OF
THE BIG DISTANCES ACROSS OUR
CITIES MAY NOT REOPEN AND AGAIN
THAT'S CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE
DURING THE LICENSING HEARING.
SO THE IMPACT AS IT PERTAINS TO
ALL OF OUR BUSINESSES.

AGAIN WE THINK ABOUT OUR CITY
NEIGHBORHOODS AND THE
DIVERSITIES OF OUR DIFFERENT
BUSINESSES IT MAKES OUR CITY A
SPECIAL CITY THAT WE COULD LOSE
25% OF THOSE BUSINESSES ACROSS
THE BOARD IN ALL OF OUR
NEIGHBORS.

THAT WOULD BE AN ABSOLUTE
TRAGEDY.

WE'VE GOT TO CONTINUE TO PAY
ATTENTION TO ALL THESE ISSUES,
TRY TO STREAMLINE THINGS TO HELP
ALL OF OUR [INDISCERNIBLE]

WHETHER THAT'S THE
[INDISCERNIBLE] MADAM CHAIR.

I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SOME OF
THE REGULATIONS THAT ARE STILL
IN PLACE DESPITE WE'RE IN A
PANDEMIC AND WE OUGHT TO BE
TRYING TO MAKE THINGS AS EASY AS
POSSIBLE AND STREAMLINE THAT,
WHETHER IT'S BEING ABLE TO DO
MORE ON-LINE OR SPECIFICALLY

WITH INSPECTIONS.

WE LEARNED THAT THE MAYOR
CORRALLED ALL OF HIS
[INDISCERNIBLE] WELL OVER
[INDISCERNIBLE] CLOSE TO 200
ACROSS THE CITY WITH THESE
PROTOCOLS IN PLACE AND FOR THE
INSPECTIONS DONE.

THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS AND
PERMITS NOW BEING HELD MEANS
THEY HAVE TO DO POTENTIAL DOUBLE
OR TRIPLE TIME TO KEEP UP WITH
THE FLOW.

HE IS AWARE OF THAT AND REACHED
OUT TO ALL OF HIS INSPECTORS AS
WITH A WAY TO MEET THE NEW
PROTOCOL MOVING FORWARD IN OUR
LIVES.

I HOPE THIS IS NOT A BOOMERANG,
I'VE HUSHED CONCERNS THIS MAY
COME BACK IN THE FALL AND
EVENTUALLY COULD COME BACK MORE
VENGEFUL.

I WANT TO BE MIND 2368 OF THAT
AND IT WAS GREAT TO LIST I TO
THE TESTIMONY OF MULTITASK ON.
WE HAD ZOOM WITH THE COMMUNITY
EARLIER [INDISCERNIBLE] WITH THE
LATINO COMMUNITY.

SO LOTS OF THING HAPPENING WITH
ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND ALL
OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND I'LL GIVE
ANY ASSISTANCE I CAN TO OUR
LOCAL BUSINESSES TO MAKE SURE
FOLKS GET BACK ON TRACK.

HOWEVER WE CAN MAKE THINGS
EASIER TO GET THEM ON THEIR FEET
IS WHERE I'M GOING TO BE AND WHO
I'M GOING TO BE SUPPORTING.

LASTLY I'M ASSUMING
[INDISCERNIBLE] AN OPPORTUNITY
TO COME OVER WHEN IT'S SAFE TO
DO SO TO SPEND SOME TIME IN HER
CLASS AND THE THINGS THAT ARE
GOING ON IN HER CLASSROOM.

AS A FOOTNOTE MY MOTHER WAS
[INDISCERNIBLE] FOR ALL WE KNEW
IT MAY BE RELATED.

HAPPY TO GET OVER TO HER CLASS
AND WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE
AND FIND WAYS WE CAN HELP.

MADAM CHAIR THANK YOU FOR THE
RESPONSES AND THANK YOU FOR
PARTICIPATING AND LENDING THEIR

EAR AND THEIR EXPERTISE.
IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT TOPIC.
THANK YOU.
>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH COUNCILOR
FLAHERTY.
WE'RE RUNNING LONG ON TIME AND
OTHER COUNCILORS MAY HAVE
QUESTIONS [INDISCERNIBLE] FOR
PUBLIC TESTIMONY.
[INDISCERNIBLE].
>> THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR.
I'M HEATHER WEIGHT I'M THE
FOUNDER AND CEO OF A FITNESS
STUDIO [INDISCERNIBLE] OF OUR
STU ARE WOMEN OF COLOR AND OUR
MISSION IS TO DECOLONIZE
WELLNESS THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMING
AND OUR APPROACHMENT BEFORE WE
CLOSED DUE TO COVID WE WERE ON A
50 DAY STREAK OF FILLED OUT
CLASSES.
WEEP WELCOMING PEOPLE INTO OUR
STUDIO EACH MOTHER.
SINCE WE'VE CLOSED WOVE GONE
VIRTUAL AND WELCOME 10,000
PEOPLE THIRTY SOME.
WE'RE NOT CHARMING FOR ANY OF
THIS COP TENT.
IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO US THIS
CONTENT IS WIDELY ACT ISN'TABLE
BY EVERYBODY SO WE HAVE RE MOVE
ALL COSTS AND ALL BARRIERS.
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO
GROW OUR ON-LINE PRESENCE WE
HAVE A TON TO MAKE UP.
OUR REVENUE CAME FROM DROP-IN IS
AND FOOT TRAFFIC.
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NOW.
WE HAVE OUR ADDITIONAL CLASSES
FREE MAKING SURE BOSTONIANS WHO
NEED HEALTH AND WELLNESS
PROGRAMMING CAN GET IT.
WITH A WE NEED FROM THE CITY WE
NEED HELP TO SURVIVE, PERIOD.
THE CITY NEEDS TO BE REALLY
TARGETED IN ITS SUPPORT AND IT
NEEDS TO INVEST HEAVILY IN SMALL
BUSINESSES.
BLACK AND BROWN OWNED
BUSINESSES, LGBT BUSINESSES AND
LARGELY MARGINALIZED GROUPS
BEING HIT BY COVID THE HARDEST.
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE IS NOT
GOING TO WORK HERE.

THERE'S SO MANY WAYS THE CITY CAN BE COLLABORATIVE AND CREATIVE WORKING WITH SMALL BUSINESSES HELPING TO GET RESIDENTS WHAT THEY NEED ALL ACCORDING TO SMALL BUSINESSES. FOR EXAMPLE WE STARTED CONVERSATIONS WITH BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AROUND HOW CAN WE BRING OUR FAMILY AND NEW CONTENT TO THEM SINCE KIDS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL, SUMMER IS CONNING AND THEY NEED HEALTH AND WELCOME OPPORTUNITIES MORE NOW THAN EVER.

WE KNOW THERE'S A GAP BETWEEN WHAT THEY GOT AT SCHOOL AND WHAT THEY'RE GETTING AT HOME WITH BLACK ASK BROWN CHILDREN AND HOW DO WE ADDRESS THAT.

WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP FOLKS PHYSICALLY HEALTHY WHICH IS GREAT BUT WE'RE FOCUSED ON PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING.

SO FOR US WE REALLY NEED TO ENSURE OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELL AND THAT MEANS THEY ARE SAFE IN THEIR HOMES.

THEY HAVE ACCESS TO WHAT THEY NEED, FOOD, RESOURCES.

AND THEY HAVE ACCESS TO PHYSICAL EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMMING.

MOST IMPORTANTLY WE NEED THEM TO SURVIVE BECAUSE WE'RE IN PROLONGED ISOLATION RIGHT NOW. FOR THE CITY.

IT'S UNFORTUNATE THE ADMINISTRATION ISN'T HERE BUT WE NEED THEIR DOLLARS AND WE NEED THEIR CREATIVE SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION AND MOST OF ALL INSTEAD OF THINKING ABOUT US THEY CONTINUE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT BOSTON'S RECOVERY LOOKS LIKE.

>> [INDISCERNIBLE] ANTONIO.
ANTONIO, CAN YOU HEAR US.

>> YES, I CAN HEAR YOU.

>> PERFECT.

WE CAN HEAR YOU.

>> [INDISCERNIBLE]

>> NO, WE DON'T SEE THE VIDEO.

>> THAT'S PART OF IT.
I JUST WANT TO THANK EVERYBODY'S
INPUT.
I KNOW THAT I GOT YOUR E-MAIL
THAT [INDISCERNIBLE] WHAT I'VE
GOT TO SHARE WITH YOU BUT I WANT
TO ECHO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO
MAKE SURE THAT THE POLICIES ARE,
YOU KNOW IMPLEMENTED TO BE
CENTERED AROUND PEOPLE OF COLOR
NEIGHBORHOODS.
MY BIGGEST CONCERN IS THEY START
LIFTING THE ORDER
[INDISCERNIBLE] I CAN TALK IN
MORE DETAIL ANOTHER TIME OF AN
ACTUAL PLAN THAT CAN BE, YOU
KNOW, POSITIVE IN ROXBURY AND
ALSO IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS.
A LOT OF IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR HEALTH [INDISCERNIBLE]
ECONOMIC WELL BEING PEOPLE OF
COLOR.
BUT TO BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING
[INDISCERNIBLE] QUICKLY.
I CAN'T GIVE THE DETAILS ABOUT
IT RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO STOP
TALKING NOW AND LET YOU GUYS
[INDISCERNIBLE].
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR
ME.

>> YOU HAVE WAITED SO LONG AS I
MENTIONED BUT YOU KNOW I THINK
WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING MORE
DIRECTLY FOCUSED ON THE TOPIC
THAT'S INTERESTED IN THE AREA
YOU'RE SUGGESTED.
WHILE YOU HAVE THE FLOOR FEEL
FREE TO TALK ABOUT WHATEVER YOU
WANT TO TALK ABOUT
[INDISCERNIBLE] IF YOU WANT TO
GO INTO A LITTLE BIT OF DETAIL.

>> I'LL JUST READ THE E-MAIL I
SENT AND IT CAN BE FORWARDED BY
YOU.

>> OKAY.

>> BASICALLY WHAT THIS IS KIND
OF SPARKED THE IDEA
[INDISCERNIBLE] TRANSPORTATION
BOARD JUST TO READVOCATE
[INDISCERNIBLE] TO ENABLE
POSSESSION WITH THE FAILITY USER
[INDISCERNIBLE].
SO BASICALLY WE WOULD BE OPPOSED
TO [INDISCERNIBLE] BASICALLY

OURSELVES, PARA LONG WITH THE
OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND THE
COMMISSION TO BE ABLE TO JUST
OPEN UP, REALLOCATE THE SPACE ON
ROXBURY OFF WARREN STREET,
MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD.
THIS WILL MAKE ONE TRAFFIC LANE
AND REMOVE THE PARKING SPACES
[INDISCERNIBLE] BARRIER WHERE
PEOPLE CAN WALK TO SCHOOL, TO
WORK AND ALSO LOOK IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD TO GET
[INDISCERNIBLE].
BASICALLY THAT WOULD BE DONE
RATHER QUICKLY.
OF COURSE TINNING IS EVERYTHING.
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU GUYS AND
YOUR EXPERTISE.
I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT.
IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS.
>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
>> I WOULD LOVE TO SHARE
WHATEVER EXPERTISE OR KNOWLEDGE
[INDISCERNIBLE].
AS AN ADVOCATE.
>> THANK YOU.
I WILL MAKE SURE YOUR WRITTEN
TESTIMONY GETS INTO THE RECORD
AS WELL.
THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US.
NOW IF THE COUNCILORS HAVE
FURTHER QUESTIONS.
I KNOW MANY OF OUR PANELISTS
HAVE BEEN HANGING IN WITH US.
I'LL JUST DO A QUICK RUN.
NONE OF US HAVE TO TRAVEL HOME
NECESSARILY BUT WE STILL HAVE
OTHER THINGS IN LINE.
SO WE'LL KEEP IT AT
[INDISCERNIBLE] GO BACK TO
COUNCILOR ARROYO.
>> I JUST WANT TO THANK OUR
PANELISTS AND SEND MY
CONDOLENCES TO [INDISCERNIBLE]
ALSO WANT TO COMMEND JOSE.
I KNOW YESTERDAY WAS
[INDISCERNIBLE] IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SPEAK A LITTLE BIT ON IT
HIS RESTAURANT RAN ENTIRELY
GREEN.
IT'S THE ONE THE MASSACHUSETTS
AWARD AS WELL AS THE BOSTON
GREEN AWARD IF YOU WANT TO SPEAK
FROM THAT AND MOVING FORWARD HOW

WE CAN DO SOME THINGS ENVIRONMENTALLY.

I JUST WANT TO ON A PERSONAL LEVEL AND THANK YOU AGAIN OUR COMMUNITY VOICE FROM HEATHER WHITE, THANK YOU SO MUCH. BUT WITH CHEF DUARTE WHEN I WAS SWORN IN, THAT'S WHERE WE WENT THAT WAY AND SO CHEF DELAWAREITY IS -- DELAWAREITY IS SOMEONE WHO WAS PIONEERING ON SOME PROGRESSIVE AND GREAT DIFFERENT PRACTICES INCLUDING HIS DREAM PRACTICES AND WORKING WELL WITH HIS STAFF.

MY QUESTION FOR YOU IF THERE IS ONE HERE OTHER THAN GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN WAYS ON PIONEERING ON THE GREEN PHASE AS A FEATURE IN A MORING WAS ACTUAL WAY IS WAYS WE CAN REALLY HELP YOUR STAFF.

I KNOW YOU HAVE STAFF THAT ARE BOSTON RESIDENTS OR MAYBE NOT. THE WAYS IN WHICH WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR BUSINESSES WE'RE KEEPING FOLKS LIKE YOU, STAFF ARE LIKE FAMILY AND YOU MENTIONED STAFF MEMBER JUST GAVE BIRTH AND WAYS WE CAN TRY TO TAILOR SOME OF OUR THINGS WHERE WE'RE GIVING RELIEF WE GIVE RELIEF TO PERHAPS YOUR STAFF IN DOING SO.

IF YOU CAN ANSWER THAT, FINE BUT JUST ON THE OTHER FRONT, YOU HAVE TO UNMUTE AND I'M DONE THERE.

THANK YOU EVERYBODY FOR PARTICIPATING.

>> OKAY, I'M HERE.

THANK YOU AGAIN.

SO IN REGARDS TO THIS, I THINK THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR ME IS TO BRING BACK THE BUSINESS IS TO GIVE CONTINUALLY SUPPORTING THEM BY GIVING THEM THEIR JOBS BACK. IN THE MEANTIME I'M PERSONALLY HELPING SOME OF THEM.

I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE FOR TOO LONG.

I'M HOPING THAT PERHAPS WE CAN START GETTING BACK IN A ROUTINE NOT AS WE WERE BEFORE, IT WOULD

BE LIKE OPENING A NEW RESTAURANT WITH HIGHER COSTS BECAUSE WE ARE SEEING A LOT OF STUFF [INDISCERNIBLE] IT'S HARD TO GET CERTAIN PRODUCTS. SO WE WILL START THIS AND THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS PERHAPS GET IN SOME SORT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN A WAY FROM THE CITY WHERE THERE WAS A GRANT OR WHERE THERE WAS MAYBE A TAX BREAK, I DON'T KNOW. RIGHT NOW I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE IT PEACEFUL FOR EVERYBODY. AND THEN REGARDS TO THE GREEN PART, YES, I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, SPECIFICALLY 15 YEARS AGO WHEN WE TURNED RESTAURANT INTO THE [INDISCERNIBLE] WE ADOPT ABOUT 45 MENTAL CHANGES IN OUR BUSINESS FROM A. I THINK WE GOT GREEN BUSINESS WORK IN THE CITY IN 2008. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. WHAT IS THIS IN REGARD TO THE ENVIRONMENT. I THINK WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IS THAT TECHNOLOGY AND OUR POSITION INTELLIGENCE MANY PEOPLE WERE AWE TRADE OF IT BUT IT COULD POSSIBLY BRING A LOT OF SOLUTIONS TO US. WE SEE A LOT OF MODELS OF KITCHENS AND UBER AND ALL OF THE DELIVERY SYSTEMS THAT PEOPLE THOUGHT OH, WE DON'T GO OUT FOR DINNER ANYMORE. WELL NOW, WE CAN SERVE YOU ON-LINE AND 80 PERCENT PERFECT OF THE PEOPLE SAID THEY ARE NOT PLANNING TO GO TO A RESTAURANT IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. HOW CAN WE MAKE THAT EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT WHETHER IT'S SUSTAINABLE, WHETHER WE CREATE A TAKEOUT PACKAGE THAT IS FUN FOR PEOPLE TO BUILD AT HOME. THEY HAVE THE MATERIAL, THEY HAVE A STORY BEHIND THAT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS.

THE MODEL WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT
BECAUSE I CAN DO THIS OUT OF ON
WAREHOUSES NOT HIGH TO PAY HIGH
REAL ESTATE RENT.

ALSO FABRICATION AND HOW PEOPLE
ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE
THEIR OWN HOMES WITHOUT HAVING
TO GO FROM POINT A TO POINT B.

A LOT OF THE PEOPLE ARE LOSING
THAT GOING TO WORK

[INDISCERNIBLE] SPECIAL
ENTITIES.

THE FAMILY PLAN AND WORK PLAN
ALL COMPRESSED.

BULL ALL THE SOCIAL PART BECOMES
THE DLOAFER SO PSYCHOLOGICALLY
WE'RE CHANGING AS WELL.

SO I'M STILL, THIS IS THE FACT
AND I BELIEVE THAT CHANGES WE'RE
SEEING ARE THERE ALREADY AND WE
NEED TO THINK PROACTIVELY HOW WE
CAN ADAPT.

WE ARE BASICALLY ADAPTIVE
MECHANISMS RIGHT ARE NOW THAT WE
NEED TO FIGURE WAYS TO CONTINUE
BEING SUSTAINABLE, HELPING THE
ENVIRONMENT.

ASSURE SOCIAL IMPACT TO CONTINUE
HAVING THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH
OUR COMMUNITIES.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THANK YOU COUNCILOR ARROYO.

>> THANK YOU.

I DIDN'T GET TO ASK THE QUESTION
EARLIER SO [INDISCERNIBLE] THANK
YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING US.

I WASN'T AWARE ABOUT YOUR PIECE
BUT WHEN THE DOORS OPEN UP I
WILL BE IN MISSION HILL

[INDISCERNIBLE] I DO HAVE A
QUESTION [INDISCERNIBLE]

PHYSICAL WELLNESS AND ALSO
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL MENTAL WELL
BEING I THINK THOSE TWO THINGS
KIND OF GO HAND IN HAND.

MY MOM WAS RECENTLY LAID OFF
THREE WEEKS AGO AND SHE'S BEEN
EXTREMELY DEPRESSED AND WE'VE
BEEN USING YOGA AND SOME BEAT
HOME.

MY TEN YEAR OLD IS A VERY ACTIVE
AND I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW
TO USE THE ENERGY TO KEEP HER
ACTIVE.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT PHYSICAL FITNESS AND WELLNESS, USUALLY YOU KNOW THERE WAS ONCE UPON A TIME [INDISCERNIBLE] SOCIO-ECONOMIC CRASH. ONLY THOSE PEOPLE DO THAT SORT OF STUFF, RIGHT. AND SO WE ARE NOW FORCED IN DOORS. I THINK WE'RE UNABLE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND UNABLE TO GO TO THE GYM. THERE IS A NEED TO REALLY UPLIFT THE IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL FITNESS AND MENTAL WELL BEING DURING THESE TIMES, RIGHT. SO I'M CURIOUS AND I'M THINKING OF TWO VERY SPECIFIC CONVERSATIONS THAT GET LEFT OUT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS AND THOSE ARE OUR SENIORS, OUR ELDERS. THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THEIR WORK OUT IN SOME OF THE ADULT CARE CENTERS THEY STAYED IN. SENIORS, MANY OF WHICH THEY WOULD KIND OF LIKE HAVE TO HANG OUT WITH THEIR PEERS. THESE WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW. I'M JUST CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE RECOVERY PHASE IS. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THINGS WE COULD DO RIGHT NOW TO HELP PEOPLE STABILIZE AND KEEP THEIR WELLNESS. HOW TO WE DO IT IN A WAY OF THINKING ABOUT A LONG TERM PLAN FOR FOLKS WHO MAY NOT WANT TO STEP OUTSIDE THEIR DOOR OR FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING SO. WHAT CREATIVE IDEAS DO YOU HAVE FOR VIRTUAL TYPES OF ENVIRONMENT FOR WELLNESS, IF YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS FOR THAT. >> YES, THANK YOU SO MUCH. I MEAN, WHAT WE'VE SEEN IS SINCE WE CLOSED OUR DOORS AND WE STARTED OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL, IT DIDN'T EXIST BEFORE. WE HAVE NOW HAD OVER 10,000 PEOPLE COME THROUGH THIS PROPOSING SO WE KNOW THERE'S A NEED FOR IT.

FOR US WE USED THIS PLATFORM AS A VEHICLE TO TEST OUT DIFFERENT CLASSES SO TAKE FAMILIES SHOWING UP WITH THEIR CHILDREN OF VARIOUS AGES FOR THE CHASES SO WE DEVELOPED THIS SPECIFIC CLASS FOR THE FAMILY SO WE COULD WORK WITH CHILDREN AGES FIVE YEARS OLD TO 12 YEARS OLD AND EXPANDING THAT GROUP SO THEY COULD HAVE THAT PROGRAMMING. WE'RE SEEING THE SAME THING WITH OUR ELDER POPULATION AS WELLMENT WE'RE HAVING FOLKS COME IN AND THEY MAY NOT BE TURNING ON THEIR VIDEOS BUT THEY'RE THERE SENDING US FEEDBACK AND WORKING ON SOMETHING THAT'S GOING [INDISCERNIBLE] TO SPEAK TO THOSE NEEDS AS WELL AS DEVELOPING SEATED CLASSES FOR FOLKS WHO ARE IN WHEELCHAIRS, ETCETERA.

BECAUSE FOR US, OUR POINT OF VIEW IS THAT WELLNESS AND BEING WELL IS A PATHWAY OUT OF THIS. IT'S A PATHWAY OTHER OF ISOLATION AND IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BECAUSE WE HAVE FOLKS SENDING US E-MAILS AND COMMENTS EVERY SINGLE DAY TELLING US THAT THIS IS BAITING THEM.

WE KNOW HAVING A ROUTINE IS IMPORTANT THAT ESTABLISHES SOME SENSE OF NORMALCY DURING THIS TIME.

AND WE HAVE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL BEING AS A PATHWAY OUT OF THIS IN TERMS OF RECOVERY.

>> THANK YOU.

AMELIA ALSO SAYS HELLO.

>> COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> YES, I THINK I AM ALL SET FOR QUESTIONS AND I ASSUME THERE WILL BE A WRAP AROUND.

>> YES.

OKAY, THANK YOU.

BEFORE WE GO TO THE NEXT COUNCILOR FOR QUESTIONS I WANT TO BRING IN [INDISCERNIBLE] WHO JOINED US IN THE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ROOM.

CAN YOU HEAR US?

ARE YOU THERE?

>> I AM.

CAN YOU SEE ME.

CAN YOU WHO ARE ME.

>> WE CAN HEAR YOU.

>> I'M NOT SURE I STARTED MY VIDEO.

THERE.

SO INITIALLY FIRST OF ALL I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.

I'VE BEEN ON ZOOM ALL WEEK LIKE THE REST OF US SO I'M NOT SURE WHAT I MISSED WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ALREADY BUT ONE OF THE THINGS I WANT TO ADDRESS IS THE E-MAIL WAS HOW COULD WE BE MORE EQUITABLE.

I HAVE TO BE HONEST, WE'RE EQUITABLE [INDISCERNIBLE] AND WE WEREN'T DOING WHAT WE NEEDED TO DO AS A CITY BEFORE COVID 19.

SO WE HAVE ORDINANCES IN PLACE ARE THAT NOT BEING ADHERED TO AND THERE'S NO STRUCTURE AND INSIGHT WORKING WHERE OTHER SITES DON'T HAVE ACCESS OR PERMISSION TO WORK.

THE NATION IS EXTREMELY SELECTIVE.

I THINK AS FAR AS THE CITY COUNCILOR IS CONCERNED YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN AND I WANT TO SAY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILORS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGING THEIR CONSTITUENCY BUT AS THE CITY AND AS THE WHOLE THERE'S A LOT OF IMPLEMENTING SLIPPING THROUGH THE CRACKS.

I PERSONALLY AS A REAL ESTATE AGENT HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY COVID 19.

NO ONE WANTS TO SELL THEIR HOUSE IN THIS MARKET NO ONE WANTS TO BUY A HOUSE IN THIS MARKET.

PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIED LET ALONE [INDISCERNIBLE] I APPLIED FOR THE RELIEF AND I WANT TO SAY LIKE WITHIN 12 HOURS I GOT A DIGIT LETTER.

ON WHAT BASIS -- A DENIAL LETTER.

WHAT BASIS.

AND BARBER SHOP, NAIL SALONS. EVERYONE IS BEING DENIED FROM

LIMITED NETWORK THAT I'M INVOLVED WITH.
I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY THAT GOT CITY MONEY.
SO IT'S SOMETHING I POSTED AND A LOT OF YOU [INDISCERNIBLE] AN ECHO OF DIANE REASONABLESON WHERE -- ROBESON WHERE WE WERE TOLD ZERO POINT ONE PERCENT OF THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT CAME INTO THE CONSTRUCTION BOOM AS FAR AS WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES, MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES [INDISCERNIBLE] AND WE WEREN'T EQUITABLE THEN.
WHAT ARE WE ACTUALLY GOING TO DO OR WHAT'S IN PLACE FOR [INDISCERNIBLE] TO MAKE SURE WE ARE MAKING SURE THAT THOSE THAT DESERVE TO HAVE AN EQUITABLE PLACE TO RECEIVE.
SO IT'S ANNOYING FOR ME BECAUSE THE QUESTION IS HOW TO WE LIKE IMPOSE NOW THAT COVID 19 IS HERE.
BUT I THINK THE REAL QUESTION, WHAT WERE WE DOING BEFORE WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING THAT NOW COVID HAS NOW AND PEOPLE OF COLOR ARE BEING CHALLENGED. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO AN FORCE [INDISCERNIBLE].
I JUST WANT TO PUT THAT OUT. THERE ARE A LOT OF BUSINESSES THAT AS YOU GUYS KNOW AREN'T MAKING ANY MONEY THAT ARE FAILING.
AND THAT HAVE FAMILIES.
SO I SAY ALL OF THAT TO SAY IT WOULD BE HELPFUL LIKE ALL OF THESE GRANT PROGRAMS AND ALL OF THESE LOAN PROGRAMS, A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T QUALIFY FOR THEM. A LOT OF SMALL BUSINESSES CANNOT APPLY BECAUSE THERE'S LIKE A MINIMUM OF RULES THAT YOU HAVE TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE CITY AND ALL OF THESE THINGS.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITIES WE'RE BEING HONEST THIS IS A REAL CONVERSATION.
WHEN WE THINK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITIES WE THINK ABOUT OUR BUSINESS OWNERS.

HALF OF THEM DON'T EVEN HAVE A FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE IN BUSINESS AND ARE GENERATING INCOME AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS HAVE BEEN LIMITED BY NOT BEING ABLE TO MAKE [INDISCERNIBLE] BECAUSE OF COVID.

THAT'S ANOTHER PART OF EQUITABLE.

LIKE WHAT IS SET UP FOR PEOPLE TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND ALL EFFECTS OF EQUITY ACROSS THE BORED.

I -- ACROSS THE BOARD.

I WAS JUST SPEAKING ABOUT FINANCIAL LITERACY AND A LOT OF US AREN'T FINANCIALLY LITERATE AND WE HAVE A CITY THAT'S FINANCIALLY IGNORANT AND THERE'S NOTHING BEING DONE TO HELP THE SITUATION.

SO [INDISCERNIBLE] IN THE CURRICULUM NOT HAVING ANY PROPER [INDISCERNIBLE] BUT I FEEL LIKE IF THERE'S A RABBIT HOLE AND FOR US TO BE ON THE SURFACE AND SAY COVID HIT AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE DO THINGS EQUITABLE BUT WE WEREN'T DOING SHIT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

SO WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.

AND IT IS, IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT, IT'S GOING TO BE A PAIN AND WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE.

MY LAST POINT SIMPLY BECAUSE WE ARE HERE IS THERE IS SO MUCH MONEY, THERE'S AN ARTICLE THAT WAS RECENTLY PUT OUT ABOUT PHILANTHROPY AND PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS RIGHT NOW AND HOW A LOT OF ORGANIZATIONS ARE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY AND HOW THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF PHILANTHROPIC WORK IS GETTING PAID WHILE ALL THE MONEY FOR THE INDIVIDUALS ARE BEING FUNNELED THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE'S POCKETS AND NOT GOING TO PEOPLE WHO DIRECTLY NEED THEM.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY LIKE WE HAVE CITY NEEDS ESPECIALLY IN OUR

PHILANTHROPY RICH AND OUR
RESOURCE RICH CITY WE NEED TO
TAKE A TIME OUT AND SAY WHY ARE
WE GETTING PUBLIC DOLLARS TO
ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE NOT DOING
THE ACTUAL WORK WHILE ALL OF
THESE PEOPLE THAT HAVE BOOTS ON
THE GROUND MAY NOT HAVE 5013C'S
BUT ARE STILL DOING MORE WORK
THAN THOSE GETTING MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS.

THIS ISN'T A NEW CONVERSATION,
THIS ISN'T OH WOW COVID 19, THIS
HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A WHILE.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S MORE THAN
WE'VE ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE BUT
WE NEED TO STOP GIVING DOLLARS
TO THE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T DOING
THE WORK AND START PUTTING THOSE
THAT ARE ALREADY THOSE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
I LOVE YOU ALL AND THIS IS THE
GREATEST CITY COUNCIL THAT WE'VE
EVER HAD.

>> THANK YOU.

AS ALWAYS YOU'RE [INDISCERNIBLE]
FOR US.

OKAY.

SO BACK TO THE LIST OF
COUNCILORS FOR ROUND DISCUSSION.
I THINK NEXT IS COUNCILOR
CAMPBELL.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WU.

I JUST WANT TO THANK TAYLOR FOR
JOINING US AND FOR ADDING HER
REMARKS.

I THINK I HEARD THE BY IN THE
BACKGROUND, THE CHILDREN IN THE
BACKGROUND IT LOOKS LIKE.

BUT THANK YOU FOR RAISING A
COME POINTS.

ONE ON THE FUNDING PIECE, THIS
IDEA THAT WE HAD I THINK
NUMEROUS HEARINGS, I THINK
DIFFERENT STRENGTHS ON FUNDING
ORGANIZATIONS ARE HAVING, WHAT
IT MEANS TO FUND THOSE WHO ARE
HAVING AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT, SOME
HAVE A 501C3 AND SOME DON'T.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ORGANIZIONS
THAT DON'T TRADITION ME GET
FUNDING AND GREATER MANY PACK IN
SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS
BECAUSE OF THE RELATIONSHIPS

THEY BUILT.

I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING WE ALWAYS HAVE TO BE EVALUATING. I ALSO JUST WANT TO THANK YOU GUYS FOR HOSTING THIS HEARING. I HAVE TO JUMP OFF BUT I APPRECIATE OTHER FOLKS WAITING FOR SOME TIME TO GIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

THANK YOU COUNCILOR WU, COUNCILOR ARROYO AND COUNCILOR [INDISCERNIBLE]

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR CAMPBELL. COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

>> THANK YOU CHAIRMAN WOULD AND THANK YOU AGAIN TO THOSE THAT GAVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

I THINK IT WAS REALLY POWERFUL AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO HEAR FOR THE IMPACT NOT JUST OF THIS CURRENT SITUATION BUT FOR THE LONGSTANDING IMPACT THAT SYSTEM HAS CREATED FOR YOUR BUSINESSES AND HAVE REALLY SORT OF STUNTED YOUR ABILITY TO GROW AS A BUSINESS AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS. SO I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR WORK AND KAYLA I REALLY APPRECIATED YOUR COMMENTARY AS WELL AND A

ANDREA REFERENCED THIS [INDISCERNIBLE] EARLIER IN THE SEGMENT ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION AROUND OUR RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC AND WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO FOLLOWING BUT REALLY THE LONGSTANDING CHALLENGES THAT ARE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT THIS THROUGHOUT OUR CITIES TO SEVEN OUR RESIDENTS THAT LONGSTANDING IMPACT AND ESPECIALLY MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES. THE IMPACT THAT THE SYSTEM HAS HAD IN HELPING YOU TO BE ABLE TO GROW AND THRIVE IN YOUR BUSINESS.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR STICKING OUT.

IT'S A LONG HEARING BUT A REALLY THOUGHTFUL AND MEATY HEARING. I APPRECIATE YOU AND ALL THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE AND CONTINUE TO BE DONE.

THANK YOU MADAM CHAIR.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR
ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

OKAY.

SO BEFORE THE LAST THING WHICH
WILL BE THE CLOSING STATEMENT
FROM THE CO-SPONSORS, I WANTED
TO ASK ONE QUESTION AND SO WE
CAN KEEP THE ANSWERS REALLY DOWN
TO [INDISCERNIBLE] EACH OF THE
PANELISTS [INDISCERNIBLE] IF YOU
JUST HAVE ONE THING THAT
YOU WANT TO SAY WE SHOULD BE
FOCUSING ON URGENTLY,
IMMEDIATELY, 30 SECONDS WHAT IT
IS.

>> I WANT THE CITY TO BE MINDFUL
THAT THE SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE
REST OF THE YEAR, DAY CARES
DON'T OPEN UNTIL JULY PEOPLE ARE
EXPECTING TO MAKE MONEY
[INDISCERNIBLE].

>> I SEE PROFESSOR.

>> I JUST WANT TO SAY SOMETHING
TAKING OFF OF THIS SOME OF THE
FINAL COMMENTS ARE MADE ABOUT
THE SECTOR THAT'S OFTEN
FORGOTTEN AND THAT'S THE
NON-PROFIT CEO SECTOR.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THOSE WHO
ARE MAKING MILLIONS UPON
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THOSE THAT
PROVIDE ACCESS TO ORGANIZERS AND
SERVICE PROVIDERS.
THEY MAY BE LUCKY TO HAVE ONE OR
TWO STAFF AND THEY DO A FUND
RAISING BY HAVING A DINNER IN
CHINATOWN OR HAVING A FESTIVAL.
AND THEY ARE REALLY BEING HIT
VERY HARDLY AND I DON'T HAVE TO
TELL THE CITY COUNCILOR THIS
BECAUSE MANY OF THIS I KNOW COME
FROM BACKGROUNDS WHERE THEY
WORKED AND GOT ESTABLISHED IN
THESE KIND OF ORGANIZATIONS.
I HOPE WITH A DON'T FORGET ABOUT
THEM IN TRYING TO PROVIDE JOBS,
THEY PROVIDE IMPORTANT ROLES AND
THEY ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY
REPRESENT PEOPLE OF COLOR AS
WELL WITHIN THE PEOPLE THAT THEY
SERVE AND THE PEOPLE THEY
EMPLOY.
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE DO

NOT FORGET THEM.

>> THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.

[INDISCERNIBLE].

GO AHEAD.

>> I JUST WANT TO SAY AGAIN THAT

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE IS JUST

NOT GOING TO WORK.

AND YOU KNOW MY QUICK

[INDISCERNIBLE] THE

ADMINISTRATION TO THINK ABOUT US

AND WE NEED COLLABORATION AND WE

NEED IT TO BE TARGETED AND

INTENTIONAL.

THAT'S ALL WE SEE SO FOR AND

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY SMALL

BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES ARE

GOING TO COME BACK NOT TO

SURVIVE COVID BUT ACTUALLY

ATTEMPT TO THRIVE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> ON OUR END IF IT WERE ONE

THING [INDISCERNIBLE] THE

PANDEMIC.

SO THERE'S AN INTENTION OF LONG

TERM STRATEGY [INDISCERNIBLE]

MAKING SURE THAT WE

[INDISCERNIBLE]

>> GREAT.

GO AHEAD.

>> I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, I

DIDN'T KNOW.

ONE OTHER THING THAT I REALLY

THINK THAT WILL REALLY HELP THIS

IS [INDISCERNIBLE] ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM.

HOW TO BRING THAT PERSON, HOW TO

BRING BACK THAT CONFIDENCE ON

THE CONSUMERS ARE BECAUSE WITHOUT

THAT WE CANNOT RESTART THIS.

WHAT IS THE CITY, HOW IS CITY

PLANNING, WHAT IS THE CITY

PLANNING ON TRYING TO CREATE OR

TO DO TO BRING BACK ALL THESE

SECTORS THAT IS ACTUALLY THE

MENTAL FOR A LOT OF SMALL

BUSINESSES.

I HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW.

I THANK EVERYBODY FOR ALLOWING

ME TO BE HERE AND ANY TIME YOU

CAN REACH OUT TO ME, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

AND NOW WE'LL JUST WRAP UP WITH

CLOSING STATEMENTS FROM THE

SPONSORS.

COUNCILOR ARROYO.

>> I JUST WANT TO THANK AGAIN EVERY PANELIST THAT STAYED, EVERYBODY WHO STAYED TO MAKE COMMENTS.

A COUPLE THINGS WE KNOW AND SHOULD TAKE AWAY FROM THIS IS THAT THE CITY AND FRANKLY THE COUNTRY AND THE STATE AND THERE'S A LONG HISTORY OF THIS HAS LEFT CITIZENS OF COLOR OUT OF THEIR PLANNING, OUT OF THEIR, THEY'RE NOT SPENDING ANY RESOURCES [INDISCERNIBLE] OF COLOR BECAUSE [INDISCERNIBLE] SO THOSE ARE REAL ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED MOVING FORWARD. I'M JUST GOING TO MAKE SURE IT'S CLEAR THAT COUNCILOR CAMPBELL BROUGHT THIS UP.

I THINK IN THE STRONGEST EQUITY IN A RECOVERY.

THEY WEREN'T THERE YESTERDAY TO TALK ABOUT RACIAL EQUITY IN OUR GUIDELINES AND IF WE ARE GOING TO FEED ON THIS IT WOULD BE TO MOVE FORWARD AS A CITY.

IT'S INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCILORS, COUNCILORS OF COLOR AND COMMUNITY OF COLOR ARE TRYING TO COMPETE FOR THE FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES IN THIS CITY THAT THE CITY BE AT THE TABLE AND MAKE SURE THEY ARE HEARING.

MY WHOLE [INDISCERNIBLE] THE CITY MAKE TIME TO SPEAK TO THEIR ISSUES DIRECTLY.

THEIR PRESENCE TODAY I THINK PRESIDENT DANNY HAD GOOD QUESTIONS FOR THEM.

I HAD GOOD QUESTIONS FOR THEM, I THINK OUR PANELISTS HAD GOOD QUESTIONS.

THE ABSENCE ITSELF [INDISCERNIBLE] NEEDS MORE COLLABORATION WITH OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND MORE FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY OF COLORS WHEN ISSUES ARE RAISED.

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME PERSONALLY TO SEE FOLKS AT MEETINGS AND BUDGET HEARINGS AND HERE TODAY TO TALK THESE ISSUES.

THOSE ARE JUST ME BEING HONEST
AS I CAN BE IN A VERY PUBLIC
SETTING ABOUT WHAT I EXPECT TO
SEE FROM OUR ADMINISTRATION AS
THE RESIDENTS OF BOSTON TO SEE
IMPACT AND LONG HISTORY OF OUR
COMMUNITY BEING LOCKED OUT OF
RECOVERY, BEING THE FIRST ONES
TO SUFFER THE CRISES.

SO WITH THAT I'LL CEDE THE REST
OF THE TIME AND I WANT TO THANK
COUNCILOR MEJIA AND CHAIR WOMB
COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU FOR
LIFTING UP THESE ISSUES AND
MAKING SURE WE DO OUR PART TO
AMPLIFY AS MUCH AS WE CAN.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE
PAST WON'T BE TOLERATED TODAY.

>> COUNCILOR MEJIA.

>> YES.

I'M MUTED.

SO I JUST WANT TO THANK
COUNCILOR WU AND COUNCILOR
ARROYO ALONGSIDE ME IN THIS
JOURNEY IN TERMS OF I THINK
ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION AROUND
THE ROAD TO RECOVERY AND IT BAG
EQUITY, IT COULD BE SOMETHING
THAT IS A HOPE AND I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE'RE HAVING THIS
CONVERSATION IN 2020 ABOUT WHAT
IT LOOKS LIKE.

WE SHOULD REALLY EMBARRASSED, IN
FACT I BELIEVE WE HAVE TO HAVE
THESE CONVERSATIONS WITH
HEARINGS AND VOICES TO SET THE
TONE IN TERMS ABOUT THE CITY OF
BOSTON.

I UNDERSTAND HOW DEEP ROOTED WE
ARE IN PRESENTATION AND ISSUES
OF THE COUNTRY.

HERE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON AND I
THINK THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS
WHY SO MANY PEOPLE DO NOT
BELIEVE IN CITY GOVERNMENT, DON
BELIEVE IN THE INSTITUTION
BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ALWAYS ON
THE OTHER END OF THE SITUATION,
WE'RE ALWAYS GETTING AS THEY SAY
THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.

I THINK THAT NOW MORE THAN EVER
WE HAVE TO EXERCISE AND LEAD
WITH POLITICAL WILL AND THAT
WE'RE NOT GOING TO STEP TO THE

SIDE AND LET THINGS GO ON AS
BUSINESSES USUAL.
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY
TAKE THE LEADERSHIP AND
DIRECTIVE FROM THOSE DOING THE
WORK AND THE REALITY
[INDISCERNIBLE] THAT'S THE TYPE
OF LEADERSHIP THAT I AM LOOKING
FORWARD TO AS WE MOVE BEYOND THE
DIALOGUE BECAUSE I'M TIRED OF
HAVING THE SAME CONVERSATIONS.
WE ALREADY KNOW WHAT WE KNOW AND
WE'RE SPEAKING HERE AT EACH
OTHER LIKE I WAS AT A HEARING
YESTERDAY ABOUT PEOPLE WHO
DIDN'T CARE ABOUT RACIAL EQUITY.
HERE I AM TODAY TALKING ABOUT
RACIAL EQUITY WITH PEOPLE WHO
DEEPLY CARE ABOUT IT AND THOSE
WHO NEED TO HEAR IT ARE NOT HERE
YET AGAIN.
I THINK THAT REALLY SETS THE
TONE FOR WHY SO MANY PEOPLE
DON'T FEEL HEARD.
I THINK THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY
WHY AND HOW WE MOVE FORWARD.
SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO
JOINING YOU.
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR THOSE
WHO TESTIFIED TODAY AND SHOWED
UP TO RECOGNIZE HOW IMPORTANT
YOU ARE AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD
TO BEING A PARTNER WITH MOVING
FORWARD BECAUSE NOTHING WITHOUT
US AND ABOUT US AND FOR US WE
GAIN.
WE'RE ON THAT MENU.
WE'RE NOT INVITED TO THE TABLE
AND EVERY DAY WE'RE BEING EATEN
UP ALIVE AND HERE'S THE
OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE THAT LAW
AND I'M ALL INTO THAT.
SO THANK YOU.
>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR MEJIA.
SO I'LL JUST WRAP BY SAYING I
THINK WE HAD SOME IMPORTANT AND
CLEAR [INDISCERNIBLE] ABOUT
SCHOOLS AND THINKING ABOUT HOW
FAMILIES ARE PROVIDING WITH NO
INCOME RIGHT NOW.
THE ACTIVISTS AND THE PROCESS
FOR SOME ARE NOT WORKING
[INDISCERNIBLE] TOURISM AND
LARGER ECONOMY FROM EARLIER IN

THE HEARING EVEN JUST THE CITY
OF BOSTON'S RELIEF FUND
[INDISCERNIBLE] SOME CLEAR STUFF
FOR THE SPONSORS TO GO BACK TO
AND FIGURE OUT AND IN SUPPORT
FOR PARTNER COMMUNITY I THINK
EVERYONE FOR PARTICIPATING AND
STICKING WITH US UNTIL THE END
HERE.

ALL OF MY COLLEAGUE RIBS.
THIS WILL CONCLUDE DOCKET 0584
[INDISCERNIBLE] THIS HEARING IS
ADJOURNED.