

Offered by Councilor Kim Janey and Ricardo Arroyo, Flaherty, Essaibi-George, Flynn, Breadon, Wu, Campbell, Mejia, Bok, O'Malley and Edwards



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REVIEWING THE CITY'S MELNEA CASS/MASS AVE 2.0 PLAN IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

**WHEREAS:** In October 2019, the City of Boston released the Melnea Cass/Mass Ave 2.0 plan to address the opioid epidemic along Melnea Cass Boulevard and Massachusetts Avenue corridor; and,

**WHEREAS:** Since the release of the plan in October, leadership for this initiative has changed and COVID-19 has exacerbated the inequities that the Council has been battling pre-pandemic, including systemic racial and economic injustices; and,

**WHEREAS:** Melnea Cass and Mass Ave, and its surrounding communities of Roxbury and the South End, have born a disproportionate share of the burden of this crisis; and,

**WHEREAS:** The rise of homeless encampments in recent months along the Melnea Cass and Mass Ave corridor will only compound the trauma of surrounding communities, including poor communities of color, who are already vulnerable; and,

**WHEREAS:** There is an urgent need for action to reevaluate what's working and identify opportunities for improvement in the City's response to the opioid crisis; and,

**WHEREAS:** The City must respond to these new developments not by pushing people out, but by building equity-based solutions that will tackle the core of these problems.  
***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine current and new strategies for ensuring equity-based solutions when it comes to tackling the homeless encampments while addressing COVID 19 and the opioid pandemic. Representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, Mayor's Office of Equity & Inclusion, Mayor's Office of Housing Stability, physicians, community partners, and other interested parties shall be invited to testify virtually.

**Filed on: August 19, 2020**